

# Society for Ecological Restoration - Ontario Chapter

<http://chapter.ser.org/ontario>



## 2013 State of the Organization



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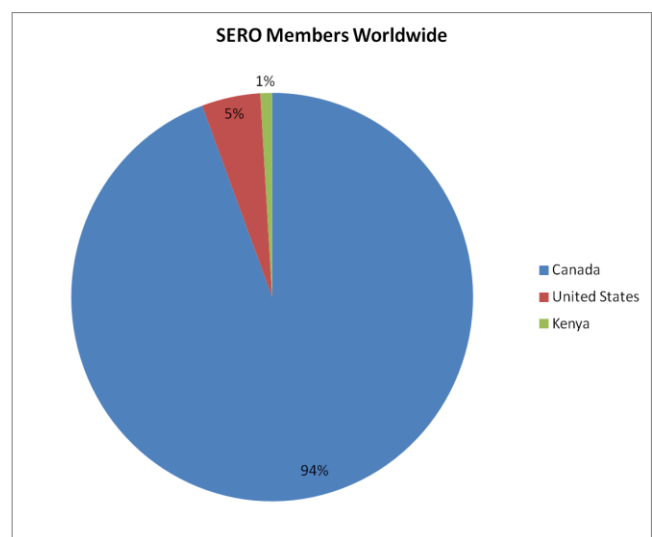
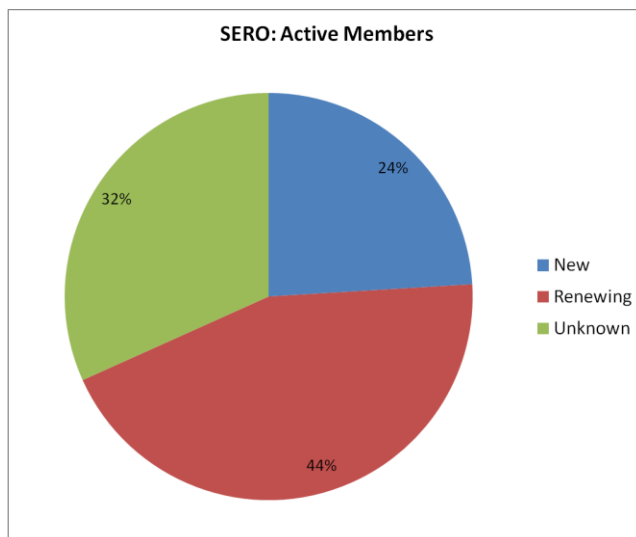
## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

