



# FAITHFUL GREEN ACTIONS NEWSLETTER

From your North Toronto Cluster  
Faithful Green Actions Team

Photo by: radek-jedynak-ipdCiQah83M-unsplash

Deer Park United  
Glebe Road United  
Manor Road United  
Lawrence Park Community Church

Calvin Presbyterian  
Leaside United

Fairlawn United  
Rosedale United  
Northlea United  
Eglinton St. Georges United

Welcome to this edition of the Faithful Green Actions Newsletter. If you are not already familiar with the work of the Faithful Green Actions Team, we are a mission within the North Toronto Cluster with representatives from the churches named on the masthead of this newsletter. Our purpose is to provide education on environmental issues and social justice and to advocate for a healthy planet such as the Water Walk and Feast that took place in September...

*Public commemoration of the tragic and painful history  
and ongoing impacts of residential schools is a vital component  
of the reconciliation process.*



By Rev. Dr. Kristin Philipson & Joyce Taylor

## Water Walk – September 30, 2023

This September 30<sup>th</sup>, many gathered at the Evergreen Brickworks for a Water Walk in the Don Valley to mark the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation.



Edition 1; Volume 2, 2023  
Save a Tree – Read Digitally



There were more than 70 participants from among the North Toronto Cluster congregations gathered around the Sacred Fire area at the Brickworks where the Elders began a time of ceremony and teaching. Sacred Fire Keepers started and nourished the fire with sacred berries.

The leaders were spiritually prepared for the larger gathering. Elder Marilyn Capreol, Elder Vince Pawis, and Elder Donna Longlade shared teachings about the sacred medicines and the water.



Marilyn began the walk with ceremony. Everyone received tobacco ties and symbolic water pots. A line was formed and all who had gathered accompanied the water as it was carried around the ponds at the Brickworks. The water was then returned to the ponds and Marilyn shared more teaching on water and environmental stewardship.

Following the walk, about 60 to 70 people joined together for an indigenous feast at Rosedale United Church. Again, the elders led the feast, by preparing a plate of food that was taken outside and offered to the earth. The food itself was not smudged, because if it had been, then there could be no leftovers - everyone would have had to stay until **all** the food had been eaten. The group enjoyed a wonderful dinner catered by a local indigenous catering company, including *Indian Tacos* (frybread with chili, and all the toppings: lettuce, tomato, cheese and sour cream) and bear paws - sweet almost doughnut-like fried pastry - in the shape of a bear paw, of course, dusted with cinnamon and sugar. It was a lovely way to end a very special afternoon.





# Naturalizing your Lakefront Shoreline

## Something to think about over the winter:



### The Natural Edge Program

By Ann Lovering

#### What is Watersheds Canada?

Watershed Canada is a federally incorporated non-profit organization and registered Canadian charity. In order to engage and help shoreline owners enhance and protect the health of lakes and rivers, they support and collaborate with other organizations, develop programs and pilot them and then train and support others to deliver these programs in their own local areas, throughout Canada.

Natural Edge Shoreline Re-naturalization is one of the programs developed by Watersheds Canada to provide waterfront property owners with the resources needed to create and maintain a healthy waterfront.

#### The Natural Edge Program



“Shorelines are one of the richest environments on earth, but they are also among the most threatened. Habitat loss and degradation, water quality impairments, and increasing pressures from shoreline development can deteriorate our lakes and rivers, making them a priority for environmental stewardship and restoration.

Shorelines are the ribbon of life, providing habitat, including shelter and food, for over 90% of aquatic wildlife.”

“The benefits of having a natural shoreline are well documented:

- plant roots retain the earth and soil on which we walk to get to the lake to go for a swim;
- shoreline plantings maintain and improve water quality by reducing the incidences of soil erosion and sedimentation, therefore protecting fish habitat;

- waterfront vegetation slows water flow over land and filters over-land pollutants through roots and shoots;
- plant branches and blades disperse water runoff and absorb excess nutrients, such as phosphorous, which can produce algae blooms in waterways
- shoreline plants provide oxygen to aquatic ecosystems.”

The Natural Edge, a shoreline naturalization program, guides landowners through every step of the process, from planning to planting and ongoing care. The program empowers property owners to restore their shoreline, protect their water quality, and create habitat for wildlife and pollinators by planting native trees, shrubs, groundcovers, wildflowers, grasses, and aquatic vegetation, as a nature-based solution. Healthy layers of vegetation benefit wildlife, enhance climate change resilience, protect from shoreline degradation, and support natural processes that are essential to a healthy watershed.



