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NEWS LOCAL

Monarch butterfly tagged in Southampton found in Mexico

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Butterfly Gardens of Saugeen Shores co-founder, Melitta Smole released a Monarch at Captain Spencer Smith Park in Southampton, September 2015.

SAUGEEN SHORES - Officials with Butterfly Gardens of Saugeen Shores (BGOSS) learned recently that one of the Monarch butterflies tagged along Captain Spence Path in Southampton in September 2015, was recovered in El Rosario, Mexico.

“The Monarch was recovered on February 27, some 162 days since it was tagged on September 18 and it travelled over 4,500 kilometres. Its epic journey from Southampton to their overwintering roosts in Mexico is a mystery and marvel as Monarchs fly, flap and glide to a destination they have never been before,” said BGOSS co-founder, Melitta Smole in a May 5 press release.

BGOSS co-founder Kerry Jarvis said the odds of having a tagged Monarch recovered are very small.

“Butterfly Gardens of Saugeen Shores was ecstatic when we heard the news this week. This brings it all back home to us and reinforces our communities commitment to protecting Monarch butterflies,” Jarvis said.

BGOSS is looking for community members to help with planting of butterfly-friendly plants in Saugeen Shores. A training session for volunteers will be held June 17, at the Port Elgin Branch Library meeting room, from 7:30 to 8:30 pm.

For more information, email butterflygardensofss@gmail.com