

Nith Valley EcoBoosters – History & Terms of Reference (version 3.6) – April 2025

Mandates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Nith Valley EcoBoosters is a not-for-profit, politically non-partisan volunteer group committed to achieving and supporting a long-term healthy environment in Wilmot and Wellesley Townships through education, action and collaboration. <i>Politically non-partisan</i> means that the Nith Valley EcoBoosters does not endorse or support specific political parties, politicians or candidates. This does not preclude NVEB from engaging in education and/or advocacy directed toward political or other issues related to the environment. The Nith Valley EcoBoosters Youth Advocates is a working group led by youth and young adults. It originally started with the goal of organising sustainable initiatives and activities in schools. Since then, the focus has shifted to making climate action and sustainability accessible and appealing to youth and young adults through a variety of education initiatives and events. All students and young adults are encouraged to join.
Contact Information	<p>Website: nvecoboosters.com E-mail: nvecoboosters@gmail.com Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/Nith-Valley-EcoBoosters-106180851258463/ Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/nvecoboosters/ Youth Advocates Working Group: nveb.youthadvocates@gmail.com</p>
Date Established	<p>The group was first formed in 2013 as an ad hoc committee at Zion United Church in New Hamburg. The Nith Valley EcoBoosters became a community based group and adopted its current name on June 24, 2015. The Nith Valley EcoBoosters Youth Advocates Working Group was established in October 2021.</p>
Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Executive meetings are held a minimum of 4 times annually to conduct the business of the organization. Working Group meetings are held on an as needed basis. An Annual General Meeting is normally held within 6 months of the end of the fiscal year which is December 31st. Working Group meetings are open to all interested individuals. Working groups may be established for various topics, issues or proposals as required. The NVEB Youth Advocates Working Group meets on an as needed basis.
Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Executive consists of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary, and one representative from each Working Group. It provides leadership to the group ensuring that it functions properly and that effective decisions are made and carried out.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each position is normally for a 2 year period. The Chairperson and Secretary will be elected in alternate years from the Vice-Chairperson and Treasurer. Elections occur at the Annual General Meeting. • There is no maximum time period for Executive positions. • No membership fees are collected. Nith Valley EcoBoosters is funded by donations, fundraising efforts, and grants.
Liaison & Activities	<p>The Nith Valley EcoBoosters liaise with various groups and have completed or are currently involved in a variety of activities. The following list is in chronological order:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The original Zion United Church EcoBoosters group worked with Divest Waterloo in April 2015 to show the film “Do The Math” followed by a discussion, led by a member of Divest Waterloo. That public event in New Hamburg led to the formation of our current group. • Worked with the Waterloo Region Blue Dot committee in the summers of both 2015 and 2016 to promote the David Suzuki Foundation’s Blue Dot Movement. This included a presentation to the Wilmot Township Council on August 31, 2015 to present the case for the township to sign on to a declaration recognizing the right to a healthy environment. We continue to maintain a connection with the Waterloo Region Blue Dot Team. • Participated in a planning committee spearheaded by Divest Waterloo that organized a climate march in Waterloo in the fall of 2015. • Assisted teachers and students to plant native plants in the outdoor garden area at Forest Glen Public School (Fall 2015). This was part of the school’s “Greening the Glen” project. • Participated in the 2016 Living Well Festival at the Wilmot Recreation Complex (April 2016). • Initiated an idling reduction campaign with the “Eco Team” teachers and students at Forest Glen Public School (Fall 2016). • Provided idling reduction materials from “Dads Against Dirty Air” to Waterloo-Oxford District Secondary School. The school confirmed that they used some of the materials (Fall 2016). • Participated in the Waterloo Region Zero Waste Challenge (October 2016). • Supported the Wilmot Healthy Communities