

**Report on the Canadian Pollinator Conservation 2013:  
Next Steps Meeting  
April 10, 2013  
University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario**



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**Major Meeting Sponsors:**



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All photos in this report were taken by Victoria MacPhail.

## 1. Executive Summary

Wildlife Preservation Canada, in partnership with the Pollinator Partnership and the Society for Conservation Biology – Toronto Chapter, organized a one-day meeting focusing on the conservation of at-risk pollinators on April 10, 2013. Eighty-five participants, representing government agencies, land managers, NGOs, conservation authorities, industry representatives and academics, met at the University of Toronto to listen to a full slate of presentations. Topics included current hands-on conservation work in Canada encompassing large-scale restoration projects, the status of pollinators in Canada, citizen science and community projects, and policies related to species protection. Attendees also had an opportunity to comment on their areas of interest, roadblocks facing pollinators and pollinator conservation work in Canada, resources that may help, and possible next steps.

The need to create more pollinator habitat, particularly pollinator gardens, was the most commonly expressed next step, followed by collaboration and education. The lack of adequate funding, educational resources, and locally-sourced native plants were the major roadblocks identified, although several individuals shared resources that they have developed that may help others, and others offered to share their experiences with projects

Policy and advocacy work were the areas of least interest expressed by attendees, but legal protection for pollinators was one of the next steps that were brought forward by multiple individuals. Indeed, without protection for pollinators, even with on-going restoration and outreach projects, pollinator conservation may not be successful in the long-term; thus there may be a need to develop materials to make it easier for others to advocate for pollinators and help affect policy.

This meeting was an important one in that it brought people together from a variety of fields and backgrounds. The organizing committee hopes that this allowed for new collaborations and sharing of resources to begin, and they will support these linkages through the development of an accessible, well known, and user-friendly web presence, including e-groups: e-mail listservs that will allow people with similar interests to stay in touch and support each other. Through these avenues, and future meetings, the next steps in Canadian pollinator conservation can be taken to the benefit of all.

## 2. Introduction

The Canadian Pollinator Conservation 2013: Next Steps meeting was held on April 10, 2013 at the University of Toronto, in Toronto, Ontario. Over 85 people attended, including government agencies, land managers, NGOs, conservation authorities, industry representatives and academics, while many other individuals expressed their regret in being unable to attend.

The meeting was organized by Victoria MacPhail, Sheila Colla, Elaine Williams, and Jessica Steiner of Wildlife Preservation Canada, with support from Vicki Wojcik and Laurie Davies Adams of the Pollinator



*Elaine Williams and Vicki Wojcik greet Deborah Kenley at the registration desk.*

Partnership and Ilona Naujokaitis-Lewis of the Society for Conservation Biology – Toronto Chapter.

The purpose of this conference was to raise the profile of pollinator conservation and awareness efforts in Canada and to engage various stakeholders so that there is more support for pollinator work across the country. Our overall objective was to build opportunity networks that can potentially increase partnerships, reduce duplication of efforts, and increase successful multi-partner projects funded by a variety of sources.

Eighteen main speakers, and an additional nine three-minute presenters, talked about the status of pollinators in Canada, policies related to species protection, work being done by federal agencies and industry groups, as well as current hands-on conservation work in Canada from agricultural operations through to large-scale restoration projects.

During the meeting attendees had the opportunity to share the problems and roadblocks to pollinator conservation that they are facing, resources they are aware of that might help others, projects they are involved with that they would be willing to share their experiences with or that they require help with, and their ideas for the next steps that are required to move forward the field of pollinator conservation in Canada. These were collated with responses obtained from a similar on-line survey and are presented later in this report.



*Networking was a very important component of the meeting*

This meeting was not the first meeting to be held about pollination in Canada. Indeed, several other meetings had occurred in the previous seven years, hosted by different organizations and with differing purposes and outcomes. These are listed in Appendix 1. Note that this list excludes meetings held during the annual North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC) meetings, Canadian Pollination Initiative (NSERC-CANPOLIN) research network meetings, and those related to the formation and/or operation of Pollination Guelph and other local organizations, including annual symposiums and other meetings. It relates to meetings on a broader level in Canada. It is the organizing committee's hope that this report and discussions will continue the discussion.

### **3. Sponsoring Organizations**

We would like to express our thanks to all of the organizations who helped to organize or sponsor the April 10, 2013 meeting. In addition to the groups listed below, other individuals and organizations provided materials for display or for participants to take home. The meeting would not have been as much of a success if we had not had your support.

- Wildlife Preservation Canada
- Pollinator Partnership Canada
- Society for Conservation Biology – Toronto Chapter



*Two staff members from Davids Tea provided attendees with fresh Prairie Berry tea at breaks.*

- University of Toronto (Dr. Marie-Josée Fortin, Dept. Ecology & Evolutionary Biology)
- York University (Office of the Vice President of Research and Innovation; Faculty of Science and Engineering)
- Canadian Society for Ecology and Evolution
- Davids Tea

#### 4. Meeting Presenters

Eighteen main presenters, and an additional nine attendees, shared their knowledge and projects with the group. In addition to the titles of their talks, the biographies for all of the main presenters are included below, listed in the order that they presented on April 10. Where applicable, their presentations are available at <http://wildlifepreservation.ca/3284-2/>.

- a. Elaine Williams, Wildlife Preservation Canada - *Welcome and Wildlife Preservation Canada's At Risk Pollinator Conservation Program*

Elaine is the Executive Director of Wildlife Preservation Canada. She has over 29 years of management experience in the non-profit sector and over 24 years of experience managing and coordinating science based conservation and recovery programs involving collaborations with multiple partners and stakeholders. She has developed strategic partnerships with local, provincial, federal and international agencies including governments, other NGOs, universities and industry sectors, and has managed biodiversity conservation projects with local partner organizations in most Canadian provinces and in such diverse countries as Brazil, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Madagascar and Mauritius.



