



# MUNICIPALITY OF NORTH GRENVILLE

## ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### AGENDA

Monday, April 28, 2025, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
Held in Meeting Room 1, 285 County Road 44

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Pages

**A. Call to Order**

**B. Land Acknowledgment**

The Municipality of North Grenville acknowledges that the Municipality operates on the territory of the Anishnabek.

We recognize all First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples who now call North Grenville their home. We respect and support the need for cultivating a strong relationship, and we commit to Indigenous-informed decision making to foster the path towards reconciliation.

**C. Adoption of Agenda**

**D. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof**

**E. Deputations**

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1. Pollinator Habitat

*Michelle Cavanaugh and Brent Harbers, South Nation Conservation*

**F. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

1. Committee Meeting Minutes - March 24, 2025

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**G. Reports and Decision Items**

1. Tree Care and Management By-law

*Doreen O'Sullivan*

2. Water Security Update

*Peter Friedrichs*

#### **H. Correspondence**

#### **I. Adjournment**



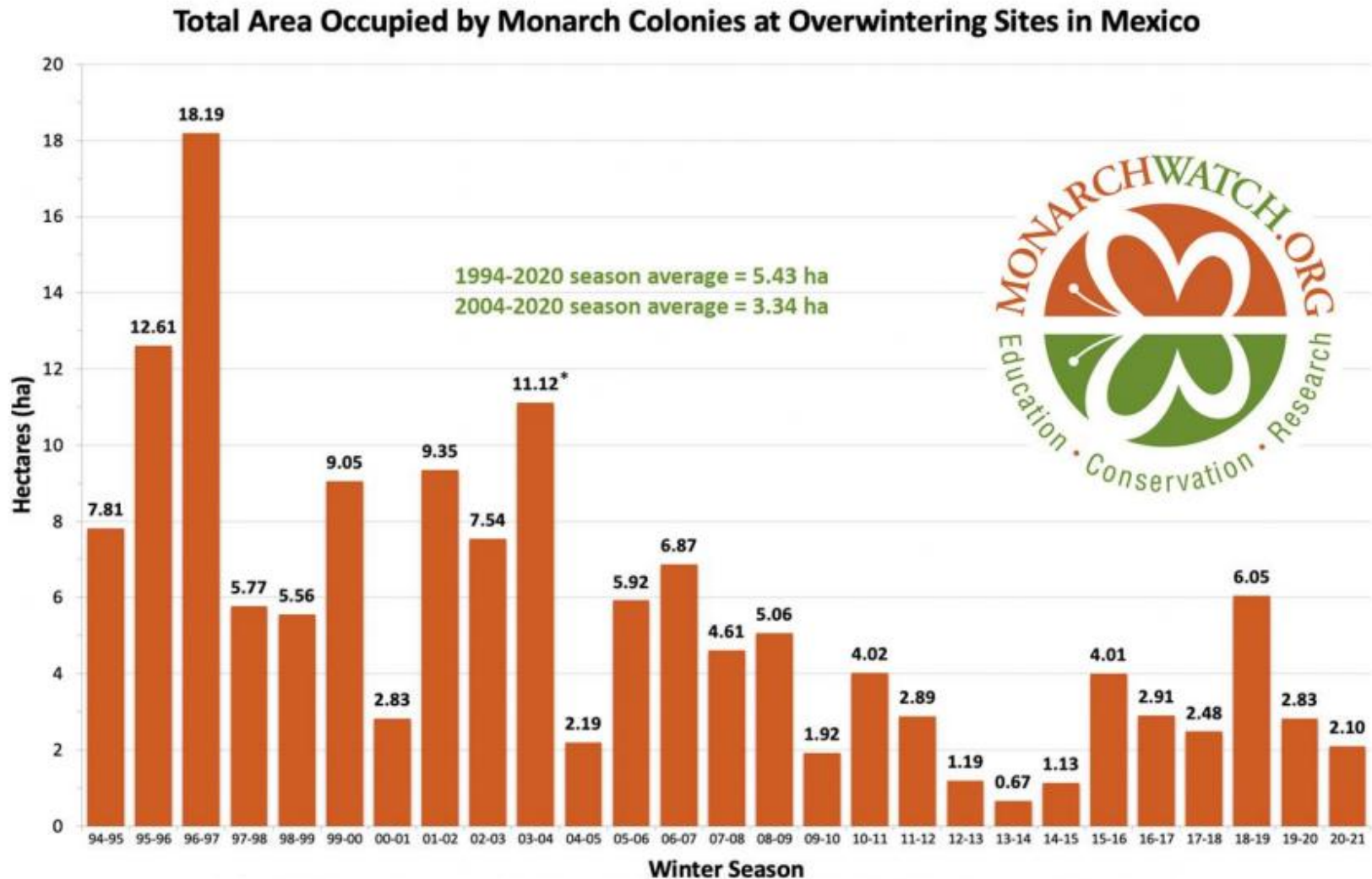
SOUTH NATION  
**CONSERVATION**  
DE LA NATION SUD

