

City of London - Application for Appointment to City of London Community Advisory Committees

Application

Committee you are interested in serving on: **Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee**

If applying for the Accessibility Community Advisory Committee, please select: **No, I am not an applicant with a disability.**

If applying for the Ecological Community Advisory Committee, a professional designation, education or experience in related fields is a requirement based on the technical nature of the committee work. Please indicate your area(s) of expertise: **Biology; Ornithology; Botany; Zoology; Ecology; Environmental Planning; Natural History; Other**

If you selected 'Other', please specify: **Psychology, citizen science, environmental education**

Contact Information

Name: **Brendon Samuels**

City: **London**

Province: **ON**

Postal Code: **N5Y4C9**

Experience and Qualifications

If you have experience on a London Advisory Committee, please provide dates and details. (max. 250 characters): **I have served on the Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee (EEPAC) from 2019 to present day (2022). During my time as a member of EEPAC, I have participated in and spearheaded numerous initiatives related to protections for the Natural Heritage System and especially mitigating sources of human conflict with wildlife and natural areas. I have co-lead various working groups that worked on large, multi-tiered projects, such as the Environmental Management Guidelines update, the Climate Emergency Action Plan, the Bird Friendly Skies program, development of public education brochures about pet dogs, cats and goldfish, and research into light pollution in London. I have collaborated as a member of EEPAC with other stakeholders at the City of London, external partners in the community such as the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority, and researchers at Western University.**

What do you hope to contribute or learn as part of a Community Advisory Committee? (max. 250 characters): **I am a PhD candidate at Western University where I study solutions for preventing bird-window collisions. I am generally interested in conserving birds and their habitat, and repairing relationships between people, the land, the waters and other life in our City. I recognize that developing solutions and good intentions is not enough; if we are going to mitigate and adapt to environmental change, we need better ways of engaging our communities and telling stories. Many of the problems facing the natural environment are caused or exacerbated by human behaviour. I believe that thoughtful public education should play an important role in conservation management. I also believe that efforts to engage with and teach people about nature should follow practices that are consistent with current science, including both natural and social sciences. I believe my background in these areas will make me a valuable addition to the City of London's ESACAC.**

How will you support the work of a Community Advisory Committee? (max. 250 characters): **I am comfortable organizing groups of people for meetings, deliberating on complex topics, reviewing documents, producing graphics and information materials, conducting background research, and participating in public consultations. I am also keen to visit and learn about new places and programs in London, and look forward to opportunities to "get my hands dirty" where appropriate as part of serving on a Community Advisory Committee that works on environmental topics. In general, I look forward to making**

myself available to support the Committee and the City's work however and whenever I can be of service.

Please describe additional experience, training, or community involvement that will help you in your role as a Community Advisory Committee Member. (max. 250 characters): **I am an effective community organizer and educator. I am heavily involved in London's environmental sector and have collaborated with various community groups including London Environmental Network, Upper Thames River Conservation Authority, Antler River Rally, Reimagine Co, Nature London, Bird Friendly London, Reimagine Co, Western University Facilities Management, the Society of Graduate Students, the University Students' Council and Western's affiliate colleges. I believe that my extensive network and understanding of the workings of London's environmental sector will be big asset to the Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee. It is my hope that ESACAC will work closely with ECAC on matters that could benefit from input from technical experts on ecological topics and the natural heritage system. Given my experience at EEPAC, I believe I will be well-suited to act as a liaison between working groups of these committees.**

Attach resume or other document here, if needed: **Brendon Samuels CV.docx.pdf**

Attach more files here, if needed:

Confirmations

I declare the following: **I am a resident of London. ; I am at least 18 years old.; I am not a City employee or Council member.; I understand that the commitment may be up to 4 hours per month to attend meetings and prepare.; I understand that my application and any attachments will be included on a public agenda that is published on the City website.**

To help inform our outreach activities, please tell us how you heard about this opportunity: (optional): **Other**

If you selected 'Other', please specify: **Encouraged to apply by current EEPAC Chair Sandy Levin**

Submitted on: **4/2/2022 11:31:46 PM**

Brendon Samuels

Profile: I am a creative research scientist interested in addressing anthropogenic environmental issues through storytelling, public education, art and community science.