To see a video giving an overview of the Natural Edge program and information re the site visit go to this website: <https://watersheds.ca/our-work/the-natural-edge/>

### Delivery Partners

Watersheds Canada is always looking for new partners to deliver their Natural Edge Program across Canada. Partners receive everything they need to run the program in their area. If you are part of an organization that might be interested in becoming a delivery partner in your region and would like to learn more, please contact Watersheds Canada at:

**Office: 115-40 Sunset Boulevard, Perth, Ontario K7H 2Y4**

**Phone: 613-264-1244**

### Current Delivery Partners in Ontario

- [Cataraqui Conservation](#), Glenburnie (delivered by Watersheds Canada)
- [Muskoka Watershed Council](#), Bracebridge
- [Muskrat Watershed Council](#), Cobden
- [Junction Creek Stewardship Committee](#), Sudbury
- [Kawartha Lakes Stewards Association](#), delivered in partnership with Watersheds Canada
- [Quinte Conservation](#), Belleville
- [The Land Between](#), Haliburton
- [Watersheds Canada](#), Perth





## The Natural Edge Program Muskoka

With funding support from the Canadian Wildlife Federation and the Love Your Lake program, The Natural Edge program in Muskoka compliments the many stewardship activities already being undertaken by lake associations and individuals in Muskoka.

Once you have had your site visit, received and confirmed the planting plan, you receive the shoreline re-naturalization starter kit which includes:

- Free site visit
- Customized re-naturalization planting plan for shoreline property
- 50 native plants including trees, shrubs and wildflowers
- Coconut fibre pads to deter grass from growing around new plantings
- Tree guards for all deciduous trees
- Mulch for your wildflowers
- Plant Care Guide with instructions on how to take care of your new plants
- Habitat Creation Guide
- Wildflower Garden Guide



Participating in the Natural Edge program delivered by the Muskoka Watershed Council, I am finding the whole process to be a rewarding and beneficial experience. I was amazed by the process of the site visit, the detail of the planting plan and how I was included in the process to be sure I was happy with the plan and plants chosen. It's wonderful to see the plants, shrubs and wildflowers filling in, seeing their first blooms and berries-- which disappear very quickly and what a treat to see butterflies and bees enjoying the plants.

## What does it cost?

Site visits are free if you are just looking for some advice. If you would like to take advantage of the Starter Kit, there is a one-time charge. When I began in 2021 the charge was \$250.00 The plants alone were worth more than this cost!

Learn more about the Natural Edge program and book a site visit at:

<https://www.muskokawatershed.org/programs/the-natural-edge/>

## References:

- Watersheds Canada Website: <https://watersheds.ca/>
- *Does your shoreline have a Natural Edge?* By Rebecca Willison and Rebecca Krawczyk.



## Understanding Ontario's Precious Water Resources

By Anne Kane

Ontario is one of the richest areas on this planet in terms of its water resources. Not only do four of the five Great Lakes form part of Ontario's waterways but we are home to 250,000 lakes and 100,000 rivers. Altogether, Ontario's water resources provide 20% of the world's freshwater systems. Ontario may sit in the middle of the continent, but we also have extensive seacoast along James Bay and Hudson's Bay, including 320,000 square kilometres of wetlands below Hudson's and James Bay. We are also rich in brooks, streams, swamps, and bogs. This abundance of water is a gift bequeathed to us by the glaciers that 15,000 years ago covered most of North America. This glacial mass spread and receded several times over the course of four-thousand years, scraping the land underneath, leaving behind hills and depressions, and carving out the Great Lakes. This glacial period also created the Canadian Shield, the Niagara Escarpment, the Oak Ridges and Horseshoe Moraines, and broad river valleys.

It is important that we not take this rich water for granted and that we understand the way water is used, the mechanisms that protect it, and growing threats due to climate change, population growth, and a changing regulatory environment.

### The Great Lakes Region

More than 30 million people live along the Great Lakes in Canada and the United States, and the region generates trillions of dollars in revenue each year. Responsibility for the Lakes is shared jointly by Canada and the United States, and there are many types of protections, including:

- **The Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909** which sets out principles to prevent and resolve disputes over waters shared between our two countries.
- **The International Joint Commission (IJC)** which manages and protects lake waters, approves projects that affect water levels and recommends solutions on transboundary issues.
- **The Canada – US Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement** which sets out the criteria for regular assessments of each lake which are conducted by the American Environmental Protection Agency and the Government of Canada.

