

# Advisory Committee on the Environment

## Report

6th Meeting on the Advisory Committee on the Environment  
May 2, 2018  
Committee Room #4

Attendance                   PRESENT: S. Ratz (Chair), K. Birchall, M. Bloxam, S. Brooks,  
S. Hall, J. Howell, L. Langdon, G. Sass, N. St. Amour, D. Szoller,  
A. Tipping and J. Bunn (Secretary)

ABSENT: R. Harvey, M. Hodge and T. Stoiber

ALSO PRESENT: T. Arnos, T. Conlon, D. Pavletic and K.  
Teeter

The meeting was called to order at 12:16 PM.

### 1. Call to Order

#### 1.1 Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest

That it BE NOTED that no pecuniary interests were disclosed.

### 2. Scheduled Items

#### 2.1 Potential Pollination Initiatives

That the following actions be taken with respect to potential pollination initiatives;

a) the Civic Administration BE REQUESTED to research and report back to the Advisory Committee on the Environment (ACE) with respect to the City of London being certified with Bee City Canada; it being noted that ACE supports the initiatives of Bee City Canada; and,

b) L. McDougall, Ecologist Planner, BE REQUESTED to present at a future meeting of the ACE with respect to an update on pollination work being done by the City of London;

it being noted that the attached presentations from B. Ellis and G. Sass, were received.

#### 2.2 Blue Communities Project

That the Civic Administration BE REQUESTED to report back to the appropriate committee with respect to the feasibility of implementing the Blue Communities Program in London; it being noted that the Advisory Committee on the Environment received a verbal presentation from J. Picton-Cooper with respect to this matter.

### 3. Consent

#### 3.1 5th Report of the Advisory Committee on the Environment

That it BE NOTED that the 5th Report of the Advisory Committee on the Environment, from its meeting held on April 4, 2018, was received.

3.2 Municipal Council Resolution - 4th Report of the Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee

That it BE NOTED that the Municipal Council resolution, from its meeting held on April 10, 2018, with respect to the 4th Report of the Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee, was received.

3.3 ACE Presentation/Meeting List

That it BE NOTED that the list of upcoming Advisory Committee on the Environment presentations and events, as of April 25, 2018, from S. Ratz, was received.

**4. Sub-Committees and Working Groups**

None.

**5. Items for Discussion**

None.

**6. Deferred Matters/Additional Business**

None.

**7. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:32 pm.

# Bee City Proposal

REBECCA ELLIS,  
PHD CANDIDATE, GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT,  
WESTERN UNIVERSITY  
RESIDENT, ROTMAN INSTITUTE OF PHILOSOPHY  
PDC, EARTH ACTIVIST TRAINING



Insects

## Warning of 'ecological Armageddon' after dramatic plunge in insect numbers

Three-quarters of flying insects in nature reserves across Germany have vanished in 25 years, with serious implications for all life on Earth, scientists say

112,001 3,354  
Damian Carrington  
Environment and climate  
@damiancarrington

Wednesday 18 October 2017 14:03 GMT



Flying insects caught in a relative trap, used by entomologists to collect species. Photograph: Courtesy of Entomologische Verein Berlin

The abundance of flying insects has plunged by three-quarters over the past 25 years, according to a new study that has shocked scientists.

See things 1 on this page



The Guardian

# Bees thrive in cities

Tommasi, D. & Miro, A. (2004) Bee diversity and abundance in an urban setting. *Canadian Entomologist*, 136(6)

Frankie, G.W., Thorp R.W., Hernandez, J., Rizzardi, M., Ertter, B., Pawelek, J.C., Wojcik, V.C. (2009). "Natives bees are a rich natural resource in urban California gardens." *California Agriculture*, 63(3), 113-120

Kaluza, B.F., Wallace, H., Heard T.A, Klein, A.M. & Leonhardt, S.J. (2016). Urban gardens promote bee foraging over natural habitats and plantations. *Ecology and Evolution*, 6(5), 1304-1316.



