

Living Green News

LIVING GREEN BARRIE

♦
Spring 2025



CREATING THE KIND OF
WORLD WE WANT

Optimism in a Chaotic World

The world can be overwhelming—as we struggle with existential threats and growing anxiety, we wonder where to find hope. Global climate targets are being missed, and environmental progress fades from the headlines amid global tensions and economic uncertainty.

So, what's an optimist to do?

Rather than focusing on the bad news, why not seek out the good? There are good people everywhere doing good things and websites like **The Optimist Daily**, **Good News Network**, and **The Good News Channel** highlight positive change happening worldwide.

This issue of *Living Green Barrie's* newsletter focuses on **creating the world we want** by planting trees, supporting pollinators, naturalizing yards, and promoting active transportation.

Take action this spring! Read, connect with nature and your community, and engage in something meaningful. Even small steps can make a big difference—for the environment and your well-being.

In this newsletter
you can expect:

Earth Day
April 22

April Action for
Climate
Naturalize

May Action for
Climate
Plant Trees

June Action for
Climate
Tread Lightly

Notable Events

Meet the Board



Deb

CREATE THE WORLD YOU WANT!



The
amazing
journey of
Ontario's
provincial
tree

How do we create the world we want?

Make a difference—one tree, one pollinator, and one step at a time. Even small actions contribute to a greener, healthier future.

5 WAYS TO CULTIVATE OPTIMISM & TURN IT INTO ACTION:



1. Consider the reason for Earth Day and take one action to support it.

Earth Day is a reminder of our collective responsibility to protect the planet. Take a moment to reflect on its purpose and choose one action—big or small—to make a difference. Every effort counts! [Read about the history of Earth Day](#)



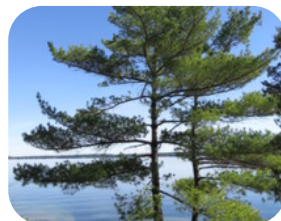
2. Naturalize your green space.

Planting native species benefits ecosystems by supporting biodiversity, acting as essential food sources and habitats for local wildlife, reducing the need for chemical inputs, and improving overall environmental health, making gardens more resilient and sustainable. [Go wild for native plants- Ontario Nature Blog](#)



3. Support Pollinators.

Pollinators like birds, bees, and butterflies are essential to our food supply, responsible for one-third of the food we eat, as well as sustaining ecosystems and natural resources. Our partner and trusted source for information [Pollinate Barrie](#) is a community-driven organization focused on educating, inspiring, and supporting native ecosystem restoration in Barrie and beyond.



4. Plant Trees

Planting native trees is vital for local ecosystems as they thrive in the local climate, support wildlife, and require less maintenance. They help maintain biodiversity, improve soil health, and contribute to cleaner air by absorbing carbon, promoting a more resilient and sustainable environment.

Do you know about [Ontario's Tree Atlas](#)?



5. Tread Lightly and Use Active Transportation

Active transportation involves human-powered movement, including walking, cycling, and using mobility aids like wheelchairs, scooters, e-bikes, rollerblades, snowshoes, and cross-country skis. [3 ways to build active transportation into your life.](#)

Ingenuity Lives Here!



**GOOD
VIBRATIONS!**

NATURALIZE IN APRIL



GET YOUR LAWN OFF GRASS

Read More

NATURALIZE and Transform your lawn by replacing grass with native plants, wildflowers, or groundcovers. This reduces water usage, supports local wildlife, and promotes a healthier, more sustainable landscape.

Host a 3rd Party Fundraiser for Earth Day!

In today's uncertain economy, small local charities struggle with rising costs, reduced funding, and donor uncertainty. Competitive grants and high operational expenses strain resources, yet they remain essential—relying on community support, creative fundraising, and partnerships to sustain their impact.



Check out a book to learn more about environmentalism, earth day or ask them for a suggestion.



Get involved and keep Barrie beautiful. This annual event occurs during Earth Week and is designed to clean up our community, while raising levels of environmental awareness and social responsibility through active participation in **Spring into Clean.**



Join **Friends of Wye Marsh** for a wonderful action-packed Earth Day celebration. Free workshops and family-friendly activities. Admission is FREE!



Explore Nature. Barrie is home to some of **Central Ontario's most incredible trails** for the whole family to enjoy.

EARTH DAY 2025



PLANT TREES IN MAY

The Importance of Planting Trees.

Trees improve air quality, absorb carbon, reduce urban heat, and support wildlife. They prevent soil erosion, filter water, and enhance biodiversity. In cities, they provide shade, cooling, and mental health benefits. Planting trees helps combat climate change, restore ecosystems, and create healthier communities for future generations.



[Read More](#)



Why Plant Native Species?

Native trees thrive in local conditions with less water and maintenance, supporting wildlife and biodiversity. Unlike non-native species, they don't disrupt ecosystems or become invasive. Planting native trees promotes a healthier, more resilient environment.