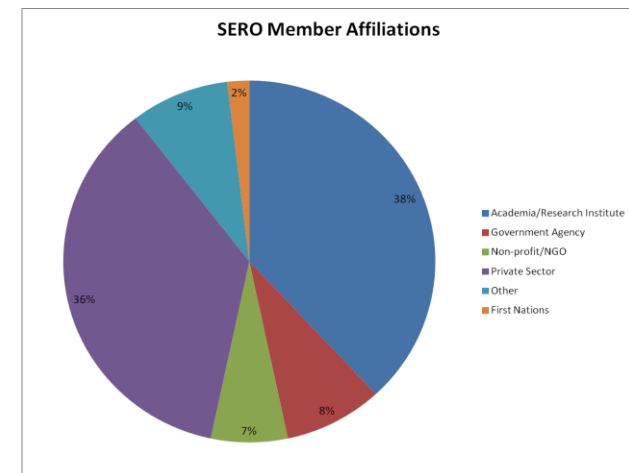
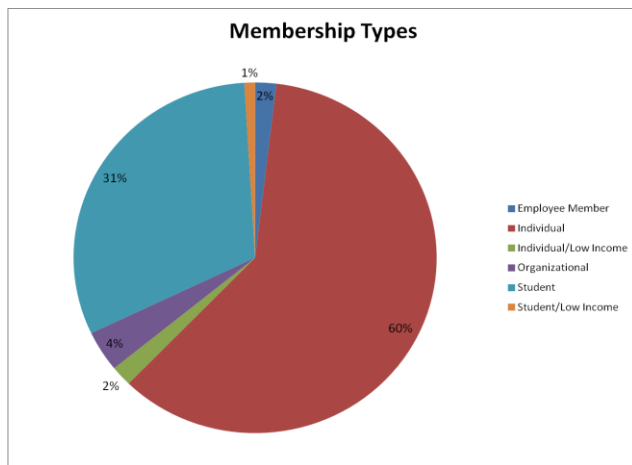
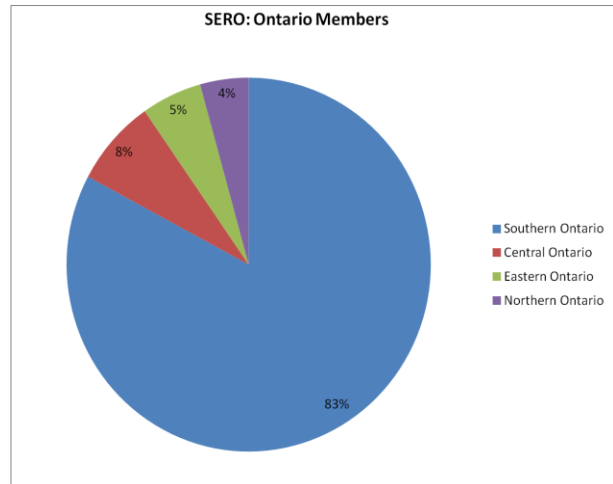
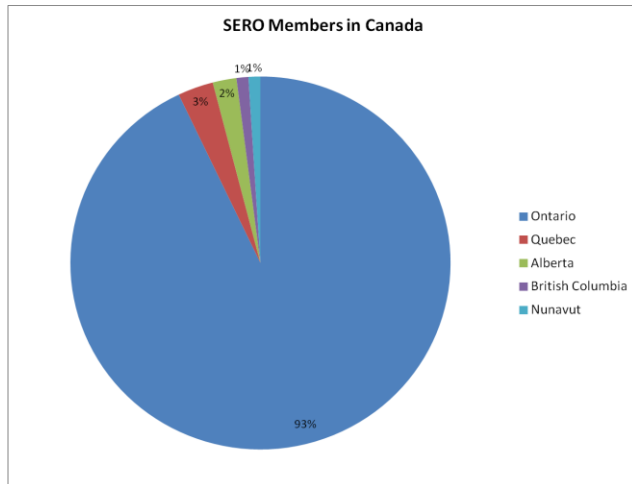
Board of Directors	Name	Years in Position	Years in Current Term
Chair	Sal Spitale	4	1
Past Chair	Stephen Murphy	4	N/A
Treasurer	Steve Smith	2	2
Continuing Education	Dale Leadbeater	10	1
Membership	Ash Baron	2	1
Publications	Megan Ihrig	5	1
Field Trips	Nigel Finney	2	1
College/University Outreach & Scholarship	Rachel Voros	2	1
AGM and Workshops	Jeff Warren	1	1

Note: Board terms are for three years at which time an election will be held at the AGM of that year. There is no limit to the time one person serves on the Board.

## MEMBERSHIP

As of December 2013 SERO had 106 current members and 247 lapsed members. The following provides a breakdown of membership statistics:






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## SCHOLARSHIP

Each year the Ontario Society for Ecological Restoration offers a non-renewable scholarship of **\$2000** to a student enrolled in an Ontario community college or an undergraduate student at an Ontario university. Applications are assessed on the basis of; academic excellence, scholarly relevance to ecological restoration, and demonstrated financial need.

The objectives of the SER Ontario scholarship program are to:

- Support the emergence of critical research in the field of ecological restoration;
- Sponsor students actively engaged in scholarly themes related to ecological restoration
- Promote the broad ideals of ecological restoration through increased membership within SER Ontario and dissemination of scholarship winner profiles.

The amount of the scholarship is completely dependent on revenue generated through SERO activities (e.g. AGM, field trips, workshops) and the Native Plant Resource Guide. For the 2014 scholarship we are pleased to again offer a \$2000 award. Applications are due by Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

For the 2013 SERO scholarship we received six (6) applications. On March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013 the SERO Adjudication Committee assembled to decide the deserving scholarship winner. Members of this committee included; Jennifer Foster, Kristina Rawlings, and Rachel Voros.

Our scholarship winner; Jennifer Gordon, completed her undergraduate degree in Environmental Science at the University of Toronto, and at the time of her application was enrolled at Niagara College in the Ecological Restoration post-graduate certificate program. Her excellent grades, passionate and expressive answers in her application and impressive volunteer and work experience abroad made her the final choice.

