Living Green BARRIE

2025

Annual Report

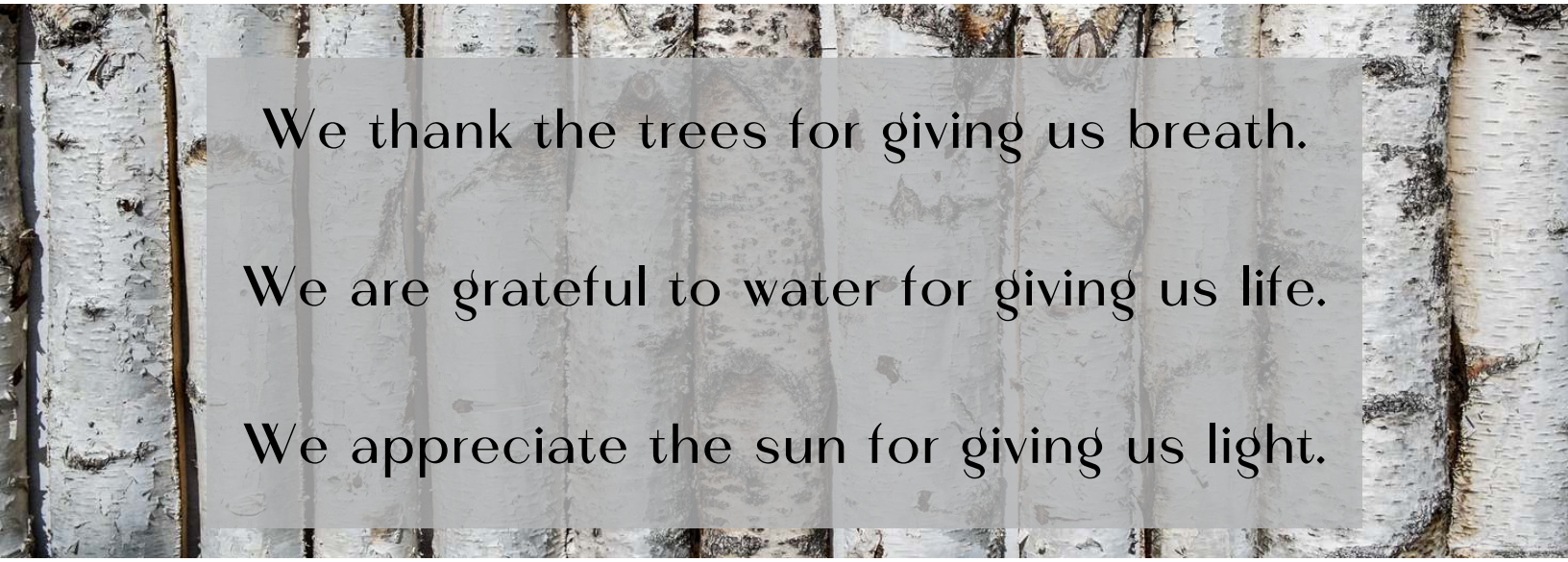


We Will Honour the Land & Respect the People.



Living Green Barrie is committed to honoring and respecting the lands that we occupy. Barrie is situated on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabeg people, which include the Odawa, Ojibwe, and Pottawatomi Nations collectively known as the Three Fires Confederacy.

These lands are the home of many First Nations, Métis and Inuit people who care for them. Living Green will work humbly alongside Indigenous peoples, seeking guidance and respecting cultures and traditions so that we might help repair some of the ongoing impacts of colonialism on this land and its people.



We thank and respect Indigenous peoples for sharing their teachings.

We will honour these lands and the people, will acknowledge uncomfortable truths of history, and will strive to do better.

Living Green BARRIE

Mission

Living Green empowers individuals to make sustainable choices in response to the climate crisis. We focus on positive solutions, fostering a community of hopeful, action-oriented people committed to reducing their carbon footprint.





Vision

Our vision is to create a vibrant, sustainable community where individuals and organizations work together to reduce their environmental impact, embrace green practices, and inspire lasting positive change for a healthier planet.

Message from our Executive Director

We are incredibly privileged to live in one of the best places in the world—and at a pivotal moment in human history. I believe we're at a tipping point, but it doesn't have to be a breaking point.

Change is coming, and while it can seem frightening, it holds just as much potential for a better future as it does for a worse one. The future is not set in stone.

Our challenge is to turn away from what we can't control and focus on what we can—for our kids, our grandkids, and generations to come. Yet uncertainty is causing many to shut down just when we need people to engage, support, and take action.

We must replace negativity and fear with positivity and hope.

