

Board Composition

Please provide a list of the most up-to-date information on chapter leaders and board/committee members:

Executive Board:

Name	Title	Board Term	Email
Nigel Finney	Chair (2018)	3 (1 st as chair)	nfinney@hrca.on.ca
Steve Smith	Treasurer	3	stephen@ufora.ca
Ash Baron	Membership Coordinator	3	baron.a@aquaforbeech.com
Rob Monico	<i>Interim Chair 2017</i>	1	robertmonico@trentu.ca

Other Board Members:

Name	Title	Board Term	Email
Rachel Voros	College/University Outreach and Scholarships	3	locavoros@gmail.com
Jeff Warren	AGM and Workshops	3	warrenj@mmm.ca
<i>vacant</i>	Publications		
<i>vacant</i>	Continuing Education		
<i>vacant</i>	Field Trips		
Stephen Murphy	Past Chair	n/a	stephen.murphy@uwaterloo.ca
Sal Spitale	Past Chair	n/a	salspitale@hotmail.com

Strategic Plan

2018 Plans

- 2018 AGM and Workshops – Partners and implement meaningful workshops and events to share restoration knowledge in Ontario.
- 2018 Field Trips – Continue field trip program.
- Native Plant Species Growers Guide – Continue to explore opportunities to update the guide.
- Award annual scholarship recipient.

Events

1. Red Hill Creek Parkway – 10 Years Later – Field Trip – Saturday June 17, 2017

- a. Description: Field Trip Leader: Jim Rockwood, Senior Environmental Consultant, AMEC Foster Wheeler. The Ecological Restoration Program planting, which was an important element of the project, commenced in the spring of 2007 and lasted into the fall of 2012, thus some sites are a full 10 years old while others are as young as 5. The installations took place in widely variable local landscapes, from the current Lake Ontario shoreline to alvar environments at the Niagara escarpment and everything in between. Predictably, the outcomes have been just as variable. In total, 22 people participated in the field trip.



2. Courtcliffe Park Creek Restoration Project – Field Trip – September 23, 2018

- a. Description: Field Trip Leader: Beth Anne Fisher, Watershed Restoration Technician, Conservation Halton. The Courtcliffe Park Creek Restoration Project was initiated in 2013 to restore 1 km of coldwater creek habitat in the headwaters of the Bronte Creek watershed. The project site is located in Courtcliffe Park, a City of Hamilton owned multi-use community green space and park. Upper Main Bronte Creek and Mountsberg Creek both flow through the park lands. The previous landowner dug out sections of the creek, installed online ponds, undersized creek crossings and diverted flows into dug straightened by-pass channels. The channel form on this site has been heavily altered. As a result water quality, sediment transport, channel form and habitat has degraded. Brook Trout (an indicator species of coldwater creek ecosystem health) has disappeared from this site and a cool-warm water fish community is now present. This multi-phase creek restoration project aims to restore the channel form and functions, water quality and a coldwater fish community. Three phases of large-scale creek restoration have been implemented by contractors. These works include: installation of natural channel design, creek crossing replacement, channel realignment and online pond modification to floodplain wetlands. These works were completed in 2015, 2016 and 2017. Community volunteer work days have been on-going and are utilized to help narrow the creek to a healthy width-to-depth ratio and improve riparian vegetation. Community workdays include