# Pollinator Habitat Stewardship

North Grenville Environment  
Committee

April 28, 2025



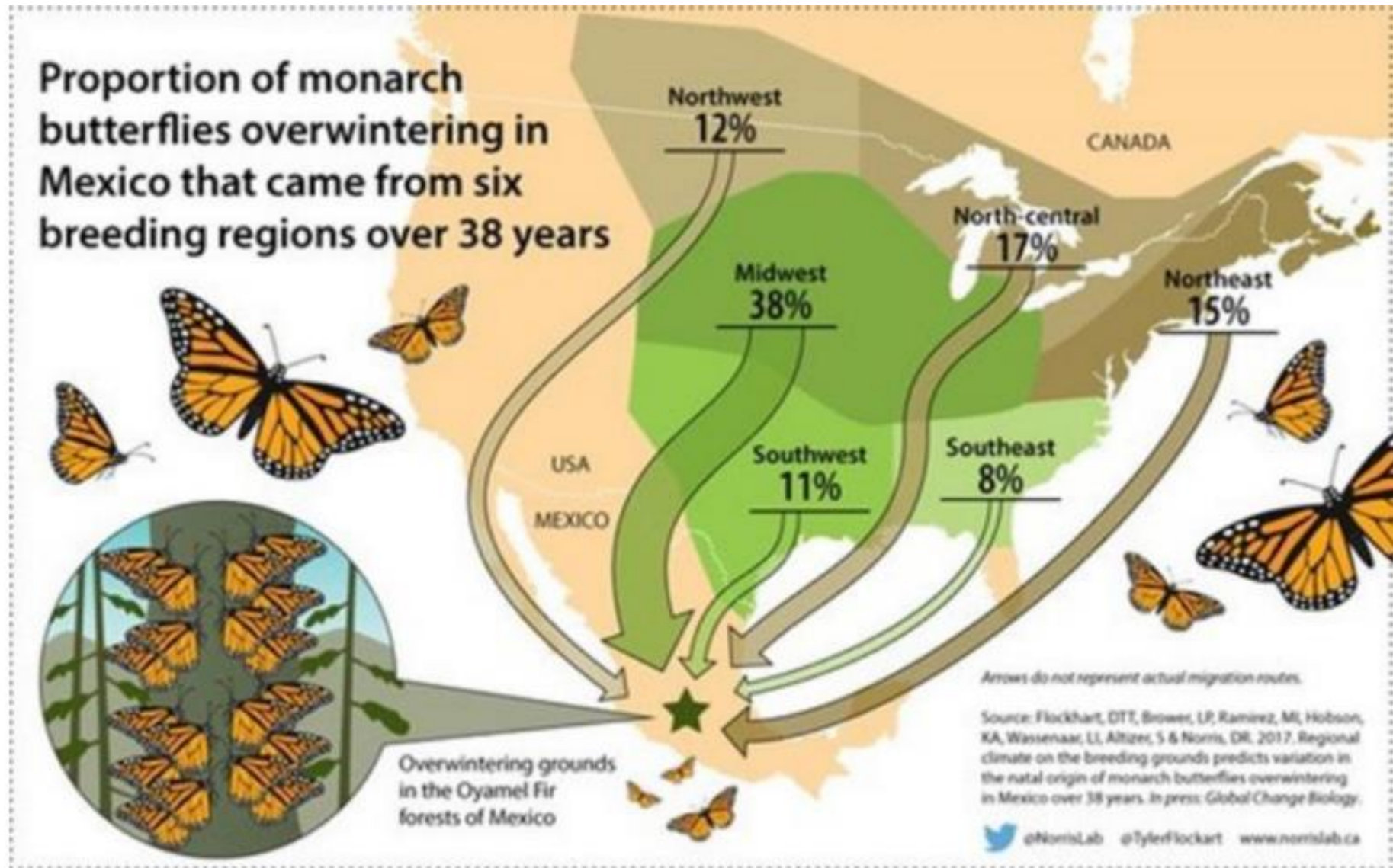


Data for 1994-2003 collected by personnel of the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve (MBBR) of the National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP) in Mexico. Data for 2004-2019 collected by World Wildlife Fund Mexico in coordination with the Directorate of the MBBR.

