

Feature



'Wings of Change' coming to Saugeen Shores

June 7, 2015

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Several sponsors of the Butterfly project



The Core organizing group
(L) Stuart Nutt, Melitta Smole, the 1st Monarch spotted and Kerry Jarvis

The Monarch butterflies have dwindled drastically in numbers to their lowest population in many decades with a loss of at least 50 to 60 per cent.

There have been several contributing factors to their loss including severe weather, loss of habitat due to development, land management that has devastated vegetation that supports the monarch.



There has been a North American endeavour to help the Monarch survive through the development of community butterfly gardens and encouraging land owners and gardeners to manage lands and develop vegetation to support the Monarch.

In Saugeen Shores, a new Monarch group has taken up the cause. On Thursday, June 4th, a group of volunteers gathered in Southampton (Saugeen Shores) to walk a length of trail, known as the Captain Spence Trail, where it has been proposed that a butterfly garden be created.

Known as 'The Butterfly Gardens of Saugeen Shores', a group of volunteers has been active in designing an area located along the Captain Spence Trail that will encourage the Monarchs to stay over and feed

There are currently 1,400 plants in the early stage of growth that will be ready for replanting within the next 199= days.

The Butterfly Gardens of Saugeen Shores has been active behind the scenes preparing for upcoming big planting days.

Planting Dates and Times have been scheduled over several days and volunteers are welcome. This of course, will



Residents in the area along the trail were notified of the plantings and were personally invited to attend the discussion.

"In our own little way, we believe that Saugeen Shores can make a difference in the lives of the Monarch butterflies by creating a natural butterfly habitat," said Kerry Jarvis, co-founder of the Butterfly Gardens of Saugeen Shores group along with Melitta Smole and Stuart Nutt.

The Butterfly Gardens of Saugeen Shores group is volunteer driven and has received support from a number of community groups and organizations. The next phase of their project will include educational partnerships with the local elementary school and others.

Sponsors

- Town of Saugeen Shores
- Friends of MacGregor Point Park
- Grange Hollow nursery
- Bruce Power
- Bruce County Museum and Cultural Centre
- Southampton Rotary
- Community Foundation Grey Bruce
- Vince Fiorito of Sheldon Creek Watershed
- G.C. Huston Public School Southampton
- Huron Heights School Kincardine
- Northport Elementary School Port Elgin
- Port Elgin Saugeen Central Public School

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depend on the weather (excessive heat or rain will postpone planned dates).

- Friday, June 12: 8:30 am
- Saturday, June 13: 8:30 am
- Tuesday, June 16: 8:30 am
- Wednesday, June 17: 8:30 am
- Thursday, June 18: 8:30 am

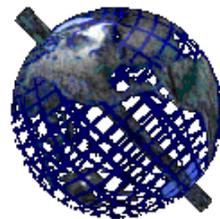
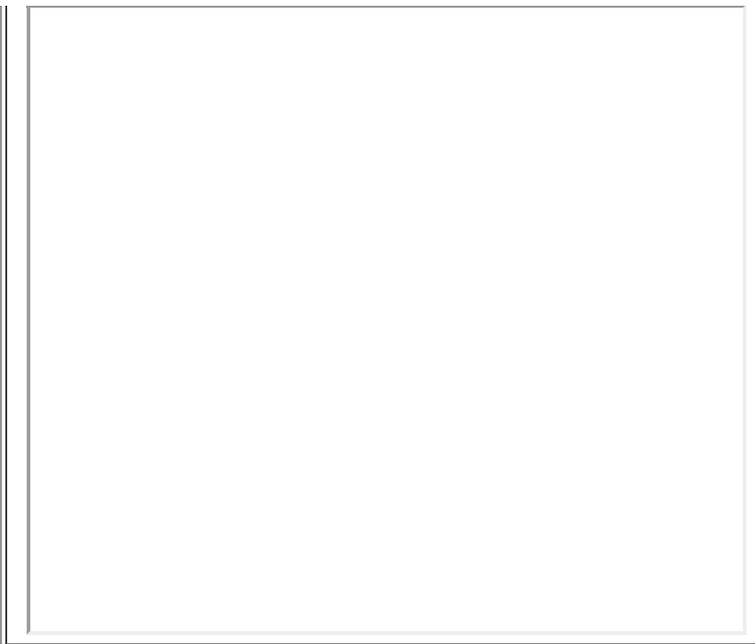
What to Bring:

- Dress according to weather conditions. a hat, sunblock and comfortable gardening clothes are recommended.
- Gardening tools: If you have them, please bring gardening gloves, trowels, shovels, kneeling pad, watering can and a wheelbarrow if you have one.

"This is an opportunity for Saugeen Shores to work together to increase the population of the Monarch Butterfly, while maintaining a natural environment along our waterfront trail," said Jessica Linthorne, Saugeen Shores Recreation Programs Supervisor.



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