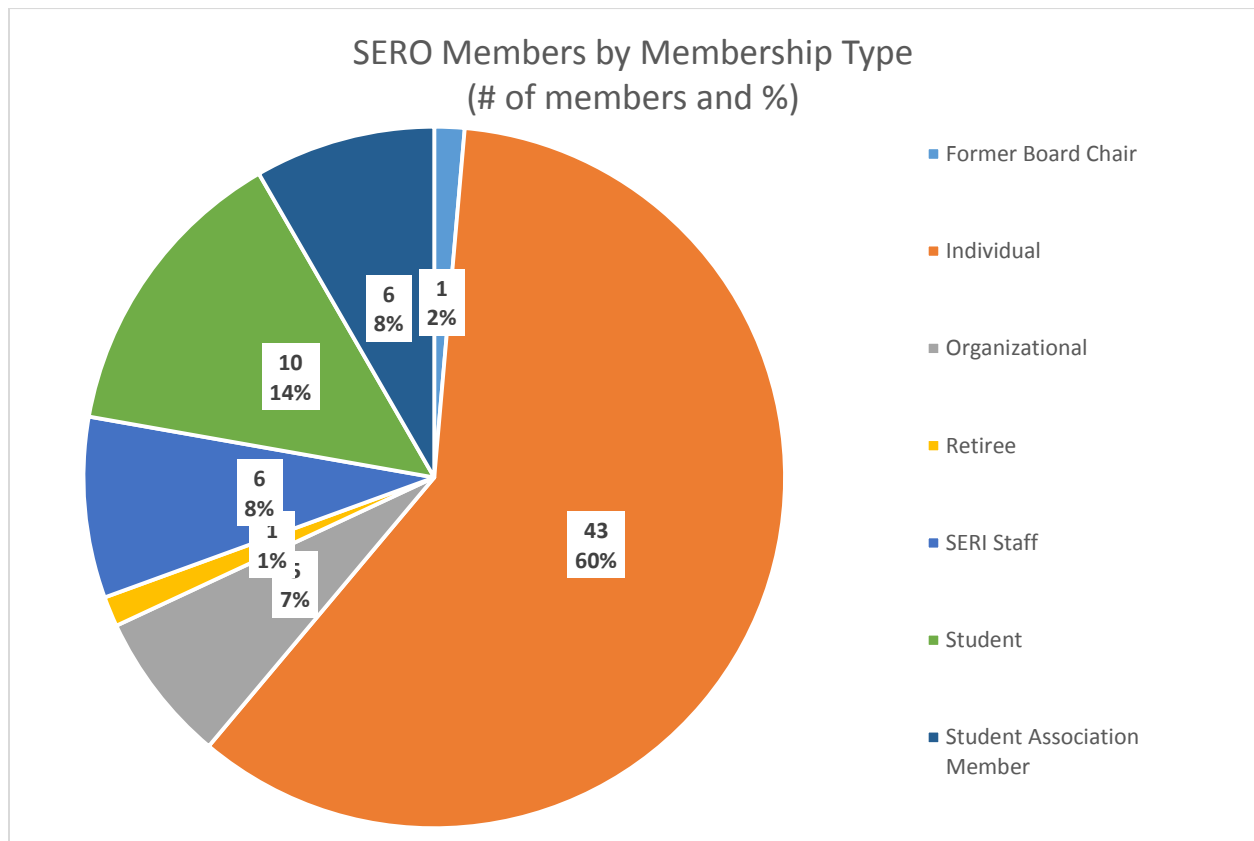
planting trees and shrubs, harvesting and installing livestakes, installing sediment mats and deflectors. For more information on the project visit: www.conservationhalton.ca/courtcliffe-park-restoration. Five people participated in the field trip.



Communications

Name of communication/ publication (e.g. social media platforms, newsletters, books, guides)	Brief description (include link to websites)
<i>Member E-blasts</i>	Seven e-mails sent to membership to notify them of Chapter activities (e.g. field trips, AGMs, etc.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cumulative deliveries – 559 Total opens – 1,148
<i>Twitter</i> https://twitter.com/SEROntario	Throughout 2017, the SERO twitter account earned <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 13,737 impressions ○ 673 profile visits ○ 83 new followers – total 256 followers 24 mentions
<i>Linked-in</i>	The SERO Linked-in account has 639 members and 718 followers.
<i>Letter of Support</i>	SERO issued a letter of support for Ontario Nature’s application to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Species at Risk Stewardship Program. The program proposes to coordinate the support of the recovery of American Ginseng with the Biodome de

	Montréal through propagation and conservation measures.
Advocacy Letter	SERO issued a letter to the Province of Ontario regarding the August 2017 announcement of the closure of the Ontario Tree Seed Plant.
Board Election	<p>For the first time, SERO conducted their board of directors election using an online voting platform instead of the in-person voting used previously at AGMs. There was general consensus amongst board members that online voting was the most accessible format for the election.</p> <p>ElectionRunner.com was selected as the most cost-effective online platform (\$15 USD) that was 'tamper-proof'. The election ran from November 9th to December 18th. Of 77 eligible voters, 23 cast votes. Nigel Finney was elected as the new chair of SERO, receiving 83% of the votes. Other board positions were uncontested.</p>



Membership Survey

A survey to members and past workshop participants was distributed in spring of 2017 to garner feedback on what restoration ecologists in Ontario want to see SERO initiate. Questions requested feedback on the proposed Sudbury AGM location. The survey was open from May 30 to June 17, 2017 and received 14 responses.

