



- 1. Board Membership**
- 2. Financial Report**
- 3. SERO Membership**
- 4. AGM**
- 5. Field Trips**
- 6. Student Associations**
- 7. Scholarship**

### Board Membership

Name	Position	Term	E-mail Address
Nigel Finney	Chair	2.5	<a href="mailto:nfinney@hrca.on.ca">nfinney@hrca.on.ca</a>
Stephen Murphy	Past Chair (at large)	10.5	<a href="mailto:sd2murph@uwaterloo.ca">sd2murph@uwaterloo.ca</a>
Steve Smith	Treasurer	8.5	<a href="mailto:stephen@ufora.ca">stephen@ufora.ca</a>
Vacant	Continuing Education		
Ash Baron	Membership	8.5	<a href="mailto:thebotanist@live.ca">thebotanist@live.ca</a>
Tim Alamenciak	Publications	>1	<a href="mailto:tim.alamenciak@gmail.com">tim.alamenciak@gmail.com</a>
Ryan Stephenson	Field Trips	1	<a href="mailto:rstephenson@trca.on.ca">rstephenson@trca.on.ca</a>
Rachel Voros	College/University Outreach and Scholarship	8.5	<a href="mailto:rachel@quietnature.ca">rachel@quietnature.ca</a>
Florescia Panizza	Communications	>1	<a href="mailto:fpanizzacomm@gmail.com">fpanizzacomm@gmail.com</a>
Jeff Warren	AGM and Workshops	7.5	<a href="mailto:Jeff.Warren@wsp.com">Jeff.Warren@wsp.com</a>

### Financial Report

#### Net Revenue Breakdown by Program

Program	Revenue	Costs	Net
AGM	2,518.84	1,332.14	1,186.70
Field Trips	291.00	-	291.00
Plant Guide	35.29	-	35.29
Scholarship	-	1,000.00	1,000.00
General Admin	-	48.00	48.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,845.13</b>	<b>\$ 2,380.14</b>	<b>\$ 464.99</b>

#### Financial Transactions

Description	Revenue	Expense
Opening Balance	\$ 13,143.58	

SERI Membership Transfer	\$ 1,802.48	
Native Plant Guide	\$ 35.29	
AGM attendance & seed wksp.	\$ 2,362.77	
Field trip attendance	\$ 291.00	
Bank interest (Tangerine acct.)	\$ 104.40	
Monthly bank fees		\$ 48.00
AGM expenses & honouraria		\$ 1,332.14
Scholarship		\$ 1,000.00

Description		
Closing Balance	\$ 15,359.38*	

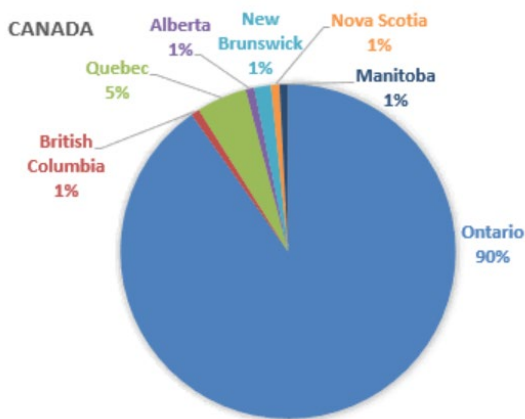
\*interest calculation not included in above lines