Coalition by having representation on that committee for 3 years. • Partnered with Climate Action Waterloo Region to further the goals of both organizations. Our first joint event was participation in the 2017 Living Well Festival. • Created an Eco Water Board Game in 2017 that was designed to help educate children and adults about water conservation/using water wisely. It has been used at Forest Glen School (April 2017), the 2017 Living Well Festival, at an event organized by the Waterloo Region Blue Dot Team (June 2017), and at Groh Public School (April 2019). • Participated in Community Cleanup Days in Baden (2017) and New Hamburg (2018 & 2019). • Began publishing “EcoNuggets” (tips for helping the environment) in the monthly Baden Outlook newsletter starting in January 2018.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Held our first environmental film night on March 21, 2018, in partnership with the Region of Waterloo library, which featured the film “Beyond Crisis.” Approximately 90 people gathered at the Wilmot Recreation Complex to see the film and be part of a follow up discussion with the film’s creator, Kai Reimer-Watts. This event was funded by a Municipal grant from the Township of Wilmot. • Collaborated with other groups to host an all candidates meeting in May 2018 prior to the provincial election and again in early 2019 to respond to proposed provincial legislation that posed threats to the environment. • On an ongoing basis, NVEB responds to requests for speakers for church groups and other organizations (e.g. the New Hamburg Board of Trade and Rotary Wilmot) to increase awareness of environmental issues and ways to take positive actions in our homes and communities. • Planned and executed a water conservation/preservation themed afternoon for the Wilmot Family Resource Summer Nature Camp for kids in August 2018 and 2019. • Partnered with the Zion United Church UCW to host an event at the church on November 6, 2018 where Dr. Blair Feltmate from the Intact Centre on Climate Adaptation at the University of Waterloo did a presentation to about 100 people called “Warmer, Wetter and Wilder: What Homeowners and Communities Can Expect under a Changing Climate, and How They Can Prepare.” The focus of the presentation was on addressing practical and cost-effective steps that homeowners can take to lower their home flood risk profile. We solicited funds from local businesses to help with the costs of this event. • Began the process of identifying how home flood risk reduction ideas and strategies can be effectively converted into action in our townships in November 2018. NVEB collaborated with Sheila Walker (owner, Home Hardware store, New Hamburg), Cheryl Evans (Director, Home Flood Protection Program, Intact Centre on Climate Adaptation, University of Waterloo), and Angie Hallman (Wilmot Township Councillor). • Organized a film night on March 20, 2019, where approximately 80 people gathered at Zion United Church for a food waste event which included the film “Just Eat It” followed by a panel discussion. Our panelists were Jennifer Pfenning, director of marketing and human resources for Pfenning's Organic Farms; Dr. Alison Blay-Palmer, Director of the Laurier Centre for Sustainable Food Systems at the Balsillie School for International Affairs, Wilfrid Laurier University; and Dr. Mike von Massow, Ontario Agriculture College Chair in Food System Leadership at the University of Guelph. This event was funded by a Municipal grant from the Township of Wilmot. • With support from GreenPAC and the “100 Debates on the Environment” project, hosted an environmental federal election debate for the Kitchener-Conestoga riding on October 9th, 2019. Approximately 130 people attended this event at the New Dundee Community Centre. The purpose of the debate was to make the environment an election issue that no party and no candidate could ignore. • Collaborated with Wilmot Horticultural Society, Rotary Wilmot, and the Township of Wilmot to begin the Let’s Tree Wilmot initiative. Its mission is to increase the tree canopy cover in the rural and urban areas of Wilmot. An initial meeting of interested individuals and groups took place on March 11, 2020.
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- Supported the group **Citizens for Safe Ground Water** who were opposing the approval of a gravel pit in our community. To support their position, we submitted a letter to the Township of Wilmot in March 2020.
- Signed a letter (along with 111 other organizations) that was sent to the **Government of Ontario** in April 2020 requesting that it retain the current mandate of the province's 36 Conservation Authorities in protecting, restoring, and managing the watersheds where 95 percent of Ontarians reside.