An important aspect of the Great Lakes is the amount of time it takes each year for water to leave their lake basins. Lake Superior, being the largest and deepest lake, holds onto its water for around 100 years whereas Lake Erie, the shallowest of the five lakes, holds its water for only three years. The time that water stays in one place means that pollutants can remain there for years, becoming more concentrated over time. Lake Ontario being the last lake of the five, receives contaminants from the other four lakes and their tributaries. Being last, makes our lake a kind of "liquid landfill" to the whole system. Lake Ontario releases its water into the St. Lawrence after a period of eight years.

According to the 2021 Canadian Census, the city of Toronto has a population of 2.7 million and the Golden Horseshoe region has 7.8 million people in its core area. The Golden Horseshoe is heavily industrialized, with rich agricultural areas along the lake and its tributaries, all contributing to Lake Ontario being the most polluted

lake of the five. Despite these stresses, bilateral assessments of Lake Ontario have improved due to lower concentrations of contaminants in our fish and fewer beach closings.

One of the reasons that Lake Ontario is in fairly good health, with potable water and edible fish, is that the City of Toronto spends many dollars each year on water management. Like many cities throughout the world, we have buried many of our waterways and built an underground network of water pipes and sewers. One such long-buried creek is Taddle Creek which once flowed southeast from the St Clair and Bathurst area down to the Distillery District until it was buried in the 19th Century. A remnant of the creek can still be found today at Philosopher's Walk, whose path follows the ravine that was formed by Taddle Creek. Today, the city of Toronto has a huge network to deliver water and to carry waste-water away—all paid for by water rates. In 2022, the city provided 435 billion litres of drinking water and treated around 400 billion litres of household wastewater paid out of Toronto's water budget of \$1.4 billion made up of a \$471 million operating budget and a \$976 million capital budget.



*Erik Mathiesen and his big catch*

### The Port Lands Project

Currently, the city is engaged in an ambitious capital project to help prevent future flooding in the lower Don River during heavy rainfalls. In the past, the Don flowed into Lake Ontario through marshland and meadowland; as the city grew the lower Don was forced into narrow channels, ending at the concrete Keating Channel. These concrete constraints means water can overflow during heavy rains, especially on the Bayview extension, where it can strand motorists and Go Trains. To restore the Don River to a more natural state, the Port Lands Project is creating new meadowlands and wetlands to absorb heavy flows. The completed port lands area will offer parkland with areas for biking and canoeing. Although still being created, the new wetlands are already supporting numerous species. And a new Island, Villiers Island, will be home to 10,000 people with buildings heated through solar and geothermal systems.

### Smaller Ontario Communities

Maintenance and upgrading of water systems in smaller municipalities in Ontario is supported through the Canada Infrastructure plan with funding provided by the federal, provincial, and municipal governments.



*Example of Wetlands in the Muskoka area*

Currently, \$428 million is being invested in 144 Ontario Municipalities to build water mains, upgrade water treatment plants and municipal water towers. These municipalities include villages, townships, Indigenous communities, and a few smaller cities.

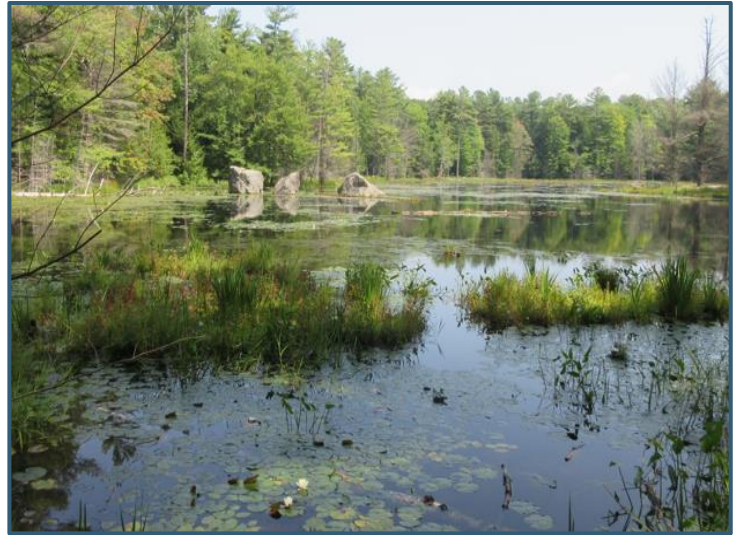
### Ontario's Wetlands

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources describes wetlands as: "areas that have been soaked with water long enough for the soil to become waterlogged...usually in low-lying areas or along the edges of lakes and rivers." Ontario is home to four types of wetlands: swamps, open-water



marshes, peat bogs, and fens. All of them play an important role to help prevent flooding, sequester carbon, filter water, and provide homes to many species on Ontario's endangered species list. Unfortunately, 68% of wetlands in Southern Ontario have already been lost to agriculture and housing.