I believe three things will guide us forward: creativity, nature, and community.

Creativity allows us to imagine—and live into—the future we want. Resources may be limited, but creativity is boundless.

Nature reminds us to rebuild our relationship with the natural world through equitable access to greenspace, thoughtful tree planting and care, and the return of biodiversity to our city and culture.

Community is the shared belief that together, we can achieve far more than we ever could alone.

Andee

Creativity, Nature, & Community


Andee Pelan





2025 Board of Directors

CHAIR: Steve Schwarz/Judith Aubin
VICE CHAIR: Peter Tretter
SECRETARY: Deanna De Forest
TREASURER: Louise Gravelle
Deb Woods
Gita Cartwright
Mitchell Williams
Ron Grey
Tineasha Emmett


















2025 Staff

Andee Pelan, Executive Director/Arborist

Kerry Woodward, Program Director

Our Board of Directors do more than direct; they roll up their sleeves, work events, volunteer their time, and get their hands dirty!

SCIENCE & ENERGY ADVISOR: Peter Bursztyn
GREEN INVESTMENT ADVISOR: Jackie Ramler

12 Actions for Climate

At the Core of our Mission



BE HOPEFUL

JAN



Imagine the world you want, then be it.

INVEST IN GREEN

FEB



Spend and invest your $ strategically.

REDUCE WASTE

MAR



Reuse, Refuse & Repurpose. Compost what you can.



NATURALIZE

APR



Rethink your lawn. Consider planting helpful plants.

PLANT TREES

MAY



In your yard, at school or at work. Join a planting event.

TREAD LIGHTLY

JUN



Bus, bike, walk, carpool. Switch to Electric.



ENGAGE

JUL



Vote, protest, learn and let leaders know you care.

POWER DOWN

AUG



Be energy efficient in both hot and cold seasons.

EAT MORE PLANTS

SEP



Eat less meat. Support local farms.



PLANT BETTER TREES

OCT



Plant the right tree in the right location, the right way.

BUY LESS STUFF

NOV



Quality over quantity. Refuse some plastic.

SHOP LOCAL

DEC



Support your neighbours. Skip long-distance packages.

2025 Impact

Practical, local climate action—rooted in nature and community.

We are helping to restore our Urban Forest

1,061
trees & shrubs shared through free or low-cost programs

70
different native species used for biodiversity & wildlife

1,786
more trees planted towards our goal of 10,000 TREES FOR BARRIE

We helped people make better environmental choices

6
articles published

8
public presentations & media interviews



We reduced waste & emissions

3,698 lbs
of electronic waste diverted from landfill

3
Repair Cafe events

We activated our community

12
public education & engagement events

11
community tree planting events

1,967
volunteer hours powering local solutions

Together, we're growing a healthier, more climate-resilient city.

Impacts & Achievements

Living Green's 12 Actions for Climate provide a practical roadmap for local climate action—turning concern into meaningful, measurable change. The accomplishments demonstrate how these actions came to life in 2025, through hands-on projects that reduced emissions, restored nature, built resilience, and empowered our community to act.





Educate. Inspire. Demonstrate.

We shared our expertise through podcasts, television and radio interviews, and regular contributions to local online news outlets.

We also delivered an in-person presentation on backyard composting to members of the Barrie Native Friendship Centre.

We celebrate leadership through our Green Business Awards, shining a spotlight on local businesses that are reducing their environmental footprint.

12 Actions for Climate

Invest in Green
Shop Local

Impacts & Achievements

Getting more trees in the ground

Urban areas trees require extra time and effort to get the right tree, planted the right way in the right location. More than just planting trees, LG has been building programs and events that teach people how to help trees thrive in our city. Our pop-up tree nursery allowed us to expand our reach and effectiveness to get more trees in the ground.







Living Green increases access to native trees and shrubs by removing cost as a barrier. In 2025, we launched a native tree and shrub nursery with support from the Barrie Community Foundation and land from St. George's Anglican Church.

Our annual Native Tree and Shrub Sale helped residents replace trees lost in the March ice storm. Low-cost native trees combined with free expert advice ensured equitable access to nature.

12 Actions for Climate

- Naturalize
- Plant Better Trees

Impacts & Achievements

Community tree planting events

In 2019, Living Green set a goal of planting 10,000 Trees in Barrie. At 8,461, we are on track to meet this goal in 2026.
Urban areas trees require extra time and effort to get the right tree, planted the right way in the right location. More than just planting trees, LG has been building programs and events that teach people how to help trees thrive in our city.