- Became members of **Ontario Nature's Nature Network** in June 2020. Ontario Nature is working hard on many aspects of provincial conservation including *Southern Ontario Woodlands, Parks and Protected Areas, Smart Growth and Urban Sprawl, Wildlife Conservation and Research, and Community Conservation*. As a Nature Network member, we have a unique chance to learn first-hand from Ontario Nature staff about conservation issues!
- Endorsed a letter that opposes the Ontario Government's proposal to remove the prohibition on **aggregate extraction** in the habitat of threatened and endangered species in the regional Natural Heritage System of the Greater Golden Horseshoe (July 2020). We also endorsed an Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) submission that opposes the Ontario Government's proposed changes to the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe area.
- Joined the **Future Ground Network (FGN)** in September 2020. FGN is a hub of groups taking action in their communities to secure healthier, more viable futures in the areas of climate justice, biodiversity, waste reduction and sustainable systems. Joining the network means connecting with organizers from other groups to share best practices, find inspiration and work together to achieve common goals. By joining FGN, we have gained access to free training, educational events, and the use of digital tools like Zoom Meeting and Zoom Webinar.
- Organized an online webinar entitled: **Droughts & Downpours** on October 14, 2020. This webinar focused on small changes individuals can make that collectively make big impacts when managing our properties and community spaces as we experience more severe weather events. It offered a unique opportunity to learn practical tips that can mitigate local problems due to climate change, particularly related to recurring droughts & downpours. 103 registrations were received for this webinar which was funded by a Municipal grant from the **Township of Wilmot**.
- Assisted with the organization of **Let's Tree Wilmot's** first tree planting event on October 24, 2020. 100 trees were planted at William Scott Park in New Hamburg.
- Sent a letter to **Mike Harris**, MPP Kitchener-Conestoga, in November 2020 to **request that he oppose and urge the removal of Schedule 6 in Bill 229, the proposed changes to the Conservation Authorities Act** which would undermine efforts to conserve biodiversity and build resilience to climate change impacts. We also urged Mr. Harris to support proposals to protect more farmland, natural areas and freshwater sources.
- Sent a letter to the **Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing** in December 2020 in support of the Township of Wilmot's application to implement a **sanitary backwater valve program** for residences and businesses located in the floodplain in New Hamburg. We applaud the Township for taking these steps to mitigate the effects of flooding.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responded in December 2020 to a posting on the Environmental Registry of Ontario by the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks, indicating that we have concerns about and do not support the proposed Species at Risk Conservation Fund. Instead of completing beneficial actions for species impacted by the destruction of their habitats, proponents will have the option of going ahead with harmful activities as soon as they pay into the fund. Once they pay, they can wash their hands of responsibility for the harm they cause. We do not support the government's plan to proceed with implementing the Fund. It will lead to an increase in habitat loss and degradation. • In partnership with the Wilmot Horticultural Society, organized an online webinar entitled: Let's Talk Native Plants on January 11, 2021. The webinar provided information about the strengths and benefits of the many plants discussed. Pros and cons were offered for many varieties. Some native plants contribute to the ornamental beauty of a garden, others add drought tolerance or provide support for birds and/or pollinators. 646 people registered for this webinar. • Endorsed a submission in January 2021 from Ontario Nature to the Ontario Government regarding the government's consultation on Minister's Zoning Orders (MZOs). MZOs allow the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to directly zone land for particular purposes without public notice or consultation or the right to appeal. There has been a sharp increase in the use of MZOs over the past year, opening the door to controversial developments on agricultural lands and significant natural areas. • Endorsed a paper prepared by Ontario Nature in January 2021 that outlines what steps are needed and what principles should guide the Greenbelt expansion proposed by the Ontario Government. • Organized an online webinar entitled: Let's Talk EVs - Are You Ready For An Electric Vehicle? on February 18, 2021. This webinar discussed a number of factors to take into account when deciding whether to purchase an EV including financial, environmental, plus travel and cargo usability considerations. 203 people registered for this webinar. • Endorsed a letter drafted by Ontario Nature and Environmental Defence to the Attorney General in March 2021 asking that Schedule 3 be removed from Bill 257. Schedule 3 proposed amendment of the Planning Act so that both existing and future Minister's Zoning Orders (MZOs) could lawfully override protections for significant wetlands, woodlands, wildlife habitat and other natural heritage features. • Endorsed a submission from Ontario Nature in April 2021 to the Ontario Government providing insights and recommendations on how to grow and enhance the quality of the Greenbelt and thereby better protect the vital benefits provided by farmland, water resources and natural areas within the Greater Golden Horseshoe. • Organized an online webinar entitled: Let's Talk Plastics – A Family Event on April 22, 2021. This family-focused webinar discussed the problems with plastic pollution as it continues to fill up landfills. The event included participation by a local youth climate advocate; posters and short pre-recorded audio & video messages about the problems with plastic from young students (Grade One and older): and a presentation about what does and does not belong in our recycling blue boxes in the Region of Waterloo. 102 people registered for this webinar.
