Greening our Communities Together

Evergreen Annual Report 2009
Thanks to the extraordinary support of our committed staff, passionate volunteers, engaged community members and concerned citizens, as well as our corporate sponsors, and government donors and partners across the country, Evergreen had an amazing 2009 of continuing growth of our national programs and bright and exciting opportunities for the future.

School groups and community members came out in record numbers for our programs and projects. Corporate leaders, entrepreneurs, politicians and dignitaries joined us to share ideas on how to advance leadership and sustainability across Canada. Further, Evergreen’s foundational programs, Learning Grounds and Common Grounds, continued to motivate community action. Volunteers have contributed immeasurably to improving Canada’s urban environments. In Toronto, thousands flocked to the return of our Farmers’ Market at Evergreen Brick Works.

With the help of committed partners, generous donors and visionary volunteers, in 2009 Evergreen staff overhauled our entire website and enhanced our digital communications, revamped our financial system, upgraded our IT capabilities and began work on the next strategic plan, re-conceiving the organization’s structure to keep up with almost exponential growth.

The year 2009 will be remembered not only for what we completed but also for what we started, when our collective dream of creating our new home began to come true. Home to an abandoned industrial brownfield and collection of old buildings in varying stages of disrepair, the site has a fascinating and deep natural, geological and industrial heritage. In 2010, when our goal of opening on time and on budget will be realized, the result will be a genuinely unique complex of landscapes and buildings, of ideas and action, of the past and future, while attaining the highest global standards for green design.

As our work expanded we confronted several new and important sustainability issues. We realized that along with the greening of urban landscapes, we have an emerging and important role in advancing urban agriculture, water solutions, pedestrian and bike trails and green building design. Our commitment to environmental issues grew broader and deeper in 2009 thanks to the innumerable corporate and private citizens who stepped up like never before. A high-water mark was reached in November: The Evergreen Brick Works Sustainability Forum brought together HRH Prince Charles, Federal Finance Minister Jim Flaherty and 100 senior executives from corporate partners such as Walmart, Rogers, Holcim, Toyota and Home Depot, to discuss and further the global transition to a truly sustainable economic model.

In 2009, more than ever, it became clear that only through a united effort will our urban landscape become, and stay, a green, healthy environment. It is also clear now that there is the critical and growing mass of engaged citizens with a deep commitment to caring for the planet, participating in city-building and reinvigorating and redefining communities everywhere. We look forward to working with them to make it a reality.

message from the executive director and board chair
WHO WE ARE

Evergreen is a national charity that makes cities more livable. Since 1991 we have been engaging Canadians in creating and sustaining dynamic outdoor spaces—in schools, communities and homes. By empowering citizens to take a hands-on approach to their urban environments, Evergreen is improving the health of our cities—now and for the future.
Evergreen Brick Works

A year of construction saw Evergreen Brick Works move closer to becoming Canada’s first large-scale community environmental centre. The outdoor space was well used and people came out in force for programs at the children’s gardens, native plant sale, workshops and festivals. They also shopped at the Saturday Farmers’ Market (the second largest in Toronto next to the St. Lawrence market) and participated in numerous family events. In total, 40,000 visitors came to the site throughout the year.

Opening in the fall of 2010, Evergreen Brick Works will be a vital environmental learning hub featuring conference and event facilities and innovative, year-round programs.

“Evergreen is bringing together environmental education, environmental best practices and young people. It brings together Torontonians with our natural heritage in the Don River ravine and our industrial heritage.”

— Toronto Mayor David Miller
Programs

**Toyota Evergreen Learning Grounds**
Expert design assistance, funding, how-to guides, professional development and training, school board partnerships, research.

Bringing teachers, students and community members together to transform barren asphalt and concrete school grounds into healthy, safe and creative outdoor learning environments.

**Common Grounds**
Parkland stewardship, funding, youth engagement, food gardens, green-space planning, urban architecture, workshops, planting events.

Our ecology experts work with community organizations, local volunteers, urban and park planners, corporations and governments to create, restore, design, maintain and steward public green spaces.
Adding up our achievements in 2009 gives us a sense of real accomplishment. We distributed $939,410 in grants to 249 groups for community greening projects. It’s not really the numbers that make us happy though, but the fact our contribution to so many projects across the country has helped increase the quality of life for Canadians. Seeing beautiful green spaces, and the optimism and hope they engender is what truly gives us a feeling of accomplishment.

Evergreen grants do not come easily. Applicants undergo critical learning about community consultation, landscape design, budgeting, fundraising, plant selection, co-ordinating volunteers, ongoing maintenance and donor recognition. Recipients must have a strong team that can identify a greening opportunity and be able to rally the time and energy to see it to fruition.

