



**Wellesley Township Council  
Presentation  
November 26, 2024**

# Nith Valley EcoBoosters Origin

Nith Valley EcoBoosters began in 2013 as the Green Team at Zion United Church in New Hamburg.

The initial focus was on activities at the Church.

In 2015 we partnered with Divest Waterloo to have a screening of the film **Do The Math** which promoted fossil-free investing.

***Do the Math*** led to the formation of the Nith Valley EcoBoosters





# Mandate

**The Nith Valley EcoBoosters (NVEB) is a not-for-profit, politically non-partisan volunteer group committed to achieving and supporting a long-term healthy environment in Wilmot and Wellesley Townships through Education, Action & Collaboration.**

*New members are welcome. There is no membership fee.*

*Volunteer opportunities are available.*

*We are funded by donations, grants and fundraising.*



# Education

**We organize in-person community events and webinars for Wilmot and Wellesley Townships**

**We develop educational materials and speak at township events on environmental issues.**

# The Water Game

We developed the Water Game for the 2017 Living Well Festival.

The theme of the Festival was **Water Does Wonders.**



**Game pieces came from  
the New Hamburg  
Thrift Store**



# Bee Ready! Bee Safe! Game



# Wilmot Family Resource Centre Summer Camp August 2018, 2019 and 2023

**Activities:** Recycle, Compost and Garbage sorting relay race.

NVEB Water Game and other water-related activities.





# Live Community Events



**Wednesday, Mar. 21, 7 p.m.**

A story of hope for a rapidly changing world. The film's director, Kai Reimer-Watts, will be in attendance to discuss the film and opportunities to take more ambitious climate action in the region.

Register at [nwlbrary.ca](http://nwlbrary.ca). Space is limited.  
Supported by a grant from the Wilmot Township.

Screening location:  
Wilmot Recreation Centre  
1291 Nafziger Road, Baden  
Meeting Room A, 2nd Floor



## Warmer, Wetter and Wilder

What Homeowners and Communities Can Expect under a Changing Climate – and How They Can Prepare

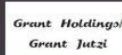
Dr. Blair Feltmate:

- Head, Intact Centre on Climate Adaptation, University of Waterloo.
- Chair of the Federal Government of Canada Expert Panel on Climate Adaptation.
- Tuesday, November 6 (2018)  
Zion United Church,  
215 Peel Street,  
New Hamburg  
7:30-9:30PM



- This is a FREE event but registration is required. Register at [www.eventbrite.ca](http://www.eventbrite.ca) or e-mail [nvecoboosters@gmail.com](mailto:nvecoboosters@gmail.com) for more information

Sponsored By:



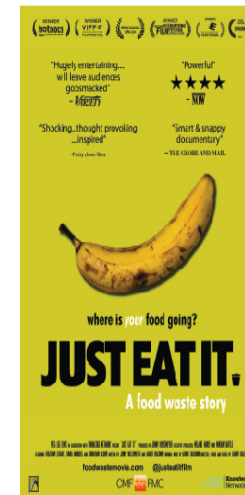
Join us for a food waste event featuring a film, a panel discussion and Q&A.

### Panelists:

Alison Blay-Palmer, PhD –  
Director, Laurier Centre for Sustainable Food Systems,  
Wilfrid Laurier University

Mike von Massow, PhD –  
OAC Chair in Food System Leadership, University of Guelph

Jennifer Pfenning –  
Director of Human Resources,  
Operations and Marketing,  
Pfenning's Organic Farms



**Wednesday March 20, 2019, 7:00-9:00PM**  
**Zion United Church, 215 Peel Street, New Hamburg,**

This is a FREE event but registration is required.  
Register at [www.eventbrite.ca](http://www.eventbrite.ca) or email  
[nvecoboosters@gmail.com](mailto:nvecoboosters@gmail.com) for more information.