- **Membership Summary:**

- 82% SERO members, 9% non-member, 9% Ontario Student Chapter Member

- **Attendance at past SERO AGMs, workshops and symposiums:**
 - 28% always, 57% most of the time, 14% no
- **AGM Feedback:**
 - *Hosted at Brock university or Niagara college with focus on restoration happening in the area, including Niagara river*
 - *Other options or future ideas: Habitat compensation & offsetting Wetlands Luther Marsh Wildlife Management Area or other wildlife management areas where there is active management and/or restoration*
 - *Pinery Provincial Park Prescribed Fire and Restoration*
 - *Costs to go to Sudbury will be too high with mileage and accommodations.*
 - *The AGMs I have attended so far have been in S. Ont., so I like the option of one in a different environment further north, and perhaps a different perspective as well..*
 - *Sudbury is a good venue for interest and applicability, but depends on how many people will want to go there.*
 - *I think that Sudbury would be an ideal location to showcase a restoration success story.*
 - *It would be helpful, if there is enough interest on behalf of patrons, to look into chartering a bus or at least a large van to transport AGM attendees to Sudbury.*
- **AGM Date Preference:**
 - Oct 1-15 – 86%, Sept 16-30 – 64%, Oct 16-31 – 32%
- **Topics:**
 - *Invasive species*
 - *Community-led projects*
 - *Traditional indigenous knowledge relevant to restoration*
 - *Ontario restoration projects*
 - *PBs, ecosystem management, oak savanna plant diversity and oak ecosystems and insects*
 - *Novel plant communities arising from land use changes due to resource development in the north;*
 - *Specific restoration challenges in northern environments.*
 - *Freshwater talks. The impacts of climate change on invasive species invasion rates and what the province is doing to combat that.*
 - *Any opportunities for research support or funding*
 - *Update on some international efforts (from those who attend SER meetings or travel etc.)*
 - *Wetland restoration and training*
 - *Aquatic Restoration Ecology - Fish Recovery Methodology Fish Habitat Reconstruction*
 - *Sudbury Re-Greening*
- A proposed fall 2017 AGM was being considered by SERO. The event was cancelled. Prior to cancelling, pole respondents indicated that their preference would be as follows:
 - #1: Workshop in Sudbury - One Day, hosted a Laurentian University & Separate AGM in South-Central Ontario
 - #2: ADM in Sudbury
 - #3 : AGM in Barrie Area
 - #4: Other

Year-End Chapter Summary

During 2017, SERO hosted two ecological restoration field trips and awarded one scholarship recipient. SERO convened an online election to fill vacant and acting board positions and continued to work on updating the native plant guide. The 2017 scholarship application received 11 submissions and was awarded to Anne Munier.

Chapter Challenges

- Filling board positions in 2017. Working towards seeking qualified restoration practitioners to fill positions in 2018.
- Organization of AGM and workshops in 2017. Refocusing efforts and partnership opportunities in 2018.
- Cancelled hydro corridor meadow field trip in 2017. Focusing 2018 field trip offerings to meet member needs.
- Board member engagement.
- Challenges in updating the Native Plant Resource Guide.

Volunteer Hours

Estimation of 84 volunteer hours.

Other Business

- During 2017, the SERO Board convened five meetings in person and via teleconference.
- Dale Leadbeater, a long-standing SERO education and outreach coordinator, resigned from her position.
- 2017 AGM Cancellation
 - The chair of the Student Restoration Group at Laurentian University, had approached the SERO Board to promote holding an AGM in Sudbury. The Board was explored this opportunity as there were many good reasons to hold the AGM in Sudbury; it provided the opportunity to respond to holding an AGM outside of the GTA, it was a return to the area of the province where some of the first early restoration was carried out at a large scale, and the event could be well supported by an active, enthusiastic student restoration

group at Laurentian. A decision was made to hold the event at the end of September and planning was underway. Unfortunately the event did not come together in time to hold a productive, meaningful meeting and it was cancelled. Cancellation was due to lack of interested participants, available local representatives to coordinate the event and lack of a detailed agenda.

- Having to cancel this AGM was not taken lightly as we lost one of the opportunities in the year when SERO members get together to network and immerse themselves in the practice of restoration.

Chapter Scholarship

Total scholarship applications received in 2017: 11

Scholarship winner: Anne Munier, Niagara College-Post Graduate Certificate in Ecosystem Restoration

Info about Anne

Prior to pursuing a Postgraduate Certificate in Ecosystem Restoration at Niagara College, Anne achieved her B.Sc. in Wildlife Biology, and a M.Sc. in Biology. She has completed numerous field ecology/sustainability projects from British Columbia, Yukon and Iowa to Ontario, Quebec and Newfoundland, Costa Rica and India. Her collaborative research activities have been documented via multiple publications with a wide range of co-authors. She was directly involved in the preparation of the text for the report Wild Species 2015: The General Status of Species in Canada. This report is updated and released every five years, a requirement under the federal Species at Risk Act.

An excerpt from Anne's application *"I see ecosystem restoration as a promising avenue for mitigating and solving some of our most significant environmental and social challenges. These include biodiversity loss, the degradation of ecosystem services, climate change mitigation, soil health, and human health and livelihoods; and I'm very keen to jump into action."*

