



UPDATE QUARTERLY

Q1 – 2021

Native Plant Gardening Webinar A Hit with Nearly 3000 Views

The Nith Valley EcoBoosters and Wilmot Horticultural Society's joint webinar on understanding, growing and enjoying Native Plants in southern Ontario has reached proportions well beyond what either organization had anticipated.

Perhaps the most important ingredient in the process was the affable Sean James, a Master Gardener, writer, teacher and landscape professional for 35 years. Sean graduated from the Niagara Parks School of Horticulture.

The webinar was well-illustrated with photos coupled with patient explanations of the strengths and benefits of the many plants discussed. Pros and cons were offered for many varieties, often emphasizing a particular native plant's benefits — perhaps contributing to the ornamental beauty of a garden, adding drought tolerance, or noting how it provides support for birds and/or pollinators.

After the presentation, a lively question and answer period followed, with Sean addressing 40 or so questions submitted by many of the 476 live webinar viewers — an especially high percentage of the more than 600 registrants. It has also been viewed on YouTube almost 2500 times in its first three weeks.

Of course, other factors affecting the response is that gardeners like to share opportunities for learning and that COVID is making us all a little stir-crazy. That yearning to get outdoors is very motivating and perhaps more this year than most.

This webinar also illustrates that environmental groups like EcoBoosters can reach many more people with on-line webinar services such as Zoom than they can in person. Also, meeting on-line can substantially reduce our carbon footprint.



Watch the webinar on YouTube at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jUAJaOb4nYA>

SAVE THE DATE

Let's Talk Plastics: A Family Event Earth Day, April 22

Are you curious about all this talk in the media about plastics? Is it really a problem? Is there anything WE can do? The Nith Valley EcoBoosters is pleased to present this *free* webinar on Earth Day, Thursday, April 22 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

The webinar features a 20-minute documentary: **Kids Can Save The Planet — Plastic Is Forever** which was created and narrated by an inspiring 13-year-old. After the film, there will be comments by students and by our local expert, Deanna Dakin, Waste Management Coordinator for Waterloo Region. A question and answer period will follow. We encourage ALL AGES to attend this family event. ...After all, young people, the future is yours!

**Check Out Our Newest
Webinar. Info on Page 2
* Electric Vehicles ***



A Free Webinar

*LET'S
TALK...*

ELECTRIC VEHICLES

*ARE YOU
READY
FOR AN EV?*



**EVs are the Future
of Transportation!**

Learn about the cost, environmental benefits & fun of driving an EV.

You can now buy electric cars, SUVs & pickup trucks. Presenter Andy Wilson and EV owners, Neil Lackey & Bart Van Andel, will be available during the Q&A.

PRESENTATION

+ Question & Answer

7:15 - 8:45 p.m.

**Thursday
February 18, 2021**

**REGISTER AT
nvecoboosters.com**

Join Us for a Night of Learning!



NVEB Recognizes 50 by 2030 Waterloo Region

50x30WR is a grassroots, community-led campaign advocating for Waterloo Region to commit to a 50% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2030. This campaign is based on climate science and has justice at its core and builds on the public commitment made by regional municipalities in 2019 by declaring a climate emergency. This emergency, like the pandemic, is already

impacting on public health and well-being. It demands our shared urgency and attention. 50x30WR aims to build back better from the COVID-19 pandemic through a just, green recovery that centres on human well-being and innovation, building towards a socially just, sustainable and climate-smart Waterloo Region together.

Some tips on how to be a Climate Champion

1. Share the 50x30 campaign information with your friends and family. Normalize the importance of urgent climate action by talking about it as a common practice.
2. Sign and share the 50x30 petition widely <https://www.50by30wr.ca/petition>
3. Lobby local politicians including municipal and regional councillors.
4. Write letters to the editor at the Record and other local papers to support the 50x30 target. Here's a link to help: <https://canada.citizensclimatelobby.org/sample-letters-to-the-editor/>
5. Check out the 50x30 toolkit. <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1d5QDIMNpQitQqV3yZriH-FnaS1vJqa3Fi>
6. Have your organization take the pledge in support of 50x30. <https://www.50by30wr.ca/pledge>
7. Create a short video of why 50x30 matters to you and share it with 50x30WR. <https://www.50by30wr.ca/champions>
8. Attend "Climate Science and Climate Justice – a call to local action" on February 22, 2021. Register here. <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/50by30-faith-tickets-137440118093>

