

Final Report for 2024 Grant

TO: Sustainable Orangeville
FROM: Westminster Orangeville
DATE: April 4, 2025

In April 2024, Westminster Orangeville requested \$967 from Sustainable Orangeville to install a series of 4 rain barrels for its garden transformation project. The intent was to use collected rainwater 25% of the time.

We collaborated with a local Girl Guides group which was selling rain barrels. Within the budget of the grant application, we purchased 8, rather than 4, rain barrels.

Starting on June 8, installation involved the creation of a paver stone base, parking curb cement pieces placed to protect the rain barrels from vehicles, linking the barrels and testing each additional barrel.

There were, of course, some challenges which engaged our problem-solving skills. The kit for the downspout diverter, ordered in June, arrived in late August so we used a simple diverter method. That diverter was stolen, returned, stolen, and then replaced. The brass spout on one of the barrels was stolen and we replaced it. The heavy rains challenged the downspout diverter strength more than once but fortunately an engineer in the Westminster community solved that problem. Staying within budget, we solved another problem with the project – carrying water. To make the carrying of water easier, we purchased a used, collapsible wagon on Facebook Marketplace to carry buckets of water around the garden.

To educate passersby about the significance of collecting rainwater, we placed signage on each rain barrel which also acknowledges that the rain barrels are a result of a generous grant from Sustainable Orangeville.

The rain barrels are installed on the north side of the building, tied into a downspout from the roof on the north side. Fall maintenance was

completed at the end of October and soon we will be preparing to collect rainwater, once threats of frost are past. The collected water was used on the garden from June to October.

Our goal of using rainwater for 25% of our watering needs was surpassed. It was a wet summer, we use no-dig methods with lots of compost and mulch, and therefore our watering needs were lessened. In the end we estimate that we used rainwater over town water 95% of the time last growing season. This is an incredible outcome. We hope to continue to give voice to the benefits of collecting rainwater for gardens and the use of other gardening methodologies that reduce storm water run-off and provide for excellent water retention.

We are deeply grateful for the grant and all that it has allowed us to accomplish. This project has advanced our goals for the garden transformation. We hear that we have started a movement. You can't eat lawns. For the sake of the environment, for the sake of hungry people, and to address the loneliness epidemic, we are moving forward with more plans to feed the community, model good environmental stewardship, and teaching folks how to grow food in small and simple steps.

We are also grateful for the grant provided by Sustainable Orangeville for the faith you put in us to deliver. Thank you for that and for all the ways you have supported and cheered us on.

Below is the financial statement of accounts for the grant, and a photo essay of the project.

We are happy to provide more information, detail or to share learnings. You can reach Cheryl Curtis at outreach@westminsterorangeville.ca and at 519-942-7155.

Financial Statement of costs of the project:

Sustainable Orangeville Grant \$967				
June 7	8 Rain barrels Girl Guides fundraiser	\$520.00	No HST	Sustainable Orangeville grant
June 8	Weed barrier cloth Home Depot	\$35.48	\$3.51 HST	Sustainable Orangeville grant
June 12	Waste costs – cement removal for rain barrel site	8.00	No HST	Sustainable Orangeville grant
June 18	Bag o Sand gravel	73.45		Sustainable Orangeville grant
June 29	Guage, spout	22.56	2.60	Sustainable Orangeville grant
July 14	Clamps	82.40	9.48	Sustainable Orangeville grant
July 15	Spout, sealant	52.55	6.05	Sustainable Orangeville grant
Aug 13	Vista print labels	107.24	12.34	Sustainable Orangeville grant
Aug 17	Collapsible wagon for carrying water buckets (Facebook Marketplace)	60.00		Sustainable Orangeville grant
Total		961.68		967 GRANT



Preparation of the pad for the rain barrels



Completed base for the rain barrel series



The "crew" after building the base.
Bob Abuja, Steve Crocker, Bruce
Gregersen, Joe Mauti



The initial installation of 4 rain barrels
by Steve Crocker and Bruce Gregersen



The rain barrels were used consistently through the growing season.



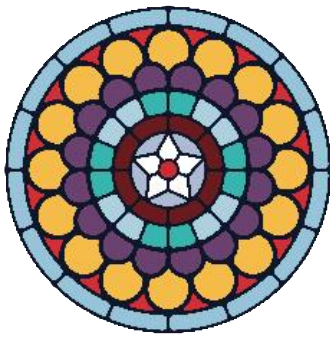
The heavy rainfall in August challenged our temporary downspout solution.



Chuck Heron and Steve Crocker giving a tour and talk about collecting rainwater.



Mayor Lisa Post and Councillor Tess Prendergast visited the Westminster Garden Transformation Project August 7, 2024. They are pictured here in front of the series of rain barrels with Bruce Gregersen and Steve Crocker.



Westminster United Church's rain barrel project is supported by a 2024 grant from Sustainable Orangeville.

This is the signage appended to each of the rain barrels.

Collected rainwater:

- helps our garden grow
- helps us produce food for the community
- reduces use of town water
- reduces stormwater runoff
- supports Dufferin County Climate Action goals



www.westminsterorangeville.ca/garden





In mid August the signage was applied to each rain barrel.



We are grateful.