

# **Community Activity Report**

## **August 2023**

At Earthkeepers, we partake in a variety of activities that help to further enrich and benefit the Municipality of East Hants. In addition to offering quality lawn maintenance and landscaping services to our clients, we also provide summer employment to students from local middle and secondary schools such as Riverside Education Centre, and Hants East Rural High. This season, we have employed 15 students who receive 3-15 hours per week. This summer two of our youth continued as Junior Supervisors, and were further trained in various office duties which carried over as our Coordinator and Supervisor left for school. They ran Earthkeepers, along with help from various board members, throughout the fall. All of the youth at Earthkeepers gain meaningful experience in practical lawncare, customer service, volunteer time, social media marketing, and more.



Our students are paid minimum wage, and for every four hours of paid work the youth are required to donate one hour to the community. This inspires a good work ethic, and serves to highlight the importance of giving back.

This volunteer time takes many forms, such as participating in our Bitter Against Litter program which helps the Municipality keep our communities clean, maintaining the Elmsdale Train Station and helping out our neighbors at East Coast Detailing. We also donate yard work to community members in need. This list includes many senior members of our community who cannot afford to pay our full rates. Additionally, in June of this year, we participated in Open East Hants Day, wherein a member of the community won one hour of free yard work. Our youth also volunteered at our fundraisers; this year we held a Fundraising BBQ as well as a car wash together with East Coast Detailing, and at both events our youth volunteered their time. This season, Earthkeepers has given over 100 hours of volunteer work to the community.

Other than the volunteer portion of the Earthkeepers program, the youth take part in fun activities they vote on. This year the youth decided they wanted a Board Game Night as well as a tour to Todd Hill Farms. The youth enjoyed lots of snacks as they bonded over various board and card games. During the tour of Todd Hill Farms, the youth were able to participate in hands on demonstrations with the horses of various programs Todd Hill provides. They were very excited to be able to interact with the horses and learn all sorts of cool facts! Earthkeepers also held an end-of-year Pizza Party, for both youth and board members. We had lots of fun and handed out awards such as “Best Whipper Snipper” and “Most Enthusiastic”.

Our clientele spans across East Hants including Enfield, Lantz, Elmsdale, Milford, Belnan, Shubanacadie, Stewiack, Nine Mile River and more. A large group of our clients are no longer able to maintain their properties on their own and require Earthkeeper’s services. For this group, we offer a curtesy discount, which often translates directly into the youth’s volunteer hours.

Our board is made up of local volunteers that give their time to help us find jobs, maintain our building, teach, and serve as mentors to our youth. Our President, Bob Bona, donated over 200 hours of his time; he helped with training new youth, driving our youth to and from jobs, as well as general day to day operations. Tom Mills handles Building Maintenance and donated 2 hours

per week over the course of the season, from May to October. Our Administrative advisor Rhonda Steeves also donates 5 hours a week for the duration of the Earthkeepers season. Andrea Davies, our Treasurer donated 8 hours. Suzanne Bona our Founder/Advisor donated 30 hours. Jonathan Crowdis, who handles all equipment repair and maintenance donated approximately 5 hours/week throughout the season. Ryleigh Boudreau who helped with the training and hiring process donated 25 hours. All together our board has donated almost 600 hours to the program. Board meetings take place on the second Monday of every month at the Elmsdale Train Station at 6:30.

Overall, 2023 was a good year for the Earthkeepers, we had youth move through the program, took part in volunteer events, and met more amazing people in our community.

Kind regards,

Abigail Mendel-Elias

<b>Youth</b>	<b>Volunteer Hours May- August</b>
<i>Abby Shand</i>	6
<i>AJ Burton-Anderson</i>	1
<i>Anna Foster</i>	13.5
<i>Austin Allen</i>	6
<i>Ava Crowdis</i>	11.5
<i>Brayden McAllister</i>	10
<i>Chris Isenor</i>	6
<i>Jack Crowdis</i>	15
<i>Jane MacPhee</i>	7
<i>Katie MacDonald</i>	10
<i>Mason Reid</i>	10.5
<i>Max Steffin</i>	7.5
<i>Miley Seymour</i>	3.5
<i>Zach Hankey</i>	4
<b>Sum</b>	<b><i>111.5</i></b>

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Volunteer Hours May- September</b>
<i>Andrea Davies</i>	8
<i>Bob Bona</i>	240
<i>Jonathon Crowdis</i>	120
<i>Ryleigh Boudreau</i>	25
<i>Rhonda Steeves</i>	120
<i>Suzanne Bona</i>	30
<i>Tom Mills</i>	48
<b>Sum</b>	<b>591</b>