- b. Sheila Colla, PhD, Wildlife Preservation Canada - *The Status of Bumblebees in Canada*

Sheila recently completed her Ph.D. under the supervision of Laurence Packer at York University and is currently a postdoctoral fellow with Wildlife Preservation Canada. She is one of the IUCN Bumblebee Specialist group's North American Coordinators and holds a position on the COSEWIC Arthropod subcommittee. She has been studying the ecology, behaviour and conservation of native North American bumblebees since 2003. She has co-authored a Field Guide to the Bumble bees of North America, which will be published this year by Princeton University Press and is currently working on the soon to be launched [bumblebeewatch.org](http://bumblebeewatch.org).



- c. Jennifer Heron, B.C. Ministry of Environment, Vancouver - *The Status of Arthropod Pollinators in Canada and Pollinator Projects in the Garry Oak Ecosystems*

Jennifer Heron is the provincial invertebrate conservation specialist with the B.C. Ministry of Environment. She directs and manages the provincial approach to invertebrate conservation, including the development and implementation of provincial legislation, policy, procedures, and standards for the conservation, and recovery of invertebrate species at risk, their habitats and ecosystems, and to keep these species from becoming at risk. She works with other invertebrate specialists to develop recovery-planning approaches and assign conservation status ranks to invertebrate groups. She chairs three recovery teams, and works with local conservation and stewardship groups to achieve common conservation and public outreach goals. Jennifer received her MSc from the University of British Columbia and studied the effects of grazing on



ants in the south Okanagan grasslands. She is currently the Co-chair of the Arthropods Subcommittee of the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada.

d. Jessica Linton, MES, Natural Resources Solutions Inc. - *The Current Status of Butterflies*

Jessica is a Biologist and Project Manager employed by Natural Resource Solutions Inc., an environmental consulting firm in Waterloo, Ontario. For over ten years she has been conducting butterfly surveys, behavioural monitoring and migration studies in Canada and abroad. Jessica has been retained by a variety of organizations, municipalities and government agencies to develop standardized butterfly monitoring protocols and carry out inventories of butterflies. In 2011 she completed a Masters in Environment and Resources Studies at the University of Waterloo which focused on the effects of different urban land uses on butterfly communities.



e. Laurence Packer, PhD, York University - *Bee Diversity in Canada*  
Laurence Packer is a Professor at York University whose academic life revolves around the study of bees, all bees. He has one of the largest native bee labs in the world and has led various large-scale initiatives including Barcoding the Bees of the World. He is an award-winning author, having written the highly-regarded book “Keeping the Bees” published by Harper Collins in 2010, and is a former Co-Chair of the COSEWIC Arthropod sub-committee. He has played a leadership role in the Canadian Pollination Initiative and is currently the leader of the Wild Pollinator Taxonomy working group.



f. Alana Pindar, PhD Candidate, York University - *The Importance of Fire for Maintaining Wild Bee Diversity in Oak Savannah Habitat of Southern Ontario*

Alana Pindar is a PhD student in Dr. Laurence Packer's Lab at York University. She has been studying the effects of fire restoration on bee communities in Oak Savanna habitat since 2005 at various sites throughout Southern Ontario.



g. Scott MacIvor, PhD Candidate, York University - *Green Roofs as Habitat for Wild Bees*

Scott is a Ph.D. student currently working in Dr. Laurence Packer's lab at York University. He is studying the influence of urban landscapes on insect communities.



h. Jeff Skevington, PhD, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Canadian National Collection of Insects - Arachnids and Nematodes - *Breaking the taxonomic barrier: Research on Diptera pollinators in Canada*

Jeff Skevington is a Research Scientist with the Insect Biodiversity section of the Canadian National Insect Collection at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. He is also an Adjunct Professor with Carleton University and an Associated Graduate Faculty Member at the University of Guelph. He received his PhD from the



University of Queensland, both his Masters and Bachelors of Science from the University of Guelph, and a Bachelor of Education degree from Lakehead University. His area of interest lies in systematic entomology, with a particular emphasis on Diptera. He is the president of the Entomological Society of Ontario and vice-president of the Ottawa Field Naturalists. He has given hundreds of presentations, written numerous articles, books, and papers, and taught a course on the identification of Syrphidae (hover flies).

- i. Connie Hart, PhD, Environmental Assessment Directorate, Pest Management Regulatory Agency, Health Canada - *Overview of Pollinator Protection Initiatives- Pest Management Regulatory Agency, Health Canada*

Dr. Connie Hart has worked at Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency in the Environmental Assessment Directorate since 2001. Since 2010, she has been the Senior Science Advisor, where much of her time has been spent managing issues related to pesticides and pollinators. Involvement in international activities related to pollinators includes representing Canada as co-chair of the OECD Pesticide Effects on Insect Pollinators Project along with the U.S.A. and France, as well as participation in the International Commission for Plant-Bee Relationships (ICPBR) Bee Protection Group. Prior to coming to Health Canada, Connie received her Ph.D. in 1998 from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute in Boston and Woods Hole, Massachusetts.



- j. Melanie J. McCavour, Lecturer, Concordia University, Loyola College for Diversity and Sustainability and Geography, Planning and Environment - *Legal and Regulatory Protection of Pollinators in North America*

Melanie McCavour is a PhD Candidate at the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM), Department of Biology and teaches Biodiversity, Sustainable Forest Management and Reproductive Plant Ecology for Concordia University's Loyola College for Diversity and Sustainability, and for the Department of Geography, Planning and Environment. In her research, she explores the effects of forest fine woody debris in hybrid *Populus* plantations on soil fertility, tree yield, diversity and precocity of fruiting plant species and pollination success. Melanie has been an advocate for, and working with the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign to find legislative ways to protect pollinator diversity and abundance in North America under NAFTA since 2009; first in Washington, DC as an intern with the USDA Forest Service and since 2010, from Montreal, Quebec. She is now exploring ways in which pollinators might be best protected by other existing legislative and non-legislative (recommendations, best management practices) means and hopes to link pollinator protective measures to current sustainability criteria under the Convention on Biological Diversity and other bodies.



