

Highlights from Living Green Barrie's History



- ❖ In 1989, a group of like-minded citizens met in downtown Barrie to discuss environmental issues.
- ❖ Monthly meetings spurred conversations about turning talk into action. In 1991, the group incorporated as Environmental Action Barrie (EAB).
- ❖ The Environmental Action Centre opened which served as an office facility for business and education outreach coordinators, as well as a storefront site for public outreach programs. It was funded by a grant from the federal government's Environmental Partners Fund.
- ❖ EAB received registered charitable status in 1993.
- ❖ In partnership with the City of Barrie and other partners, EAB started the "Be Green Barrie" project and successfully installed over 10,000 low flow toilets in Barrie as well as flow-restricting aerators on household taps and low-flow shower heads in conjunction with green home visits. This program helped homeowners reduce waste, energy and water use.
- ❖ During this time, EAB delivered the EnerGuide for Houses Program and offered comprehensive high-tech energy efficiency assessments of Barrie homes.
- ❖ The Alternative Recycling Depot was created at a time when the City of Barrie's recycling program only included cardboard and newspapers. EAB started a plastic recycling depot, allowing residents to drop off their plastic recyclables. EAB sorted and delivered these recyclables offsite to a company who used the plastics to make (extrude) plastic lumber. The recycling of plastic materials was eventually taken on by the City of Barrie.
- ❖ EAB with the help of local Tim Hortons restaurants and the Georgian College RATS (Responsible Adventure Traveller's Society) started *Spring-Into-Clean*. Later, the City of Barrie took on Spring-Into-Clean, but Living Green Barrie continues to participate annually.
- ❖ *Off the Rack Clothing Store & the Reskill Institute* in downtown Barrie provided free and inexpensive gently used clothing to the community, as well as classes to teach Barrie residents how to mend, tailor and up-cycle their clothes to reduce waste.
- ❖ EAB/Living Green with volunteers from Transition Town built the City's first Community Garden. Communities in Bloom advised on policy. The City of Barrie oversaw the project and provided a fence and materials for the garden.
- ❖ The Urban Canopy Coalition was spearheaded by Living Green with experts in the field, residents, businesses, and all levels of government to help increase the urban canopy in Barrie. Living Green, partnered with Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) and the City of Barrie in "The Creeks Project", restoring the environmental health of Barrie Creeks and mitigating the effects of climate change.
- ❖ In 2019, Environmental Action Barrie formally became known as Living Green Barrie.