# The Webinar Era

**NITH VALLEY ECO BOOSTERS** Presents **Free Webinar**

## DROUGHTS AND DOWNPOURS



**Small Changes We Can Make That Collectively Make Big **★ IMPACTS ★****

**PRESENTATION**  
7:15 - 8:30 p.m.  
Wednesday  
October 14, 2020  
Q&A Period  
to follow presentations  
Register At  
[nvecoboosters.com](http://nvecoboosters.com)



**Becca Robinson**  
Landscape Designer  
Reep Green Solutions

**'Increasing Biodiversity & Mitigating Climate Change with Edible Landscapes'**

**'Rain Smart Landscapes & Flood Resilient Communities'**

**Come, Join Our Experts...**  
This is a unique opportunity to learn practices that can mitigate local problems due to climate change, particularly related to recurring droughts & downpours.

Sponsored by  **TOWNSHIP OF WILMOT**

**NITH VALLEY ECO BOOSTERS** A Family Webinar

## Let's Talk Plastics!



# PLASTIC IS FOREVER

Thursday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021, 6:30 to 8:00 pm  
*Celebrate Earth Day with Us!*

**Event Details:**  
'Plastic Is Forever': Award winning film by 13 yr. old Dylan D'Haese  
Creative student video/audio clips

**Our speakers and Q & A:**  
Deanna Dakin – Region of Waterloo Waste Management  
Chase Oudshoorn – Youth Climate Advocate



 **KINDRED** Credit Union  
BANKING WITH PURPOSE

Free Webinar but registration is required.  
[nvecoboosters.com](http://nvecoboosters.com)

 **TOWNSHIP OF WILMOT**

**NITH VALLEY ECO BOOSTERS** A Free Webinar

## LET'S TALK... **ELECTRIC VEHICLES** ARE YOU READY FOR AN EV?




### EVs are the Future of Transportation !

Learn about the cost, environmental benefits & fun of driving an EV.  
You can now buy electric cars, SUVs & pickup trucks.  
Presenter Andy Wilson and EV owners, Neil Lackey & Bart Van Andel, will be available during the Q&A.

**PRESENTATION**  
+ Question & Answer  
7:15 - 8:45 p.m.  
Thursday  
February 18, 2021  
REGISTER AT  
[nvecoboosters.com](http://nvecoboosters.com)

**Join Us for a Night of Learning!**



We've hosted 18 in-person and on-line educational events between 2018 and 2024. Attendance has ranged from 90-646 participants from Wilmot & Wellesley Townships, Waterloo Region and beyond.

# **Taking Action on environmental issues**

**Advocate on behalf of environmental issues**

**Community Clean-up Days**

**Participating in local Rallies and Protests**

**Delegate to local and regional councils**

**Endorse letters**

**Write letters to local and provincial politicians  
and meet with them when necessary**



# Community Clean-up

**2018**

EcoBoosters removed  
garbage in Scott Park area.



**2019**

Worked with local Cubs & Scouts  
to clean up around  
New Hamburg Community Centre

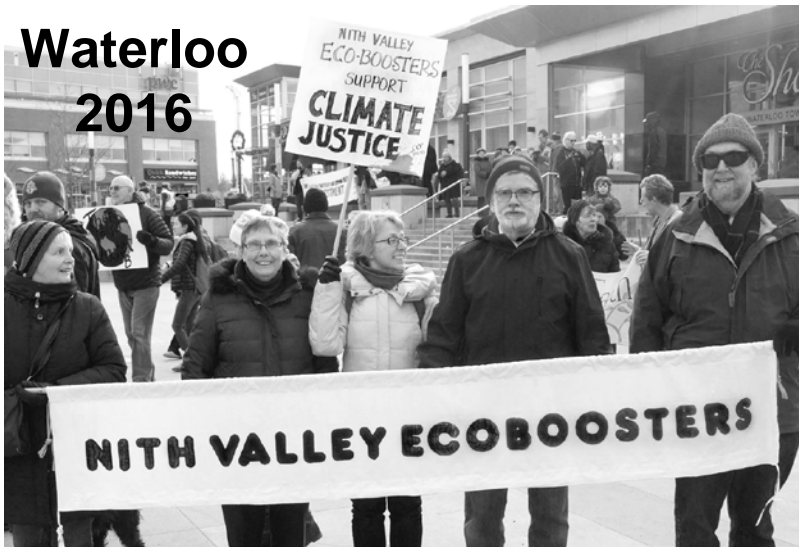


On a beautiful April day, a group from NVEB went on a garlic mustard pull at the west end of Schmidt's Woods, Baden. From the left: Yvonne Zyma, Patty Clarke, Marlene Knezevich, Linda Lackey and Tom Knezevich. —Marlene Knezevich photo



