



UPDATE QUARTERLY

October, 2020

Despite COVID-19, Nith Valley EcoBoosters Push Ahead with Free *Droughts & Downpours* Webinar

Nith Valley EcoBoosters (NVEB) has developed a free Fall-2020 webinar program using Zoom online conferencing technology. Presenters are from Waterloo Region and will address extreme weather and discuss practical measures that we can take to mitigate local effects.

Prior to COVID-19, EcoBoosters had organized a public, in-person video and discussion event scheduled for April 22, 2020. Titled *Plastics are Forever*, that video focuses on the serious problems plastics present to the environment — particularly oceans; fresh water sources; and plant, animal and human life. Being a live presentation, it was cancelled to support COVID-19 suppression measures. But, EcoBoosters will relaunch this program when it can hold in-person discussions on such an important topic.

Fortunately, the emergence of efficient and inexpensive online conferencing technologies — such as Zoom — has allowed NVEB to shift to meeting remotely. This gave the organization the opportunity to continue work on environmental projects and to develop the skills required to present a webinar.

As this first COVID-19 summer progressed, we have watched news reports of devastating wild fires in Australia and California and more violent weather than usual manifest itself across the world. The worst California wildfire season in history is now being directly attributed to climate change.

This season, we in Canada have seen record temperatures, more tornadoes, destructive downdraft winds, flooding, forest fires, smoke,

drought and conversely, torrential rainfalls. Elsewhere, hurricanes and tropical storms are arriving in record numbers, with intensity and at earlier dates than before.

This extreme weather spurred the NVEB to defer the plastics video program and put it's Education Committee to work organizing a new program this October 14 — *Droughts & Downpours*. This webinar offers practical tips that can mitigate problems caused by an increase in extreme weather events.



NVEB members Tom Knezevich, left, and Dorothy Wilson pose with the first grant received from Wilmot Township in 2018. A 2020 grant has been approved and is being applied to this Fall's online presentation and discussion. ([See Page 2](#))

DROUGHTS AND DOWNPOURS



Nicola Thomas
Grand River Food
Forestry Founder

**‘Increasing
Biodiversity &
Mitigating
Climate
Change with
Edible
Landscapes’**

**Small Changes We Can Make
That Collectively
Make Big ★ IMPACTS ★**

PRESENTATION

7:15 - 8:30 p.m.

Wednesday

October 14, 2020

Q&A Period
to follow presentations

Register At
nvecoboosters.com

Come, Join Our Experts...

This is a unique opportunity to learn practices that can mitigate local problems due to climate change, particularly related to recurring droughts & downpours.



Becca Robinson
Landscape Designer
Reep Green Solutions

**‘Rain Smart
Landscapes &
Flood Resilient
Communities’**

Sponsored
by



**TOWNSHIP
OF WILMOT**

Let's Tree Wilmot

COVID may have slowed down the collaboration of Wilmot Horticultural Society, Rotary Wilmot, and Nith Valley Eco-Boosters, but we are excited with plans to plant native trees Saturday, October 24, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

The location will be Scott Park in New Hamburg near the boat launch area. In the area bordered by white birch, 80 to 100+ native trees will be planted in the initial phase to naturalize this area. Native shrubs and plants will come in future years.

Wilmot Township is contributing some of the trees, while \$1000 contributions each from Rotary Wilmot and Wilmot Horticultural Society, and more than \$1000 in private donations will fund the project. Join us!

To participate and/or receive news, contact letstreewilmot@gmail.com

Or go to our website for info on how to donate. <http://nvecoboosters.com/Issues-Actions>

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>



Watch for a future story on the NVEB Water Game, designed to help everyone understand water issues.



Nith Valley EcoBoosters (NVEB) turned seven in 2020. It moved from a church ad hoc group to a community-based group in 2015. This photo shows members 'brainstorming' to create lists that define its mission and identify goals. Since then, NVEB has successfully organized public presentations and discussions on the environment and food waste; set up a political environmental debate for local federal candidates; supported community clean-up initiatives and even developed a water game to teach children about water issues.

<http://www.nvecoboosters.com/Our-Water-Game/>

NVEB 'EcoNuggets' Offer Timely Solutions

Frequently, opportunities occur when each of us could take small but important steps that would help our environment. Nith Valley EcoBoosters members have developed the concept of the *EcoNugget* — concise, environmentally-friendly idea nuggets that might not occur to a person when it might be most useful. See right for our most current item. For the full list of EcoNuggets, visit <http://www.nvecoboosters.com/EcoNuggets/>.



Are You
Environmentally
Conscientious?

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

*Come
Join Us!*

nvecoboosters@gmail.com



EcoNugget

Green up your Heroes, Monsters, Ghouls and Treats

Halloween can be so much family fun. With some planning, here are some ideas to decrease the waste:

- ☐ Buy treats that are in foil or boxed to avoid plastic non-recyclable waste
- ☐ Non-sugar ideas without plastic wrap are fun drinks, eyeball erasers, crayons, pencils, tattoos, puzzles and balls.
- ☐ Have the kids carry reusable bags.
- ☐ Make your own costumes, rent, or visit Thrift Stores. Ditto for Décor.

With busy lives, it is a challenge. All things Halloween tend to be all plastic and destined for landfill. With COVID, our traditions will be modified but keep our environment in mind.

For more information contact:
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 Wilmot and Wellesley townships. Environmental goals are achieved through education, action and collaboration.

The organization — formed in 2013 — was an ad hoc committee at Zion United Church in New Hamburg. In June 2015, the Nith Valley EcoBoosters be-

came a community-based group and adopted its current name.

The Nith Valley EcoBoosters usually meet on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Monthly meetings are open to all interested individuals. Sub-committees 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.

Under normal circumstances,

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

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