\* Represents colony sizes measured in November of 2003 before the colonies consolidated. Measures obtained in January 2004 indicated the population was much smaller, possibly 8-9 hectares. CT



# Canada's Role in Recovery







# Opportunity is Everywhere

## THE RIGHT WAY

Rights-of-Way across Canada could offer a brilliant and affordable solution to one of our most pressing environmental challenges

By Morgan Johns Illustration Cory Proulx

### THE CRISIS

Canada is in the middle of a biodiversity crisis. All manner of mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fish, insects and birds are dwindling in numbers, some to the point of near extirpation. Without action they will be lost forever. Among the most severely affected are pollinators—birds, bees, butterflies and others—crucial contributors to this nation's biodiversity and to its economy.

Barriers to wildlife are everywhere, choking off biodiversity and causing species decline while encouraging the spread of invasives. Crucial wetlands and grasslands, essential to biodiversity in the Canadian south, are being wiped out: agribusiness, forestry, industrial development and urban expansion are gobbling up crucial habitat.

**EFFECTIVE, AFFORDABLE AND READY-TO-IMPLEMENT REMEDIES TO OUR GROWING BIODIVERSITY CRISIS ARE AVAILABLE ON A MASSIVE SCALE. BETTER YET, THEY AREN'T HARD TO ACCESS OR DIFFICULT TO MANAGE BECAUSE R-O-Ws ARE ALL AROUND US**

#### RIGHTS-OF-WAY?

They exist on every roadside, beside every train track, under every powerline and pipeline, and around every solar array. The scale is almost unimaginable, and the potential is massive: Ontario's Hydro One alone is responsible for 30,000 linear kilometres of rights-of-way requiring costly ongoing tree and shrub removal to prevent damage to lines that result in disruptive power interruptions.

#### MISSILES OF LIFE

The potential for restored habitat along rights-of-way stretches like a crucial ribbon of life through the country's most damaged areas. Creating easily travelled bands of native habitat means smaller wildlife of all kinds can move easily and thrive. Pollinators would have a near-contiguous trail of nectar-bearing flowers, undisturbed nesting areas and specific host plants to do their work: fostering our vulnerable biodiversity.

Southern Canada's rural roadsides alone make up more than 11,000 square kilometres. That adds up to two times the land mass of Prince Edward Island just waiting to be converted to native meadows, all of which could be home to extraordinary biodiversity

### WORKING LANDSCAPES FOR BIODIVERSITY

Native meadows are compatible with the need to manage vegetation along rights-of-way. They create short, stable, low-growth plant communities that require less mowing and less spraying. That saves money, reduces pesticide use and cuts fossil fuel use and greenhouse gas emissions, helping governments and corporations to meet their net-zero carbon targets.

Local ecosystem benefits include flood and drought mitigation, carbon storage, natural snow fencing and helping to keep out alien invasive plants.

Many jurisdictions in the United States have cut costs by converting roadsides to much-needed pollinator habitat. Does your municipality have a plan? Call to find out!

### OPPORTUNITY

Rights-of-way are regularly mown, cleared and sprayed to manage vegetation. This creates conditions in which wildlife cannot flourish. Utilities, governments and others spend millions every year keeping these areas clear.

#### PASSIVE CONVERSION

Allow an area to renaturalize: it will happen over a single growing season, resulting in a mix of native and non-native species and greater biodiversity. And it lowers costs, immediately and for the long term.

Mow less frequently, restricted to early spring or late autumn when pollinator activity is ebbing, allowing handy native species to return and thrive.

Reintroduce native beneficial predators to manage alien invasive species.

To discourage invasives, use herbicides selectively, plus weed mats, other non-chemical barriers and manual weed pulling—all of which are cheaper, cleaner and safer.