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy, Biology

January 2019 – March 2022.

The University of Western Ontario (UWO), London, ON.

Master of Science, Neuroscience

2016 – 2018

The University of Western Ontario (UWO), London, ON.

Thesis title: Comparative study of beat and temporal pattern perception in a songbird.

Bachelor of Science with Honours, Psychology: Brain & Cognition

2010 – 2014

University of Guelph, Guelph, ON.

SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS AND GRANTS

Surplus Grant x 2, Society of Graduate Students, 2021-2022. \$5,500.

Mitacs Accelerate Research Internship, 2022-2023. \$30,000.

Bird Friendly City Grant, Nature Canada, 2022. \$3000.

Eco-Grant (Bird Friendly London), Nature London, 2022. \$5,800.

World Wildlife Fund, Living Planet @ Campus grant, 2021-2022. \$1000

Sustainability Champion Award, London Environmental Network, 2021.

Eco-Grant (Bird Friendly London), Nature London, 2021. \$4,500.

Province of Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS), 2021-2022. \$15,000.

Conservation Award, Nature London, 2021.

Certificate of Appreciation, Ontario Field Ornithologists. 2020.

Province of Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS), 2020-2021. \$15,000.

Province of Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS), 2019-2020. \$15,000.

Best Poster, Biology Graduate Research Forum, UWO, 2019.

Province of Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS), 2018-2019.

Best Poster, Biology Graduate Research Forum, UWO, 2017.

Dean's List Honours, University of Guelph, 2012-2014.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

PhD Research The University of Western Ontario, London, ON, 2019 –2022.

- Conducted field surveys, collected citizen science data on bird-window collisions at

buildings on campus.

- Consulted the University about retrofitting buildings to prevent bird collisions.
- Designed and executed behavioural experiments with live animals to study birds' perceptions of window glass
- Extensive community outreach, service and public education related to conservation.

Masters Research The University of Western Ontario, London, ON, 2016 – 2018.

- Designed, programmed and executed behavioural experiments with human participants at the Brain and Mind Institute.
- Conducted operant behavioural testing and provided care for 15 wild-caught songbirds at the Advanced Facility for Avian Research.
- Co-supervised by Dr. Jessica Grahn and Dr. Scott MacDougall-Shackleton.

Research Assistant York University, Toronto, ON, 2014.

- Sensorimotor control lab under supervision of Dr. Denise Henriques.
- Executed behavioural experiment using InMotion2 two-joint robot manipulandum.

Undergraduate Honors Research University of Guelph, Guelph, ON, 2013-2014.

- Supervised by Dr. Naseem Al-Aidroos in the Visual Cognitive Neuroscience Lab.
- Collaboration with two graduate students on an experiment testing implicit learning of visual statistical regularities using EyeLink 2 eye-tracking technology.

PUBLICATIONS

Samuels B, Grahn J, Henry MJ, MacDougall-Shackleton SA. European starlings (*sturnus vulgaris*) discriminate rhythms by rate, not temporal patterns. *J Acoust Soc Am.* 2021 Apr;149(4):2546. doi: 10.1121/10.0004215. PMID: 33940875.

CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

Poster Presentations

- B. Samuels, S. MacDougall-Shackleton.** *Quantifying and Mitigating Bird-Window Collisions on a University Campus.* Biology Graduate Research Forum, Institutional Conference, October 2019. London, ON.
- B. Samuels, J. Grahn, S. MacDougall-Shackleton, M. Henry.** *Discriminating between strong and weaker beats in temporal patterns.* Southern Ontario Neuroscience Association, Regional Conference, February 2018. Niagara Falls, ON.
- B. Samuels, J. Grahn, S. MacDougall-Shackleton, M. Henry.** *Discriminating between strong and weaker beats in temporal patterns.* Lake Ontario Visionary Establishment Conference, Provincial Conference, February 2018. Niagara Falls, ON.
- B. Samuels, J. Grahn, S. MacDougall-Shackleton, M. Henry.** *The Birds and the Beats: Can songbirds perceive regularity in rhythmic auditory sequences?* Biology Graduate Research Forum, Western Institutional Conference, October 2017. London, ON.
- B. Samuels, J. Grahn, S. MacDougall-Shackleton, M. Henry.** *Can songbirds perceive regularity in rhythmic auditory sequences?* Southern Ontario Neuroscience Association, Regional Conference, May 2017. Brock University, St Catherines, ON.
- B. Samuels, J. Grahn, S. MacDougall-Shackleton, M. Henry.** *The Birds and the Beats: Perception of a Beat in an Avian Model.* Western Research Forum, Institutional Conference, March 2017. London, ON.

A. Daoust, **B. Samuels**, J. McAnnich, K. McAuley, M. Painter, E. Xu. *Effects of lexical encoding modalities on working memory*. Psychology Department Undergraduate Research Symposium, December 2013. Guelph University, Guelph, ON.

Oral Presentations

B. Samuels, S. MacDougall-Shackleton, J. Grahn. *Do Birds That Tweet Also Feel Beat? Perception of Temporal Patterns in the Common Starling*. International Ornithological Congress (IOC), International Meeting, August 2018. Vancouver, BC.

B. Samuels, S. MacDougall-Shackleton, J. Grahn. *Do Birds That Tweet Also Feel Beat? Perception of Temporal Patterns in a Songbird*. Animal Behaviour Society Meeting (ABS) International Meeting, August 2018. Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA.

B. Samuels, J. Grahn, S. Macdougall-Shackleton, M. Henry. *Perception of Temporal Accents in Acoustic Patterns: Do Songbirds Feel the Beat?* International Conference on Comparative Cognition, International Meeting, April 2018. Melbourne, Florida, USA.

B. Samuels, S. MacDougall-Shackleton, J. Grahn. *Perception of Temporal Accents in Acoustic Patterns: Do Songbirds Feel the Beat?* Ontario Ecology, Ethology & Evolution Colloquium, Provincial Meeting, May 2018. London, ON.

B. Samuels, J. Grahn, S. MacDougall-Shackleton, M. Henry. *Can songbirds discriminate between sounds that contain strong and weak beats?* Neural Entrainment Rhythm Dynamics, June 2017. Boston, MA, USA.

B. Samuels, J. Grahn, S. MacDougall-Shackleton, M. Henry. *Detection of acoustic regularity in the absence of motor synchronization: Beat perception in a songbird*. Symposium on Timing And Rhythm, April 2017. Hamilton, ON.

TEACHING & ADVISORY ROLES

BIO 3484 Patterns in the Diversity of Life, Teaching Assistant, UWO, F22.

ES 1050 Foundations of Engineering Practice - Client and advisor, UWO, F22.

BIO2290 Scientific Methods in Biology. Teaching assistant. UWO, W21.

Writing 3901 Writing Nature, Writing the Self. Guest lecture. UWO, F21.

BIO4999 Advisor, Honors Research Thesis. Understanding behavioural responses to predation risk in hippopotamus and African buffalo. UWO, F19-W20.

BIO4999 Advisor, Honors Research Thesis. Predator-induced fear behavioural responses to auditory stimuli in Ugandan mammals. UWO, F19-W20.

BIO3230 Field Research in Biology. Teaching assistant. UWO, F19.

Writing 3901 Writing Nature, Writing the Self. Guest lecture. UWO, F19.

BIO2290 Scientific Methods in Biology. Teaching assistant. UWO, W19.

PSYC3130 Psychology of Thinking. Teaching assistant. UWO, W18.

PSYC1000 Introduction to Psychology. Teaching assistant. UWO, F17.

PSYC1000 Introduction to Psychology. Teaching assistant. UWO, W17.