# Rallies and Protests

**Waterloo  
2016**



**Waterloo  
Square  
2018**



**King Street, Waterloo April 2023**



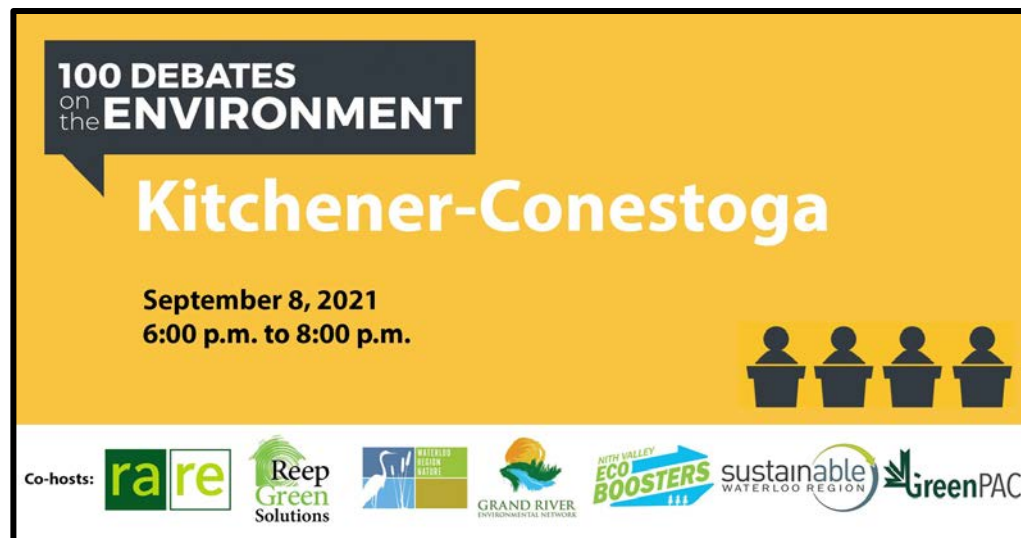
**Mike Harris' Office February 2023**



# Other Actions

- Endorsed letters by organizations such as Environmental Defence, Ontario Nature and GREN to provincial ministers.
- Delegated to Region of Waterloo Council regarding troubling aspects of the draft Regional Official Plan — 2022
- Delegated to Members of the Provincial Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs re budget — January 2024
- Regular mailings to members and contacts regarding important actions to take.








# Collaboration



100 DEBATES  
on the **ENVIRONMENT**

## Kitchener-Conestoga

September 8, 2021  
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Co-hosts:       

- Waterloo Region Blue Dot Team
- Future Ground Network/ David Suzuki Foundation
- Wilmot Horticultural Society —Let's Tree Wilmot
- Nature Network (Ontario Nature)
- Wilmot Wellesley Townships
- Kindred Credit Union
- Region of Waterloo Library
- GREN
- WR Climate Collaborative
- REEP Green Solutions
- Sustainable WR



a community session co-hosted by...

## High-Performance Development Standards: COMMUNITY DESIGN WORKSHOP

Thursday June 27th, 2024  
7:00PM - 8:30PM  
New Hamburg Community Centre



## Youth Advocates

- Originally formed in 2021 by young activists in local schools
- Now focused on appealing & accessible sustainability awareness
- Anyone can join, but events will be focused in Wilmot and Wellesley townships
- Goals
  - Spread the word on sustainability!
  - Get more youth involved in environmental matters!
  - Teach everyone how you can be more sustainable with everyday practices!
  - Learn and grow as a community centering around the environment!