After the plants have rooted and the buds blossomed, the story of transformation continues. The greening of one small community space can lead to so much more.
Learning Grounds

140 GRANTS AWARDED
$221,410 VALUE OF GRANTS

DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTS BY PROVINCE
BC 17
AB 12
MB 6
ON 72
QC 18
NS 12
NB 1
PEI 1
Nfld 1

86,556 STUDENTS DIRECTLY INVOLVED
3,227 WORKSHOP ATTENDEES
510 SCHOOLS SUPPORTED
84 SCHOOL WORKSHOPS DELIVERED
15 LEARNING GROUNDS CONSULTANTS
12 SCHOOL BOARD PARTNERSHIPS

Common Grounds

26,888 TREES AND SHRUBS PLANTED IN STEWARDSHIP PROGRAMS
3,344 WILDFLOWERS AND GRASSES PLANTED
(plus thousands of seeds)
27,117 VOLUNTEER HOURS
228,982 SQUARE METRES TRANSFORMED
(land restored, redesigned and invasive plants removed)
109 GRANTS AWARDED
$718,000 VALUE OF GRANTS
71 WORKSHOPS/PRESENTATIONS DELIVERED
209 SITES TRANSFORMED
34 MUNICIPAL, AGENCY AND INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERSHIPS
3560 SQUARE FEET OF GARDEN BEDS CULTIVATED

Evergreen Brick Works

40,000 VISITORS
450 VOLUNTEERS
45 COMMUNITY EVENTS
30 TALKS/TOURS/PRESENTATIONS
40 FARMERS’ MARKET VENDORS
25 MARKET DAYS
3 CORPORATE TEAM-BUILDING EVENTS
1 NATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY FORUM
How we are Greening our Communities Together

By Collaborating

Evergreen draws people together for a common purpose: honouring and returning nature to our communities. We achieve results through thousands and thousands of human connections. Evergreen links to what is important to residents, from greening a school ground, to eliminating a park’s invasive plants, to engaging people through their employers, to teaching youth at-risk how to plant a garden that will beautify their neighbourhood. Our goal is to get people working together to make their communities better places to live. When a project is taken on collectively, the impact goes beyond a clean streambed or green play area. People connect in a meaningful way that can sustain and expand the transformation far into the future.

JANUARY

13 Rocks Talk
The strategy for geology interpretation on-site was presented to the board committee during a meeting at Evergreen Brick Works.

15 Desire for Green
Toyota Evergreen Learning Grounds grant program was flooded with applications well before the January deadline. 140 grants in the amount of $221,410 were awarded out of a total 230 applicants.
Mahon Park Work Party
The fourth Saturday of every month, the Mahon Park Stewards and the City of North Vancouver host an event that focuses on invasive plant species control such as removing English ivy and replanting with appropriate native species to enhance habitat and biodiversity.

Native Species Workshop
Participants in Waterloo, Ontario learned how to create a lasting greening project. They learned the benefits of using native species, designing a sustainable project, choosing a supplier, and how to accomplish ongoing maintenance tasks.
World Class Recognition

The World Economic Forum announced the launch of its Global Redesign Initiative, a multi-stakeholder dialogue to develop recommendations for improving the state of the world. Evergreen Brick Works was named one of 100 global projects with a role in counseling the initiative’s World Agenda Council on Sustainable Cities steering committee.
COLLABORATING
St. John’s Safer Soil Project
Profile of Lori Heath

A proud Newfoundland and resident of St. John’s, Lori Heath is a community organizer with a passion for dirt.

“Living earth is the source of all life. It is the most valuable resource we have. In and around urban centres however, agricultural land is being destroyed by urban sprawl, while city soil is polluted with toxins,” she says.

In 2003, Lori took advantage of free soil testing being done by Memorial University’s Department of Geography, which was studying lead in St. John’s soil. She discovered that her backyard, like many others, was laced with lead.

“I was really concerned about my neighbours, who have children. Children are more at risk of lead exposure because of hand-to-mouth play, and because their bodies are more susceptible to its effects,” she explains.

The Centre for Long-term Environmental Action in Newfoundland and Labrador (CLEAnf/Ld) launched the St. John’s Safer Soil project in 2008 with Lori as project coordinator. A demonstration garden was created behind The Gathering Place, a hospitality center for low-income communities operated by the Sisters of Mercy and Presentation Sisters of Newfoundland.

The garden has been supplying the centre’s free meal program with fresh vegetables.

In 2009, St. John’s Safer Soil project received $8,000, plus a $2,000 The Home Depot gift card through The Rebuilding Nature Grant, supported by The Home Depot Canada Foundation and led by Evergreen. Throughout the year, lead-safe gardening and landscaping practices were promoted through garden tours and other public events. Lori’s team also did demonstrations of phytoremediation, where plants are used to clean the soil. “I first heard about phytoremediation from people who were helping to revitalize the soil in New Orleans, which had been contaminated by oil spills after Hurricane Katrina. Phytoremediation is a natural process that anyone can do. It was one of the most hopeful and inspiring things I had ever heard,” explains Lori.

The project expanded its scope with a pilot Lead Safe Yard Program which tested soil where people live, work and play. A garden trial using bio-char, an organic process that increases soil fertility and a winter greenhouse which uses soap bubbles as insulation, were also explored as innovative ways to enhance soil health and increase local food production.

A wheelbarrow full of partners and supporters have contributed to St. John’s Safer Soil Project. “All this collaboration brings a lot of energy to our work. It’s all about community building, capacity building, and linking environmental issues to local food systems,” says Lori. “It is a perfect fit with the mission of Evergreen.”