## SERO Membership

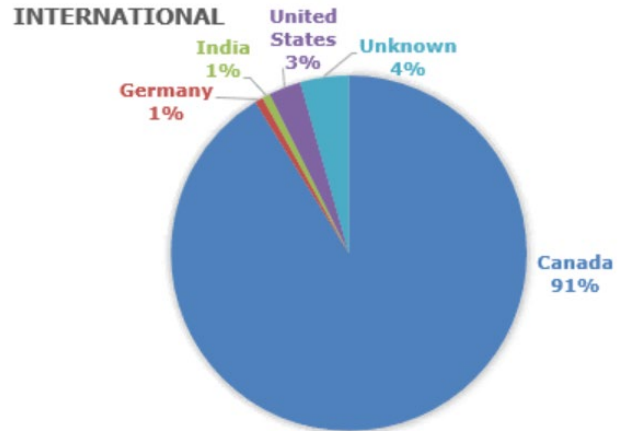
The Society of Ecological Restoration (SERO) is pleased to announce **an all-time record of 180 members** as of June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020. This represents a 32% increase in membership from the date of the 2019 AGM and a 122% increase from March of 2019. While most of SERO's members are in Canada, there are some members from other countries: six from the United States and one from India. For members located in Canada and not in Ontario, eight are in Quebec, two are in New Brunswick, two are in British Columbia, one in Alberta and one in Nova Scotia.

While the Society's capacity for typical offerings of workshops, field trips and meetings will be lessened this year due to the global pandemic, SERO is working to engage its membership by expanding its social media presence with the help of the new Communications board member, Florenzia Panizza.

The following is a summary of SERO's membership as of October 2019, as presented at the Annual General Meeting in November 2019:

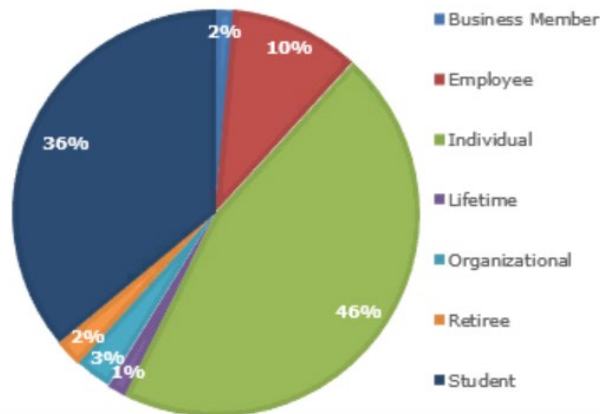


**SERO Member Geography**



**SERO Member Geography**

**136 Ontario Chapter Members: Who are they?**



**Membership Types**

### **AGM**

Society for Ecological Restoration (SERO) held its 2019 AGM on November 1 and 2, at the Tiffin Centre of the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority, just west of Barrie, ON. SERO partnered with NVCA for this meeting to showcase restoration projects and initiatives within the Lake Simcoe watershed as well as from other locations within southern and central Ontario.

**Download:** [Full AGM Program](#)

#### **Attendees**

Eighty-three people registered for the 2-day event. This included 19 complementary registrations (speakers, field trip leaders, NVCA volunteers, SERO board)

The following is a summary of the registrants noting general category of employment or is a student.

- Private (Consultants, Landscapers, Other Business) – 26
- Conservation Authorities - 22
- Students -13
- Government (Municipal, Regional, Provincial, Federal) - 8
- Stewardship and NGO's- 7
- Category not identified - 5
- University/College (Instructors) - 2

The attendees learned about the event from the following:

- Personal contacts/colleagues/word of mouth – 21.4%
- Other Organizations – 18.6%
- Social Media (linkedin, facebook, google) – 17.6%
- Speakers/Field Trip Leaders/SERO Board – 17.6%
- SERO website/communications – 16%
- Student Chapters – 8.7%

#### **November 1 - Presentations**

There were eighty-three registrants for Friday November 1 day of presentations and there were some walk-ins for which documentation was not recorded.

Nigel Finney, SERO Chair, provided introductory comments to welcome attendees to the 2 day event.