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- In May 2021 we continued to support the group **Citizens for Safe Ground Water** who are opposing the approval of a gravel pit in our community by delegating at a Township of Wilmot Council meeting.
- Collaborated with 50 x 30 Waterloo Region to host an Environmental Townhall event on May 19, 2021 that focused on **Rural Economic Development Through Green Innovation**. 90 people registered for this event.
- With support from **GreenPAC** and the “**100 Debates on the Environment**” project, co-hosted an **environmental federal election debate** for the Kitchener-Conestoga riding on September 8th, 2021. The other co-hosts for this event were: RARE Charitable Research Reserve, REEP Green Solutions, Waterloo Region Nature, Grand River Environmental Network, and Sustainable Waterloo Region. 132 people registered for this debate.
- In partnership with **Let’s Tree Wilmot**, organized an online webinar entitled: **Let’s Talk Healthy Trees – From the Roots Up!** on September 29, 2021. This webinar provided information explaining the importance of trees, how to select the right tree and put it in the right location, planting guidelines, and how to maintain a healthy tree. 92 people registered for this webinar.
- In November 2021 we delegated to the Region of Waterloo Council about some troubling aspects of the draft **Region of Waterloo Official Plan** (ROP). The ROP is the 30-year plan that is legally binding for where and how the Region is going to grow - i.e. how much greenfield sprawl is allowed, will the Countryside Line be breached, how much industrial land does the Region need, how much intensification will be planned for, etc.
- On January 18, 2022, we sent a letter to the Township of Wilmot Council to express our concerns regarding the **Wilmot MZO** request submitted by Cachet Developments (the developer). We also sent a list of questions to the developer on January 27.
- In February 2022 we agreed to support Let’s Tree Wilmot in its application for a **Natural Resources Canada 2 Billion Trees program grant**. If the grant application is successful, the specific activities for which NVEB would assist over a two year period include one public education event related to trees per year, one or more tree pruning workshops each year, and one or more longer tree care workshops each year.
- Organized an online webinar entitled: **Let’s Talk Plastics Unwrapped – The Real Story, and Hope for the Future!** which included watching the documentary film “The Story of Plastic” and then joining a panel discussion and Q&A about the film on February 3rd, 2022. The film uncovers the ugly truth behind the current global plastic pollution crisis and the panelists discussed how they are taking hopeful actions to solve the crisis. 220 people registered for this webinar.
- On March 1, 2022 a letter was delivered to Sharon Chambers, Chief Administrative Officer for the Township of Wilmot. The letter addressed some concerns that the Nith Valley EcoBoosters had with regards to the independent experts' report on the proposed **Hallman gravel pit**.
- On March 9, 2022, we endorsed two letters from Ontario Nature:
 - (a) To the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks supporting the proposed designation of the south shore of Prince Edward County as a **Conservation Reserve** under the Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act.