#### ACTIVE CONVERSION

This approach results in high-quality, low-maintenance natural meadow conditions, providing the greatest possible benefits to biodiversity. It is more costly than passive approaches because it can require several seasons of site preparation, but it's ideal for newly constructed projects.

Plow, bulldoze, grade or dig out existing invasive vegetation.

Over two years, repeatedly spray, dig out or rake invasives to completely clear them.

Seed intensively with only native species.

Suppress invasive species until the native meadow is established.



# Integrated Vegetation Management

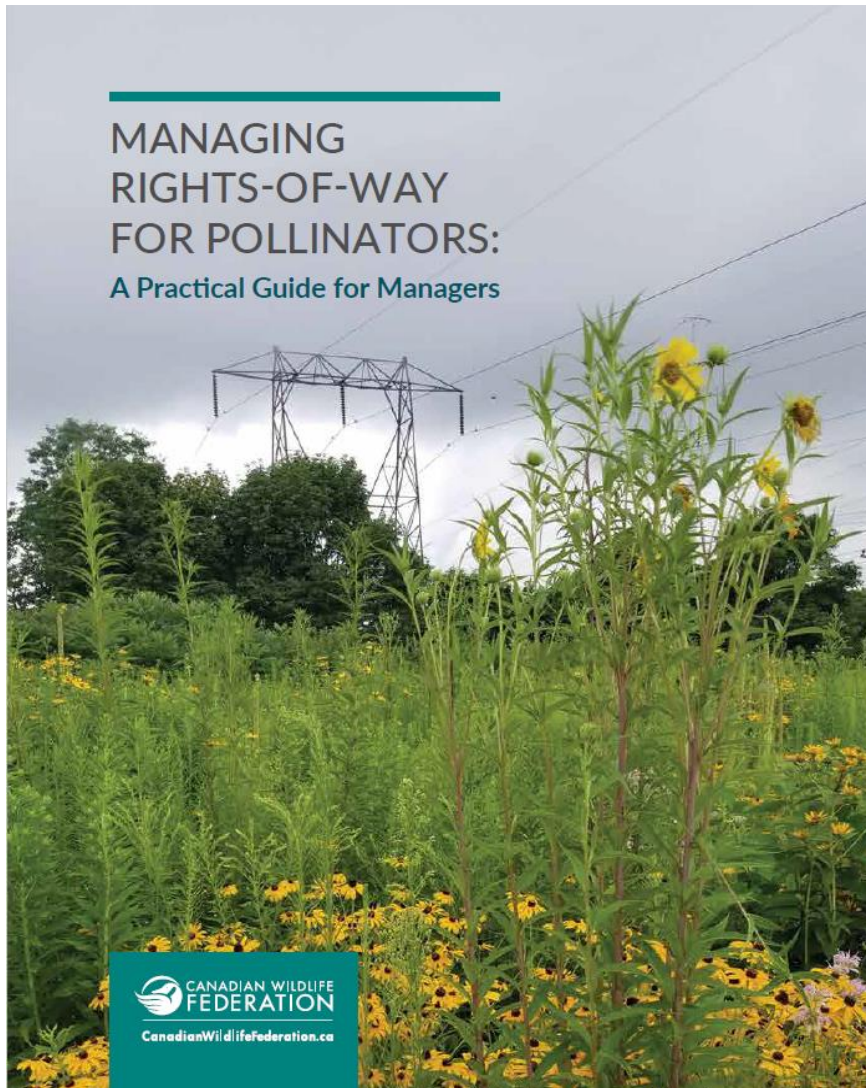


- Multi-method control plan
- Management of weeds and brush/trees
- Well-defined goals and objectives
- Supported by Council and implemented by staff





# Pollinator Habitat Restoration



- Passive or Active Restoration
- Site selection
- Site preparation is key
- Custom seed mixes
- Maintenance and monitoring





# Benefits of ROW Pollinator Habitat



Sowing a pollinator snow fence - 2021

- Reduced maintenance costs
- Erosion protection and flood attenuation
- Living snow fence
- Carbon sequestration
- Wildlife habitat, connectivity



# Pollinator Habitat Restoration



- 1-acre roadside strip
- Largely parsnip, non-native grasses, and invasive species
- Herbicide, tiller, seeded, rolled, mowed

Lafleur Road, Township of North Dundas





# Pollinator Habitat Restoration – Mill Run CA

2021 - Fall



2022 - Summer



2022 - Fall



2024 - Fall







# Lessons Learned



- Importance of site preparation
- Chemical control
- Timing of mowing
- Seasonal hydrological conditions
- Short-term pain for long-term gain



# Partnerships and Collaboration



- Eastern Ontario ROW Community of Practice
- Canadian Wildlife Federation
- Lanark County
- Conservation Authorities





# SNC Municipal Services





Our Local Environment, We're in it Together.