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## FIELD TRIPS

The Society for Ecological Restoration, Ontario Chapter was pleased to offer two field trip opportunities this summer to view two new large scale restoration projects in progress.

**Registration:** Online at Eventbrite. [www.SEROWindermere.eventbrite.com](http://www.SEROWindermere.eventbrite.com) and [www.SEROGlenorchy.eventbrite.com](http://www.SEROGlenorchy.eventbrite.com)

**Cost:** \$15 for SERO members and \$20 for non-SERO members.

**Notification:** A notice to SERO members was sent by e-mail on June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013 by Ash Baron linking members to trip summaries as well as links to the Eventbrite registration page.

**Field Trip #1 - Windermere Basin, Hamilton**

**Monday, July 8 (9:30 am)**

**Leader: Mary Gartshore and John Helka**

### **Trip Promotional Summary:**

The Windermere Basin is a newly reclaimed 13 hectare Great Lakes coastal wetland located in the City of Hamilton. The Hamilton Waterfront Trust with assistance from the City of Hamilton and other provincial and federal agencies facilitated the restoration project to restore an estuarine ecosystem, a sanctuary for wildlife and additional parkland for passive recreation.

Since 2007 restoration efforts have been underway on reclaimed lands at the mouth of the Red Hill Creek. St. Williams Nursery and Ecology Center has worked on the restoration as well as Quiet Nature and Kayanese. The project is part of work to help in the eventual delisting of the Hamilton Harbour as a Great Lakes area of concern. Participants will learn about the various seed mixes utilized, vegetation targets and wildlife habitat creation elements of the project.

**Capacity:** 20 people

**Registered:** 18 people

**Contact:**

**John Helka, C.E.T.**  
**Senior Project Manager**  
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Water & Wastewater Engineering  
Section  
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**Trip Comments:**

- Some participants found it difficult to locate the meeting location causing delays in the start of the field trip.
- John provided an overview of the objectives of the project from an engineering standpoint while Mary provided details on wildlife objectives and restoration practices employed. Mary distributed species lists detailing the various seed mixes. The group discussed erosion control blanket issues regarding wildlife as well as the success of the Common Tern nesting island initiative and research that McMaster University was carrying out.
- A representative from Kayanese was not able to attend the event.
- Control of Common Phragmites was discussed as well as subsequent planting efforts planned.

**Trip #2: Glenorchy Conservation Area, Oakville****Saturday, August 17 (9:50 am)****Leader: Mary Gartshore, Ash Baron and Nigel Finney****Trip Promotional Summary:**

Not yet open to the public, Conservation Halton's newly formed Glenorchy Conservation Area (2008) is comprised of 990 acres of tableland and valleys associated with Sixteen Mile Creek in North Oakville. In conjunction with the Society of Ecological Restoration of Ontario, this trip will showcase recent ecological restoration efforts as well as tableland and valley flora. In 2012, the pit and mound restoration technique was applied to 17 hectares of tableland fields and additional 13 hectares of grassland were planted. A walking tour will discuss the applied restoration techniques and further enhancement opportunities.

Adjacent to restoration areas, Oak woodlands and prairie bluffs rim the edge of the spectacular gorge providing a suite of locally uncommon and rare species such as *Polygala senega*, *Solidago arguta*, *Ceanothus americanus*, *Vaccinium pallidum*, *Comandra umbellate*, and *Taenidia*

*integerrima*. A short circuit of the floodplain forests will also provide examples of both native and restored floodplain communities such as terraced forests and oxbow channels.

**Capacity:** 12 people;

**Registered:** 14 people

**Joint field trip with the Field Botanists of Ontario** – 15 members from the FBO also attended the event.

**Trip Comments:**

- Dividing into two groups and partitioning the day into restoration and botany worked well in terms of timing, maintaining smaller group size and providing greater exposure to trip leaders to participants.
- Field trip ran until ~2:30 pm, later than expected, given the area required to walk and time required to engage the group into carpooling up to a more accessible location.
- Nigel provided a hand out of seed mixes used for the pit and mound and grassland restoration area. Mary provided excellent interpretation of what early success for a direct seeding project looks like and skills in identifying first year seedlings.
- Ash provided a tour of the oak woodland bluff community as well as floodplain community – also highlighting the veteran American Sycamore tree.