*List of Speakers and Topics*

1. Fred Dodds, NVCA: *Opening Remarks on Nottawasaga River Watershed and Restoration*
2. Shannon Stephens, NVCA: *Minesing Wetlands*
3. Peter Burke/Laura Williamson, Savanta, A GEI Company: *Shared Perspectives and Approaches to Effectively Restore Habitat for an Endangered Songbird and Ecosystem in Southern Ontario*
4. Andrew Promaine, Parks Canada-Georgian Bay Islands National Park: *Turning Lemons into Lemonade – A New Ecological Trajectory for an Otherwise Barren Landscape*
5. Dave Hawke, Couchiching Conservancy: *SAR Habitat Offsetting: Lessons Learned*
6. Nigel Finney, Conservation Halton: *Boyne Valley Restoration: Alternative Delivery Model for Developer Restoration*
7. Paul Morris, Toronto Region Conservation Authority: *The Meadoway*
8. Deborah Kenley, Credit Valley Conservation: *Corporate Landowners Take the Lead by Investing in Nature Through CVC's Greening Corporate Grounds Program*

### *Open Forum*

At the conclusion of the speaker presentations, all speakers and attendees were invited to engage in an open forum that included questions for the speakers on aspects of their presentation and an exchange of information and ideas on related topics and technical points. The discussion was fruitful and presented a variety of points of view on particular questions.

### *Food and Refreshments*

Lunch was catered by Casel Catering (veggies and dip platter (2 trays); deli sandwiches and wraps platter (3 trays), fresh fruit and berry planter (2 trays) and cookie platter (2 trays). Coffee and water was provided by NVCA throughout the day of presentations and SERO provided snacks (fruit, pastries) at the beginning of the day.

### **November 2 - Field Trips and Workshops**

Three field trip events were held on Saturday November 2. Two events were held concurrently in the morning and the third trip occurred in early afternoon. All 3 field trips had full attendance of 20 participants each.

#### Field Trip #1 (Nov 2 AM): Kidd's Creek Revitalization

This field trip was led by Brook Piotrowski, Urban Restoration Construction Specialist, Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority. The LSRCA partnered with the City of Barrie on this project to develop a holistic restoration plan to address unstable stream banks, erosion and sediment build-up impacting fish habitat. The study

included completing a hydrogeomorphic assessment and channel survey to study the entire reach of the creek in order to better make decisions on how to maintain the ecological integrity of the creek and avoid ineffective spot repairs. The study occurred from 2015-2017.

### Field Trip #2 (Nov 2 AM): Hands on Seed Processing Workshop for Ecological Restoration, Project, Research and Volunteers

This workshop was led by Mary Gartshore, Ecological Restoration Specialist and was held at the Tiffin Centre. In this workshop, Mary led the group, in a hands-on demonstration of materials, methods and short cuts for collecting, cleaning and storing native seed. Tricks of the trade included using a traditional kitchen blender to separate the seed from freshy fruit, a leaf blower in suction mode to collect and break up sumac seed heads and stomping on bags of perennial field herbs to remove the tiny seeds from the seed heads. Following the demonstrations, attendees jumped in to try their hand at the different methods of seed extraction.

### Field Trip #3 (Nov 2 PM): Putting the Wiggle Back in Willow Creek

This field trip was led by Shannon Stephens, Healthy Waters Program Coordinator, NVCA. Shannon led the group in examining the measures taken to restore Willow Creek that had been degraded over the years from channel widening and straightening resulting in a flat, shallow channel with poor aquatic habitat. Improvements to the creek were carried out from 2010 to 2017 and included installing measures such as bank wing deflectors using wedges of Christmas trees cabled into the bank to return the straightened nature of the creek to a more natural meandering pattern. The banks were planted with shrubs and trees to both stabilize and create habitat. Through monitoring the restoration has shown an improvement in the abundance and number of species of benthic invertebrates and fish species.

## **Financial Summary**

The financial summary for the AGM is as follows:

Revenue - \$2362.77

Expenses - \$1332.14

- Morning snacks- \$185.79
- Honorarium to Mary Gartshore - \$160.00
- Casal Catering - \$858.80
- Speaker Gifts - \$127.55

Net Revenue - \$1,186.70

## **Concluding Remarks**

SERO would like to thank the NVCA for their joint partnership with the meeting by making presentations and leading field trips, identifying restoration projects within the watershed, providing the meeting facilities and support staff to manage the logistics and bringing together the network of restoration practitioners, stewardship groups and natural science experts from their part of the province.