*Additional Example of Wetlands in the Muskoka area*



### **Bill 23-C, More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022**

During the recent Greenbelt controversy, concern for wetlands was one reason why environmental groups and individuals fought against the Ontario government's plans. These lands have now been restored but building 1.5 million homes as expeditiously as possible is still a main focus for the

Ford government. Here are some of the major protectors of water that are now under threat due to Bill 23-C.

### **Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities**

Our Conservation Authorities have served us well as a bulwark in protecting waterways within their respective regions. They function as advisory bodies to Ontario municipalities and assist the various players involved in the zoning process. They also function as a bridge between parties who want to build on or near wetlands, flood plains or other sensitive areas. Under Bill 23-C, the role of Conservation Authorities will be sharply curtailed. Under the Act:

- Conservation Authorities would no longer review planning proposals or applications for projects approved under the Planning Act.
- When it comes to interference with rivers, creeks, streams, watercourses, wetlands, flood, or erosion control, permits would no longer be required for development projects that have been approved under the Planning Act.
- Conservation Authorities would be required to identify lands that they own or control that could be used to support housing development.
- Watershed planning would be reduced and responsibility for planning passed from Conservation Authorities to 400 Ontario municipalities.

**The Ontario Wetland Evaluation System (OWES)**—measures the value of wetlands in accordance with technical guidance manuals used by trained assessors. The Ministry of National Resources and Forestry wants to remove wetlands from OWES jurisdiction. In January, 2023, the government provided what they termed as “new guidance” designed to facilitate development by giving a larger role to municipalities in determining the value of wetlands instead of trained OWES assessors. These changes could mean very few wetlands would be deemed provincially significant in future. Furthermore, many existing wetlands that are currently protected under OWES would lose their designations and the high level of protection that the PSW designation currently provides.



**Environmental Activity and Sector Registry (EASR)**--Under the EASR, construction companies are permitted to use up to 400,000 litres of ground water per day for construction purposes, such as carrying out tests on water-pumping systems in high-rise buildings. To expedite these large buildings, the new regulation would:

- Remove the current removal limit of 400,000 litres per day.
- Allow companies to self-register on the EASR instead of going through a rigorous process to be able to remove water.
- Exempt certain types of stormwater-management in residential areas from approval requirement is the EASR by amending Regulation 525/98 under the Ontario Water Resources Act.
- Remove limits and restrictions on companies with policies in their source protection plans designed to protect significant drinking-water threats. Companies will no longer have limits or restrictions on those policies through amendment to Reg. 287/07 under the Clean Water Act.
- Amendments will be allowed to existing source plans as well and it will no longer be necessary for companies to follow the processes under which they were created.

### **Protests and Legal Challenges to Ontario's Bill 23**

The regulatory changes listed above are just a few of the provisions set out in Bill 23-C. Many organizations have published articles about the threats. One such article can be found in Pointer Magazine which sets out concerns for the waters that flow through the Oak Ridges Moraine. The article points out that: "Pristine water from the Oak Ridges Moraine feeds more than 30 waterways including the Humber and Credit Rivers. It is the source of much of the water that flows all the way down into the Great Lakes." This sentence is just one example of the many impacts that now threaten Ontario waterways.

In recent months, legal-environmental organizations have challenged the Ontario government's actions on the Greenbelt lands. The Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA) recently gave a webinar to highlight water threats and plans to take the Ontario Government to court over Bill C-23. Ecojustice, acting for Environmental Defence, sued the Ontario Government in order to gain access to documents about how decisions on official plans and greenbelt issues were made. Environmental Defence has now publicized some of the released governments.

### **Becoming Water Protectors**

Here in Canada, we are fortunate to have Indigenous water protectors who understand the nature of the lakes, rivers, and streams in the areas where they live. These elders play a vital role by passing their knowledge from generation to generation.

