

Living Green News

LIVING GREEN BARRIE

◆
Winter 2025



LOOKING
FORWARD TO 2025

January Action for Climate Fostering Hope in 2025

This season of change has deepened my reflection on our message of climate hope. I won't lie—staying optimistic amid this crisis isn't easy. If life were an epic film, we'd be at the moment when all seems lost, and we must choose whether to surrender or push forward.

But much of the daily news is just noise. Real progress is happening—solar and wind energy are expanding because they make sense. People are ready to turn hope into action because the future depends on it.

Hope lets us believe in a better future. Radical hope goes further—it's the conviction that a better world is possible, even when the path is unclear. And like the heroes in our story, we're not giving up. We refuse to give in to darkness. Instead, we dare to imagine the world we want—and make it real.



Living Green Barrie Executive Director

In this newsletter you can expect:

- Radical Hope
in 2025

- February Action
Invest in Green

- March Action
Reduce Waste

- AGM & 2024
Annual Report

- Ways to Support
Living Green

- Board Profile
Highlights

BE RADICALLY HOPEFUL IN 2025!

Radical Hope in Action: What Can We Do?

Embracing radical hope in Ontario in 2025 means taking concrete action in our communities, homes, and daily lives. Here are 5 ways you can cultivate hope and turn it into action:

Read More 



1. Engage with Local Environmental Organizations

Grassroots organizations like [Living Green Barrie](#) provide resources, programs, and events that empower individuals to make an impact. Whether through tree planting, urban gardening, or reducing household waste, getting involved in local initiatives builds a tangible sense of progress.



2. Support and Learn from Youth Climate Leaders

Young activists are leading the charge for environmental change. Groups like the [Ontario Nature Youth Council](#) offer opportunities to connect with passionate youth making a real difference.



3. Advocate for Stronger Environmental Policies

Real change happens when communities advocate for strong environmental policies. Engage with local leaders to push for commitments on land and water protection, species conservation, and climate adaptation. Check out the great work being done by the [Simcoe County Greenbelt Coalition](#) and lend your voice to smart growth.



4. Find Inspiration in Environmental Media

Media plays a crucial role in shaping our perceptions of what's possible. Engaging with Media shapes our vision of what's possible. [An Optimist's Guide to the Planet](#) showcases innovative solutions. [All We Can Save \(Johnson & Wilkinson\)](#) highlights collective action, while [How to Save a Planet](#) shares real-world success stories, inspiring hope and environmental action.



5. Build Personal and Community Resilience

Resilience is at the heart of radical hope. Simple actions, like [starting a native plant garden to support pollinators](#) or switching to [active transportation](#), not only benefit the environment but also contribute to personal well-being. Engaging with community sustainability projects, and zero-waste initiatives, strengthens local networks and fosters optimism.

Hopefulness Lives Here!

FREE WEBINAR Living Green and Dying Green

Join Living Green Barrie for our February Action for Climate webinar, "**Plan a Greener Goodbye**," where we explore sustainable end-of-life options available in the Barrie area in 2025.



Amanda Kelly, Co-Founder of [AWAKE](#), will discuss eco-friendly scattering gardens and memorial forests, offering natural alternatives that honor both loved ones and the environment.



Jackie Ramler, A Portfolio Manager from [Executive Wealth Advisors](#)/Raymond James Inc. will share insights on estate planning and charitable giving, helping you leave a lasting impact on our community and planet. and planet.



Lunch & Learn

February 27

12:00pm-1:00pm

[Read More](#)

[Green Burial Society of Canada](#)

Discover how thoughtful end-of-life decisions can contribute to a sustainable future.

Key Composting Tips:

- **Balance Greens & Browns** – Mix fruit/veggie scraps with dry leaves or paper for proper breakdown.
- **Avoid Problem Items** – Skip meat, dairy, oils, and processed foods to prevent pests and odors.
- **Chop & Turn** – Cut scraps small and turn compost regularly for aeration and faster decomposition.
- **Maintain Moisture** – Keep compost damp like a sponge; adjust with greens (for dryness) or browns (for excess moisture).
- **Choose the Right Bin** – Use backyard bins, tumblers, or indoor composters based on your space.
- **Compost the Right Materials** – Avoid compostable plastics, pet waste, and glossy paper; stick to natural organics.
- **Be Patient** – Composting takes months to a year for full decomposition into rich soil.



