

SUPPORTED CONTENT

Preserve nature in your own backyard

‘We’re living on the earth and we have to do all we can do to protect it’

CAMILLA CORNELL

Hanna Alper has been an environmental activist since she was nine. “I started a blog,” she says. “And my parents said it had to be about something other than me or how much I loved Justin Bieber.” The only thing she was really passionate about was animals, so Alper focused on habitat loss and deforestation.

“At first, I was devastated,” recalls Alper, now 18. “But I turned that devastation into motivation.”

Her blog, a later book and her current online activity (@thatHannahAlper) focus on how little acts can make a difference to the environment.

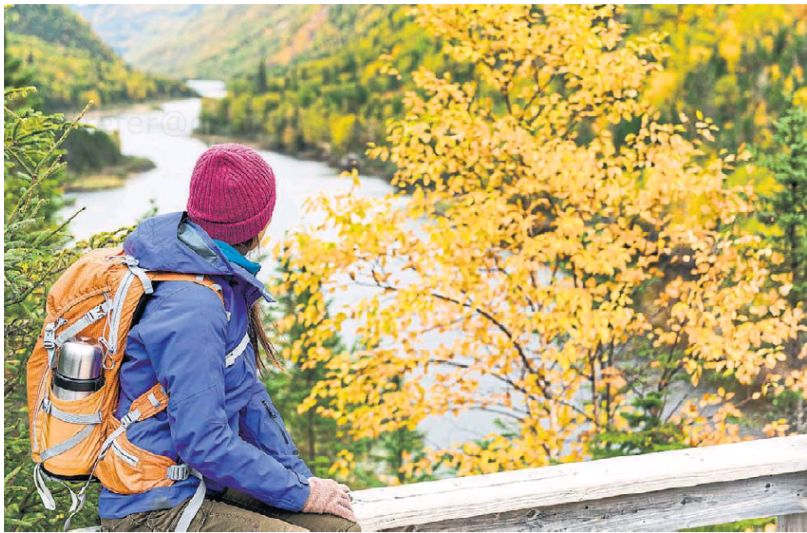
“This is an issue that affects us all,” she says.

“We’re living on the earth and we have to do all we can do to protect it.”

Here are a few ways to contribute for GivingTuesday:

1. Make a blanket donation. There are more than 1,000 registered environmental charities in Canada. If you struggle to choose a single one worthy of your donor dollars, check out the Protect the Environment Fund at UniteforChange.com. It spreads your donation between 530 charities dedicated to protecting and preserving the environment.

2. Go monthly. If you already make an annual donation to an environmental charity, consider making a monthly pledge instead. “Monthly gifts are great for charities because they can count on a revenue stream all year long,” says Lys Hugessen, who handles special projects for CanadaHelps (a charitable



SHUTTERSTOCK

If hiking, swimming, kayaking or snowshoeing is your jam, consider a membership to your local conservation authority. You’ll get access to nature trails, beaches, picnic areas and campsites.

organization and online donation platform that has raised almost \$2 billion for Canadian charities since 2000). They’re great for donors, too, because they’re predictable and represent less of a hit to the pocketbook than writing a single large cheque.

3. Trip the light fun-tastic! If hiking, swimming, kayaking or snowshoeing is your jam, consider a membership to your local conservation authority. You’ll get access to nature trails, beaches, picnic areas, campsites and parking. And you will be helping to maintain the facilities as well as preserve plant and animal life in the area. Options include ontariotrails.on.ca, brucetrail.org and nature-conservancy.ca for starters.

4. Step lightly on the planet.

“Small actions translate to big results when it comes to the environment,” says Alper. She defaults to thrift stores rather than the mall for clothing, because of fast fashion’s impact on the environment. Other options: Pledge to ride your bike or take a streetcar rather than hopping in your car; buy second-hand; bring your own coffee cup and use refillable water bottles; turn down the heat and cut down on water and electricity usage.

5. Turn trash into treasure.

If you’ve got gently used toys, clothing and household items, consider giving them away instead of throwing them out. Craig’s List, Kijiji and Facebook Marketplace are all good places

to list things you no longer need. Even better, sell them for a nominal sum and donate the money to your favourite environmental charity.

6. Become a citizen scientist.

Plenty of organizations can use your hands-on help. Earthroots (a grass-roots organization dedicated to protecting Ontario’s wilderness, wild life and watersheds) calls on volunteers to record areas where turtles are in danger of road hits, as well as to collect wolf samples (allowing for improved mapping and protection of wolf ranges).

“We really encourage our supporters to get out there and be citizen scientists,” says Anthony Merante, director of campaigns for Earthroots.

7. Get involved in advocacy.

Politicians can make the kind of far-reaching changes we can’t individually manage. And, says Merante, “politicians listen to people because that’s how they keep their jobs.” If you care about the environment, let your local representatives know, and don’t be afraid to advocate for causes dear to your heart. A good example: Earthroots recently began a pollinator highway project; it’s basically a plan to create long stretches of habitat for the province’s native bees, butterflies, hummingbirds and insects. You’ll find a map of the pollinator highways at earthroots.org/campaigns/pollinators.

“If you see your community on that list,” suggests Merante, “email your city councillor to support the effort. Or even better, show up at city hall.”

8. Team up to clean up.

One of Alper’s first initiatives was to organize friends and family to participate in a shoreline clean-up near her Richmond Hill home. “That really showed me that when people come together to create change, amazing things happen,” she says. Not near a shoreline? Clean up a park, alleyway, trail or city street.

9. Adopt an Algonquin Wolf.

Only several hundred of Ontario’s unique Algonquin wolves still survive. By (symbolically) adopting a wolf through Earth Roots, earthroots.org/product/adopt-a-wolf-small, you can support a non-invasive genetic research project aimed at aiding their recovery. And you get a cute plush wolf as part of the deal!



MAKE 2X THE IMPACT THIS HOLIDAY

Donations to cancer care will be matched until December 31!

Your donations to Lakeridge Health Foundation's 2021 Holiday Appeal will ensure exceptional cancer care is available, close to home. Even more, your gifts will be matched by members of Our Cancer Campaign Cabinet.



We're doubling your effort to support the families that rely on our expert services. Your gifts will help fund critical imaging equipment, upgrade surgical tools, improve treatment options and invest in important research to change the course of cancer in our community and beyond. Take advantage of this incredible opportunity - double your donation today!

Make your holiday gift at www.livehereregivehere.ca or call 905-433-4339.

This is our cancer.
This is our cause.

Lakeridge Health Foundation's Holiday Appeal is supporting Our Cancer Campaign which aims to raise \$20 million to advance cancer care in Durham Region.



Lakeridge Health Foundation

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