Can we not adopt a mindset that sees water as something to cherish and protect as well? Since the regulatory environment is changing, we need to keep informed on what is happening to our precious water resources so we can help keep them safe for future generations. In a separate piece, this newsletter contains a list of website addresses for environmental organizations that support water initiatives in varied ways: educating children, water cleanups, advocacy and initiatives to protect water. By keeping informed on this issue, we can all become protectors of Ontario's water heritage.



*Georgian Bay feeder*



## Links to Water Resource Websites

### The Great Lakes

- **Government of Canada: Canadian Great Lakes Nearshore Assessment, Detailed Methodology:** [Canadian Great Lakes Nearshore Assessment, Detailed Methodology - Canada.ca](#)
- **Government of Canada – Indigenous Guardians Initiative:** [Indigenous Guardians - Canada.ca](#)
- **Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry:** Executive Summary—Ontario Wetland Evaluation System: [Executive Summary — Ontario Wetland Evaluation System | ontario.ca](#)
- **Ontario Government Bill 23C:** [Bill 23, More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022 - Legislative Assembly of Ontario \(ola.org\)](#)
- **City of Toronto Water Budget:** [City of Toronto 2022 rate-supported budget for Toronto Water – City of Toronto](#)
- **Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve:** <https://georgianbaybiosphere.com/>
- **Georgian Bay Forever:** <https://www.georgianbayforever.org/>
- **Georgian Bay Land Trust:** [Georgian Bay Land Trust \(gbt.org\)](#)
- **Georgian Bay Association:** [Georgian Bay Association - Georgian Bay Association](#)
- **Great Lakes Water Quality Board: Great Lakes Water Quality Board | International Joint Commission:** [Great Lakes Water Quality Board | International Joint Commission \(ijc.org\)](#)
- **Water Sources: Wetlands:** [Water sources: wetlands - Canada.ca](#)

### Environmental Organizations

- **Conservation Ontario:** <https://conservationontario.ca/> - Non-profit organization that represents Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities.
- **Eco Justice:** [Canada's largest environmental law charity | Ecojustice](#) - using the law to defend nature, combat the climate crisis, and fight for a healthy environment for all.
- **Nature Conservancy Canada/Ontario:** [NCC: Where We Work - Ontario - \(natureconservancy.ca\)](#) protecting Ontario's most important natural areas and the species they sustain.
- **Ontario Nature:** [Bill 23 – What You Need to Know - Ontario Nature](#) quarterly magazine that explores Ontario's natural areas and provides insight into environmental issues.
- **Pond Informer:** [Home - Pond Informer](#) - In-depth guides and information about freshwater ecology.
- **Safe Drinking Water Foundation SDWF:** [Bill 23 – What You Need to Know - Ontario Nature](#) - educating Canadians on water quality issues to ensure safe drinking water is available to every Canadian.
- **Swim, Drink, Fish:** <https://www.swimdrinkfish.ca/> using community science, technology, to inspire, people to know and safeguard their local waters.
- **Water Canada:** [Water Canada Magazine](#) - promotes better water management and stewardship—issues can be downloaded from their website.
- **Watersheds Canada:** [Let's Restore Canada's Shorelands \(watersheds.ca\)](#) Initiative and projects to assist in protecting lakeshore properties.
- **Wilderness Committee:** [Ontario | Wilderness Committee](#) - protection of biological diversity through strategic research, community mobilizing and grassroots public education.
- **Water First:** [About Us | Water First Education & Training Inc. |](#) - Canadian charity partnering with Indigenous communities to address local water challenges through education, and collaboration.



# How to GREEN your Christmas!

## Use Eco-Friendly Greeting Cards:

For paper cards, search out recycled cards at your local store or purchase Eco friendly paper cards at one of these providers:

- **David Suzuki Foundation:** also supports work for climate action and protecting nature <https://store.davidsuzuki.org/collections/greeting-cards>
- **Hospital For Sick Children, Women's Auxiliary, 555 Shop:** also funds projects that benefit the children and their families. 416-813-8555 or <https://thesickkids5fifty5shop.ca/collections/wav-holiday-cards>
- **Etsy:** google eco-friendly greeting cards, made in Ontario or Canada <https://www.etsy.com/ca/>
- **Hazy Jean:** Ontario based, family owned <https://hazyjean.ca/>
- **Ontario Nature:** <https://ontarionature.org/give/other-ways-to-give/greeting-cards/> Call at 1 800 440 2366 or 416 444 8419, ext. 232

For digital cards **Jacquie Lawson** has a nice selection. This site requires a membership but is very inexpensive, compared to purchasing paper cards: [www.jacquielawson.com](http://www.jacquielawson.com)

OR make your own cards by recycling images from last year's calendars, cards or children's art and craft projects and use glue stick to a folded over piece of paper. Save heavier stock paper over the year for this activity.



