

To: Marcus Ryan  
Warden Oxford County  
21 Reeve St., P.O. Box 1614,  
Woodstock, ON. N4S 7Y3

February 5, 2023



Warden Ryan and Esteemed Councilors,

I am writing on behalf of the Otter Valley Naturalists. We are a local nature club with members residing within the catchment area of the Big Otter Creek. Our group is dedicated to all aspects of the natural world; it's importance, sustainability and protection. We have recently learned of an initiative sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation of the USA entitled "The Mayors Monarch Pledge". <https://www.nwf.org/mayorsmonarchportal>

Briefly this program is designed to encourage local governments to take simple steps to help facilitate the recovery of the monarch butterfly, a species in significant decline. To quote from the NWF 'Mayors Pledge' site:

*"Through the National Wildlife Federation's Mayors' Monarch Pledge, U.S. cities, municipalities, and other communities are committing to create habitat for the monarch butterfly and pollinators, and to educate residents about how they can make a difference at home and in their community."*

There are a couple of actions that your government can take at the local level, at minimal cost, that will serve to support this species, and this program, beyond international borders:

1. Engage with natural history groups to enable city parks and recreation, public works, sustainability, and other relevant staff to identify opportunities to revise, maintain and adjust the timing of roadside mowing programs and milkweed / native nectar plant planting programs.
2. Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar producing plants in public community gardens, encourage roadside naturalization and to discourage the planting of large areas of pure turf grass.
3. Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat locations.
4. Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitats for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

Our organization has expertise in native host plant selection and species life cycle timing. The protection of natural pollinators and the native host plants they require is vital to maintaining the balanced, healthy, bio-diverse world that all species, including mankind, depend upon.

Please feel free to contact me for resource support and assistance from our learned members

On behalf of the Otter Valley Naturalists  
Tom Manley  
President  
Cell # 519-532-2556  
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A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Tom Manley".