05 School Ground Greening Workshops
A series of workshops in Ottawa, Ontario inspired and informed the community about creating and sustaining healthy, stimulating play and learning spaces. Workshops included planning, design and long-term maintenance tips.

17 Middle School Leadership Conference
Middle school students and their teachers met for a two-day conference in Toronto, as a part of the Toronto District Board’s EcoSchools program. The conference broadened staff and students’ environmental awareness and cultivated a shared sense of responsibility for reducing the environmental impact of their schools.

24 Weed Whackers
Braced for the cold, 15 gardeners and stewards gathered at the Rouge Woods Community Centre in Richmond Hill for a Weeds 101 workshop. They were there to learn how to identify and control aggressive invasive plant species that threaten to destroy entire natural ecosystems. It was one of five workshop topics offered by Evergreen and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources in 2009.
How we are Greening our Communities Together

By Digging in the Urban Dirt

The concrete, metal and asphalt layers of a city can be overwhelming to its flesh-and-blood residents. Evergreen's prescription for relief is to plant trees and shrubs, put in gardens and provide habitat for wildlife. When native species are introduced to neglected community housing yards or school grounds, they improve air quality, offer cooling shade and create natural beauty that revitalizes people's spirits. Growing food helps green our cities, as well. As people dig in the soil and learn to grow fruits and vegetables, they reconnect to the land, the ultimate source of their own energy and wellbeing.

Water, Water Everywhere!

Because of its location in the Don Valley floodplain, the Evergreen Brick Works had to be “dewatered” by inserting massive tubes into the ground that act like giant straws, extracting water from the ground.

A Kids to Nature Network

The Get Outside! Forum gathered more than 200 people at Royal Roads University in Victoria to strengthen and broaden the network of organizations working to connect children and nature. Evergreen presented on both the design and use of Canadian school grounds and the progress made to encourage institutional support of school ground greening from school boards and districts. The Child and Nature Alliance, a network for organizations and individuals who work to connect children to nature, was launched as a result.
Taking Care of Trees
In Ottawa, a Planting and Maintaining Trees workshop focused on essential maintenance and follow-up tree care.

Walmart Gives!
Walmart Canada and Evergreen partner to fund community groups working on urban naturalization, restoration and stewardship, and community food garden projects through the Walmart-Evergreen Green Grants program. Thanks to this collaboration, we were able to fund 56 community greening projects across the country.
08

Going Platinum

Construction began on the Centre for Green Cities at Evergreen Brick Works, one of only a handful of LEED platinum buildings in Canada and the future home of Evergreen’s national office.

09

A Winning Stream of Dreams

Students from Westwood Elementary School in Prince George, BC, won $2,000 at the 2009 British Columbia Green Games for their garden featuring a prairie zone, an Aboriginal section and a stream of dreams with hand-crafted fish. They bought a new outdoor chess table with the prize money. With teacher Diane Sales at the heart of the project, the garden has evolved over the past five years with support from Toyota Evergreen Learning Grounds and the expertise of Learning Grounds consultant Dolores Altin.
Greening our Communities Together

DIGGING IN THE URBAN DIRT

Giving Back with Take BAC 13
Profile of Nigel Sandy

As an intern with Take BAC 13, Nigel Sandy spent the summer of 2009 enhancing the green spaces of priority neighbourhoods in Toronto and mentoring youth at risk. "I got to help youth gain an experience I didn’t have when I was their age. The program encouraged them to stay out of trouble and give beauty to their surroundings,” notes the third-year George Brown College business student who is a resident of Scarborough Village.

A collaboration between Evergreen, the City of Toronto and Toronto Community Housing, Take BAC is a four-year-old program with a goal to instill a sense of empowerment in participants. BAC stands for Beautiful and Clean, and 13 represents the City’s designated priority neighbourhoods.

Nigel was proud of his contribution to the six-week summer project, and pleased by the participants’ passion and motivation. “I taught them about budgets and time management, and assisted with the plantings. I helped to show these kids something new and positive. Now they know there are different opportunities out there.”

Take BAC 13 engaged 120 youth participants who transformed 18 barren plots on Toronto Community Housing sites in 2009. Their projects included planting wildflower gardens, painting murals to cover graffiti and installing green sitting areas.

Nigel’s favourite plot was located in Malvern. That’s where he facilitated a group that started out as strangers, but quickly grew into a team of friends. “They learned the names of different flowers and the best time to plant them, as well as how to overcome obstacles together,” says Nigel, adding, “they were all really interested in learning new skills and wanted to get the most out of the experience.”

A $500 prize for best plot revitalization was a powerful incentive that Nigel says helped teach them to be their best. Two winning teams were selected by their peers and honoured at the final celebration and awards ceremony, plus all participants received an honorarium for completion of the project.

“"In the beginning some teams had a rough start and it didn’t seem as if they would ever finish. I learned that with persistence and the will to make something special, anything is possible."”

Planting Gone Wild

A 9th Annual Earth Day event at Jericho Beach Park in Vancouver was a record-breaking success. Thanks to the help of 1,900 volunteers, it took just 90 minutes to plant 3,080 trees, shrubs, wildflowers and grasses. At one point more than 325 people were planting at once. Participants took home 1,800 seedlings to make their homes greener too.

