

# UPCOMING DATES

## SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER Election Recess

### SEPTEMBER 10

**Waterfront Toronto Board of Directors**, 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., 20 Bay St., Suite 1310

### SEPTEMBER 12

**Nomination Day**, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., council chamber

### SEPTEMBER 16

**Design Review Panel**, 12:00-5:30 p.m., committee room 2

### SEPTEMBER 17

**Waterfront Toronto Design Review Panel**, 9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., 20 Bay St., Suite 1310

### OCTOBER 8

**Waterfront Toronto Design Review Panel**, 9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., 20 Bay St., Suite 1310

### OCTOBER 14-19

**Advance voting for municipal election**, 10:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.

### OCTOBER 15

**Design Review Panel**, 12:00-5:30 p.m., committee room 2

### OCTOBER 27

**Municipal election day**, 10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.

### NOVEMBER 13

**Design Review Panel**, 12:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m., committee room 2

### DECEMBER 2

**Inaugural council meeting**, 9:30 a.m., council chamber

### DECEMBER 3

**Council**, 9:30 a.m., council chamber

### DECEMBER 4

**Etobicoke York Community Council**, 9:30 a.m., council chamber, Etobicoke Civic Centre



Reintroducing milkweed to Ontario

# POLLINATOR CITY

By Leah Wong

Monarch butterflies have started their annual migration towards Mexico, with many journeys starting in Ontario. Overall this has been a good year for monarchs, especially in comparison in 2013, which was one of the worst years in history for monarchs.

In Ontario the environment for monarchs has improved following a **Ministry of Agriculture and Food** decision to remove milkweed from the Schedule of Noxious Weeds. Monarch butterflies depend on milkweed to lay eggs and feed their caterpillars.

“We’ve become very good at eradicating all the milkweed species,” **Sustain Ontario** advisory committee co-chair **Bryan Gilvesy** told *NRU*. “But milkweed is vital for important butterflies, most notably the monarchs.”

Gilvesy said removing milkweed from the noxious weeds list is the first step in allowing farmers and backyard gardeners a way to reintroduce milkweed back into the environment.

Another organization that has been involved in the comeback of milkweed is the **David Suzuki Foundation**, which launched its Got Milkweed campaign in the spring. The foundation started selling milkweed and raised money to plant it in schoolyards and parks. There has also been

an outreach effort, which is an important part of educating the public on the fact that milkweed isn’t actually a weed.

“It’s been really important to just re-remember that these species are important to pollinate our food supply,” said Gilvesy. “That’s the biggest issue. You can make the connection between the insect and how we societally need food to live.”

One of the reasons the Suzuki Foundation started its campaign was the limited availability of milkweed at garden centres and it interest in finding out if people were interested in planting it. The campaign resulted in the planting of more than 4,000 plants in private gardens, schoolyards and parks across the city.

“We didn’t know how excited Torontonians would be to plant milkweed in their gardens,” David Suzuki Foundation communications specialist **Jode Roberts** told *NRU*. “Turns out, they were very excited.”

There are three commonly used species native to Ontario, which can replace flowers in a garden. It can be a substitute for more exotic flowers and it has the added benefit of feeding monarchs and other native pollinators.

The effect of the reintroduction of milkweed on the monarch population won’t be seen right away. CONTINUED PAGE 6 ▶

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# KEEPING PACE WITH DEVELOPMENT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Community Housing, streetscape, parkland improvements and public art.

“In addition, the project is providing a unique resource, which is about 25,000 square feet of privately-owned, publically-accessible open space on the eighth floor that will be accessible by elevator. So that speaks directly to providing important amenity space.”

Wood said the city is doing a lot of work to ensure these developments place more than just people in the Bloor/Yonge area. He notes that this and all the developments occurring are bringing in huge development charges to the city, which could go towards further improvements.

“It’s not like you put up your hand and get approved,” Wood said.

Ryerson School of Urban and Regional Planning associate director **Mitchell Kosny** noted that historically, human services tend to lag behind the residents who move into an area.

Kosny isn’t sure if you can build those services at the same time as the developments go in, but feels that the lag seems to be very long and should be shortened, using St. Lawrence and Bathurst Quay neighbourhoods as he reference points. Kosny is also concerned that not enough public spaces are being built for the larger community.

“When I go to Yonge and Bloor or Bay and Bloor, there’s no place. What’s the closest park, the one in Yorkville? I don’t see any community there. There’s only one purpose in going there, if you live there you go into your building, or you go



Development applications in Bay-Bloor-Yonge area

CITY OF TORONTO

shopping...What we have there today is a privatized view of development.”

Like **Wong-Tam**, Kosny would like to see a community centre, more child care facilities and drop in centres—and not on the fifth floor of a building.

The city is undertaking several initiatives to help manage growth in the area, including the ongoing Comprehensive to the Core review, which is a focused study on how the downtown is growing. It will inform a planning framework and infrastructure growth strategy. Also, the Yorkville / East of Bay Planning Framework, which will guide the evaluation of current and future development applications, was adopted by council August 25. **nrU**

# POLLINATOR CITY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

However, Roberts said monarch sightings were more common this summer, and well recorded on social media. A year ago, these reports were rare.

Moving forward the foundation is looking at getting milkweed planted along rail, road and hydro corridors. In many of these areas trees aren’t allowed, but flowers are another

way to introduce plant life.

“There are lots of these corridors that are ideally located for pollinator friendly plants,” said Roberts. It will take a change in plans to encourage milkweed growth in those areas, such as reduced fertilization and mowing. “Those can be managed fairly simply and are often a cost reduction.” **nrU**