6 planting & litter clean up events with CUB

- 1,786 trees planted in 2025
- 70 different native species planted for diversity and wildlife
- 11 tree planting events, supported by 520 volunteer hours
- 2 Trees for Bees projects
- 2 school projects & 4 new groups
- Planting with Redwood Communities





Urban tree cover is vital to Barrie's health and resilience, supporting climate adaptation, biodiversity, and cleaner air and water. In 2025, Living Green expanded its tree planting efforts and partnerships, including a collaboration with Clean Up Barrie to plant trees and remove litter along local creeks and waterways, funded by the Great Lakes Local Action Fund.

12
Actions for Climate

- **Be Hopeful**
- **Plant more Trees**

Impacts & Achievements

Repair Cafés & Earth Day E-Waste Drive

Diverting waste from landfill—and empowering people to repair rather than discard—is a core part of Living Green's work.
In partnership with the Barrie Public Library and BRIX, we hosted three Repair Café events, each attracting an average of 30 participants. These hands-on events helped residents extend the life of everyday items while learning valuable repair skills.



Earth Day results:
3,698 lbs of electronic waste responsibly recycled
200+ tree seedlings distributed
A large collection of food donations for the Barrie Native Friendship Centre





On Earth Day, Living Green hosted an e-waste recycling drive called "Swap Your E for a TREE." Residents traded electronic waste for free tree seedlings to plant in its place. Despite abysmal weather, the event was heavily promoted on local radio and proved highly successful and will be repeated in 2026.

12 Actions for Climate

- Reduce waste
- Buy less stuff

Impacts & Achievements

In partnership with Firebird Community Cycle, Living Green hosted our second annual Bike Poker Ride. The event raised funds for both organizations while highlighting Barrie's active transportation routes, promoting bike safety, and supporting local businesses.







Teams of four cycled through the city, collecting playing cards from 30 local businesses in pursuit of the best poker hand and prizes. The ride was energetic, inclusive, and celebratory—showcasing how fun, community-driven events can also advance sustainable transportation.

12 Actions for Climate

- Tread Lightly
- Shop Local

2025 Gala in the Woods



This year's Gala was a tremendous success, raising $27,126 for Living Green's climate and tree planting programs, while demonstrating that elegance and environmental responsibility can go hand in hand. Guests enjoyed a memorable evening in a beautiful natural setting with live music, local food and drinks, Green Business Awards, and a curated auction.

To keep the Gala fresh and engaging, Living Green introduced new elements this year, including outdoor play stations, a signature cocktail, a "green carpet" VIP photo moment, and a surprise fashion show by Embody Designs featuring upcycled creations modeled by a local roller derby team.







The entire amount of waste from this event with 130 people!





Locally produced menu from Chef Melanie Robinson.







