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UPDATE

June 2024

Committed to achieving and supporting a long-term healthy environment in Wilmot and Wellesley Townships through education, action and collaboration.

Stove Talk: Introduction to Induction

On April 30th, the Nith Valley EcoBoosters hosted an in-person event on **induction cooking** at the Wilmot Recreation Complex. The evening featured a number of local “chefs” who demonstrated the use of induction burners to cook food and boil water.

The induction burners were provided by the Region of Waterloo Library, where these burners will soon be available to check out.

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.

Our “chefs” included Harvir Sidhu (Tumeric Bistro) who cooked butter chicken, Jim Bender and Sonya Schwartzentruber who served quesadillas, Patty and Stephen Clarke who toasted grilled cheese sandwiches, and Katie and John Honek who served tea and demonstrated how the induction burner boils water much faster than an electric burner. In addition, Natasha Salonen talked about the types of magnetic pots and pans that must be used on an induction burner.

The event was co-sponsored by the **Township of Wilmot, Kindred Credit Union**, and the **Region of Waterloo Library**. A good time was had by all 59 participants!



What Have We Been Up to?

NVEB Activities from September 2023 to June 2024

September 2023

- **Mission Possible: Launch Your Waste Reduction Journey!** Watch the recording of the webinar here: <https://youtu.be/SF1DlpvF-FQ>
- Endorsed the Alliance for a Liveable Ontario's letter to Ontario's Attorney General requesting an expansion of the investigation into recent **land use planning decisions** eg, the Greenbelt land removal.
- Tours of West 5 in London, Ontario's first sustainable net-zero community, were organized by a NVEB member. <https://www.s2etech.com/ontarios-first-sustainable-net-zero-community-shaping-up-in-london/> Other members participated in one of the tours.

October 2023

- Endorsed a letter written by the Grand River Environmental Network to Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, in response to the **Housing Affordability Task Force's recommendations**.
- Endorsed Ontario Nature's letter to the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks expressing **strong opposition** to the proposed conditional exemption for the endangered Black Ash under Ontario's Endangered Species Act 2007.

November 2023

- Sent a letter to Mayor Salonen and Wilmot Councillors strongly urging they reaffirm their **support for ROPA 6** (Waterloo Region's Official Plan which was approved in August 2022).

November 2023 (continued)

- Delegated at Council meeting asking Council members to **reject** staff's proposal for changes to the Region of Waterloo's Official Plan.

January 2024

- Sent a letter to Wilmot Council urging members to approve the **severance application** so the Schneider family property could be donated to the rare Charitable Research Reserve.
- Presented to members of the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs on recommendations for the next provincial budget that relate to **addressing climate change**.

March 2024

- Sent a letter to Matthew Chandy, Director, Innovation and Economic Development, Region of Waterloo, asking for the **land acquisition project** to be reconsidered.
- Sent letters to the editor of local papers expressing **concern** about this project.

April 2024

- Made a presentation to Morningside seniors' community regarding **concerns** about proposed Wilmot Land Assembly project.

May 2024

- Participated in protests regarding the **Wilmot Land Assembly project**.

ONGOING:

- Participation in **Ontario Nature's Nature Network, Waterloo Region Climate Collaborative, Ontario Climate Emergency Campaign, Green Waterloo Region**, and biweekly meetings to share information and plan responses to provincial governments threats to the environment.
- Sending regular updates re local issues and activities to our members and contacts.

UPCOMING:

- **June 22** - Participating in Wellesley's **Community Information Forum** at the new Rec Centre.
- **October 5** - Participating in Wilmot Fire Department's **Emergency Preparedness and Home Safety** event.

MEMBER PROFILE

Meet Em Stermann

Hi, I'm Em and I'm a member of the Nith Valley EcoBoosters.

I'm currently in my third year at Wilfrid Laurier University for a double major in geography and film, and I like to observe and photograph moths in my free time. I joined the EcoBoosters after meeting an existing member at a "moth night" where we set up light traps to observe moths.

After being introduced to the group, I learned about all the things they do. I was especially interested in how they educate all types of people about all things nature and environment focused. I always wanted to be part of an environmental group, but wasn't sure how to get into one that's aligned with my hectic schedule.

EcoBoosters is the perfect group for me as involvement is flexible and it will allow me to practice some of the video and film skills and techniques that I will be learning at school. I am looking forward to the contributions I can make in the future!



EcoNugget

How to Get Kids into Nature

Kids who grow up experiencing nature's mystery and beauty will grow up caring for and protecting it.