## Christmas Tree Options

**Living Tree:** A non-pine potted plant or potted Norfolk pine, not as large as traditional pines, can be enjoyed all year and then decorated at Christmas. No cutting, not artificial.

### Artificial Tree

- Reusable
- Normally made of metal and petroleum products (PVC), which produce carcinogens during manufacturing and disposal. PVC-free Christmas trees normally made of polypropylene (PP) or polyethylene (PE) are safer types of plastic. Does not guarantee that these trees will be free of lead and flame retardants. Research before buying.
- When discarded, it would go to land fill-with plastic and metal content lasting forever. Alternatively, use as long as possible, gift or donate, to postpone landfill option.
- Uses resources in manufacturing and shipping (many transported from Asia.)

### Cut Live Trees

- Live trees are a renewable resource on land that may not be the best farmland.

- While growing, the tree contributes to air quality, generates oxygen. fix carbon in their branches and in soil, provides habitat for animals and birds.
- Usually locally grown and sold. Saves transportation costs and additional air pollution.
- Excessive driving by consumers to a tree farm or to purchase site could impact greenhouse gas emissions.
- Contact tree farms to find out their growing process. Is growing done in an eco-friendly way? And what is their use of fertilizers and pesticides? Are these applied at the base or on the tree? Alternatively, look for organic tree farms.
- Recyclable in Toronto – all trees are mulched and reused. Nothing goes to landfill.



Photo by: natalia-arkusha-4cDjb\_aoh1g-unsplash

## Wrapping

Often, on Christmas morning, we are overwhelmed by the wrapping paper that has enclosed our gifts. In these days, with concern about waste and recycling and the precariousness of life on our planet, consider the following suggestions when it comes to wrapping your gifts.

- Avoid using glossy foil, metallic paper or tissue paper with sparkles.
- Try to use paper that is marked “100% recyclable.”
- If giving more than one gift to a person, put all the gifts, unwrapped, in a recyclable paper bag (you can decorate it with drawn pictures) or into a reusable bag or Christmas stocking that can be part of the gift.

- Re-use fabric scraps, scarves aprons, tea towels, napkins or pillow cases for larger gifts.
- Use creative paper choices: children’s art, old wallpaper, maps, sheet music, posters or the comics section of the newspaper.
- Use Kraft paper or paper bags. Add a message or have children decorate for you.
- Use ribbons, twine or raffia – no tape please!
- Turn old Christmas cards into gift tags.



## Sustainable Gifts

- Local craft fairs and markets offer some amazing gift selections and provide support to local artisans.
- Decrease transportation and greenhouse emissions.
- Support businesses or craft people who use recycled materials.
- Choose gifts that don't require batteries.
- If done with care, re-gifting is a way to reuse a gift that you can't use by passing it on to someone who can.
- Make your own gifts using your woodworking, knitting, sewing, culinary skills, etc.



## Buy Less:

- For extended family, reduce your shopping list by drawing a name and buying one special gift.
- Give a membership to a museum or ticket to an on-line event; see the example below.
- Offer to perform a service such as baby or pet sitting, dog walking or lawn/garden work
- Give a subscription to a streaming channel, newsletter, magazine; see the example below.
- Make a charitable gift for a cause supported by your gift-recipient; an example is shown below.



To give memberships to the ROM, visit:

<https://www.rom.on.ca/en/join-us/membership>

To donate to the ROM, visit:

<https://rom.akaraisin.com/ui/supportROM/donations/start>

Give online subscriptions to the United Church magazine – **Broadview**, here:

<https://broadview.org/subscription/>



The Village of Love orphan care model offers an alternative to orphanages by providing community support to keep children in the families that already love them. Kijiji Cha Upendo (Village of Love) is a community-led organisation in the informal settlement of Kibera, Kenya, that enhances the efforts of orphan caregivers to provide material and emotional support for their children and keep them in school. Currently, in 2023, the project embraces 135 families, caring for over 600 children.