Delicious Slow Food

Visitors to the Green Living Show were delighted by "Farm Fresh Fare”, hosted by Evergreen and Slow Food Toronto. Presented by Toyota, the initiative paired local farmers and producers with Toronto chefs to create delicious lunch dishes. The proceeds went to create food garden programs at schools across the Greater Toronto Area.
How we are Greening our Communities Together

By Attracting Generous Support

Evergreen has grown into a healthy and steadily expanding organization through the contributions of corporate sponsors, donors, site partners, individuals and companies that provide financial and in-kind support.

Toyota Canada’s title sponsorship of the Learning Grounds program marked its ninth year in 2009. In 2008-09 alone, the program awarded over $220,000 to 140 schools across Canada. Where possible, schools obtaining grants were matched with local Toyota Dealerships for participation in various school ground planting events.

Fido is another lead sponsor of Evergreen programs. Through a promotional campaign that generated donations for Evergreen, Fido helped fund national urban greening initiatives from coast to coast.

Individual donations were also crucial to our campaigns, in particular the Campaign for Evergreen Brick Works. The faith and vision of all our supporters has allowed Evergreen’s roots to go deep and made us an organization that can fulfill its goals now and in the future.

MAY

01 Artifacts Galore!

Building 10 at Evergreen Brick Works was cleared out, revealing interesting artifacts such as pulleys, wheels, spindles and other mechanical parts used in the brick-making process. These artifacts provide evidence that even in its early years, the Don Valley Brick Works used a highly mechanized process. Artifacts were tagged, documented, recorded and stored for future interpretation.

07 Leave No Child Indoors

To combat urban children’s growing disconnect with nature, Evergreen partnered with the Elementary Teachers’ Federation of Ontario’s Environment Committee, TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, Waterloo Stewardship Network, Waterloo Catholic District School Board and Waterloo Region District School Board to present the Leave No Child Indoors Teacher Conference. The event helped teachers gain motivation, ideas and support for teaching outside.
A Sunny Start
Sun-ripened Saturdays began the season at Evergreen Brick Works with eco-crafts, children’s garden and Green City Workshops. A highlight was the Farmers’ Market Cooks’ Tour workshop that focused on home preserves with seasonal delights.

Evergreen Brick Works Doors Open
Evergreen Brick Works took part in Doors Open Toronto, an annual event that offers the public behind-the-scenes tours. Visitors saw quarry parkland dotted with nature’s prize architecture including birds’ nests, spider webs, bee hives and beaver dams. At the brick-making kilns youngsters baked bricks, set up a teepee, and built a human-size bird’s nest and spider web.
Eva’s New Veggie Garden

The youth at Eva’s Place broke ground on a new greening project in downtown Toronto with the help of a Walmart–Evergreen Green Grant. Unused lawn space became a bountiful food garden and homeless and at-risk youth learned how to grow and harvest their own veggies. The garden provides produce for weekly cooking sessions.
ATTRACTION GENEROUS SUPPORT

Evergreen Brick Works
A Vision Come to Life

Transformation—that is what took place at the Don Valley Brick Works heritage site in Toronto in 2009. A collection of deteriorating heritage buildings were wrapped up in hoarding and protective fencing where they began to transform into an international showcase for urban sustainability and green design. Throughout the year, shoppers and vendors at our Saturday morning Farmers’ Market and attendees of our many outdoor special events at the site were able to watch the metamorphosis.

As Evergreen Brick Works came to life, we brought together all levels of government and built a business plan that engaged other civic organization. The $55-million project opens in 2010 and we are very grateful to the many people who contributed, including our donors, community advisors, program partners, program sponsors, campaign cabinet, site partners, the design and build team, volunteers, staff, friends and colleagues.

Our new home will be a stage and incubator for Evergreen’s programs. Ultimately, it will be a community environmental centre that inspires and equips visitors to live, work and play more sustainably.

First Nations Nature Teaching
Grade 5 students at Toronto’s C.E. Webster school were introduced to Canadian Aboriginal culture through dance, drumming and singing. First Nations artist Shannon Thunderbird taught them about responsibility, honesty and caring as well as animals and plant species. With her guidance they constructed a stone Medicine Wheel in the playground. The four-day project was funded by ArtsSmarts, a national non-profit organization to promote arts education, in conjunction with Evergreen, and Prologue to the Performing Arts.

Corporate Grounds Greened
Evergreen and Credit Valley Conservation launched the Greening Corporate Grounds program to encourage corporations and institutional landowners in Mississauga to rethink how they green their landscapes. The program launch event was held at IMAX Canada head office, one of the growing number of program participants. Funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation, Evergreen and the Credit Valley Conservation planted 1,476 trees and shrubs on program participants’ grounds.

Vancouver City Hall Community Garden
Evergreen and Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson joined eager gardeners to claim and prepare 30 plots at the official opening of the Vancouver City Hall Community Garden. A joint effort between the City of Vancouver and Evergreen, the garden launch was part of a wider municipal strategy to develop 2,010 community garden plots by 2010.
Bean Pot Power

In North Vancouver at Waterfront Park, Evergreen’s Mahon Park Stewardship Project hosted a native plant sale and bean pot activity. Tucked in amongst the free cake and salmon burgers, the Evergreen booth attracted children who made 350 bean pots. Curious adults made 100 more.