## Pointe-Claire resident petitions to keep au naturel garden

ALBERT KRAMERER, SPECIAL TO MONTREAL GAZETTE  
Montreal, Albert Kramerer, Special to Montreal Gazette

Published on July 9, 2016 | Last updated: Aug 6, 2016 8:42 AM GMT

### London beekeepers forced to remove backyard hive



Proposal:  
London becomes a Bee City

Bee City Canada

A not for profit formed in 2016

Currently 12 bee cities across Canada

Also certifies schools and businesses

Easy process – application form and City Council approved statement



Why become a Bee City?

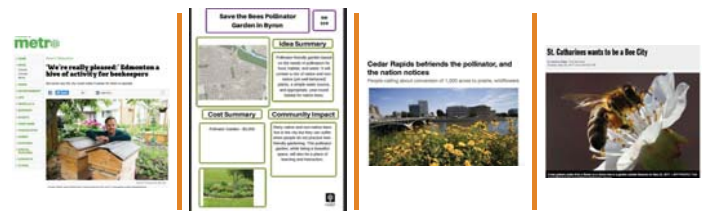


Celebrates the work already being done by cities

Inspires citizens to take action to do more for bees and other pollinators



Deepens practices which may boost local native bee populations



Provides a way for pollinator-friendly cities to collaborate

Allows participation in future Bee City programs



# Pollinators in trouble around the world

## Plight of Pollinators

Gabor Sass on behalf of all pollinators



ACE



news Bees, butterflies and other pollinators face extinction: UN  
Learn more about the new look.

### Bees, butterflies and other pollinators face extinction: UN

Climate change, pesticide use and modern farming techniques to blame for rapid population decline

The Associated Press - Posted: Feb 26, 2016 9:13 AM ET | Last Updated: February 26, 2016



Butterflies and other pollinating critters are at risk of extinction, says a United Nations mega-report. (Chaiwat)

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/pollinators-un-report-1.3465373>

## New study suggests insect populations have declined by 75% over 3 decades

By Euan McKirdy, CNN  
Updated 1:43 AM ET, Fri October 20, 2017

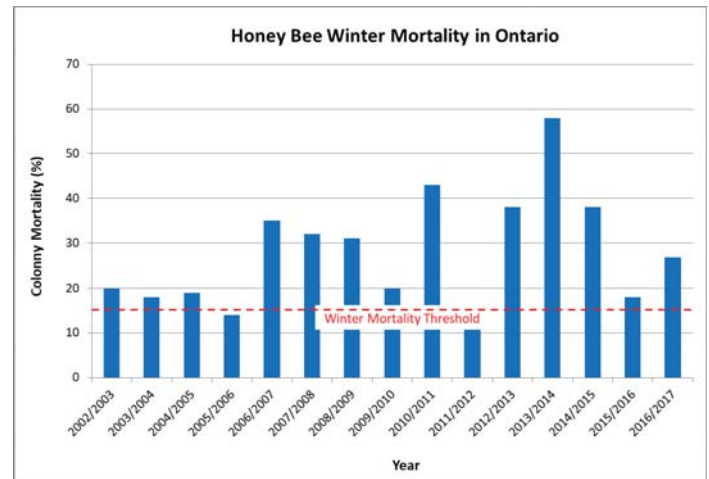


More from CNN  
Arizona teachers says they'll end walkout if legislature passes...  
Kanye West just said 400 years of slavery was a choice

Paid Content by @utbrain



<https://www.cnn.com/2017/10/19/europe/insect-decline-germany/index.html>



## City of London's response

### Pollinator friendly policies in London Plan

- Establish London as a key pollinator sanctuary within our region (Policy 58 in Key Directions).
- Promote London as a pollinator sanctuary, *considering how we can create and support environments that are conducive to pollinators in all of the planning and public works we are involved with, recognizing the important role that pollinators play in our long-term food security* (Policy 659 in City Building Policies).
- *Opportunities will be explored for supporting pollinators and food production through landscaping and street tree planting* (Policy 239 in City Building Policies).
- *Where possible and as appropriate, parks and open spaces will be used to support our food system – creating opportunities for food production and distribution and helping to support pollinators* (Policy 410 in City Building Policies).
- *Potential naturalization areas ... such as wetland habitat, pollinator habitat, wildlife habitat, or to compensate for trees lost to development* (Policy 1378 in Environmental Policies).