[Read More](#)

Reducing food waste helps the environment and saves money. Less waste means fewer emissions, conserved resources, and smarter meal planning. A simple step with a big impact!

Annual Report

Living Green Barrie: Growing Strong!

We're over halfway to our 10,000-tree goal, with 961 more trees planted in 2024 thanks to 488 volunteer hours! Sustainability efforts like Repair Cafés and the EV ICE Breaker continue, alongside two sold-out fundraisers.



[READ THE FULL REPORT ON OUR ABOUT US PAGE](#)



FEBRUARY 2025						
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

[WANT TO LEARN MORE?
CLICK HERE](#)

Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting is a key moment to review progress, share financial updates, and plan for the future. Members can provide input, learn about key initiatives, and participate in board elections. Your voice helps shape a greener, more sustainable community.

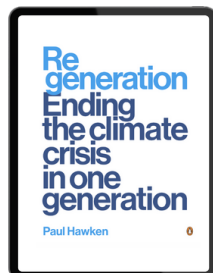
Don't miss this opportunity to get involved!

**OVER ZOOM
TUESDAY
FEBRUARY 18, 2025
6:30PM-8:00PM**

Something to Read

Synopsis

A radically new understanding of and practical approach to climate change by noted environmentalist Paul Hawken, creator of the New York Times bestseller Drawdown.



Something to Watch

CBC GEM DOCUMENTARY

2040 maps out a pathway for change that can lead us to a more ecologically sustainable and equitable future.



GET INSPIRED

EMPOWER HOPE & INSPIRE ACTION

The deadline for making tax-deductible charitable donations has been extended, giving you more time to support causes that matter.

Read More 



**Government of Canada
announces extension of
2024 charitable
donations to February
28, 2025**

From: [Department of Finance Canada](#)

EXTENSION OF 2024 CHARITABLE TAX DONATIONS

The federal government has extended the deadline until February 28, 2025 for making donations that are eligible for a tax rebate. Charitable organizations can continue to accept donations until the new deadline for the 2024 tax year.

SPONSOR AN EDUCATIONAL EVENT

Sponsoring a Living Green Barrie educational event is a powerful way to support community sustainability. With the ethos that “many hands make light work,” your sponsorship fosters environmental awareness and action while aligning your brand with a trusted local advocate. It’s a chance to demonstrate corporate social responsibility, strengthen community ties, and make a real impact. Join us in building a greener future today!



Want to learn more?

Email Executive Director
Andee@livinggreen.info
She would love to chat about
the possibilities!

Host a Fundraiser for Living Green!

Want to learn more?

Email Executive Director
Andee@livinggreen.info

She would love to chat
about the possibilities!



NEW for 2025! Peer to Peer Fundraising Agreements!

Create your own fundraiser & raise money for Barrie’s only registered environmental charity- Living Green Barrie!

Hosting a third-party fundraiser for Living Green Barrie is a great way to support local environmental initiatives. Your event helps fund tree planting, sustainability education, and climate action while showcasing your commitment to a greener future.

Together, we can make a lasting impact on our community!



MEET STEVE & GITA



STEVE- BOARD CHAIR

GITA- BOARD DIRECTOR

After spending 28 years as a mechanical engineer, Steve is looking for ways to give back to the community and is excited to be part of an organization that works to protect the environment.

Steve likes to understand how things work, how they can be repaired (to keep them out of the landfill) and how they could be made better.

Steve's Living Green Passions

- The **Repair Cafe** which aims to reduce waste and extend the life of everyday items but also fosters community collaboration and environmental sustainability
- The Tread Lightly- Living Green Barrie **Bike Poker Ride** is a family-friendly event that encourages participants to explore Barrie by bicycle.

Gita has spent the last 25 years on the sales side of the mortgage industry focusing on marketing, national training and territory management. She has always had a passion for the environment and finding ways to bring awareness both personally and professionally.

Gita enjoys golf, swimming, reading and spending time with her family and friends.

Gita's Living Green Passions

- Gita has accepted the role of **Communications Director** for Living Green. In this role, she will lead a team of dedicated volunteers to **amplify our message, promote our events, and increase community engagement.** Gita will help spread the word about our initiatives and proudly represent Living Green Barrie in the media and at public events

LivingGreen
Barrie

Thank you for your support!

[Website](#)

[Events](#)