# Reaching Out

Contacts: local, regional and beyond groups, and individuals



September 2023

## FREE WEBINAR

### Mission Possible: Launch Your Waste Reduction Journey!

Did you know that the amount of waste generated in Ontario, and Canada as a whole, is among the highest levels of waste generated per person in the world? A total of 12–15 million tonnes of non-hazardous waste is generated in Ontario each year.

#### NVEB Youth Advocate Leader Selected As Wilmot's Youth Citizen of the Year

Nith Valley EcoBoosters' (NVEB) Lyndsay Dajka has been selected as Wilmot Township's Youth Citizen of the Year. Lyndsay joined EcoBoosters in April 2021 and worked to establish the youth arm of NVEB.



Lyndsay Dajka

The pandemic was running rampant when Lyndsay started her endeavours to establish the Youth Advocates group, but her persistent cheeriness, high energy, and enthusiasm to tackle environmental issues at the local level has brought success.

Demonstrating exceptional leadership skills, she has worked hard to add members and expand their reach into local schools. Lyndsay prepared agendas, set up Zoom meetings, did presentations at schools, ran recruitment events and very capably chaired YA meetings. Lyndsay is leaving EcoBoosters to study environmental engineering at university.

[Learn more about Lyndsay's YA experience on page 10.](#)

#### New Hamburg Independent to go Digital-Only

by Lee Ann Waterman, Metroland Media

Today, Sept. 15, Metroland Media announced it will be restructuring its operations and seeking protection under the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act.

As part of this plan, most of Metroland's 71 community newspapers will move to a digital-only model. The final delivery of your local paper was this week. Metroland's six daily publications will continue to publish both online and in print.

We are confident this restructuring will make Metroland a sustainable business moving forward.

ardous waste is generated in Ontario each year. If Ontario continues on its current trajectory of waste generation and disposal, existing landfill sites in the province will be filled within the next 9–12 years.

Approximately 40% of Ontario's waste is generated inside the home. The balance is generated outside the home, by almost 1.6 million businesses, corporations and institutions. The Nith Valley EcoBoosters are hosting a free webinar, *Mission Possible: Launch Your Waste Reduction Journey!* on Thursday, September 28 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. EDT. Participants will learn about specific steps that can be taken to reduce waste in their lives and also what corporations and governments need to do to reduce waste.

Our keynote speaker is Jamie Kaminski. With more than 30 years in the waste diversion industry, Jamie is a seasoned international speaker with broad knowledge of local and global zero-waste policies. He has spoken at zero-waste and waste-related conferences, and to companies in the private and public sectors. As the co-developer of the first globally accessible zero-waste education program, he has trained and mentored over 100 individuals and industry professionals. Besides his role as President of HSR Services and HSR Zero Waste, Jamie is the Director and Lead Policy Advisor for Zero Waste Canada and a Board Member of the Zero Waste International Alliance (ZWIA) policy group. His media appearances include interviews on CBC News–The National, Global BC, CTV News Vancouver, and CBC Radio-Canada. Jamie's presentation will include a discussion of what governments and corporations need to do to manage the waste problem followed by specific actions that individuals can take to reduce waste in their lives.

Following Jamie's presentation, a panel consisting of members of the community will share their personal experiences trying to reduce waste. A Question & Answer period will follow the presentations.

Register for this free event: <https://nvecoboosters.com/> or <https://bit.ly/missionwaste>. For more information contact Tom Knezevich at [nvecoboosters@gmail.com](mailto:nvecoboosters@gmail.com)



## EcoNugget

Garlic Mustard was brought to North America as an edible herb but has become a serious forest invader.

- Garlic mustard forms dense stands, even in shade, and interferes with the seed germination of native woodland species such as drooping trillium and wood poppy.
- Identification is helped by the distinctive garlic smell when the leaves are crushed.
- Garlic mustard seeds remain viable in the ground for many years, so it is worth the effort to remove plants before they go to seed. In our area, mid-May to early June is good timing, but removing plants is important at all times.
- Garlic mustard is readily pulled by hand, but take care to dispose of the plants with care so seeds do not spread. If necessary, concentrate on the second-year (seed producing) plants.