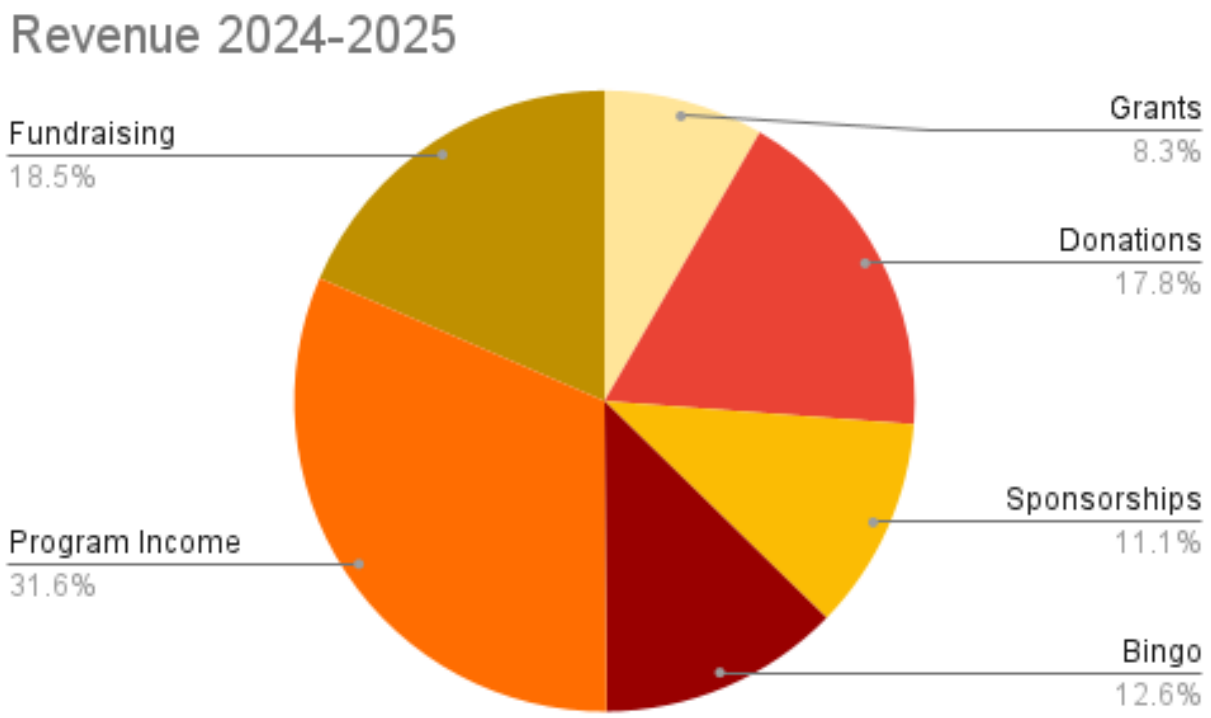
Art & Experience Auction raised $5,115



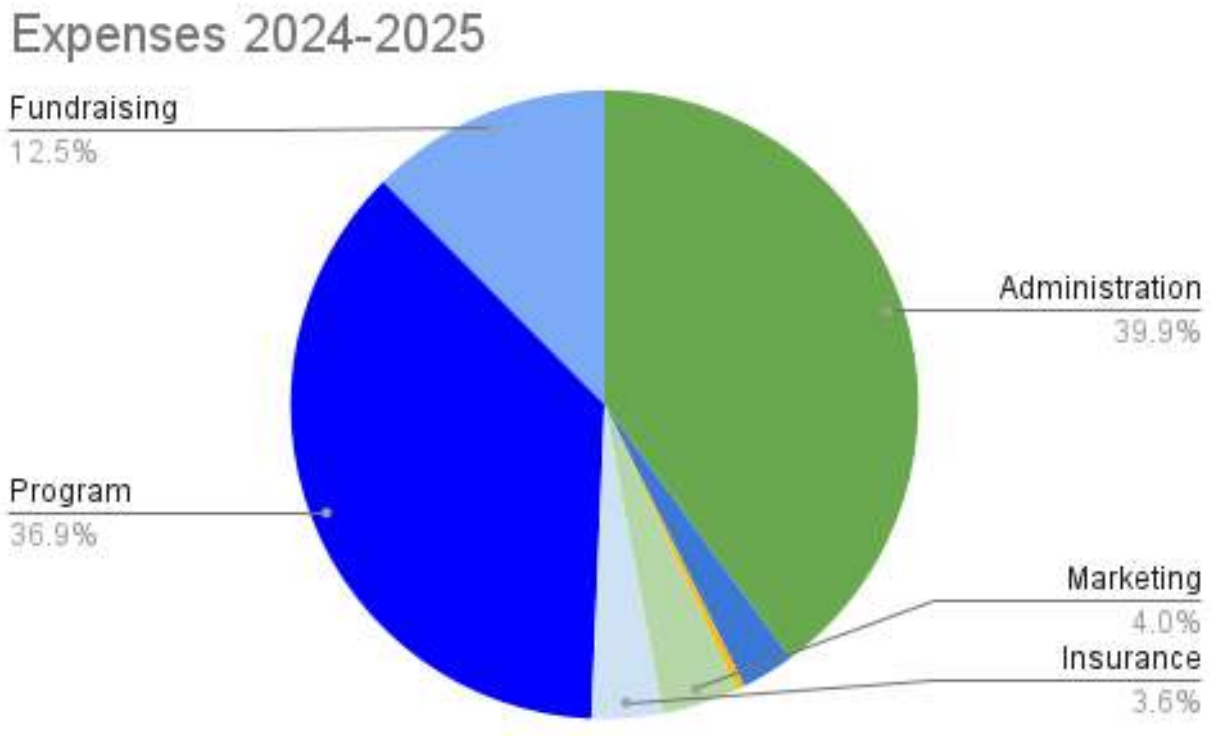


2025 Finances

Living Green Barrie Fiscal Year Oct 1st 2024 - Sep 30th 2025



Total Revenues: $155,714.20



Total Expenses: $144,757.14

thank you Our Community of Support

Program and Event Sponsors



MONTHLY DONORS

ALL donations are vital to our work, but our MONTHLY donors are providing us with stability. In 2025 we grew our monthly donors from 2 to 8 amazing people.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US GROW OUR IMPACT!



2025 Donors & Supporters

ENGINEERING

canplas INDUSTRIES LTD.