Why May is a Great Time to Plant Trees.

May offers ideal growing conditions with warm soil and ample moisture from spring rains, helping trees establish strong roots before summer heat. Cooler temperatures reduce transplant shock, increasing survival rates. Planting now ensures trees have a full season to grow before winter, setting them up for long-term success.

What Does It Mean To Tread Lightly ?

Treading lightly means making mindful choices to reduce environmental impact. Active transportation cuts carbon emissions, while reducing waste, conserving energy, and supporting native plants help sustain ecosystems. Simple actions like conserving water, shopping locally, and choosing sustainable foods contribute to a healthier planet for future generations.



400 different types of bees in Ontario?!



DITCH YOUR GRASS

Convert your lawn with these nine alternatives recommended by the David Suzuki Foundation

TREAD LIGHTLY IN JUNE

[Read More](#)



Individuals can take action within their municipality to advocate for "treading lightly" policies by engaging with local politicians, leading by example, raising public awareness, and building community support.



FUN LOCAL EVENTS

[Read More](#)



The pin cherry tree (*Prunus pensylvanica*), also known as fire cherry or bird cherry.

Pin Cherry Wine!?



**Pollinate Barrie
Presents
An Evening with
Lorraine Johnson**

June 16th 5:00-8:00pm
Climate Action Open House
FREE EVENT!

5 WAYS TO LIVE GREEN THIS SPRING:



REPAIR CAFE Saturday, April 5, 10am-1pm FREE

Waste less and fix more! Bring your broken household items in need of some love to the **Repair Café!** Disclaimer: We cannot guarantee fixers for all items.

REGISTRATION OPENS March 1 Space is limited.



TREE PLANTING Saturday May 3, 10am-2pm FREE

Community members of all ages are invited to **plant trees** in Pringle Park with Living Green Barrie. Come on your own or bring some friends!



BIKE POKER RIDE Saturday June 7

The entry fee is \$40.00 per family or team of up to four.

Living Green Barrie and Firebird Community Cycle are teaming up once again to present the second annual **Bike Poker Ride**. Family friendly! Self directed start time-3pm celebration event



TRASH DASH Saturday June 14, 8:30am-10am \$40.00

City of Barrie Trash Dash

The challenging but picturesque trails at the Midhurst Forest Tract takes you along the river, over hills and even under a train trestle with our 1KM/5KM or 10KM race options!



NATIVE TREE & PLANT FUNDRAISER Saturday June 21, 9am-1pm

Get ready to green up your space with our Spring **Native Tree and Shrub Sale!** This is your chance to support Living Green Barrie and beautify your surroundings with native species that are perfectly suited to our local ecosystem.



**POLLINATOR
PARTNERSHIPS**

MEET DEB & PETER



DEB - BOARD DIRECTOR

Deb joined the board with a background in nonprofit community development, bringing experience in fundraising and event planning. In retirement, she enjoys painting, gardening, yoga, volunteering, and spending time with her grandchildren and dogs on Barrie's rail trails.

Deb's Living Green Passions

- Sharing her art and talent to support fundraising activities. Deb's artwork can be found on **Living Green seed cards** and Gala auctions.
- Deb's expertise, dedication, and passion are the driving force behind our successful event planning. Her contributions **create meaningful opportunities for Living Green** to expand its reach, strengthen our programs, and inspire greater community engagement.



PETER- VICE CHAIR

Peter has been on the board of Living Green Barrie on and off since 2010 serving as Chair from 2013 – 2016 and 2021-2022. He has worked in the financial and IT sectors and currently works in the non-profit sector. Peter's enthusiasm for living a green lifestyle is infectious and he is a valuable, longstanding member of the board of directors.

Peter's Living Green Passions

- Peter's passion for board administration helps keep Living Green's by-laws current and ensures they are clearly understood by both the Board and staff.
- As the lead for Living Green's **Green Business Awards**, Peter promotes the program, identifies potential candidates, presents nominees to the board for voting, and celebrates the winners at the gala.

LivingGreen
Barrie

Thank you for your support!

[Website](#)

[Events](#)



FOUNDING MEETING

Kidney Patients Association
Barrie & South Simcoe.
Sunday 6 April 2025 @ 1 pm.

Register:

www.kidneypatientsbarrie.ca

Contact: Peter T.



Tread Lightly Word Search

D B G G A F M B X W E D B S X E I P Z O
 L G J O G G I N G I Q J C M I T K Y P J
 R Z I D E N V I R O N M E N T W C I P W
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cross-county skiing

transportation

healthy

jogging

pollution

rollerblading

snowshoeing

lightly

walking

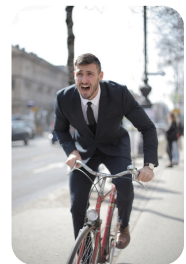
skateboarding

environment

tread

active

biking



How to build active transportation into your life