Healthy Hives

A group of eager participants joined Evergreen and the Toronto Beekeeping Co-operative for an “intro to the buzz” workshop at Evergreen Brick Works. Together, they learned how to improve bee health through bee colony husbandry, discovered how bees affect what we eat, and got up to speed on issues affecting colony collapse disorder.
Greening our Communities Together

ATTRACTION GENEROUS SUPPORT

Kitchen with a Mission

Profile of Sandra Simpson

Sandra Simpson is a Toronto-based business woman who loves to whip up delicious dishes made from fresh fruits, vegetables, meats and cheeses she picks up at the city’s green markets. “I go to them all, but my favorite is the Saturday Farmers’ Market at Evergreen Brick Works because it’s the biggest and the closest to where I live,” she explains.

Impressed with Evergreen Brick Works’ commitment to sustainable food production, Sandra donated $100,000 towards the Campaign in 2009. “Because of her passion for local/ sustainable food, we will be naming the ‘Sandra Simpson Urban Kitchen’ in her honour. It is where we will deliver workshops on cooking,” explains Geoff Cape, Evergreen’s executive director.

A real estate investor and noted philanthropist in the city, Sandra has supported many cultural projects including the development of The Music Garden on the waterfront. She has been on numerous boards including those of the Art Gallery of Ontario, the Toronto Film Festival and Soulpepper Theatre Company. Currently she is on the Canadian Opera Company’s board.

Although Sandra has always been drawn to the kitchen, she admits that the birth of her daughter 18 years ago made her pay more attention to food and health. “I realized what I fed her was important. We are what we eat and we have to be aware of what we put in our bodies to help combat diseases.”

Noted sustainable food pioneer Alice Waters inspired Sandra to support Evergreen Brick Works. “She started the Edible School Yard project in California which I really admire. A concrete space was converted into an organic garden. The kids tend the garden, pick the produce, and then cook it up for lunch.”

Teaching children to cook is essential for their wellbeing, Sandra believes. “If they know about nutrition and ingredients it will help correct bad eating habits that lead to problems like obesity and diabetes. Knowledge about food can also help girls with self esteem, body image and managing their diet in a positive way.”

Flavourful, Mediterranean recipes are at the core of Sandra’s extensive cooking repertoire. “I love to make pasta and risotto or grill up something easy like fresh fish. I follow the Alice Waters model, simple, pure food that is made with the best ingredients,” she says.

Sandra is eager to see the new kitchen in action.

“I want to take some classes there. I am so supportive of everything Evergreen is doing. We are very lucky to have them.”

Launch of the Evergreen Blog

The Evergreen blog was launched! Evergreen staff members contribute to the blog in order to update the public about events and how they can get involved with Evergreen.


Construction at Evergreen Brick Works continued with the addition of the crane. It towered six stories high and was visible from the Don Valley Expressway and Bloor Viaduct. From a construction perspective, we arrived!
Take BAC13 Awards
Final judging of the Take BAC13 beautification projects declared a tie. A partnership between Evergreen, the City of Toronto and the Toronto Community Housing Corporation, Take BAC13 engaged teams of youth who cleaned, greened and beautified neglected spaces in their high priority neighbourhoods.

Outdoor Teaching
Evergreen’s Outdoor Classroom Summer Institutes, presented by BMO Financial Group, brought unique training opportunities to teachers in Toronto, Halifax and Winnipeg. Participants learned how to teach science, art and writing with a wealth of natural materials and inspiration right outside the school door. “This was the most stimulating and rewarding workshop I’ve ever taken as an educator,” said one Toronto participant. “I loved the hands-on activities that woke my lungs and heart!”
Greening our Communities Together

ATTRACTING GENEROUS SUPPORT

A Strong Corporate Sponsor

Walmart Canada

Walmart Canada has been supporting the Walmart-Evergreen Green Grants program since 2005—the largest nationwide community greening plan of its kind. In 2005, Walmart committed $2.5 million to Evergreen, which to date has helped more than 260 community-based organizations bring nature to their surroundings and has engaged 20,000 volunteers!

To date, Green Grants have supported initiatives in all provinces and one territory.

The values of volunteerism, community involvement, collaboration and innovation are at the heart of the Walmart-Evergreen Green Grants program. Every funded project creates opportunities for volunteers, families, and partner community groups to come together on a greening project, whether it’s planting trees to transform a neglected community space, creating a community vegetable garden, or working to restore a fragile marshland. By connecting funded groups with local Walmart stores and associate volunteers whenever possible, the program nurtures the development of new partnerships, raises the profile of local greening efforts and emphasizes Walmart Canada’s commitment to giving back to the community.

Evergreen’s partnership with Walmart allows financial support to flow to deserving groups—large and small. Working together to plan and design projects, grant recipients build a stronger sense of community and share pride in their achievements. By supporting Walmart-Evergreen Green Grants, Walmart is tangibly demonstrating to its customers, partners and suppliers (as well as Evergreen constituents), an authentic dedication to the environment. Most importantly, the partnership facilitates the creation of healthy, natural and safe spaces that can be enjoyed by many generations.