- k. Bryan Gilvesy, HBA, Proprietor – Y U Ranch, Chairman - Norfolk County ALUS (Alternative Land Use Services) - *Reconnecting Farmers to Pollinators*

Bryan is a graduate of the Richard Ivey School of Business and the University of Western Ontario. He is the proprietor of Y U Ranch, producing Local Food Plus certified beef, and dealing directly with consumers in Southern Ontario. He is also the Eastern Canada Lead of ALUS (Alternative Lands Use Services), the emerging program that envisions farmers as key environmental solution providers. Finally, he is the Co-Chair of the Sustain Ontario Steering





Committee, the coalition for good food and farming.

l. Kim Fellows, Pollination Canada - *The Latest Buzz from Pollination Canada*  
Kim Fellows has been working part-time for over a year at Seeds of Diversity Canada (SoDC), as the Pollination Outreach Co-ordinator for Pollination Canada, a project within SoDC. Kim's related background includes a Master's of Science in Biology from Queen's University, and three years working at Harrow Research Station, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.



m. Paul Hoekstra, PhD, Syngenta - *Pollinators and Sustainable Agriculture*  
Dr. Paul Hoekstra is the Technical Registration Manager, Human and Environmental Exposure for Syngenta Canada Inc., an agri-business committed to sustainable agriculture – farming with future generations in mind. Paul has an extensive background in environmental chemistry, toxicology and risk assessment research, including an undergraduate degree from the University of Waterloo and a PhD from the University of Guelph. Within Syngenta Canada, Paul focuses on the human and environmental safety of crop protection products, and works with colleagues and external stakeholders to build awareness for the stewardship and safety of crop protection technology. Paul is a member of the Syngenta pollinator and stewardship team that assess the safety of their products to honey bees and other pollinators, which is part of their commitment to sustainable agriculture. He also represents Syngenta on several industry committees, including Crop Life Canada's Pollinator Working Group, Environmental Subcommittee, Operator/Bystander Exposure Subcommittee and Seed Treatment Accreditation Program.



n. Janine McLeod, BSc and Kristina Hubert, MSc, Alderville Black Oak Savanna - *The Alderville First Nation Black Oak Savanna and Tallgrass Prairie: Restoring One of Canada's Rarest Ecosystems*

Janine has had a life-long love of nature, which led her to enrolling at Trent University in her late 40s where she received an Honours Bachelor of Science degree with an emphasis in Conservation Biology. In 2006 she was hired as the Natural Heritage coordinator for the Alderville Black Oak Savanna and was responsible for the maintenance and restoration of the site as well as outreach & education. With increased funding for the project, there are now two staff: Kristina Hubert who is the Restoration & Research Coordinator and Janine acting as the Nature Educator & Outreach Coordinator. She now focuses on sharing her passion for this very special place by doing presentations, conducting tours, coordinating volunteer work days and arranging special events at the Alderville Black Oak Savanna.



Kristina has worked at the Black Oak Savanna for three years as the Restoration and Research Coordinator. She has a Master of Science degree in Natural Resources and Environmental Science.

o. Victoria MacPhail, MSc, Pollination Guelph - *Areas Big and Small, We Tackle Them All – Pollination Guelph's efforts to increase pollinator habitat in the City of Guelph*



Victoria MacPhail is a pollination biologist with a Master of Science degree in Environmental Biology from the University of Guelph. She was the Coordinator of the Canadian Pollination Initiative network during its formative period, and is also a member of the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign. She is a founding member and currently the Director of Publicity and Outreach for Pollination Guelph, a completely volunteer-run organization that works to protect pollinators and their habitats. She is currently working for Wildlife Preservation Canada as a Pollinators-at-Risk Initiative Coordinator.

- p. Ilona Naujokaitis-Lewis, PhD Candidate, University of Toronto and Society for Conservation Biology - Toronto Chapter - *Development of pollinator diversity baselines and influence of restoration efforts in Canada's first national urban park*

Ilona is currently a PhD candidate at the University of Toronto. She is a spatial ecologist who specializes in understanding factors influencing species range dynamics over multiple scales and the development and application of prioritization tools for the conservation of biodiversity. As President of the Toronto Chapter of the Society for Conservation Biology she initiated “SCB-TO goes Rouge”, which aims to develop pollinator diversity baselines in Rouge Park and increase community awareness of local pollinator conservation. Her research spans taxonomic groups and includes both the birds and the bees.



- q. Victoria Wojcik, PhD, Pollinator Partnership - *Collaborative Efforts for Pollinator Conservation: Pollinator Partnership Programs and Initiatives*

Vicki Wojcik’s graduate research focused on understanding the factors that influence the occurrence of bees in cities; her professional work looks at the health and wellbeing of pollinator systems in other anthropogenic landscapes. At the Pollinator Partnership (P2) she develops and manages research programs that fill significant data gaps in pollinator science and promote outreach to the public and relevant industry. Vicki is an active member of the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC) and serves on other boards for organizations seeking to enhance the roles of pollinators in their industry. She received her B.Sc. Honours from the University of Guelph in 2004 and her Ph.D. in Environmental Science, Policy, & Management from UC Berkeley in 2009. When she isn’t visiting field sites across North America you can find Vicki in her San Francisco garden growing native bee plants and crops.



