

Committee: **Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee**

Organization/Sector represented: **Western University Biology Graduate Program**

Name: **Nimalka Weerasuriya**

Address:

575 Ridout St N

Apt 5

Occupation: **Student**

Work experience: **I have taken part in various environmental outreach initiatives towards the public through TTLT and UTRCA. My work experience and research goes towards characterizing changes in soil fungal communities after buckthorn invasion, as well as fungal species inventories in conservation areas as well as those growing on buckthorn plants.**

Education: **BSc. Honors Specialization in Biology at the University of Western Ontario Currently enrolled in a Biology MSc. at the University of Western Ontario, supervisor is Dr. R. G. Thorn; studying buckthorn and fungi in Southwestern Ontario.**

Skills: **Fungal species surveys, buckthorn invasion, data collection and study design**

Interest reason: **I have an interest in learning about and taking part in the creating and maintaining natural areas for the public to enjoy while allowing for the necessary development that occurs in any expanding city.**

Contributions: **Soil ecology, restoration, and invasive species control are my research interests and I hope to learn and provide insight into the procedures that take place in London regarding these topics.**

Past contributions: **None**

Interpersonal: **Many of our departmental gatherings (casual meetings, seminars, conferences) require an exchange of information between people from varying backgrounds. I have met with conservationists from rare CRC, TTLT and UTRCA that share similar interests, and I have enjoyed exchanging views, information, and knowledge with everyone.**

Interview interest: **Yes**