### Lessons Learned for Future Events

1. Key to successful event is to partner with another organization to offset costs such as space rental, audio/video rental and other supporting technology
2. Partners also provide staff and volunteers to help with logistics through the day of presentations
3. Having good attendance necessitates holding the event within the Greater Toronto Area/southern Ontario so that expenses to attend are kept to a minimum.
4. Holding a 2-day event works well as a Friday/Saturday combination allowing people to only miss one day of work/classes
5. Keeping the registration fee low allows more people, including students, to attend and becomes more attractive when choosing between competing environmental organization meetings in the fall
6. Improve record keeping at registration desk to capture information on walk-ins
7. Re-establish approach used for organization of previous AGM's/workshops to have a dedicated sub-group to cover all facets of the event.



Peter Burke and Laura Williamson presenting on restoration of Kirtland's Warbler habitat in Simcoe County.





Attendees networking in the wonderful Tiffin Centre venue.



Mary Gartshore demonstrating the use of a leaf blower in reverse mode as the first step to separate the seed from the mature seed heads of Staghorn Sumac.



Brook Piotrowski, LSRCA, field trip leader for Kidd’s Creek Revitalization project shows the group the benefits of riffle-pool sequence in channel design.

## Field Trips

The Society for Ecological Restoration of Ontario (SERO) offered three field trip opportunities in 2019 for members and non-members to look at and discuss innovative, new and established ecological restoration projects in Ontario. The objective of the SERO program is to promote dialogue between practitioners and to introduce the public to notable restoration efforts that are occurring in Ontario. This is done by organizing short field trips, led by restoration practitioners and researchers, which promote the practice, principles, and benefits of ecological restoration.

### 2019 Field Trips

Property	Agency	Trip Leader	Restoration Efforts	Date
York Regional Forest & Holland Landing	York Region & WSP Limited	Dana Laxton, Jeff McNeice, & Jeff Warren	Tall grass prairie and oak savannah restoration	Tuesday June 25, 9:30am - 12:00pm
Glenorchy Conservation Area, Oakville	Conservation Halton	Nigel Finney	Pit and mound swamp, marsh,	Thursday

			& forest restoration	September 5, 9:00am - 12:00pm
<b>Bob Hunter Memorial Park, Markham</b>	Toronto and Region Conservation Authority	Ryan Stephenson	Headwater wetlands, forest, and meadow restoration.	Friday September 27, 9:30am - 1:00pm

### Field Trip Coordination

Date	Task
February-May	Seek field trip options
May 24, 2019	Select final field trips
June 1, 2019	Brochure Completed
June 7, 2019	Eventbrite Registration Live and E-mail to Participants

Total # of registrants: 30

Total funds received before fees: \$325.13

Total funds to partner agencies: \$0.00

Total funds received (Net): \$291.00

### 2019 Lessons Learned & Successes

- Having two contrasting or alternative restoration practice sites in same field trip offers up a great comparison of methodologies. This also creates a lot of opportunities for questions related to practical restoration implementation and the different ways to accomplish the same goals. This is specific to the York Regional Forest Prairie and the differences between controlled burn and herbicide management sites.
- Focusing field trips on the practical side of restoration creates great learning opportunities as well as interesting talking points. By focusing some discussions on built features and construction specifics the field trip adds a semi-workshop component in which the attendees commented they enjoyed.

## Field Trip #1: York Regional Forest Tall Grass Prairie & Oak Savannah Restoration

**Host: York Region & WSP Limited**

Location 1: Parking lot @ 17858 McCowan Rd, Cedar Valley, ON. L0G 1E0

Location 2: Street Parking @ end of Cedar St, Holland Landing, ON. L9N 1G4

### Trip Leaders:

Dayna Laxton-Regional Municipality of York, Project Manager. [dayna.laxton@york.ca](mailto:dayna.laxton@york.ca)

Jeff McNeice-Regional Municipality of York, Environmental Specialist. [jeff.mcneice@york.ca](mailto:jeff.mcneice@york.ca)

Jeff Warren-SERO Workshop Coordinator; Senior Ecologist/Project Manager, WSP Limited.