SOUTH NATION  
**CONSERVATION**  
DE LA NATION SUD



**MUNICIPALITY OF NORTH GRENVILLE**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**Monday, March 24, 2025, 6:00 p.m.**  
**Held in Meeting Room 1, 285 County Road 44**

MEMBERS PRESENT Co-Chair Fred Schueler  
Mayor Nancy Peckford  
Nadia Diakun-Thibault  
Peter Friedrichs  
Sasha Honsl

MEMBERS ABSENT Co-Chair Councillor Kristin Strackerjan

STAFF PRESENT Senterre McKenna, Committee Clerk

OTHERS PRESENT Deputy Mayor John Barclay  
Councillor Doreen O'Sullivan  
Councillor Deb Wilson  
Kelly Laselle  
Schalene Scott  
Megan Moretti  
Lucy Moretti  
Aiden Moretti  
Isabelle Lasalle  
Paisley Scott  
Ella Laselle  
Sophia Moretti

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**A. Open Meeting**

Co-Chair Fred Schueler called the meeting to order at 6:13 p.m.

**B. Land Acknowledgment**

The land acknowledgement was read by Fred Schueler.

**C. Approval of the Agenda**

**#EAAC-2025- 9**

Moved By Nadia Diakun-Thibault  
Seconded By Sasha Honsl

*Be it resolved that:*

*The Committee agenda for March 24, 2025 be approved as presented.*

**CARRIED**

**D. Disclosure of Interest**

None.

**E. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting**

**#EAAC-2025- 10**

Moved By Sasha Honsl

Seconded By Nadia Diakun-Thibault

*Be it resolved that:*

*The following meeting minutes be approved as circulated:*

1. February 24, 2025

**CARRIED**

1. Committee Meeting Minutes - February 24, 2025

**F. Delegations**

None.

1. Oxford on Rideau Public School - Habitat Student Garden, Crozier Park

Students from Oxford on Rideau presented their native plant habitat garden, highlighting what they've learned about gardening and how it benefits both animals and plants. They shared their bean growth experiment and the results of their research. The students are focused on maintaining the garden throughout the spring and summer, having researched which plants work best together. Over the winter, they weather-proofed the area to protect the garden. They named the garden the Gnome Garden. The students requested an update from Parks and Recreation regarding the installation of water tanks for the garden.

The Mayor inquired if the planting occurred last fall. The students explained that they had collected and germinated plants through a stratification process, and plan to plant them this spring. John Barclay



asked the students to elaborate on stratification, a process they learned from former EAAC Member Philip Fry.

Fred Schueler commented that while the plants will grow tall, the area is part of the Smiths Falls Limestone Plains, where most plants thrive in shallow soil.

The students were selected by their peers to represent the Grade 6 class. They wanted to present as school representatives to emphasize the garden's importance to the community and inspire others. They hope to attract butterflies to the garden this summer.

**Action Item:** The Committee Clerk will follow up with Parks and Recreation regarding the installation of water tanks.

The chair requested a brief pause for a photo with the students.

The students and members of the public left the meeting at 6:45 pm.

#### **G. Decision Items**

None.

#### **H. Correspondence/Information Items/Reports**

##### **1. Roadside Pollinator Habitat Planting**

The attached information will be reviewed by the Members, and Michelle Cavanaugh from South Nation Conservation will give a presentation at the April meeting. Nadia expressed concerns about roadside pollination, mentioning recent significant trimming on her road, which contradicts efforts to support pollinators by cutting back in the spring.

Fred Schueler raised concerns about trillium seeds and other ground plants, as they are impacted by roadside trimming.

Peter Friedrichs suggested adding this issue to the workplan, emphasizing the need for a clear definition of areas and zones with native plants to ensure their protection.