Our Partners make us stronger

FIREBIRD COMMUNITY CYCLE
D-I-Y BICYCLE RESURRECTION & RE-CYCLERY

POLLINATE BARRIE



Lake Simcoe Region conservation authority

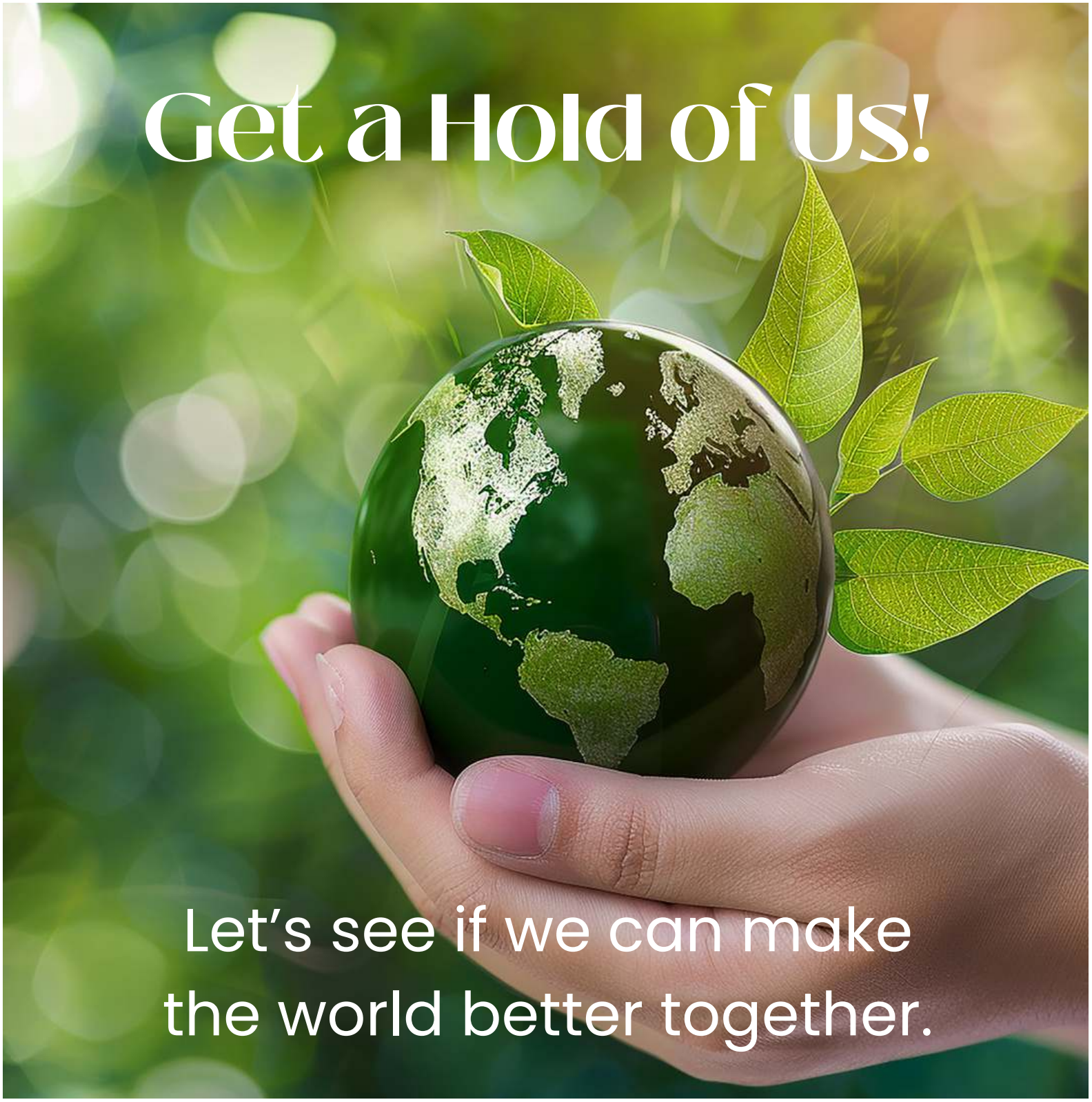
Barrie Public LIBRARY

Rotary

Special thanks to:

St. Georges Anglican Church for giving us the space to keep our trees.

All of the amazing volunteers who gave us their time and passion for making our community greener!



www.livinggreenbarrie.com
173-65 Cedar Pointe Dr, Barrie ON L4N 9R3
705-715-2255
Inquiries: Info@livinggreen.info