- **Roll over a rock** - Find a salamander, millipede, centipede or a beetle!
- **Create** a butterfly garden and watch.
- **Sit and count** how many birds, animals or insects you can see & hear in 10 minutes.
- **Star gaze** – Find a [dark sky spot](#), stay up and look up! Watch for bats too! (Don't want to blow bedtime? Watch clouds in daylight).
- **Take a walk in the woods** – Go on a scavenger hunt. Compare leaves and tree bark. Look for tracks, scratch marks & poop (a.k.a. "skat").
- **Start a nature Journal** - Draw or write your nature experiences.
- **Join** a kids nature club or the Nith Valley EcoBoosters Youth Advocates group.

For More info: [Connecting youth with nature - David Suzuki Foundation](#)

Learn more about Nith Valley EcoBoosters Youth Advocates group at: nvecoboosters.com or contact: nveb.youthadvocates@gmail.com

Are you looking for an opportunity to volunteer with a group that is making a difference in your community?

We are currently looking for volunteers to take on the following roles:

- Media coordinator
- Social media coordinator
- Policy coordinator
- Recruitment coordinator
- Book club leader
- Electric Vehicle working group leader

For more details on these roles, please contact us at nvecoboosters@gmail.com

Expanding Wilmot's Tree Canopy

Let's Tree Wilmot News

Spring as usual, is a busy planting time for all including Let's Tree Wilmot. We planted on the **Tri-County property** on the Nithview northern slopes of the floodplain for 3 events, at **Riverside Park** and **Kirkpatrick Parking**. All locations were in New Hamburg and the Kirkpatrick parking area was planted by Wilmot Township staff. All the plantings are doing well with some challenges of deer nibbling on new plantings at Nithview and some trees being taken.



Let's Tree Wilmot has a **tree seedling bed** and we harvested **350** seedling trees and planted them at the Nithview site. We have replaced these and have about **2000** tree seedlings of various species growing for future plantings.

The LTW Water Warriors team have been watering trees during the dry spells using Billy the Ram truck. We water the trees for 2 years which has contributed to high tree survival rate.

We have Tree Guardians who care and watch out for certain park plantings. **We could use several more.** Ongoing surveying the health of trees planted occurs as well as tree rodent protection applied or removed depending on the season and location. For example, Scott Park and Riverside Park have beavers present so wire protection is provided.

We have a W5 event - Wednesday Walks in Wonderful Wilmot Woods with LTW member **Louis Silcox** in the evenings. The casual walks provide an opportunity for residents to learn about the trails in Wilmot and their unique features. This spring we had walks in Schmidt and Walker Woods and Baden Hills. Upcoming are walks in **downtown New Hamburg, NH Arboretum, Morningside trail and the Petersburg Crown lands**. Registration is through Eventbrite.



MP Tim Louis with NVEB and LTW member Marlene Knezevich at a recent planting

We continue to work with Wilmot Township on the park tree plantings and also with their **Wilmot Roots tree giveaway** which enjoyed its successful second year.

We have also held very successful **fruit tree and tree pruning workshops** and will offer more next season.

Follow Let's Tree Wilmot on our **Facebook** page and website: letstreewilmot.ca. Contact us at our Email: Letstreewilmot@gmail.com

UPCOMING:

- **October 2** - We are excited to have **Douglas Tallamy** come to speak about the **importance of native trees and keystone species** at **Shantz Mennonite Church**. Tallamy is a professor in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the [University of Delaware](http://UniversityofDelaware). He has written and co-authored several books advocating for home gardens and landscaping that provide habitat for native species. More details coming soon.

GOOD NEWS FOR THE PLANET

Concrete & Steel

Although we are in a “Climate Crisis,” there are many positive things happening that don’t make the headlines. For example, here is some good news about the processes to make concrete & steel.

The world’s first process for making **zero emissions cement** has been developed by Cambridge University. Concrete is the world’s most used building material, and making it is a particularly dirty business - responsible for about **8%** of total global CO2 emissions. Unfortunately, it’s not easy to recycle concrete back into a form that can be used to make new concrete structures. This new process involves throwing old concrete into steel-processing furnaces which not only purifies iron but produces ‘reactivated cement’ as a byproduct. If done using renewable energy, the process could make for **completely carbon-zero cement**. The first industrial-scale trials are underway this month and the process could scale up to produce one billion tonnes of recycled concrete by 2050.

