



Rotarians Mitigating Climate Change

## RMCC Letter - October 2024 Edition

Welcome to the October edition of the Rotarians Mitigating Climate Change (RMCC) letter. In this issue, we bring you updates on our upcoming events and continue our mission to raise awareness about climate change.

### 1. News

#### Nature Walk and Social Dinner - Monday, October 7, 2024

We're excited to report on the success of our recent nature walk and social dinner event held on Monday, October 7, 2024. This special outing allowed participants to witness firsthand the remarkable results of our club's tree planting efforts since 2008.



Stephen, our knowledgeable guide, led us through the Oakridge's Moraine Trail, showcasing the trees that have been planted over the past 15 years. It was truly inspiring to see how our collective efforts have transformed the landscape.





Participants were amazed by the transformation they witnessed. What was once barren land is now a lush, green area filled with thriving trees. This dramatic change clearly demonstrated the positive impact of our environmental efforts. It served as a powerful reminder that when we work together, we can make a significant difference in preserving and enhancing our natural environment.

We want to highlight that the tree planting initiatives we observed have been carried out by school students from Richmond Hill under the direction of the Rotary Club of Richmond Hill. This collaboration not only contributes to our environmental goals but also provides invaluable educational experiences for the students involved.

It's important to note that the Rotary Club of Richmond Hill has been the driving force behind organizing these tree planting events over the past fifteen years. Their dedication and consistent efforts have made a significant impact on our local environment and community.

Energized by the natural beauty and the tangible results of our efforts, the group then gathered at Markham Station Restaurant for a social dinner. This provided an excellent opportunity for fellowship and reflection on the day's inspiring observations.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Eric Nejat for organizing this enlightening event, to Stephen for his insightful guidance, and to all who participated. Your involvement makes our mission possible.

Here is a link to the video of the event: [Nature Walk.mp4](#)

## 2. Climate Change Facts

### Hurricane Helene

As we continue to witness the impacts of climate change, recent extreme weather events serve as stark reminders of the urgent need for climate action. Hurricane Helene, which formed in late September 2024, has been a subject of intense study by meteorologists and climate scientists. This powerful storm showcased several characteristics that align with predictions about hurricanes in a warming world:

1. **Rapid Intensification:** Helene underwent rapid intensification, a phenomenon that's becoming more common as ocean temperatures rise. The hurricane strengthened from a Category 1 to a Category 4 in just 24 hours.
2. **Increased Rainfall:** The storm produced unprecedented rainfall amounts, leading to severe flooding in affected areas. This aligns with climate models that predict increased precipitation from hurricanes due to warmer air holding more moisture.
3. **Slower Movement:** Helene moved unusually slowly over land, a trend observed in recent years with other hurricanes. This slow movement exacerbates the damage from wind and flooding.
4. **Extended Range:** The hurricane maintained its strength farther north than historically typical, affecting areas that don't usually experience such intense storms.
5. **Economic Impact:** The damage caused by Helene is estimated to be in the billions, highlighting the growing economic toll of climate-related disasters.



While no single storm can be directly attributed to climate change, the patterns observed with Hurricane Helene are consistent with what scientists expect in a warming world. This event underscores the importance of both mitigation efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adaptation measures to increase resilience in vulnerable communities.

Sources:

- National Hurricane Center (NHC) reports on Hurricane Helene, September-October 2024
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate, Chapter 6: Extremes, Abrupt Changes and Managing Risks

### **Asheville Tragedy Shows There Are No Climate Change Safe Havens**

Recent events in Asheville, North Carolina, have shattered the notion of "climate havens" and highlighted the far-reaching impacts of climate change. In September 2024, this city, long considered a potential climate refuge due to its moderate climate and elevation, experienced unprecedented flooding. The disaster caught many residents off guard, as the flooding occurred rapidly and overwhelmed the city's infrastructure, which was not designed for such extreme weather events.



This tragedy has prompted a reevaluation of what constitutes a "climate haven," emphasizing that no area is immune to the effects of global climate change. The significant damage to homes and businesses underscores the economic vulnerabilities of communities unprepared for climate-related disasters. Moreover, it reinforces the need for global action on climate change and adaptation efforts everywhere, not just in traditionally vulnerable regions. The Asheville event serves as a stark reminder that climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies are necessary in all communities, regardless of their perceived risk level, calling for a renewed focus on universal resilience planning.

Sources:

- National Weather Service Report on Asheville Flooding, September 2024
- Climate Resilience Study, University of North Carolina, October 2024

### **3. Upcoming Events**

#### **Zoom Meeting with Prof. Franco Gaspari - Saturday, October 21, 2024**

We are pleased to announce a special Zoom meeting featuring a guest speaker on the crucial topic of climate change.

Event Details:

- Date: Saturday, October 21, 2024

- Time: 2:00 PM
- Speaker: Prof. Franco Gaspari, PhD, Ontario Tech University
- Topic: "Climate Change: Race to Survival"
- Duration: 45-minute presentation followed by a 15-minute Q&A session

Prof. Gaspari, a physicist who teaches engineering students, will share his insights on the urgent challenges we face due to climate change. This presentation aims to motivate RMCC members and others to take a more active role in our efforts to mitigate climate change.

We encourage you to extend this Zoom invitation to friends and colleagues who might be interested in the subject or potentially in joining Rotary. This is an excellent opportunity to broaden our reach and inspire more people to join our cause.

Let's come together to learn, discuss, and take action on this critical issue that affects us all.

### **Tree Planting Event - Thursday, October 24, 2024**

We're excited to announce our upcoming tree planting event, scheduled for October 24th, 2024. This initiative aligns perfectly with our ongoing commitment to environmental conservation and climate change mitigation.

#### **Event Details:**

- Date: Thursday, October 24, 2024
- Time and Location: To be announced soon

This event is an excellent opportunity for members to actively participate in our climate change mitigation efforts. Your contribution will make a lasting impact on our community and environment.

Stay tuned for more details about the specific time, location, and how you can get involved in this important initiative.

RMCC (Rotarians Mitigating Climate Change) is a group of dedicated Rotarians working together to combat climate change. We collaborate with community leaders, raise public awareness, and implement effective strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote sustainability.

Join us in our mission to create a greener, more resilient future. Together, we can drive significant, lasting change and build a better world for generations to come.

For any questions or inquiries, please contact:

Rotarian Fabrizio Burrone, P.Eng. Telephone: 416-505-0278 email: [fabrizioburr@yahoo.ca](mailto:fabrizioburr@yahoo.ca)  
 Rotarian Eric Nejat, Ph.D., P.Eng. Telephone: 437-912-0079 email: [eznejat@gmail.com](mailto:eznejat@gmail.com)  
 Rotarian Mehrzad Hosseini Telephone: 647-852-3404 email: [mehrzadh3@gmail.com](mailto:mehrzadh3@gmail.com)