For more info: 50by30waterlooregion@gmail.com

'Let's Tree Wilmot' Plans Planting Projects for 2021

Let's Tree Wilmot (LTW), a joint project of Wilmot Horticultural Society with NVEB and Rotary Wilmot is planning projects for spring and fall, 2021. We are looking for dreamers, schemers, and planners to join the committee to select tree planting locations, fundraise, and to promote and organize planting days.

We met with the Township to determine their priorities. The Arboretum has seen better days so updating that collection and making it a stellar education destination is one possibility.

Many Wilmot parks — such as Petersburg Park — have lost ash trees and some mature, aging trees. A New Dundee group is organizing tree planting for April. LTW wants to create an Education Committee to help Wilmot residents learn more about planting and maintaining native trees.

Let's make Wilmot beautiful and healthy with native trees and shrubs! Join us to make it happen!

Email letstreewilmot@gmail.com for details. For tree news, information and updates, go to www.facebook.com/letstreewilmot



Let's Tree Wilmot successfully planted nearly 100 trees at Scott Park in New Hamburg on October 24, 2020, despite COVID. Wearing masks, 53 volunteers — often family groups — showed up to contribute their efforts to plant more than 15 different types of trees. The day was brisk but beautiful.



Are You
Environmentally
Conscientious?

**Nith Valley
EcoBoosters
seeks new
members
to take the path
toward a safer
environment...**

*Come
Join Us!*

nvecoboosters@gmail.com

About Nith Valley EcoBoosters

Nith Valley EcoBoosters (NVEB) is a not-for-profit volunteer organization committed to achieving and supporting long-term healthy environments in Wilnot and Wellesley Townships. Environmental goals are achieved through education, action and collaboration.

Formed in 2013, NVEB was an ad hoc committee at Zion United Church in New Hamburg. In June 2015, the Nith Valley EcoBoosters became a community-based group adopting its current name.

The NVEB usually meets the fourth Wednesday of each month, except July and December. Monthly meetings are open to all. Subcommittees and working groups are established for various topics, issues or proposals as required. These groups may meet at any time, at any location and are in addition to regular monthly meetings.

Pre-pandemic, the Nith Valley EcoBoosters has organized or participated in multiple environmentally related events each year. It has been an active supporter of most regional environmental groups and activities.

The Nith Valley EcoBoosters is funded by donations, fundraising efforts and grants. Membership fees are not collected.

Contact Information

<http://www.nvecoboosters.com>

nvecoboosters@gmail.com

NVEB 'EcoNuggets' —The Latest Solution



EcoNugget

YES!! You can plant trees just by using the ECOSIA search engine

Ecosia is just like any other search engine, with one major difference: **at least 80%** of its advertising profits are used to plant trees around the world.

Did you know that Ecosia:

- Plants trees where they are needed the most.
- Has planted 116 million trees in 25 countries.
- Publishes monthly financial reports so you see exactly how income from your searches is spent.
- Produces twice as much electricity as is required for all Ecosia searches using renewable energy.
- Is privacy friendly. They don't sell your data to advertisers, have no 3rd party trackers, and anonymize all searches within one week.

Ready to give Ecosia a try? Go to: ecosia.org

For further information contact:

nvecoboosters@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIPS

The NVEB are members of

- **GREN** (Grand River Environment Network) a collective of environmentalists in Waterloo Region that work on a variety of issues.
- **Future Ground Network**—An online organizing resource, associated with the David Suzuki Foundation. It is a convenor & mentor for community environmental groups.
- **Nature Network**—A province-wide network of groups and individuals that are a collective voice for conservation.
- In addition, since 2015, the Nith Valley EcoBoosters have collaborated with the **Waterloo Region Blue Dot Team** to promote the rights of all Canadians to a healthy environment. <https://bluedot.ca>