[jeff.warren@wsp.com](mailto:jeff.warren@wsp.com)

# of registrants: 11

Funds received before fees: \$104.99

Eventbrite fees: \$11.99

Funds received (Net): \$93.00

**Description:**

For the first field trip of the year, 9 SERO members and 2 members of the public went to several locations to discuss management techniques in prairie, savannah, and meadow restorations. The first location was a 6.7 hectares of tallgrass prairie habitat that was intentionally seeded into an acquired hayfield working in partnership with Tallgrass Ontario and NativeScape. This site is located within historical range of prairie and savannah habitats. The site was left to grow for four years before being burned in March 2018. The site was then planted with 250 oak trees (red and bur) to assist its transformation to an oak savannah with time. On the day of the visit, the site was on its second green-up post- 2018. The second location was a former cultural meadow was transformed into a tallgrass prairie. This project was initiated in 2016 with site preparation and is now entering its third year of seeding/management. By comparison to the Bendor & Graves site described above, the management regime at this site involves herbicide and mowing treatment and seeding. A portion of the site is seeded with Big Bluestem and other areas are a mixture of prairie herbs/grasses.



*1. Dana explaining the specific site dynamics that come into play while using fire management in tall grass prairie ecosystems as we look at the sites grasses and wildflowers.*



*2. Field trip participants looking at areas of herbicide applications vs other areas of management on the restoration site.*

## **Field Trip #2: Ecological Restoration in Glenorchy Conservation Area**

**Host: Conservation Halton**

**Location: Palermo Park, 2345 Dundas St W, Oakville, ON L6M 4J3**

**Trip Leader:**

Nigel Finney - SERO Chair; Project Manager, Conservation Halton. [nfinney@hrca.on.ca](mailto:nfinney@hrca.on.ca)

# of registrants: 9

Funds received before fees: \$97.41

Eventbrite fees: \$10.41

Funds received (Net): \$87.00

**Description:**

For the second field trip of the year, 6 SERO and 3 non-SERO members returned to Glenorchy Conservation Area to do a check in on the ongoing restoration in the area. Discussing pit and mound forest, swamp, marsh, grassland and riparian ecosystems as well as species such as western Chorus Frog, Pied-billed Grebe, Virginia Rail, Sedge Wren, and Bobolink there was a lot to see and discuss. The vision for this natural area dates to 1958; Conservation Halton has been managing the land on behalf of the Province since 2008.



*3. Field trip participants hiking through Glenorchy CA to discuss the ongoing restoration sites in the area.*

### **Field Trip #3: Headwater Wetland Restoration at Bob Hunter Memorial Park**

**Host:** Toronto and Region Conservation Authority

**Location:** Bob Hunter Memorial Park, 7277 14t Ave, Markham, ON, L6B 1A8

**Trip Leader:**

Ryan Stephenson - SERO Field Trip Coordinator; Project Manager, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA). [rstephenson@trca.ca](mailto:rstephenson@trca.ca)

# of registrants: 10

Funds received before fees: \$122.73

Eventbrite fees: \$11.73

Funds received (Net): \$111.00

**Description:**

The last SERO field trip before the Annual General Meeting was with 3 SERO and 7 non-SERO members at Bob Hunter Memorial park in Markham. The group walked through and discussed a number of forest, wetland, and meadow restoration sites on the 193-hectare naturalized park located in the headwaters of the Rouge River watershed in Markham. Taking a deep dive into the specifics of headwater wetland construction designs as well as the importance of incorporating stakeholders and local community engagement into restoration sites, there were several different interconnecting projects to discuss. Surrounded by significant urban expansion, Bob Hunter Memorial Park provides a critical connection between local and regional natural heritage corridors on the western margins of the Rouge National Urban Park.