- Donate here: <http://www.villageoflovecanada.org/how-to-donate/>
- Shop for useful gifts here: <http://www.villageoflovecanada.org/crafts/>

## Holiday Lighting



bedtime or consider a timer.

- Reduce the number of lights used to decorate the outside of your home.
- Use LED lights which use less energy and last longer than traditional bulbs. **Do not** throw out working non-LED lights because they will go to landfill.
- Mini lights save energy.
- Avoid wasting energy, turn off outdoor and tree lights at

## Holiday Decorating

Make decorations from items you have around or outside your home, such as wool, scraps of material, tree boughs, acorns, pinecones, decorative strings of popcorn or cranberries, cookies. Hold a fun family activity or party with everyone making something to take home.



Photo by: [erwan-hesry-e9jV1ZyrOmg-unsplash](https://www.istockphoto.com/photo/erwan-hesry-e9jV1ZyrOmg-unsplash)

## Reduce, Reuse and Recycle

As you enjoy the Christmas season try to lessen your impact on the environment by pre-planning and keeping the 3 Rs in mind. Sorting is critical to avoid contamination of the items to be recycled.

- Wrapping paper, other than foil and tissue with glitter, can be recycled. When unsure if a product is made of real paper, do not recycle as it will contaminate the process. Reuse gift wrap where possible. Cut out the sections of the paper without creases or marks and save for small gifts next year. Save ribbons, bows, decorations and bubble wrap.
- Laptops, cell phones, cameras, televisions, and other electronics given as gifts may replace electronics that are still in working order. Avoid having these items go to landfill. Place at curb on your regular garbage day for recycling and safe disposal by the City of Toronto or take electronics to a drop off depot, community environmental day or donate.
- Once all decorations, plastic and tree stands have been removed, place live trees at the curb on designated days, in your area, for pick up by the City of Toronto. Trees are mulched and mulch is used for other purposes. In Toronto, no trees go to landfill.
- Discarded artificial trees- in City of Toronto- go to landfill.
- Reuse greeting cards for next year's handmade cards or children's craft projects or recycle, if you are sure the card is made of paper, with no additions such as glitter or ribbon.

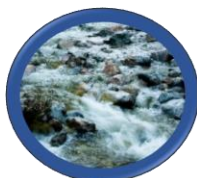


## Guide-Holiday Waste Reduction Tips from the City of Toronto

### Recycle Right

When you can't reduce or reuse, put your holiday waste in its proper place:

- **Garbage:** Foil/metallic gift wrap, ribbons and bows, bubble wrap, wooden fruit crates, broken dishes, glasses and black plastics
- **Green Bin: (organics):** Fruit and vegetable scraps, meat (including bones), spoiled cakes and cookies, soiled paper plates and napkins (be sure they are paper)
- **Blue Bin (recycling):** Paper gift wrap and cards (without glitter), plastic over-wrap, cookie tins, plastic disposable cups, disposable plates (if rinsed), aluminum trays, roasting pans







*Photo by: towfiqu-barbhuiya-joqWSI9u\_XM-unsplash*

# SAVE THE DATE!

**Sustainable Investing Webinar - Wednesday, January 17, 2024  
@ 7:00 pm**

**Have you wondered how to “green” your investment portfolio?**

**Why and how should we, as individuals or as churches,  
make investment decisions that reflect our  
environmental concerns?**

Join us for a thorough presentation and discussion with Sustainable Investment expert **Tim Nash** of [Good Investing](#) and **Erik Mathieson, CFO** of the **United Church of Canada**. Further details will be in your church bulletins closer to the date. Check out the [Good Investing](#) website to give you some food for thought.



*Come one, come all to the...*

# Holly Berry Fair

**Saturday, November 25**

**10 am - 3 pm**

159 Roxborough Drive (at Glen Road)

***Christmas Shopping & More!***

*Shop, Food and Social Activities for All!*

- Santa's Interactive Workshop
- Face Painting
- Knitting
- Baking
- Books
- Fran's Deli Lunch (home cooked ham!)
- Fair Thrift Shoppe
- Unique Vendors
- and much more!



## Rosedale United Church

**Centre For Human Flourishing**



Now you can also add us on Instagram **@hbf\_rosedale**



Holly Berry Fair - Rosedale |  @HBFinfo | [rosedaleunited.org/outreach/holly-berry-fair](https://rosedaleunited.org/outreach/holly-berry-fair)