	<p>(b) To the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing asking that upcoming changes to Ontario’s Building Code incorporate provisions requiring bird-friendly construction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In April 2022 we continued to support the group Citizens for Safe Ground Water who are opposing the approval of a gravel pit in our community by delegating at a Township of Wilmot Council meeting. • On April 17, 2022 we endorsed a letter from Ontario Nature to the leaders of the Progressive Conservative, NDP, Liberal and Green parties of Ontario asking for strong, actionable commitments to address the twin crises of biodiversity loss and climate change. • On April 18, 2022 we signed a joint Environmental Registry submission from Ontario Nature regarding the proposed provincial Greenbelt Expansion. A much more ambitious approach is needed to protect precious farmland, groundwater and natural areas across the Greater Golden Horseshoe and build the region’s resilience to climate change. • In partnership with Woolwich Healthy Communities, we provided registration and technical support and helped to promote an online webinar entitled: Somebody Should Do Something – A RUN FOR OFFICE on April 21, 2022. This webinar provided attendees with the knowledge and know-how to put a campaign together and run for election. • In partnership with Morningside EarthCare (Morningside community environmental group in New Hamburg), a fund-raising rain barrel sale was held on Earth Day, April 22, 2022. 80 rain barrels were sold. • Organized an online webinar entitled: Let’s Talk – Your Home’s Energy Use on April 28, 2022. We co-hosted this free webinar with Climate Action Waterloo Region on April 28th, 2022. 100 people registered for the event which featured Greg Labbé, a Building Science Consultant at Toronto Metropolitan University, as the keynote speaker. One of the key takeaways from Greg’s presentation was that the first thing we should do is to stop energy from “bleeding” out of our homes. • In May 2022 we endorsed the Ontario Climate Emergency Campaign (OCEC). This campaign has brought together diverse groups from across the province including environmental, health, labour, education, community-based, businesses, and others, to support an urgent action plan for our provincial government. The plan provides a list of actions that the OCEC is urging the government to take to tackle the climate emergency. • In May 2022 the NVEB Youth Advocates began helping Sir Adam Beck Public School with their plans to plant trees and build a natural playground on their property. • On May 9, 2022 we endorsed the Ontario Nature joint letter to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing regarding the Government of Ontario pushing through changes to the Planning Act without due consultation and violating the Environmental Bill of rights. • On May 25, 2022 we added our name to a global sign-on-letter written by Environmental Defense Canada which urged the world’s five largest plastic polluters to reduce their plastic use by developing reusable and refillable packaging.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In June 2022 we delegated to the Region of Waterloo Planning & Works Committee about a preferred option for the Region of Waterloo Official Plan (ROP). We felt that this option (Community Option #4) was a superior path forward that has no farmland loss and goes the furthest to create the sustainable communities we need. • On June 1, 2022 we set up an electric vehicle information table at the Cruzin' at the Pond event in Baden. Two fully electric vehicles and one plug-in-hybrid vehicle were on display and their owners answered questions from participants at the event. • In September 2022, a member of the NVEB Youth Advocates assisted Let's Tree Wilmot with the creation of a tree planting video. • On September 20, 2022 we endorsed a letter, written by the Ontario Climate Emergency Campaign and addressed to CBC Executives. The letter asked the CBC to "report regularly, candidly, and comprehensively on the situation, events, implications, and responses required to address our climate crisis". • On September 23, 2022 a member of the NVEB Youth Advocates attended a climate strike in Hamilton and spoke on behalf of the group. • A member of the NVEB Youth Advocates attended Ontario Nature's Youth Summit for Mother Earth in Toronto on September 24-25, 2022. Every year, the Summit engages approximately 100 young leaders from dozens of communities across Ontario. It is planned and hosted by youth for youth, and features workshops and activities to build leadership skills and environmental knowledge. • On September 26, 2022 members of the NVEB Youth Advocates attended a meeting held by the Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB) Sustainable Working Group. The group indicated that some funding assistance may be available from the WRDSB for the Youth Advocates. • Organized an online webinar entitled Shaping Engaged, Resilient and Liveable Communities on October 4, 2022. Everyone's voice matters when it comes to influencing the future of their community. Why should people engage in shaping resilient and liveable communities? How do they go about it? This webinar featured four knowledgeable speakers who answered those questions. 