**2013 Field Trip Financial Summary**

Registration Paypal (31x, 16 member and 14 non-member)	\$ 498.88
Registration Cash (1 member)	\$ 15.00
Eventbrite Administrative Charge	-\$ 38.07
Leader Honourariums (2x)	-\$ 200.00
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$ 275.81</b>

- Learning how to utilize Eventbrite proved to be a learning curve but in the end worked out well for the purposes of personally handling fewer registration forms, fees and tracking.
- Honourariums were distributed to leaders whose employers were not paying them to participate.

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**CONTINUING EDUCATION AND WORKSHOPS**

Planning was underway for the 2014 Soils Symposium. The symposium has been scheduled for March 1, 2104 at the University of Guelph Arboretum Centre, located on Arboretum Road south

of College Ave East in Guelph. This year's theme of "It Starts with the Soil..." has the goal of focusing on the role of 'soil' in ecological restoration. The purpose of the symposium is to allow students, academics and industry members to bridge the gap between theoretical based knowledge and real world application by engaging experts from academia and industry through lecture, and conversation.

This event focuses on providing an opportunity for students, practitioners, planners, and managers to extend their education beyond their current knowledge. It is our goal to make SERO 2014 an educational experience that will both enrich and inspire all attendees! SERO 2014 is expected to attract one hundred people for the day to attend lectures, and generate thoughtful and positive discussion. This year we hope to encourage students, citizens, and industry alike from a variety of disciplines to develop their skills and share their accomplishments, benefiting both the presenter and attendees, and provide a forum to develop potential innovations and creative ideas.

Objectives of the Symposium include:

1. Develop a working framework for what we mean by "soil": traditional, constructed, artificial
2. Identify the kinds of impacts sustained by soils: chemical; physical; biological; other
3. Identify solutions that will contribute to sustainability of projects and assist with adaptation to global change.

Select speakers include:

**Richard Heck**, Soils and Landscape Processes, School of Environmental Sciences, University of Guelph

**Soil Morphology At Several Scales**

**Dave Kroetsch**, Senior Soil Resource Specialist, *Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada*

**Soil Essentials for Restoration**

**Mike MacTavish**, University of Waterloo

**Earthworms and Soil**

**Autumn Watkinson**, Laurentian University

**Surrogate Soils**

**Chris Morrison**, Arborist and Urban Soil Management

**Healing the Soil: BMPs for urban soils**

**Maren Oelbermann**, Department of Environment and Resource Studies, University of Waterloo

**Agroecosystems to Restore Degraded Soil and Sequester Carbon**



**and more...**

Admission includes lunch and two breaks.

Posters will remain until 5:30. Afterwards, please join us at a local pub (location TBD) for an opportunity to network and converse with other restoration practitioners, and have delicious food and beverages to wash it all down. The focus of conversation will be how to get a job in soil science or ecological restoration.

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## FINANCIALS

<b>BANK BALANCES, BEGIN YEAR</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount \$</b>
01-Jan-12	Royal Bank (0% interest)	\$ 6,075.70
01-Jan-12	ING Direct (1% interest)	\$ 7,184.53
01-Jan-12	Paypal (0% interest)	\$ 150.32
	<b>Total Chapter Assets:</b>	<b>\$ 13,410.55</b>
<b>INCOME</b>		
	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount \$</b>
	SERI membership transfer (net \$CDN)	\$ 328.26
	Guide sales	\$ 248.62
	AGM sponsorships	\$ -
	AGM attendance	\$ -
	Field trip attendance (gross)	\$ 484.62
	Bank interest (ING acct)	\$ 72.17
	<b>Total Chapter Income:</b>	<b>\$ 1,133.67</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount \$</b>
	Monthly bank fees	\$ 48.00
	AGM expenses	\$ -
	Field trip honouraria	\$ 200.00

	Field trip event hosting (Eventbrite)	\$ 38.07
	FGCA membership	\$ -
	Website maintenance	\$ 61.02
	Scholarship	\$ 2,000.00
	<b>Total Chapter Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 2,347.09</b>
<b>BANK BALANCES, END OF YEAR</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount \$</b>
31-Dec-12	Royal Bank (0% interest)	\$ 4,928.90
31-Dec-12	ING Direct (1% interest)	\$ 7,256.70
31-Dec-12	Paypal (0% interest)	\$ 11.53
	<b>Total Chapter Assets:</b>	<b>\$ 12,197.13</b>

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## WEBSITE

Our website is migrating and will be hosted by SER International. The url for our new website is: <http://chapter.ser.org/ontario/>.