To learn more about how to remove garlic mustard, go to <https://www.invasivespeciescentre.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/How-to-remove-garlic-mustard-1.pdf>

For further information contact:  
[nvecoboosters@gmail.com](mailto:nvecoboosters@gmail.com)



# What's Next?

**May 1, 2025**

Webinar

**How to be Hopeful in a World of Climate Doom:  
The Practice of Evidence-Based Hope**  
featuring Erin Kelsey, author of **Hope Matters**

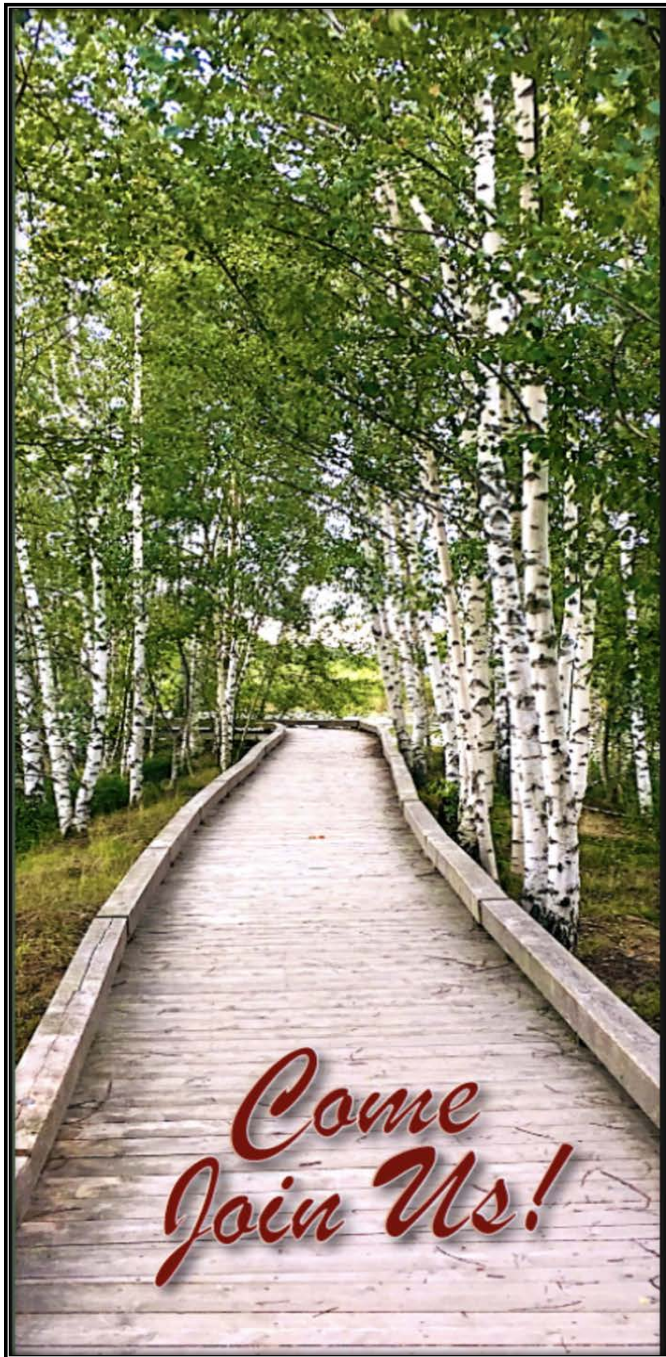
## **ONGOING**

Advocate for protection of the environment

Recruit new members

Collaborate more with Wellesley township





# Thank you!

Presenters: Linda Lackey  
Larry Kryski

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[www.facebook.com/people/Nith-Valley-EcoBoosters/100069180966894](http://www.facebook.com/people/Nith-Valley-EcoBoosters/100069180966894)

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[www.instagram.com/nvecoboosters](http://www.instagram.com/nvecoboosters)