**London as a Pollinator Sanctuary**  
Submitted by ACE Working Group on Plight of Pollinators

**I. Problem: Pollinators are under siege**

Pollinators are in the local, national and international limelight. Why? Pollinators face many challenges in our urban- and agricultural-dominated landscapes including habitat loss, loss of food sources, disease and pesticides, with many of these factors acting in concert. Recent studies have shown that several pollinator populations including those of wild and honey bees have drastically declined<sup>1,2,3</sup>. In the province of Ontario, honey bee winter mortality has significantly increased over the last few years<sup>4</sup>. Here in Middlesex County, our local beekeepers are dealing with high honeybee losses as well<sup>5</sup>. The use of neonicotinoid pesticides is now suspected of being a major contributing cause to the declines<sup>6</sup>. Many agencies of government including Health Canada and Agriculture Canada are studying the issue. The province of Ontario is now considering a

**Pollination 101:**

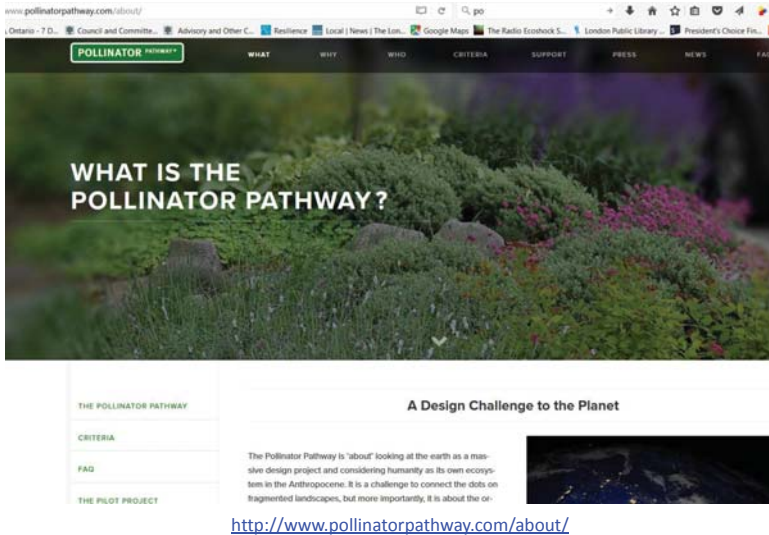
**What is Pollination?**

Pollination is the movement of pollen within a flower or from one flower to another by animals and/or the wind. This transfer of pollen leads to fertilization, and to successful seed and food production for humans and other animals.<sup>19,20</sup>



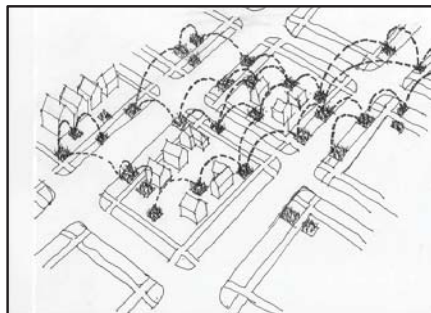
**London's Community response**

- Julia Hunter Foundation (setting up bee gardens, Gardens4Bees)
- Various other initiatives to plant pollinator gardens (e.g. Friends of Coves, faith-based communities, etc)
- Pollinator Pathways Project (ACE origin)