- r. Three-Minute Briefings by Attendees

1. Ewa Jackson - ICLEI’s Work to Protect Biodiversity
2. Sarah Bates - CANPOLIN Activities and Future Plans
3. Sandy M. Smith - Honeybees as Exotic Species in Forests
4. Gurushabd Khalsa - Under the Mango Tree Program (Indian Honeybees)
5. Sarah Peebles - Resonating Bodies & Audio Bee Booths
6. Scott Tarof - Earth Rangers “Bring Back the Wild” Partnership with Wildlife Preservation Canada
7. Deborah Dale - Verdigrow: Toronto Bylaws and Gardens
8. Jennifer Grodon – Solitary Bee Nesting Monitoring Project at Niagara College
9. Gillian Leitch – Home-grown National Park in Garrison Creek (David Suzuki Foundation)



*Laurie Davies Adams shows off the two watches she used to keep everyone to the strict time limit.*

## 5. Media Attention

One of the goals of the organizers was to obtain media attention for the conference, not only to promote the meeting and encourage a diverse group of individuals to attend, but also to help raise awareness of the importance of pollinator conservation with the general public. We were successful in obtaining radio, web, and, hopefully in the near future, print coverage. These included:

CBC Radio Metro Morning (coverage: Greater Toronto Area), April 10, 2013: Scott MacIvor spoke about urban bees, green roofs, and related topics.

<http://www.cbc.ca/metromorning/episodes/2013/04/10/urban-bees/> (audio interview)

CBC Radio Canada International (coverage: on-line, targets audiences around the world), April 10, 2013: Laurence Packer spoke of problems facing pollinators, steps for conservation, and more.

<http://www.rcinet.ca/en/2013/04/11/canadian-conference-on-the-worrisome-decline-of-bees/> (text article plus audio interview)

CBC Radio Canada (french) (coverage: national), April 10, 2013: Melanie McCavour, Victoria MacPhail, Clement Kent, and others were interviewed about the meeting, problems facing pollinators, particularly honeybees, and what people can do to help (audio interview)

York University Press Release. April 5, 2013. York U bee experts to speak on conservation of Canadian pollinators. <http://news.yorku.ca/2013/04/05/york-u-bee-experts-to-speak-on-conservation-of-canadian-pollinators/> (text article)



*Melanie McCavour was amongst those interviewed by Radio-Canada during the event*

At least one journalist and writer were also in attendance. It is hoped that further articles will be written about the meeting and our next steps.

The meeting was advertised on a variety of web-sites, including those of the Halton Environmental Network, NOW Toronto, Ontario Beekeepers Association, Pollination Guelph, Pollinator Partnership Canada, Society for Conservation Biology - Toronto Chapter, STEP project, Wildlife Preservation Canada, and the York Region Environmental Alliance. It was also cross-promoted with the Ontario Endangered Species Act Conference, which was held at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto on April 8-9, 2013. E-mail coverage included many of the above groups, as well as the Canadian Pollination Initiative (NSERC-CANPOLIN) and Pollinator mailing lists.

## 6. Contributions from Meeting Attendees and Survey Participants

One of the goals of the meeting was to allow all attendees and interested parties a chance to share their areas of interest in the field of pollinator conservation and contribute to the next steps discussions. This was accomplished through three different methods. The first was during the on-line registration process, when registrants could select their area(s) of interest. The second was during the meeting, when attendees could add their ideas and comments to a series of chart papers. The third was an on-line survey where anyone interested could provide their input into

the same questions as were available at the meeting to comment on. The responses to each of the main questions are provided in the sections below.

**a. General Areas of Interest by Meeting Attendees**

Ninety-one people registered on-line and were given the opportunity to identify their areas of interest; a summary of their responses are below. The number after each interest area reflects the number of people who selected it, and the percentage of total respondents is in brackets. Note that people could select multiple responses; individual responses can be found associated with the list of attendees at the end of this report.

Interest in all categories was generally high, yet there were some separations. Flies were the least popular pollinator with only 32% of respondents selecting that option, while bumblebees were the highest at 70%. Interestingly, although honeybees are perhaps the most recognizable, studied, and commercially used pollinator in Canada, they were the second least popular species of interest amongst the respondents. The low response for flies may indicate a need for more recognition and promotion of their pollinating abilities – although they may not be as “good” as bees when speaking about pollinators and pollination in general, and are not often used in commercial settings, they can be very good pollinators of some species.



*Non-Apis and Bombus bees were the pollinators found to be of greatest interest to the registrants.*

Pollinator conservation was the highest non-pollinator specific area of interest at 84%, which makes sense as the registrants were attending a pollinator conservation meeting. However, on the other side of the spectrum, advocacy and policy were the two lowest at 30% and 41% respectively. As these two areas are key for raising awareness of the importance and the plight of pollinators, and for obtaining legal protection, the low expressions of interest may signal a need for further investigation into the reason(s) why individuals and groups are not doing this work. Indeed, the more people advocate for a topic, the more politicians and government officials will pay attention. Perhaps those who do have an interest, and experience, in the area can share their stories, tips, and templates so that others would not be intimidated, overwhelmed, or uncertain how to proceed in their own areas.

**Registration Responses**

*Pollinators*

- Bumblebees 64 (70%)
- Butterflies 51 (56%)
- Flies 29 (32%)
- Honeybees 43 (47%)
- Other bees 62 (68%)
- Other Pollinators 44 (48%)

*Non-Pollinators*

- Advocacy 27 (30%)
- Citizen science 48 (53%)
- Community outreach and education 55 (60%)
- Conservation 76 (84%)
- Plant research 40 (44%)

- Policy 37 (41%)
- Pollinator research 62 (68%)
- Restoration/planting for pollinators 68 (75%)

*Other Interests*

- Accessory bee products 1 (1%)
- Bees of the Osmiini (1%)
- Birds/birding 3 (3%)
- Bumblebee parasitology 1 (1%)
- Forest biodiversity 1 (1%)
- Hawkmoths (Lepidopterans in general) 1 (1%)
- Municipal bylaws 2 (2%)
- NAPPC 1 (1%)
- Planning for pollinators 1 (1%)

Pollination/pollinators in forests 2 (2%)  
Seed production 3 (3%)  
Social marketing for pollinators 1 (1%)

Species at risk and rare species 1 (1%)  
Taxonomy 1 (1%)  
Urban pollinator biodiversity 1 (1%)



*Community outreach and education was an area of interest for 60% of registrants. Several examples of outreach material were on display or available for distribution at the meeting.*

### **b. What Problems or Roadblocks do You Face with Your Pollinator Conservation Work?**

These responses are summarized from input obtained at the meeting and from the on-line survey. The numbers of respondents who listed that topic are in brackets at the end of each item. Lack of knowledge, by the public, schools, and politicians, was the most common roadblock to pollinator conservation work, followed by lack of funding and the difficulty in finding native plants.

