



BACKGROUND

Evergreen is a not-for-profit organization that makes cities more livable. By deepening the connection between people and nature, and empowering Canadians to take a hands-on approach to their urban environments, Evergreen is improving the health of our cities – now and for the future.

- Evergreen is a registered national charity co-founded by Executive Director Geoff Cape in 1991.
- Evergreen motivates people to create and sustain healthy, natural outdoor spaces and gives them the practical tools to be successful through three core programs:
 1. **Toyota Evergreen Learning Grounds** brings teachers, students and community members together to transform traditionally barren asphalt and concrete school grounds into healthy, safe and creative outdoor learning environments.
 2. **Common Grounds** works with community organizations, local volunteers, urban and parks planners and developers to create, restore, design, maintain and steward public green spaces.
 3. **Home Grounds** educates people about how to garden naturally in their own yards.
- These programs have inspired thousands of Canadians to naturalize school grounds, restore parks, ravines and waterfronts, and create natural home landscapes. Studies show that this process of engagement transforms urban landscapes, builds strong communities and improves individual health.
- Evergreen has distributed over \$3.45 million in grants, provided expert assistance and engaged more than 163,000 volunteers, while helping to transform over 2,200 school grounds and public spaces across Canada.
- **Evergreen Brick Works**, Evergreen's newest venture, will be Canada's first large-scale environmental discovery centre. It will be a dynamic, magical place that models sustainability on all fronts – from the adaptive reuse of the heritage buildings to creating an economically self-sustaining operation. At heart it is a centre for learning – through play, crafts, demonstrations, programming and innovative partnerships. The site will be animated with year-round programs and activities that include a native plant nursery, demonstration gardens, an organic food market, conference and event facilities, youth leadership and children's camps, and family programming.

For more information, please contact:

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