



RMCC Letter - September 2024 Edition

Welcome to the September edition of the Rotarians Mitigating Climate Change (RMCC) letter. In this issue, we bring you the latest climate change news, educational insights, and upcoming events.

1. News

Craft Beer Festival: A Resounding Success

The Richmond Hill Rotary Club's annual Craft Beer Festival, held on August 24th, 2024, was a tremendous success. More than 400 people attended the event at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts, enjoying a day filled with craft beer tasting, delicious food, and live entertainment. The impressive turnout not only highlights the community's support for



local initiatives but also contributes significantly to various important causes.

The funds raised from this event are directed towards environmental projects,



community programs, and other worthy causes. This allocation of funds demonstrates the Rotary Club's commitment to making a positive impact on both our local community and the environment. The success of the Craft Beer Festival ensures that we can continue supporting initiatives that align with our goals of sustainability and community development.

Humber River Festival: Racing for a Cause

The 29th Annual Humber River Festival, hosted by the Rotary Club of Woodbridge on September 1st, 2024, saw an exciting spectacle as 2,000 toy frogs raced down the Humber River. This unique event, held in partnership with Waves of Changes for Autism, drew crowds to Nort Johnson Park in Woodbridge. The festival not only provided family-friendly entertainment but also raised awareness and support for autism-related causes.

Adding to the event's impact, the Rotarians Mitigating Climate Changes (RMCC) actively engaged with attending families, contributing to both environmental awareness and climate action:

- RMCC members distributed approximately 100 seedlings to festival-goers.
- They handed out about 120 flyers containing information on how to mitigate climate change at home.
- The initiative was met with great appreciation from all contacted individuals.



The concept behind giving seedlings as "pet trees" was particularly impactful. This creative approach aimed to remind children and their parents of the beauty of nature, emphasizing the importance of appreciating and protecting our environment. By encouraging young people to care for their own trees, the RMCC hoped to foster a lasting connection with nature and inspire long-term environmental stewardship.

2. Climate Change Facts

According to the National Snow and Ice Data Center (NSIDC), Arctic sea ice extent has been declining rapidly over the past four decades, with significant implications for global climate patterns and ecosystems.

The NSIDC reports that the Arctic sea ice extent in September (when it reaches its annual minimum) has declined by approximately 13% per decade since satellite records began in 1979. *This decline is unprecedented in at least the past 1,450 years.*

The loss of sea ice is particularly concerning because it creates a feedback loop that accelerates warming. As white, reflective ice melts, it exposes darker ocean water, which absorbs more heat from the sun. This additional heat further warms the Arctic region, leading to more ice melt.

The consequences of this rapid ice loss are far-reaching:

It threatens Arctic wildlife, including polar bears, seals, and walrus, which depend on sea ice for hunting and breeding.

It opens up new shipping routes, potentially increasing maritime traffic and pollution in sensitive Arctic ecosystems.

It affects global weather patterns, potentially leading to more extreme weather events in mid-latitude regions.

It contributes to rising sea levels as land-based ice melts more quickly.

It may lead to the release of methane trapped in Arctic permafrost, further accelerating global warming.

The NSIDC's data shows that the 14 lowest sea ice extents in the satellite record have all occurred in the last 14 years (2007 to 2020). *The lowest extent on record occurred in September 2012, when sea ice covered only 3.39 million square kilometers of the Arctic Ocean, about 49% of the 1979-2000 average for that time of year.*

Scientists project that if current trends continue, the Arctic could be nearly ice-free in summer by the middle of this century. This dramatic change would have profound implications for global climate, ocean circulation patterns, and Arctic ecosystems.

Source: National Snow and Ice Data Center (NSIDC). "Arctic Sea Ice News & Analysis."
<https://nsidc.org/arcticseaicenews/>

3. Upcoming Events

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

Join us for a special nature walk to witness the results of our club's tree planting efforts since 2008 and enjoy the beautiful fall foliage. This event is organized by Eric Nejat and will be followed by a social dinner.

Event Details: We'll meet at Longos Plaza (10870 Yonge Street) at 4:30 PM for carpooling. The nature walk starts at 5:00 PM at Oakridge's Moraine Trail Parking on Old Colony Road, guided by Stephen. After the walk, we'll enjoy a social dinner at Markham Station Restaurant around 6:00 PM. Rotarians are welcome to bring family members or guests. Those preferring to drive directly to the site may do so.

This event offers a perfect opportunity to connect with nature, see the tangible results of our environmental efforts, and enjoy fellowship with other Rotarians. Don't miss this chance to appreciate the beauty of autumn while learning about the positive impact of our tree planting initiative!

Richmond Hill Club Tree Planting Project - October/November 2024

We're excited to announce that the Richmond Hill Club Tree Planting project is currently being planned for its sixteenth year! This annual event is scheduled to take place in October/November 2024.

For sixteen years, this project has been a cornerstone of our environmental efforts, demonstrating our long-term commitment to improving our local ecosystem and combating climate change. The exact date and details will be announced soon, so keep an eye out for further information.

This 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 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:

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