- Lack of funding: for research, pollinator identifications, non-tree (herbaceous) plantings, staff, etc. (5)
- Lack of collaboration amongst organizations (1)
- Urban traffic (human) (1)
- Lack of knowledge: general ignorance (especially in general public), knowledge of pollinators beyond biodiversity, role of pollinators in fruit production, importance of non-social bees, nothing in the school curriculum about pollinators, how-to do habitat restoration, role of native pollinators in agriculture, importance of meadows as pollinator habitat (often planted with trees, developed, mowed), weed control, erroneous public perception, how to use native plants in gardening and landscaping, how to overcome fear of bees (17)
- Finding native plants: need to be easily accessible (e.g. garden centres, big box stores), clearly identified (species, bloom time, habitat), locally sourced, available in large quantities (e.g. for landscaping) (3)
- Pollinator identification: not enough experts, no resources for citizen scientists (2)
- Lack of legal protection for pollinators (1)
- Municipal policies and bylaws against pollinator habitat, urban gardens (1)
- Lack of action by government in general pollinator conservation (1)
- Politicians listen to voters, not to scientists (1)
- Compensation or incentives for farmers to replace cropland with pollinator habitat (1)
- Use of non-native species for crop pollination (1)
- Disease spill-over from commercial to wild colonies of bees (1)
- No ongoing site maintenance, which leads to succession or invasion by invasive weeds (1)
- No funding set aside for site maintenance or invasive species control (1)

- Limited weed control options, particularly public perception of pesticides: e.g. the public is against herbicides but sometimes it is the most feasible option for control of invasive species and aggressive shrubs (1)
- Red tape or administrative issues for projects, particularly with projects on public land (1)
- Age/career stage (2)
- Lack of time (2)

**c. Have You Created, or Know of Any, Resources That May Assist Others in Their Work?**

These responses are from input obtained at the meeting and from the on-line survey. If you would like to gain more information about these resources, please visit the links provided and/or contact the individuals who contributed the response directly.

- “How to make a pollinator garden” book – [clement@yorku.ca](mailto:clement@yorku.ca)
- Teacher resources for prairie habitat biodiversity conservation, online blog, etc. – Earth Rangers, [starof@earthrangers.com](mailto:starof@earthrangers.com)
- TRCA – “Greening Your Grounds” [www.trca.on.ca/greeningyourgrounds](http://www.trca.on.ca/greeningyourgrounds)
- Company information and websites on pollinator protection and tools for growers to minimize the impact of pesticides on pollinators are available (via Syngenta's website, <http://www.syngenta.ca>) and have been widely circulated to key stakeholders
- Green Evolution Site signs offer passerby the opportunity to read about and comment on specific landscapes that they encounter via a web-interface. This allows a non-confrontational forum to discuss issues and provide education rather than calling in bylaw inspectors to investigate landscapes that seem 'different'. [www.GreenEvolutionSite.com](http://www.GreenEvolutionSite.com)
- Have drafted text for a booklet entitled "Native Pollinators and Agriculture in Canada" targeted at agricultural extension specialists and motivated agricultural producers. Have contracted a literature review entitled "Profitable, sustainable and resilient field-scale cropping systems adaptable to the Prairie provinces of western Canada: A review". – [mark.wonneck@agr.gc.ca](mailto:mark.wonneck@agr.gc.ca)
- My booklet for creating a pollinator patch is available to anyone. See <http://conservation.gardenontario.org/resources/guide.pdf> (Carol Dunk).
- Stakeholders should be aware that the Ontario MNR recently disbanded the Ontario Stewardship Program. In its place are new Resource Technician Specialists which work out of every MNR regional office. These individuals are available for support for any NGO. In my role with an NGO I rely on this help but other NGO's seem unaware of the opportunity.
- Using Vine (a photographic cell-phone app), we can publish 6 second videos (animated portraits, really) of pollinating insects on flowers and publish them to Twitter and Facebook
- We are currently working on user-friendly bee identification keys. The genera of Canada are one of the priorities. These guides will help with insect identification, even for those less experienced in this subject area. Enabling people to place names on their subject organisms is very important, especially when they are so diverse! Many of these keys are available online. You can find links on <http://www.yorku.ca/bugsrus/index/> and on the website for the Canadian Journal of Arthropod Identification <http://www.biology.ualberta.ca/bsc/ejournal/ejournal.html>.

- Am working on some native plant garden plans specific to our region. Have created a list of host plants for butterflies in our region available on our website (at the bottom of the page): <http://www.conservationhalton.on.ca/ShowCategory.cfm?subCatID=1116> and cross referenced our "planting plan list" with what butterflies those plants support, bloom times and if they are a nectar/pollen source. To educate the public about the benefits of using native species for landscaping.
- Resonating Bodies - a series of art installations and community outreach projects which focuses on biodiversity of pollinators indigenous to the natural and urban ecosystems of the Greater Toronto Area and beyond. This blog includes biological information, a resource guide, DIY bee condo information and macro video of nesting solitary bees and wasps, as well as innovative art works which provide a window to the world of native bees: <http://resonatingbodies.wordpress.com/> and, Resonating Bodies | Facebook [www.facebook.com/pages/Resonating-Bodies/425265067563642?...id...](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Resonating-Bodies/425265067563642?...id...)
- For those creating pollinator gardens, the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority provides a native plant guide which lists native pollinators each species nests (<http://www.npca.ca/wp-content/uploads/NPCAPlantGuide.pdf>). Also, the Evergreen Native Plant database is an excellent resource for those new to plant selection ([www.nativeplants.evergreen.ca](http://www.nativeplants.evergreen.ca)).
- Pollination Guelph has created a number of resources, including a helpful website, which we are pleased to share with anyone [www.pollinationguelph.ca](http://www.pollinationguelph.ca)
- I have created a Power Point presentation on pollinators that has been used by Fond du Lac Tribal & Community College and the University of Guelph to educate the general public on how to support bees, birds, and butterflies - [green.orchids@gmail.com](mailto:green.orchids@gmail.com)
- Wildlife Preservation Canada is working with the Montreal Insectarium, Xerces Society, University of Ottawa and the Natural History Museum, London, UK to release [www.bumblebeewatch.org](http://www.bumblebeewatch.org) this summer. There will be educational materials provided to help people ID bumblebees in their region and photo uploads will be verified by regional experts.

