

Green in the City Speaker Series

Final Report

Feb 24, 2019

By Susan Ratz, ACE

Organizers

- Advisory Committee for the Environment – City of London
- London Public Library
- City of London
- London Environmental Network (promotional support)

All sessions

6:30pm – Doors open

7:00 – 8:30 pm Presentations

Location – Stevenson & Hunt Room – Central Library

Tuesday, November 6th - Creating Health & Resilience with Soil

Presenter - Ruth Knight, Organic Soil Consultant & Agronomist, Co-Leader of Transition Erin Soil Health Coalition

Local Perspective – Jessica Robertson

Attendance - 30

Tuesday, November 13th – Bee-coming Pollinator Friendly – In Gardens & Across the City

Presenter – Victoria MacPhail – Pollination Guelph

Local Perspective/Updates:

Gabor Sass – Pollinator Pathway Project

Linda McDougall, Ecologist, Environmental and Parks Planning, Planning Services, City of London

Attendance - 35

Tuesday, November 20th – Down the Drain - Issues & Opportunities for our Lakes, Rivers and Toilets

Presenters:

Tom Cull – Thames River Rally – Local river pollution.

Barry Orr – City of London – Challenges with non-flushables.

Attendance - 35

Tuesday, November 27th – Food Waste in London – What's Happening & How to Fix It

Presenters:

Paul van der Werf President and Owner of 2cg; PhD candidate Department of Geography, Western University

Jay Stanford, City of London

Attendance - 40

Tuesday, December 4th – Community Energy Action Planning – What You Can Do to Address The Impacts of Climate Change

Presenters:

Karen Farbridge, former Mayor of Guelph / CEAP Consultant

Jamie Skimming & Jay Stanford, City of London

(Additional presenter to be confirmed closer to)

Attendance – 75 (The LEN AGM was held before this workshop, many AGM guests also attended this workshop)

Total Attendance for the Series - 215

Contributions / Budget

ACE Contributions

- Coordination of sessions & partnerships
- Members took turns moderating sessions
- Speaker Payments & Honorariums – Total \$775

Library Contributions

- Meeting room & coordination support
- Promotional support – Listing in ACCESS magazine, social media, poster, postcards
- On hand at each session to assist with introductions / facilitate room access

City Contributions

- All speaker expenses/honorariums related to the Food Waste and Community Energy sessions
- \$300 contribution to LEN for promotional support
- Social media and e-news support

Notes / Recommendations

- The collaboration between the organizations involved was very good.
- The format of having a topic speaker with a general or broader perspective as well as a local perspective was very good.
- Continue format of 5 weeks of presentations to create a series. (The library has tentatively booked dates for Nov/Dec 2019)
- Most people arrive 5 minutes before or up to 10 minutes after the presentation begins.
- Displays – Unless there is a hook to arrive early, displays were looked at after the workshop ended which is a relatively short window of about 30 minutes before the library closes at 9pm. Adjusting times and/or finding ways to increase mingling to be considered if doing displays.
- Look for ways to inspire individuals to take action after attending a workshop.
- Consider doing a survey of attendees (half page)
- When choosing topics, also give thought to when topics will be presented during the series. Ie. Potentially more 'popular' topics at first and last sessions