PSYC1000 Introduction to Psychology. Teaching assistant. UWO, F16.

SERVICE

Committee Membership

Western President's Advisory Committee on Environment and Sustainability, UWO, 2021-2022.

Western Faculty of Science Strategic Planning Committee, UWO, 2022.

Graduate Student Representative, University Animal Care Committee. UWO. 2020.

- Reviewed animal use protocols, site visits, writing reports, presentations.

Environmental & Ecological Planning Advisory Committee, City of London, 2019-20.

- Reviewed development proposals, municipal documents including the environmental management guidelines and bird-friendly building guidelines & by-law
- Participated in 3 working groups and conducted independent background research.
- Designed public education materials for print and digital distribution.
- Currently leading a collaborative project with UTRCA to pilot a City-wide "ESA Day"

Organizing Committee, Neuroscience Research Day. UWO. Winter 2020.

- Responsible for registration, event photography and videography, technical support.

Organizing Committee, London Bug Day. London, ON. Fall 2019.

- Prepared and attended educational activity booth for families on gardening practices to promote biodiversity.

Organizing Committee, Ontario Biology Day. UWO. Spring 2019.

- Served on the organizing committee, producing art materials and merchandise.

Organizing Committee, Ontario Ecology, Ethology & Evolution Conference. UWO. Spring 2018.

- Conference organizing committee, production of art materials.

Founding member of Executive, Society of Neuroscience Graduate Students. UWO. 2017-2018.

- Art director; contributed to web, social media and event planning.

Graduate Student Teaching Award (GSTA) Selection Committee. UWO. Spring 2017.

- Reviewed student nominations for teaching assistant monetary awards.

Selected Outreach, Science Communication and Other Volunteering

Organizer, Biodiversity Inventory at Western, 2022-2023.

Ontario Building Code Campaign Coordinator, Fatal Light Awareness Program (FLAP) Canada, 2021-2022.

Coordinator, Petition e-3730 to the Canadian House of Commons to ban the release of plastic balloons and sky lanterns into the environment. 2022.

Coordinator, Save London's Bank Swallows campaign, 2020-2022.

Volunteer, Antler River Rally, 2019-2022.

Co-founder and Coordinator, Bird Friendly London, 2020-2022.

Creator, BirdCrash Bot - a twitter bot for helping people everywhere to rescue birds that fly into windows. 2020.

Wildlife Friendly Buildings Webinar and certification, Green Economy London, 2021.

Volunteer Chimney Swift monitor, Nature London, 2019-2022.

Society of Graduate Students (SOGS) Sustainability Coordinator, 2021-2022.

- Coordinated numerous projects including cleanups and virtual events, construction of a structure for barn swallow nests on Western's campus grounds, expansion of the campus community garden

Article for Urban League London. What is an advisory committee for? A bird's-eye view. November 15, 2020.

Oral Presentation for Western School of Graduate & Post-Doctoral Studies: Scholars to Leaders Speaker Series. London, ON. January 28 2019.

Oral Presentation for Nature London. Bird-Window Collisions in the Forest City. London, ON. November 28 2019.

Co-Founder, Ornithology Club at Western, 2019.

Founder, BirdSafe @ UWO, The University of Western Ontario, 2019-2021.

- Led a group of students and faculty dedicated to bird conservation on campus.
- Surveyed campus for bird-window collisions, collected citizen science reports.
- Poster presentations at EnviroCon 2019 and Science Rendezvous 2020.
- Participated in Fatal Light Awareness Program's Global Bird Rescue 2019.

London Brain Bee, The University of Western Ontario, April 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020.

- Co-chair of organizing committee for 2018, 2019, 2020.
- Annual neuroscience outreach event for high school students; demonstrations and trivia.
- Produced promotional materials; managed social media & event photography.

Retiring with Strong Minds, The University of Western Ontario, June & September 2017.

- Presented my masters research to residents of two retirement communities

SHAD Tour of Advanced Facility for Avian Research, July 2017.