**d. Have You Worked on Any Projects That You Would Like to Share Your Experiences With or Get Help With?**

These responses are from input obtained at the meeting and from the on-line survey. If you would like to provide assistance to those requesting it, or gain more information from those willing to share their experiences, please contact the individuals who contributed the response directly.

*I would like to get help with:*

- I would like to create a pollinator garden on back of ZooWoods by 2015 (40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Fred & Nora Urguhart's discovery of overwintering grounds of Monarch Butterfly in Mexico) – Janet Harrison, [janet.harrison@utoronto.ca](mailto:janet.harrison@utoronto.ca) (steward of ZooWoods)
- This Audio Bee Booth is under-used by the public: Greenway Blooming Centre's Nature Centre, on 2000 Shantz Station Road, Breslau, Ontario (near Waterloo). Toronto Region Conservation Authority (Lake St. George Field Station, Thornhill) and Balls Falls in Niagara are both creating field classes for youth which utilize their Audio Bee Booths - wonderful developments for the school groups and the public! Some details will be posted at the RB site

here: <http://resonatingbodies.wordpress.com/art/amplified-habitats/audio-bee-booths/> - Sarah Peebles, [sarahpeebles@gmail.com](mailto:sarahpeebles@gmail.com).

- Restoration of properties, plantings – Todd Farrell, [todd.farrell@natureconservancy.ca](mailto:todd.farrell@natureconservancy.ca)

*I have worked on projects that I would be willing to share my experiences with:*

- I have four years of data looking at the role of wild pollinators in commodity canola production systems in east central Alberta (Aspen Parkland). Am embarking on a long-term study to assess the ecosystem services, including pollination, associated with increasingly complex field shelterbelt designs in east-central Alberta - Mark Wonneck, [mark.wonneck@agr.gc.ca](mailto:mark.wonneck@agr.gc.ca)
- I have been battling Toronto's anti-biodiversity bylaws since 2003, including launching a still ongoing lawsuit against the City in 2007. There are 45 Councillors and a greater number of bylaw inspectors that require education in the value of biodiversity and in the questionable legality and mis-interpretation of their own bylaws. In 2013, I am calling on pollinator gardeners to bring their plantings upfront...into front yards and boulevards in order to normalize them in the eyes of the public. 'Grow Up!' signs (labelled, 'Toronto', with a location of choice, or simply 'Grow up!') are available via [GreenEvolutionSite.com](http://GreenEvolutionSite.com) at cost. I would welcome additional groups to participate by using that phrase or offering those signs. Reprints to include logos' of other groups can be arranged. - Deborah Dale, [ddale@verdigrow.com](mailto:ddale@verdigrow.com)
- I have been involved with a project to re-census altitudinal transects. I could comment on how to (and how not to) analyze similar data. – James Thomson, [james.thomson@utoronto.ca](mailto:james.thomson@utoronto.ca).
- Purple Stem Aster project – Charles Bruce-Thompson, [cbthomps@gmail.com](mailto:cbthomps@gmail.com)
- Passenger Pigeon Press is just getting off the ground with e-book publishing. We want to follow up our e-books (mostly children's books aimed at 3 to 7 age group) with coil-back board books for the school and library market. Pollinators are a large part of most mythologies, and can be worked into narratives of all kinds. – Hugh Baker, [drhugh@bell.net](mailto:drhugh@bell.net)
- Several projects on the promoting of biodiversity within the agricultural landscape have been supported and underway. Would be glad to discuss in more detail. – Paul Hoekstra, [paul.hoekstra@syngenta.com](mailto:paul.hoekstra@syngenta.com)
- Spring Beauty and the Bees is citizen science pollinator monitoring program. Volunteers locate a patch of spring beauty (*Claytonia virginica* or *Claytonia caroliniana*) throughout the range (Eastern US and Southeastern Canada) and observe and record insect visitors to functional group. The goal of this project is to document changes in pollinator communities both geographically and temporally, in order to better understand how pollinator communities are formed and maintained. For more information, visit <https://springbeauties.wordpress.com>. – Alison Parker, [alisonjparker@gmail.com](mailto:alisonjparker@gmail.com)
- Pollination Guelph projects were profiled at the Toronto event – Lorne Widmer, [lorne.widmer@ontario.ca](mailto:lorne.widmer@ontario.ca), [pollinationguelph@gmail.com](mailto:pollinationguelph@gmail.com)





Legal status and protection for pollinators, as well as involvement by government, is another necessary avenue to explore. While grass-roots movements and small pollinator gardens are indeed important and can play a valuable role locally, many of our pollinators and pollinator habitats are being threatened or lost across the country, and thus a national response is also needed. Even on the local scale, involvement by municipal governments is key as in some areas bylaws and regulations may prohibit or discourage the creation of pollinator habitat.

There has been a lot of attention paid recently to the issue of neonicotinoid pesticides in the media as well as in academic settings, with research showing negative effects on pollinators and now some groups and individuals are calling for a ban. The effects of pesticides on pollinator health have been a concern since at least the 1970s, and are an area that needs to be investigated carefully by government, industry, and academia, with advocacy and policy aspects as necessary.