“As a result of this support, not only did we surpass our goals and objectives, the ESS was able to raise awareness both within the college and within the community of the goals of Evergreen, Walmart Canada, Centennial College and the Environmental Student Society.”

— Centennial College Environmental Student Society

Fort York Summer Potluck in the Garden

Community gardeners who grow food in the garden at Fort York came together to celebrate and enjoy dishes made from the harvest of their plots. A huge rainstorm forced the group to take shelter in one of the historical Fort York bunkers, but they managed to finish off the evening outside as the storm cleared and a rainbow appeared.

Emmett Avenue Potluck

In its third year, the Emmett Ave Summer potluck drew a bigger crowd than ever. Gardeners enthusiastically shared home cooked dishes from around the world and seasonally grown food from their very own garden. This inspiring garden is the only community space for food growing in Eglinton Flats park.
How we are Greening our Communities Together

By Inspiring Volunteers to Get Involved

Volunteers and supporters of events are Evergreen’s lifeblood. Their efforts and activities have nurtured nature in countless spaces that were once damaged and inhospitable. We encourage people to share their skills, learn new ones and join in our many workshops and projects. From planting and stewardship in city parks, to helping out with administration, photography, research and event support, our volunteers are engaged and make our goals a reality.

Here are some examples of what Evergreen volunteers achieved in 2009:

• The Native Plant Database grew by 38 new species, 2,700 updates and more than 480 new images.
• Research was conducted on at least four different projects, such as heritage and demographics research for Evergreen Brick Works and research on the benefits of green spaces.
• An astounding 3,200 images were taken by volunteer photographers across the GTA.
• Nine key invasive species were tackled at stewardship sites, including garlic mustard, Canada thistle and dog-strangling vine.
• 26,888 trees planted that will sequester 6.7-million tonnes of carbon during their lifetime.

SEPTEMBER

Growing Regina
Grow Regina announced it was a proud recipient of a $10,000 Walmart-Evergreen Green Grant. The money was used to develop Regina’s Parliament Park with native plantings and to support a community food and native plant gardening project.

Buzzing with Burt’s Bees
Approximately 1 million bees made a rooftop at Evergreen Brick Works their home in 2009, thanks to the support of the Toronto Beekeepers Cooperative and Burt’s Bees. These bees play a very important role, not only as the supplier of delicious honey, but as pollinators in the Don Valley.
Making School Kids Happy
At the grand opening of J.M. King School’s revamped school grounds, running, squealing children put their stamp of approval on the project. Evergreen’s Wendy Simonson played a key role in creating the Winnipeg school grounds that includes two hills, paths, trees and a new play structure. Native plantings made up prairie, interlake and boreal forest zones, and wall sculptures of bison, coyote, black bear and deer completed the Manitoba environment.

Fall Harvest Festival
A Fall Harvest Festival at Phyllis Rawlison Park in Richmond Hill, Ontario, celebrated the season with tree and shrub plantings, local food and gardening demonstrations. Also, Evergreen Common Grounds launched its first community tree nursery in the park with more than 1,500 seedlings planted.
The Picnic at the Brick Works
A fundraiser for Evergreen and Slow Food Toronto, the site was host to the third annual showcase of food from some of Toronto’s best chefs paired with local farmers with over 60 food stations and 1,100 guests. This year’s theme was Cultural and Ecological Diversity, but all the ingredients were local—an inspiring (and satiating) event.

Organic Apple Orchard Trip!
Community members and gardeners joined Evergreen for a fall field trip to an organic apple orchard. At Avalon Orchards, participants learned about sustainable agriculture and picked bushels of apples to press into cider and bring back to the city.
INSPIRING VOLUNTEERS TO GET INVOLVED

Stewardship Spirit at Vancouver’s Mahon Park

Profile of Roxanne Spratt and Jim Beswick

Jim Beswick really appreciates access to nature in the city. “I’m an apartment dweller with no yard and no view,” he says. That’s why he is so thankful for Mahon Park, where he is a star steward. “As soon as I’m out my door, the park is there! The waterfront is my front yard and the hills, ravines and urban forests are my back yard.” His sister Roxanne Spratt is equally dedicated to the park and enamoured with the environment around her. “It’s an amazing and unique opportunity to live in this urban forest setting,” she says. “It’s important not to take it for granted.”

Beswick and Spratt have channeled their enthusiasm into volunteering with the Mahon Park Stewardship Project for almost seven years. The pair have taken as much out of the experience as they have put in. “By volunteering we’ve learned a lot more about the space we think of as our own,” says Beswick. Witnessing the immediate positive impact they have on their neighbourhood has been inspiring. “It’s still amazing to see how daunting the ‘project du jour’ appears when we show up in the morning, and how much is accomplished in the three hours we spend together,” says Spratt. “By noon we’ve achieved our goal and are totally energized for the rest of the day ahead.”

The Mahon Park Rehabilitation Project was initiated in 2001 to address the deterioration of natural areas in Vancouver’s urban centre. The 26 hectares of remnant forest suffered from streambank erosion, invasive plants and effects of intensive recreational use.