79 people registered for this webinar. • Participated in a 50by30WR initiative to survey candidates for the October 2022 municipal election regarding their knowledge, ability and commitment to achieve the Region of Waterloo's greenhouse gas emission reduction goals (50% below 2010 levels by 2030). • On November 29, 2022, we partnered with the Wilmot Ecumenical Working Group on Indigenous/Settler Relationships to host the new Wilmot and Wellesley Councils in a Zoom meeting to inform them about our organizations. • Organized an online webinar entitled Let's Talk - Sustainable Investing 101 on December 7, 2022. This webinar helped participants to "demystify" the terms "ESG", "Divestment", "Sustainable" and "Socially Responsible" investing. It also discussed how to make intentional decisions about where we are investing our money. Our keynote
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	<p>speaker was Tim Nash, an expert in personal finance, sustainable investing, and the green economy. 53 people registered for this webinar.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We were very concerned about the Ontario Government’s Bill 23 which was introduced to help address the housing crisis. We felt that this bill would limit the important work of conservation authorities which includes flood control and protection of natural areas. In addition, the government was planning to remove over 7000 acres of land from the Greenbelt for development, breaking a previous promise to keep these areas intact. We took the following actions in response to Bill 23: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Endorsed letters opposing Bill 23 written by Ontario Nature. ○ Donated to help with a Greenpromise ad campaign. ○ Joined the Alliance for a Liveable Ontario and donated to it in January 2023. ○ Attended a rally at Conservative MPP Mike Harris’ office to protest the bill. ○ Sent a letter to MPP Mike Harris about our concerns. ○ Ongoing attendance at regular meetings with other groups in Waterloo Region and beyond to plan action against the bill. ○ Attended rallies at the ROMA conference in Toronto on January 23rd, 2023 at Dumfries Conservation Area in Cambridge on Feb. 4th, and at Queen’s Park on Feb. 25th. ○ Met with MPP Mike Harris on March 3rd to voice our concerns about the bill. ○ Sent a letter to MPP Mike Harris stating our concerns about the negative effects of decreased development fees resulting from Bill 23. ○ Attended the April 2nd and July 29th Stop The Sprawl rallies and demonstrated at the September 8th Ford Fest. ○ Endorsed an Alliance for a Liveable Ontario report which summarized that if proposed changes to the provincial planning laws are implemented, they will turbocharge sprawl and fatally harm Ontario's agricultural sector and environment. • Organized an online webinar entitled Electric Vehicles – Do You Have A Question? Ask the Owners!! on March 21, 2023. This webinar was a follow-up to our first EV webinar in 2021. It began with an update on the current state of EVs. This was followed by brief presentations from a diverse group of EV owners about their experiences with a variety of EV’s – Hybrids, Plug-ins and Battery only. An extended Question & Answer period gave participants lots of time to ask questions of the EV owners on the panel. 111 people registered for the webinar. • On August 21, 2023 we made a presentation to approximately 25 campers between the ages of 5-12 at the Wilmot Family Resource Centre summer camp in New Hamburg. We spoke about the work we do in the community and what campers can do in their daily lives to support the environment. We also played the NVEB water game with the campers and engaged them in a Scavenger Hunt and a water song.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In partnership with Reep Green Solutions, we organized an online webinar entitled Mission Possible: Launch Your Waste Reduction Journey! on September 28, 2023. Most people do not know that the amount of waste generated in Ontario, and Canada as a whole, is among the highest levels of waste generated per person in the world. In this webinar, participants had a chance to learn about specific steps that can be taken to reduce waste in their lives and also what corporations and governments need to do to reduce waste. Our keynote speaker was Jamie Kaminski who has over 30 years of experience in the waste diversion industry and is the Director and Lead Policy Advisor for Zero Waste Canada and a Board Member of the Zero Waste International Alliance policy group. 