### **7. Networking E-groups**

Collaboration, and the building of network linkages, is a priority for the continuation and expansion of pollinator conservation activities. Through these linkages ideas can be shared, advice given, problems solved, and partnerships formed. It is the organizing committee's hope that the formation of three targeted e-groups, focussing on policy, outreach, and recovery, will help to facilitate these actions. A research group was not identified by the committee as a need as networks, such as the NSERC-Canadian Pollination Initiative, already exist for pollinator and plant research, both in general and for specific taxonomic groups.



*Discussions and networking will continue beyond the meeting through the use of e-groups.*

A new web-page will be added to [www.pollinatorpartnership.ca](http://www.pollinatorpartnership.ca) that will highlight the three new e-groups. This page will contain the title and description of each group and will also contain an electronic registration form that will allow individuals and groups interested in Canadian pollinator issues to add themselves to these groups. Participants who signed up during the meeting or through the survey for one or more of these groups will be automatically registered, while other participants will be sent a reminder e-mail asking them to visit the web-page and register. In this manner will create electronic mailing lists from participants that actively register for the program.

The administration for the e-groups will originally be conducted by Vicki Wojcik using the web resources of Pollinator Partnership and with the help of Sunny Boyd. We will also identify a lead in each e-group to active as Chair; this individual will work closely with us and with their e-group to develop at least one action plan and deliverable for 2013. We expect to have the e-groups page ready for registrations to begin by July, 2013 after Pollinator Week events conclude.

### **8. Outcomes of Meeting**

The meeting was deemed to have been a success by both attendees as well as the organizing committee. Some of the outcomes of the meeting included:

1. Representatives from a variety of groups doing work in Canada on pollinator conservation were brought together in one room.
2. Individuals and groups became more aware of at-risk pollinators, pollinator conservation work currently underway in Canada, as well as actions individuals and groups can take.
3. Informal networking occurred and connections were made between groups.
4. Contact list was developed and will be shared as part of this report.
5. Discussions occurred about how to build and sustain proposed network of stakeholders.
6. Ideas for next steps in Canadian pollinator conservation were generated.
7. Several media articles were produced on/as a result of meeting to highlight SAR pollinators.
8. The production of this report, which will help to summarize the information shared, and provide a source of ideas for next steps.

### **9. Conclusion and Next Steps**

The Canadian Pollinator Conservation 2013: Next Steps was a successful meeting on various levels. It brought together people from various organizations and areas of the country, and gave these attendees an introduction to a variety of research, outreach, and restoration projects. It helped to identify roadblocks to pollinator conservation work, as well as develop a list of next steps that can be used to direct future actions by any organization that has the desire or resources to do so. The future of pollinators, and the ecosystems that depend on them, cannot be ensured by one group working in isolation. However, the seeds of collaboration and networking were sown during the meeting, and through the use of e-groups and future meetings, which will be supported by Wildlife Preservation Canada, the Pollinator Partnership, and other collaborators, will hopefully grow and prosper.



*The information shared during the day and ideas on next steps in Canadian pollinator conservation were discussed in further detail during a post-meeting gathering at the University of Toronto Graduate Student Union Pub.*

## Appendix 1. Information about Past Ontario and Canada Pollinator Group Meetings

The April 10, 2013 meeting was not the first meeting to be held about pollination in Canada. Indeed, several other meetings occurred in the previous seven year, hosted by different organizations and with differing purposes and outcomes. These are listed in Appendix 1. Note that this list excludes meetings held during the annual NAPPC meetings, CANPOLIN research network meetings, and those related to the formation and/or operation of Pollination Guelph and other local organizations, including annual symposiums and other meetings. broader level in Canada.



*Over 120 people attended the March 2008 meeting in Guelph*

### a. Canadian Pollinator Protection Initiative Meeting

**Date:** 2006

**Meeting Title/Group:** ?Canadian Pollinator Protection Initiative Meeting

**Location:** Mexico

**Purpose:** inaugural meeting

**Session themes:** ?

**Reception:** ?

**Organizing Committee:** ?

**Attendees:** ?

**Outcome:** ?

### b. Canadian Pollinator Protection Initiative (CPPI) Meeting (in partnership with the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign)

**Date:** January 18-19, 2007

**Meeting Title/Group:** Canadian Pollinator Protection Initiative (CPPI) Meeting (in partnership with the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign)

**Location:** Best Western Victoria Park Suites, Ottawa, ON

**Purpose:** NAPPC expansion into Canada meeting; first Canadian-based meeting of the Canadian Pollinator Protection Initiative; presentations, discussions, etc.

**Session themes:** Setting the stage, How can pollinator conservation work across jurisdictions, Where are we now and where do we have to go: research and policy perspectives; The role of the public in protecting the pollinator: data, collections, and public engagement programs; Information on the National Academy of Sciences report; Round table discussions

**Reception:** Evening reception at 200 West Block Parliament Hill; Declaration to members of the House of Commons and the Senate by Canadian Wildlife Federation, key-note presentation by David Suzuki

**Organizing Committee:** Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Canadian Honey Council, Canadian Museum of Nature, Canadian Wildlife Federation, Commission for Environmental Cooperation, David Suzuki Foundation, Entomological Society of Canada, Environment Canada – Biodiversity Convention Office, Federal Biodiversity Information Partnership, Institute of the Environment (University of Ottawa), Natural Resources Canada, NAPPC, Seeds of Diversity, University of Guelph

**Attendees:** invitation-only; government at federal, provincial/territorial, and municipal levels; farming and agricultural organizations; industry involved with issues of pollination; academia; researchers; museums; NGOs; gardening associations.

**Outcome:** desire to move forward with CPPI, but no firm plans made

**c. Meeting on Pollinator Conservation Initiatives; The Pollinator Greenway Initiative Workshop**

**Date:** March 19, 2007

**Meeting Title/Group:** Meeting on Pollinator Conservation Initiatives; The Pollinator Greenway Initiative Workshop

**Location:** Greenway Blooming Centre, 2000 Shantz Station Rd, Breslau, ON

**Purpose:** to bring together groups involved in local conservation initiatives, discuss pollinators and their need for conservation, and potentially have the groups agree to join the Canadian Pollinator Protection Initiative, sign MOUs, etc.