To date, trails have been improved and relocated, a new staircase has been installed, invasive plants have been replaced with native species and the creek bank has been stabilized and rehabilitated with riparian plantings.

Created in partnership with the City of North Vancouver, Evergreen and the Environment Canada Action Fund, the Mahon Park Stewards is an award-winning volunteer group essential to the protection and sustainability of the park’s natural areas. The stewards’ hard work includes pulling invasive plants, replacing them with native species, and designing and installing a demonstration garden with interpretive signs.

Beswick and Spratt exemplify how stewardship can be a satisfying and rewarding way to experience a city’s natural areas while contributing in a meaningful way to the ecological health of a place they love.

Fido Team Stewardship

A sunny, crisp day greeted 48 employees from Fido’s Montreal team who gathered in Mount Royal Park for a Stewardship and Restoration event. Together they planted 240 native trees and shrubs. Thanks to the generous support of Fido, Evergreen’s Stewardship and Restoration program resulted in 29,900 trees being planted in British Columbia and Ontario. Generating 247 events, the program attracted more than 11,000 volunteers who greened 49 communities.

First Nations Harvest Social

A First Nations Harvest Social was held at Evergreen Brick Works with songs, traditional drumming and dances, and a harvest blessing.
Financials

Our growing base of supporters has remained committed to Evergreen’s mission. In 2009, overall revenue increased approximately $380,000 or 6.6%. The revenue increase included a new corporate relationship with FIDO. It also reflects, in part, an expansion of Common Grounds into new areas (both geographically and programmatically), such as community food gardens in Vancouver and the Lower Mainland, and Take BAC 13 initiatives in Toronto’s 13 priority low-income neighbourhoods.

Evergreen’s expense management continues to be conservative. In 2009, expenses increased approximately $290,000 or 5.1%. The increase in costs relates primarily to an increase in staff to support program expansion. Consistent with prior years, Evergreen contributed to its modest operating reserve.

### EVERGREEN Statement of Operations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REVENUE</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corporate</td>
<td>$ 3,295,080</td>
<td>3,021,839</td>
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<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>1,028,359</td>
<td>959,243</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foundations</td>
<td>618,208</td>
<td>642,159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations-in-kind</td>
<td>83,150</td>
<td>35,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service Fees</td>
<td>384,127</td>
<td>537,230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual donations and other</td>
<td>739,593</td>
<td>571,998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$6,148,517</strong></td>
<td><strong>$5,768,219</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries and fees</td>
<td>2,967,264</td>
<td>2,357,434</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program</td>
<td>1,998,237</td>
<td>2,093,554</td>
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<tr>
<td>Events</td>
<td>353,156</td>
<td>466,746</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel and transportation</td>
<td>111,133</td>
<td>92,122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General, Admin and Office Supplies</td>
<td>310,673</td>
<td>473,355</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupancy</td>
<td>168,585</td>
<td>138,019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional and Consulting Fees</td>
<td>39,656</td>
<td>41,340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amortization</td>
<td>45,643</td>
<td>41,143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$5,994,347</strong></td>
<td><strong>$5,703,713</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excess of revenue over expenses</td>
<td><strong>$154,170</strong></td>
<td><strong>$64,506</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

06 Prince Charles Visits Evergreen Brick Works

His Royal Highness Prince Charles, an environmentalist and avid organic farmer, visited Evergreen Brick Works and was given a tour by Executive Director Geoff Cape. Delectable home-grown produce was served at a Harvest Market reception attended by Saturday Farmers’ Market vendors and chef Jamie Kennedy. One vendor’s mother, who had met the Prince’s father during the Second World War, said this was the highlight of her life.

In honour of the Royal visit, Evergreen, together with federal Finance Minister Jim Flaherty, convened the first annual Leadership Forum on Sustainability and Innovation to discuss a transition to a more-sustainable economy.

14 Capilano River Regional Park Planting

The summer previous, the team removed invasive species in Capilano River Regional Park in North Vancouver. The November Enhancement project called out to local residents to come and help replace them with 700 native plants!
Excavation Surprise!

Workers at the Evergreen Brick Works site unearthed six-foot-long wood poles under the new Welcome Centre. Wood would have been a common material used for piles, which anchored the building in place. The new footings are made out of steel and are designed to last longer and bear more weight.

Volunteer Appreciation Party

In a restaurant on Danforth Avenue, 70 volunteers came out to enjoy food and drinks. They learned about the use of art in the design of Evergreen Brick Works, and took a video “hard hat tour” of the construction site. A gesture of thanks to those who make our mission possible!

On behalf of the Board:

Geoffrey J. Cape  
Executive Director

George Dark  
Chair, Board of Directors
Stephanie Levy, Project Manager for the Mahon Park Stewardship Project in British Columbia, attended the 15th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP15) in Copenhagen, Denmark. She was chosen by the Global Observatory out of a pool of international applicants to attend and provide her own global insight on the climate change negotiations.

Street-involved youth from a local Toronto agency, Sketch, helped create “Furtle the Turtle”—a bread oven built with mud and straw and housed within its own unique shelter at Evergreen Brick Works. Youth artists from Sketch also designed and installed a shingled roof with green roof panels, a rain water collection system, mosaic work surfaces as well as storage for wood and utensils.
Supporters

Evergreen thanks the following groups and individuals who helped make our cities more livable in 2009.