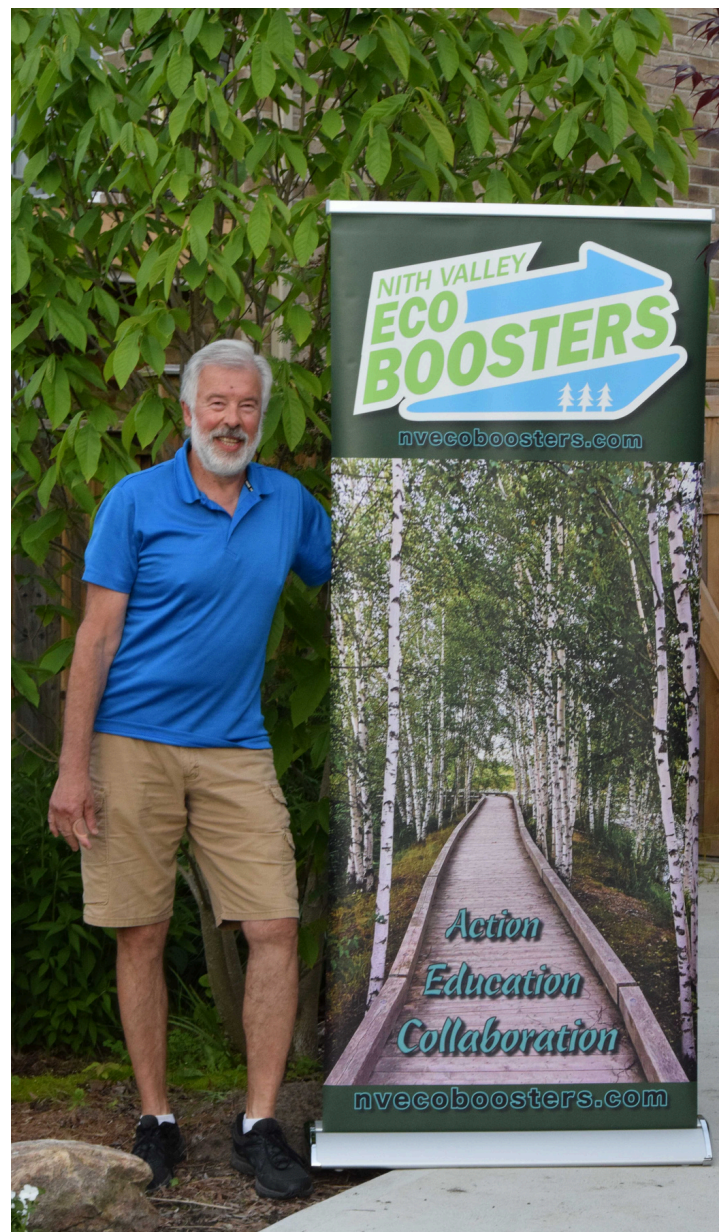
Steelmaking is also an extremely dirty process that is responsible for about **7-9%** of the world’s greenhouse gas emissions. The most common way it’s produced involves mining iron ore, reducing it in a blast furnace through the addition of coal, and then using an oxygen furnace to burn off excess carbon and other impurities. Now, research from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology has found that an electrochemical process called molten oxide electrolysis (MOE) eliminates many steps in steelmaking and **releases oxygen as its sole byproduct**. This new technology is currently slated to reach commercial-scale in 2026.

How have you helped our planet today?

Become a member of NVEB and make a difference in your community! We are not environmental experts – just residents of Wilmot & Wellesley Townships who are concerned about the climate crisis! There is no fee to join. Nith Valley EcoBoosters is funded by donations, fundraising efforts, and grants.

Check out our website: nvecoboosters.com to see what we have been up to over the past 10 years.

To become a member, please contact us at: nvecoboosters.com



NVEB Chair Tom Knezevich shows off our new banner. Thanks to NVEB member Larry Kryski for all the work he did to create the banner.

GREEN BUILDING DESIGN COMMUNITY WORKSHOP - JUNE 27th

- Buildings are one of the largest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions (**GHG**) and it is important that new “Green” high performance building design standards (**HPDS**) are developed and implemented in Waterloo Region to help achieve a reduction in GHG emissions of 80% by 2050.
- **NVEB, Climate Action Waterloo Region, and Waterloo Region Community Energy** are co-hosting a community workshop to educate residents about HPDS and to get your feedback regarding what the standards should be for our Region.
- The workshop is on **Thursday June 27** at the **New Hamburg Community Centre**, 251 Jacob Street, from **7:00-8:30 pm**.
- **REGISTER HERE:** <https://bit.ly/HPDSJune27>