**Session themes:** Pollinators – their ecological services and need for conservation; NAPPC and its Canadian expansion; diversity of Canadian pollinators; discussion on education/outreach deliverables; discussion about capacities of organizations to conduct work, etc. in the area of pollinator conservation; break-out groups for each of the organization types (e.g. Pollinator Week, Conservation Authorities)

**Reception:** n/a

**Organizing Committee:** University of Guelph, Seeds of Diversity, Greenway Blooming Centre

**Attendees:** invitation only to individuals associated with groups in the Guelph area; conservation authorities (Credit Valley, Grand River, Halton), universities (UofG, York), cities (Guelph, Waterloo), Royal Botanical Gardens, EMAN project of Environment Canada, Seeds of Diversity

**Outcome:** groups felt that they were generally doing conservation work already, although not specifically targeted to pollinators, and that more information is needed to teach them/help them work for pollinators, rather than them teach others; no interest in signing MOUs, etc

**d. Pollinator Park Workshop and Canadian Pollinator Protection Initiative Meeting**

**Date:** March 7-8, 2008

**Meeting Title/Group:** Pollinator Park Workshop and Canadian Pollinator Protection Initiative Meeting

**Location:** Guelph Youth Music Centre, 75 Cardigan St, Guelph, ON

**Purpose:** workshops regarding ecological restoration of decommissioned landfill sites, and introducing the idea of the Guelph Pollination Park, as well as another meeting of CPPI

**Session themes:** importance of pollination, Guelph Pollination Initiative, features of landfills and design options and restoration of landfills, roadside rehabilitation, golf courses as pollination sites, green roofs, gardens and pollination, break-out sessions on pollinator-friendly gardens, community education and recreation, long-term biodiversity monitoring, ecological planning of sites, opportunities for public participation, rights of ways as pollinator habitat, industrial site enhancement, pollination research, green spaces as pollinator habitats

**Reception:** n/a

**Organizing Committee:** University of Guelph

**Attendees:** open to the public, particularly those in the City of Guelph, including staff, students, professionals, residents, and researchers involved in pollination across Canada (and a few from the US)

**Outcome:** report “Pollinator Park: The Pathway to Pollination Protection” prepared for the City of Guelph, summarizing talks and round-table discussions, particularly as they relate to how the City could/should proceed with the park; networking occurred between participants; although had been partially billed as a CPPI meeting, there wasn’t much discussion about the organization

#### e. Raising Awareness about Pollinating Insects

**Date:** February 12, 2009

**Meeting Title/Group:** Raising Awareness about Pollinating Insects

**Location:** Toronto Zoo, Old Find Ave, Toronto, Ontario

**Purpose:** to discuss how Canada and active organizations in Canada can extend on-going efforts to raise awareness about the importance of pollinating insects, to identify some common development projects that the group could work on together

**Session themes:** each organization could give a presentation about what they are doing for pollinators, discussions about projects they could all work on, etc.

**Reception:** n/a

**Organizing Committee:** Pollination Canada, Toronto Zoo

**Attendees:** invitation only, mainly NGOs (including Canadian Wildlife Federation, David Suzuki Foundation, Pollination Guelph), municipal agencies, public-facing government agencies such as Parks Canada

**Outcome:** a lot of interest and concern for pollinators, but most groups have no knowledge base about pollinators, and were not willing to commit to offering resources or outlining a strategy for public delivery of information about pollinators; plan/idea was to hold another conference in future with more educational focus (how to include pollinator education and pollinator-friendly policies in their groups) rather than recruitment for collaboration.

#### f. Practical Pollinator Conservation Conference, Canadian Pollinator Protection Initiative Meeting

**Date:** October 5-6, 2009 \*Cancelled\*

**Meeting Title/Group:** Practical Pollinator Conservation Conference, Canadian Pollinator Protection Initiative Meeting

**Location:** Hotel Gouverneur, Place Dupuis Montreal, Montreal, QC

**Purpose:** 2009 meeting of CPPI; to form working groups on various topics to carry on after conference

**Session themes:** public education, agriculture, citizen science monitoring, NAPPC, public lands and parks, public policy, working groups on these topics and/or others of interest to participants

**Reception:** n/a

**Organizing Committee:** CPPI, Seeds of Diversity, Pollination Canada

**Attendees:** n/a – meeting cancelled

**Outcome:** n/a – meeting cancelled due to lack of interest/low registrations

**g. Pollinator Conservation In Practice**

**Date:** November 13, 2009

**Meeting Title/Group:** Pollinator Conservation In Practice

**Location:** Naturium, Greenway Blooming Center, 2000 Shantz Station Rd, Breslau, ON

**Purpose:** meeting for pollination educators and conservation groups to exchange knowledge and resources about pollinators

**Session themes:** round table introductions and background on participant organizations programs or interests, resources they can offer and resources they need; round table discussions on a variety of topics (e.g. public display gardens, school programs, monitoring, roadsides, rights of way, parks, pesticides, public policy, educational materials, rehabilitation of large area), update on honeybee health, local & national initiatives/meetings

**Reception:** n/a

**Organizing Committee:** CANPOLIN, Pollination Canada

**Attendees:** master gardeners, universities, MNR stewardship, beekeepers, Universities, CANPOLIN, conservation authorities, city staff, RBG, others

**Outcome:** good discussions, networking; comments on how not every park/school needs a garden, how more resource materials aren't necessarily needed, and similar statements; attendees submitted their best web-sites/resources to Bob Wildfong who made and circulated a master list; no real discussions/plans on how to move forward



*Participants of the April 10, 2013 meeting enjoy a break from presentations while eating lunch and chatting with others in a sun-lit room.*

## Appendix 2. List of Registered Participants

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*Meeting attendees enjoyed the opportunity to network at lunch, during breaks, and an optional post-meeting pub gathering.*