- Demonstrated operant testing apparatus, behavioural conditioning activity.

TD Discovery Day in Health Sciences, The University of Western Ontario, May 2017.

- Offered research equipment demonstrations for visiting high school students.

SELECTED PRESS PUBLICATIONS

London Free Press (March 15, 2022). Cute in the fishbowl, goldfish not so cute in the wild.

<https://lfpres.com/news/local-news/cute-in-the-fishbowl-goldfish-not-so-cute-in-the-wild>

CBC London (March 7, 2022). Meet the juvenile long-eared owls roosting in an east London backyard.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/meet-the-juvenile-long-eared-owls-roosting-in-an-east-london-backyard-1.6372650>

CTV London (February 21, 2022). Saving birds one sticker at a time.

<https://london.ctvnews.ca/saving-birds-one-sticker-at-a-time-1.5790241>

London Free Press (January 20, 2022) Why this London researcher wants to take the air out of balloon releases.

<https://lfpres.com/news/local-news/why-this-western-researcher-wants-to-take-the-air-out-of-balloon-releases>

Western News (September 30, 2021). Indigenous tree bears rich history, culture for Western.

- <https://news.westernu.ca/2021/09/indigenous-pawpaw-trees-at-western/>
- CBC London (June 23, 2021) 5 things you may not know about London's new official bird: the Northern Cardinal. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/london-official-bird-1.6076527>
- London Free Press (May 12, 2021). Londoners asked to decide which bird will represent the Forest City.
<https://lfpres.com/news/local-news/londoners-asked-to-decide-which-bird-will-represent-the-forest-city>
- CBC London (May 9, 2021). London earns official status as "bird-friendly" city
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/london-earns-official-status-as-bird-friendly-city-1.6018619>
- CTV London (March 6, 2021) Meet your Neighbour: Brendon Samuels works to save our 'feathered friends'.
<https://london.ctvnews.ca/meet-your-neighbour-brendon-samuels-works-to-save-our-feathered-friends-1.5336881>
- CBC London (October 19, 2021). Ontario cities are potential bird death traps and now a petition is looking to change that.
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/ontario-building-code-birds-petition-1.5765172>
- CBC London (June 20, 2020) A thriving colony of at-risk birds is under threat in the Byron Pit.
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/london-ontario-byron-pit-swallows-birds-1.5619990>
- CTV London. CTV News at 6. My comments to the City of London's Planning and Environment Committee about the bird-friendly by-law. London, ON. November 2019.
<https://london.ctvnews.ca/video?clipId=1830126>
- Juha, J., The London Free Press(September 11 2019). Parkwood Institute takes measures to prevent fatal bird strikes.
<https://lfpres.com/news/local-news/parkwood-institute-takes-measures-to-prevent-fatal-bird-strikes>
- CBC London Radio (May 17, 2019). Western PhD student studies and rescues birds who've flown into windows.
<https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-80-afternoon-drive/clip/15705867-western-phd-student-studies-and-rescues-birds-whove-flown-into-windows>
- Carey, K. (September 18 2019). Birds dying by crashing into windows spurs campus discussion.
https://westerngazette.ca/news/birds-dying-by-crashing-into-windows-spurs-campus-discussion/article_28a0fe74-da62-11e9-92e0-4f6434702218.html
- Juha, J. (January 27 2019). City praised for bird-friendly building proposals.
<https://lfpres.com/news/local-news/city-praised-for-bird-friendly-building-proposals>
- Mayne, P. (September 11 2018). Western News. Bird's eye view offers insight into building strikes.
<https://news.westernu.ca/2018/09/researcher-using-birds-eye-view-reduce-building-strikes/>
- CBC Radio London (August 18, 2018). Western scientists take on bird safety around campus.
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/western-birds-safety-collisions-1.4787834>
- Gradcast Radio at UWO (November 20 2017).
<http://www.radiowestern.ca/program/news/2017-11-20/gradcast-142-birds-and-beats>