##### **2. Bishops Mills Cheese Factory Proposal**

Fred Schueler shared the history of the former Bishops Mills Cheese Factory. The original building was destroyed by fire, but the land is now owned by the municipality. A plaque currently marks the location of the fire. Fred noted that while the site has many trees, the soil is poor due to the fire, and invasive species like cathartic buckthorn are a persistent issue, harming other plants.

He proposed controlling the invasive species and planting native plants, along with adding a dock to the water to encourage interest in the land.

The Mayor suggested inviting Phil Mosher, Deputy Clerk of Planning, and Mark Guy, Director of Parks and Recreation, to a future meeting to discuss the potential for a future park at this location.

A joint meeting with ACHAC, the Bishops Mills Historical Society, and EAAC was also proposed for a more in-depth discussion, with the possibility of including this project in the 2026 budget, along with commemorative tree care and management.

### 3. Roadside Trimming

Correspondence was received from Mike Finley, Director of Public Works, regarding tree trimming along the road.

Mayor Nancy Peckford mentioned that there had been an in-depth discussion with the County in the past about trimming, particularly due to concerns about native plants and wild parsnip. The County is concerned about road clearing in the summer and the absence of snow fences in the winter. The Mayor, who sits on the board for good roads, will be attending a meeting next week and will bring up this discussion.

The members discussed tree trimming within municipal boundaries and County roads and have requested that Mike Finley attend the next meeting to address their concerns.

### 4. Water Security Update

Peter Friedrich noted that he did receive an update received from Public Works department. He had a copy of the RFP for the servicing master plan update. He wanted to have Mike Finley at the meeting to give a more comprehensive update on the timeline for the report. The Municipal website usually published the annual wastewater report, and the other is the annual performance report on the local drinking water. Peter has requested the publication of the 2024 reports so he can incorporate this information. Members suggested including well water testing results for contaminated water reports for North Grenville.

The water Sustainability report will be a standing item.

### 5. Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference will be presented to Council on April 8th for approval.

**I. Other Business**

Peter Friedrichs shared an article from The Humm Paper regarding mini forest in the communities and a specific article of a mini forest in the Kingston area, and they are seeking volunteers.

**1. Items for Next Meeting**

Tree Care and Management By-law, Doreen O'Sullivan

Delegation- Roadside Pollinators, Michelle Cavanaugh from South Nation Conservation

Bishop's Mills Cheese Factory Park, Mark Guy, Director of Parks and Recreation

Water Security Update, Peter Friedrichs

Workplan Review, Sasha Honsl

**J. Public Questions**

None.

**K. Adjournment**

**#EAAC-2025- 11**

Moved By Nadia Diakun-Thibault

Seconded By Peter Friedrichs

*Be it resolved that:*

*The meeting be adjourned at 7:58 p.m.*

**CARRIED**

**CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY  
OF NORTH GRENVILLE  
Council Meeting**

**Agenda Number:** N.3.  
**Resolution Number** C-2024-413  
**Title:** Tree Care and Management - Deliberation  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 11, 2024

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**Moved by** Doreen O'Sullivan  
**Seconded by** Kristin Strackerjan

WHEREAS trees are often planted

- As part of roadworks contracts,
- As part of the Commemorative Gift Program in memory of someone or in honor of someone or some event, or to enhance our community,
- As part of recreational parkland development or enhancement.

WHEREAS these trees, as part of landscaping plans in a contract or donation from residents, are funded by taxpayers and therefore become NG assets,

WHEREAS there is solid evidence related to the benefits of trees including;

- The reduction of stress and anxiety. lowering blood pressure, improving mood, alleviating depression particularly in young people, prevention of cognitive decline and overall improved mental and physical health,
- A positive environmental impact including, improved soil quality, improved air quality, decreased air pollution, reduced flooding and erosion, removal of pollutants from rainfall which ultimately replenishes our aquifers,
- Provision of shade, reduction of UV exposure and provision of a natural wind break,
- Visual and esthetic effects include blocking views of commercial buildings and car parks, as well as filtering light and noise.

WHEREAS the Municipality has a responsibility for the care, maintenance and replacement of all its assets,

NOW THERFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Municipality of North Grenville establish a By-Law to include trees, which have been purchased with tax dollars, as natural assets and establish a policy for the care, maintenance and replacement of such trees in our parks and public spaces;



AND THAT Council assign the initial consultation and deliberation of such By-law to the Environmental Action Advisory Committee to report back on by the end of Q1 2025.

**CARRIED AS AMENDED**

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Mayor