EVERGREEN’S NATIONAL PROGRAMS

SPONSORS

NATIONAL TITLE PARTNER
Toyota Canada Inc. and its Dealerships

$500,000–$750,000
Fido
Walmart Canada
Zoom Media Inc. (National Media Partner)

$250,000–499,999
HGTV (National Media Partner)

$100,000–$249,999
Back to Nature
BMO Financial Group
Canadian Gardening Magazine / Transcontinental Inc. (National Media Partner)
Unilever Canada

$50,000–$99,999
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Burt’s Bees Canada
Hellmann’s
HSBC Bank Canada
Nabob

$25,000–$49,999
BMO Capital Markets
Bridgestone Firestone Canada Inc.
Capital One
CIBC
Georgia Straight (Media Partner)
PowerStream Inc.
Starbucks Coffee Canada
TD Bank Financial Group
The Minto Group Inc.
Zig

$10,000–$24,999
Blundstone Footwear
Downtown Toyota
L’Oréal Canada
Omni Television / CityTV
Primus Canada
Research In Motion Limited
Life Is Good Wine

Under $10,000
AutoShare
Eatertainment

Party Time!

Evergreen held its annual holiday party on the first floor of its Toronto office and it was a great success! Staff and family members attended, with over 70 people celebrating together and sharing a potluck meal. The inaugural “Be The Root” picture was a big hit!

Digital Makeover

The brand new Evergreen website was launched, with hard work from all staff and a fabulous new design and structure by AKA New Media.
DONORS

$100,000–$249,999
The J.W. McConnell Family Foundation
The Home Depot Canada Foundation
Ontario Trillium Foundation
Province of B.C., Ministry of Community Development

$50,000–$99,999
The George Cedric Metcalf Charitable Foundation
Ontario Ministry of Health Promotion
The Young Fund with the Hamilton Community Foundation

$25,000–$49,999
BMO InvestorLine
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Manulife Financial
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Ontario Ministry of the Environment
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vancity

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Toronto Arts Council
Vancity Community Foundation
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$1,000–$9,999
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Bartlett H. MacDougall
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Canadian International Development Agency
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Environment Canada: EcoAction, Prairie and Northern Region
Environment Canada: Environmental Damages Fund
Environment Canada: Habitat Stewardship Program
Fresh Coffee Network
G&F Financial Group Foundation
Goldman Sachs Canada Inc.
Geoff Cape
Grand & Toy
Henkel Consumer Goods Canada, Inc.
Human Resources and Social Development Canada (BC)
Human Resources and Social Development Canada (Toronto)
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The John and Marian Taylor Family Fund, at the Toronto Community Foundation
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Live Nation Canada Inc.
Mario Vella
Mulmer Services Ltd.
NSD Disposal Ltd.
Ontario Arts Council
Out to Lunch Catering
Richard and Donna Ivey Fund, at the Toronto Community Foundation
Richmond Youth Foundation
Stephen Howe
TD Canada Trust, North Vancouver Branch
TELUS Communications Inc.

THE CAMPAIGN FOR EVERGREEN BRICK WORKS
(As of December 31, 2009)

SITE PARTNERS
City of Toronto
Toronto and Region Conservation

DONORS

$20 million
Government of Canada

$10 million
Ontario Heritage Trust

$3 million
Robin and David Young*

$1 million
Anonymous
Holcim (Canada) Inc.

$500,000–$999,999
BMO Financial Group
T.R. Meighen Family Foundation*
Ada Slaight
R. Howard Webster Foundation
Greening our Communities Together

$250,000–$499,999
Brampton Brick
Carpenters’ Union, Central Ontario Regional Council
Federation of Canadian Municipalities (Green Municipal Enabling Fund)*
The Gordon and Lorraine Gibson Family Foundation
  in honour of Dan Gibson
Sandy and Bart MacDougall
Frances and Tim Price
RBC Foundation
The Salamander Foundation*
Estate of Margery J. Warren

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The Catherine and Maxwell Meighen Foundation
CIBC*
Harbinger Foundation
Nancy and John McFadyen
TD Bank Financial Group
The Young Fund of Hamilton Community Foundation*

$100,000–$149,999
Capital One
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Helen McCrea Peacock Foundation,
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Investors Group
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  at the Toronto Community Foundation
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Toronto Atmospheric Fund

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Morden Yolles

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Suzy and Hans Brenninkmeyer
Bev and Chris Cape
Mary Cape Usher-Jones
Michael and Diane Hasley
Credit Suisse
Valerie Laflamme and Geoff Cape
Susan McArthur
Marcia Moffat and Mark Wiseman
The Northpine Foundation
Lewis Reford

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Kaye and Paul Beeston
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Lawrence Ritchie, Heather Crawford and Family
Dr. Dianne Saxe
Sherry and Edward Drew Family Fund,
  at the Toronto Community Foundation
Peter and Barbara Stuart
Toronto Arts Council
Jane and Eb Zeidler
Adam Zimmerman and Barbara McDougall

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Forrec
Jaga
JC Williams Group
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Minto Group Inc.
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Watt International
ZIG

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