4. Ryan and the field trip participants discussing the different methods of site prep on restoration planting sites and how that can affect the overall outcome of the project.



5. Ryan and the field trip participants looking at different types of water control structures on constructed wetlands and how they can be used to change high water levels for optimal habitat conditions as well as invasive species management.

## Student Chapter Associations

### **Association Name: University of Waterloo Society for Ecological Restoration (UWSER)**

Contact for the group: [tim.alamenciak@gmail.com](mailto:tim.alamenciak@gmail.com)

Number of members: 10

Frequency of meetings: Bi-weekly during Fall and Winter terms, occasionally during the Spring term.

Notable projects/field trips/association activities:

**Seed library** - We harvested and processed seed from an on-campus meadow to start a native seed library. The seeds we collected included species like Big Bluestem, Wild Bergamot, Virginia Mountain Mint, Nannyberry, Zigzag Goldenrod and more. These seeds have been used to make custom seed-paper greeting cards and have been shared with other campus organizations including the Ecology Lab. (Pic attached)

**Greenhouse project** - We received funding from the Waterloo Environment Students Endowment Fund to rent a table in the biology greenhouse. We started 12 species of grasses and wildflowers with seeds collected by volunteers on-campus. The project unfortunately has been paused because campus was closed due to COVID-19. (Pic attached)

**Guest speakers** - We have had several guest speakers in to talk about restoration ecology including Dianne Watkins speaking about traditional ecological knowledge and restoration, and Dorian Pomezanski speaking about habitat restoration.

**Outreach** - We had a booth at this year's Envigorate festival - an annual festival for the faculty of environment. Members of the student association spoke with dozens of students about the activities of UWSER and restoration ecology generally.

### **Association Name: Trent University Student Association (SER-TU)**

Contact for the group: [sertu@trentu.ca](mailto:sertu@trentu.ca)

Number of Members: 119

Frequency of meetings: Executive meetings occur weekly. Annual General Meetings for all members occur twice a year in September and April.

Notable Projects/Field Trips/Association activities:

- SER-TU Wetland Rehabilitation Research Project
- Annual trip to the Nature Conservancy of Canada's Hazel Bird Nature Reserve
- Wilderness First Aid Course, Chainsaw Safety and Awareness Course

Best contact info to reach the group: Edward Smith, [edwardsmith@trentu.ca](mailto:edwardsmith@trentu.ca)



**Association Name: Society for Ecological Restoration of Niagara College**

Contact for the group: [ser.ncsa@gmail.com](mailto:ser.ncsa@gmail.com)

**Association Name: Laurentian University Student Association (SERLU)**

Contact for the group: [serlaurentian@gmail.com](mailto:serlaurentian@gmail.com)

## Scholarship

Each year the Ontario Society for Ecological Restoration offers a non-renewable scholarship 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.

- Date Scholarship Posted: February 20th, 2019
- Date Scholarship Closed: April 1st, 2019

***About Hashveenah Manoharan, 2019 Scholarship recipient, \$1,000***

University of Waterloo

Bachelor of Environmental Studies at the School of Environment - Studying Resources and sustainability, minor in Urban Studies and Diploma in Ecological Restoration.

*She sits on Friends of the Rouge Watershed's Board of Directors and assist in coordinating their restoration work during planting seasons, and trains high school apprentices.*

*She has been a Nature Interpreter for the High Park Nature Center (2016), an Education Assistant at the Toronto Botanical Gardens (2017), and a Site Animator at the Evergreen Brickworks (2018). She is also an active member of the UW Society for Ecological Restoration Chapter.*

*She is a fierce advocate for community engagement in ecological restoration and strives towards eliminating social barriers that restrict nature connectedness in low-income neighborhoods. She wants to increase the exposure of youth, women-of-color and visible minorities to the field of ecological restoration Her hope is to continue to practice restoration by finishing her undergraduate degree, complete the Ecosystem Restoration program at*

*Niagara College, then pursue a Master's Degree.*