<https://www.facebook.com/pollinatorpathwaysproject/>

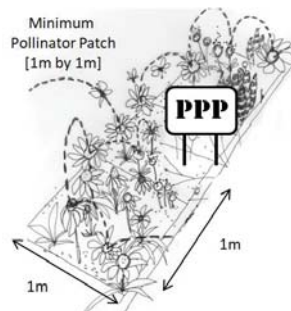
**Pollinator Pathways Project**



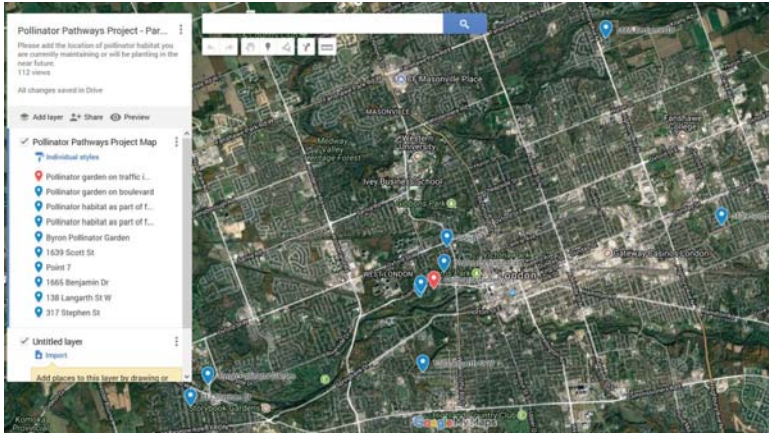
Social just as important as ecological

**P<sup>3</sup> details**

- Empower people to plant a pollinator garden – Workshop, how-to handout, project sign, online map



- Get started with these native plants:
- **Ground Cover:** Blue Eyed Grass, Tiarella, Wild Ginger, Wild Strawberry
  - **Medium:** Anise Hyssop, Brown-eyed Susan, Lobelia, Vervain
  - **Tall:** Aster, Beardtongue, Columbine, Butterfly Weed, Coreopsis, Goldenrod, Liatris, Milkweed, Monarda, Veronica
  - **Very Tall:** Clematis, Echinacea, Honeysuckle, Ironweed, Joe Pye Weed, Orange Jewelweed



<https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=16MEC2s6Poc1CXqyB0vOwRINTic9VQdkR&ll=42.9959265975526%2C-81.26292574999997&z=13>

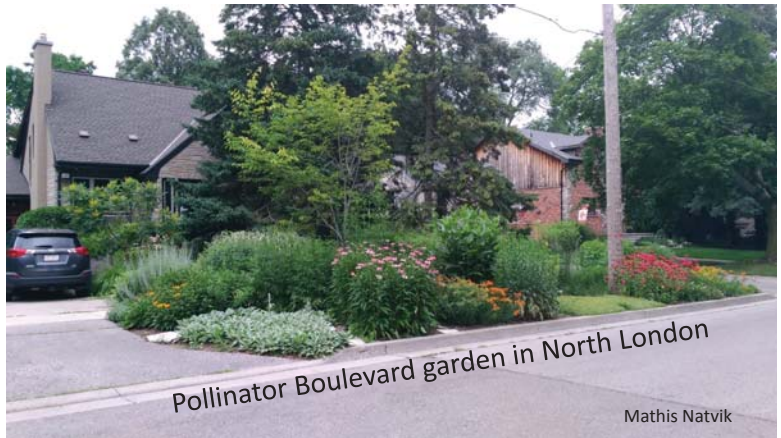


At Karen Schuessler Singers concert

## How could ACE help?

- Focus on implementation of pollinator policies of London Plan
  - Bee City or similar (Pollinator Sanctuary) designation
  - Identify pollinator habitat across city (pollinator meadows, bare soil, boulevards)
  - Set aside money in budget for pollinators

## Make this the new norm for all boulevards



Pollinator Boulevard garden in North London

Mathis Natvik

### UK urban meadows hope to help pollinators get buzzing

By Mark Kinver  
Environment reporter, BBC News

13 August 2013

Share



The UK has lost an estimated 97% of its wildflower meadows since the 1930s

<http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-23669941>

### ACE Plight of Pollinators, May 2, 2018 - Recommendations

**Recommendation 1.** For City of London to become a Bee City by certifying with Bee City Canada. In this way we can be recognized as a leader within Canada in the creation of bee-friendly cities. We can also participate in future activities organized by Bee City Canada.

**Recommendation 2:** Identify potential sites (on public land) across the city where pollinator habitat (garden, meadow) may be planted either by city staff or community groups. These sites may comprise parks or right-of-way areas next to roads and railways.

**Recommendation 3:** Set aside funds in the next 4 year budget cycle to support the implementation of the pollinator-related policies identified in the London Plan. (e.g. PollinateME fund for setting up gardens on private property and boulevards as well as in city parks and other open spaces)



## **Actions ACE members can contribute to**

- Plant a pollinator garden, become part of the network
- Get 10 people in your community to do the same
- If you are a gardener become a neighbourhood pollinator captain, encouraging and helping others to plant pollinator gardens