73 people registered for this event. • Organized Stove Talk: Introduction to Induction which was an in-person event held at the Wilmot Township Recreation Complex on April 30, 2024. The evening featured a number of local “chefs” who demonstrated the use of induction burners to cook food and boil water. Induction cooking is based on the principles of electromagnetism, where by a magnetic field in the stove coil induces an electric current in the magnetic pan or pot that heats the food to be cooked. Because of the direct transfer of energy (not through the air), induction cooking is more efficient than electric or gas cooking, and does not involve release of methane (a potent green house gas) as occurs in gas cooking. 59 people attended this event. • In partnership with Climate Action Waterloo Region and Waterloo Region Community Energy we promoted and participated in a workshop designed to obtain feedback from the community on proposed new high performance building standards. The workshop was held at the New Hamburg Community Centre on June 27, 2024. • Provided financial and promotional support and manpower for the very well attended Nature’s Best Hope event on October 2, 2024 at Shantz Mennonite Church. The event featured keynote speaker Doug Tallamy (Entomologist/Ecologist) who challenged attendees to re-envision their yards and neighborhoods into places for native plants and wildlife. • Participated in Community Safety Day at the New Hamburg Community Centre on October 5, 2024. In partnership with the Wilmot Fire Department, we worked with 3 Wilmot Township schools to encourage students to create posters that illustrate one or more situations related to emergencies, emergency preparedness, or home safety. The schools that participated were Holy Family Catholic Elementary School, Sir Adam Beck Public School, and Baden Public School. A total of 130 posters were created by the students at the three schools and they were on display at the event on October 5th. The posters featured many colours, creative artwork, and important messages. Adults and children attending the event also had an opportunity to play NVEB’s new Bee Ready Bee Safe board game which challenged them to answer emergency and safety related questions. This was the second year for the Community Safety Day and attendance was estimated to be over 300, a significant increase compared to 2023. • Delegated to the Region of Waterloo Council on November 20, 2024 to state our reasons for opposing the Wilmot Land Assembly Project.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In December 2024, “Climate Corner” featuring environmental/climate articles written by NVEB Youth Advocates member Ashley Ropp had its debut in The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette. • On March 24, 2025 the 50x30 NVEB Working Group made a presentation to the Township of Wilmot Council regarding Wilmot’s pledge to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 50% of 2010 emissions by 2030. Working with Councillor Steven Martin, NVEB drafted a Motion which was presented to Council at the meeting. The Motion directs Township staff to prepare a report within three months that outlines options and recommendations for actions the Township can take to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduce natural gas consumption within Township operations; 2. Incentivize or require reductions in natural gas consumption in new construction, including both residential and non-residential development; 3. Support existing homeowners and businesses in reducing natural gas use, through education, partnerships, or other mechanisms. • In partnership with Reep Green Solutions, we organized an online webinar entitled Getting Off Gas – Electrify Your Home! on April 1, 2025. Buildings are Canada’s third-largest source of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and much of that comes from the natural gas, oil and propane used to provide space and water heating. But other equipment in and around our homes also uses fossil fuels, such as gas stoves, fireplaces, lawnmowers, and generators. Of all the actions households can take to act on the climate crisis, the most important is to fuel-swap, meaning, to stop using fossil fuels. In particular, we need to stop using “natural” gas. In this webinar co-hosted by the Nith Valley EcoBoosters and Reep Green Solutions, participants learned about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Problems associated with the use of natural gas. ○ Heat pumps and other “electric” alternatives to gas furnaces, water heaters, stoves, dryers and fireplaces. ○ The minimum specs someone should look for in these alternatives. ○ Information about the Federal interest free loan program and the new Ontario energy efficiency rebate program. Speakers for this webinar were: - Heather McDiarmid (keynote), Steve Manske (Canada Greener Homes Interest Free Loan), and Andrew Schiedel (Reep Green Solutions). 113 people registered for this event.
Future Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Webinar: Why Hope Matters – The Practice of Evidence-Based Hope in a World of Climate Doom (May 15, 2025)