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## Committee of the Whole Report

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**DATE:** Tuesday, June 05, 2018

**WARD:** ALL

**TITLE: PROCLAMATION – 2018 NATIONAL POLLINATOR WEEK**

**FROM:**

Jason Schmidt-Shoukri, Deputy City Manager, Planning and Growth Management

**ACTION:** FOR INFORMATION

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**Purpose**

To seek Council approval to proclaim the third week of June (June 18 to 24, 2018) as “National Pollinator Week” in the City of Vaughan, as part of the Pollinator-Friendly City Program (Program) in support of the Canadian Wildlife Federation’s Mayors’ Monarch Pledge. In addition, this report provides an overview of the communication and engagement efforts initiated by the Environmental Sustainability Office and partner departments to support the Program.

**Report Highlights**

- Pollinator Partnership Canada has declared the third week of June as “National Pollinator Week”
- The Program is being promoted through the proclamation of the “National Pollinator Week”, as per the commitment made for the Mayors’ Monarch Pledge and Pollinator Partnership Canada
- Communication of the Program to the public is being provided at the City’s Environmental Days, through the Community Gardens Program, and on the City’s website

**Recommendations**

1. THAT the City of Vaughan proclaim the third week of June (June 18-24, 2018) as "National Pollinator Week" to reaffirm Council’s commitment to the Mayors’ Monarch Pledge; and

2. THAT the proclamation of “National Pollinator Week” be posted on the City's website.

## **Background**

### **What is the Ontario Pollinator Health Action Plan?**

As per Ontario’s Pollinator Health Action Plan (Action Plan) 2016, wild pollinators include bees, butterflies, moths, some beetles and flies, as well as, birds such as hummingbirds. The Action Plan encourages municipalities to create partnerships and stewardship opportunities by improving natural heritage protection that will benefit pollinator habitat and support pollinator habitat restoration. Refer to link below for a copy of Action Plan. [http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/pollinator/action\\_plan.pdf](http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/pollinator/action_plan.pdf)

### **The third week of June has been declared National Pollinator Week**

Pollinator Partnership Canada (P2C) is a registered not-for-profit organization in Canada dedicated to the protection and promotion of pollinators and their ecosystems. Through their efforts P2C has declared the third week of June as “National Pollinator Week” and promotes this initiative through their ecoregional planting guides, community initiatives and research.

## **Previous Reports/Authority**

On March 20, 2018, Council adopted a resolution committing to the National Wildlife Federation’s Mayors’ Monarch Pledge (Pledge). The extract from the Council Meeting minutes can be found at the following link:

## **Analysis and Options**

Part of the City’s commitment to the Pledge includes issuing “a Proclamation to raise awareness about the decline of the Monarch Butterfly and the species’ need for habitat”. The City would meet the Pledge objective by proclaiming “National Pollinator Week” and the associated communication platforms. In addition, the City supports P2C’s “National Pollinator Week” through the official declaration, which is appended to this report as Attachment 1.

City staff will continue to work towards fulfilling the Pledge objectives as part of the Pollinator-Friendly City Program. These objectives include planting native milkweed and nectar plants on City properties in order to increase the amount of habitat for pollinators, launching public communication efforts to encourage citizens to plant their own pollinator gardens, and developing partnerships with community groups and agencies to identify larger restoration planting sites.

## **Community Engagement**

The Environmental Sustainability Office will have a booth at the Environmental Days promoting Green Directions Vaughan initiatives such as the Program and the community garden development. The community will have the opportunity to visit and see the progress of the community garden's through the summer of 2018.

## **Financial Impact**

There are no economic impacts associated with the adoption of this report.

## **Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations**

York Region was recognized by the National Wildlife Federation program as Canada's first Monarch Friendly Region at the May 11, 2017 Committee of the Whole Meeting. A link is provided below:

<http://www.york.ca/wps/wcm/connect/yorkpublic/93d84de9-6227-4907-9d82-54c0841cb7cc/may+11+greening+ex.pdf?MOD=AJPERES>

## **Conclusion**

Proclaiming the third week of June (June 18 to 24, 2018) as "National Pollinator Week" will meet part of the City's commitment to the Pledge. It will also align the City's initiatives with other pollinator-friendly efforts across North America, while providing an occasion to celebrate and educate the public and City staff on the importance of pollinators.

**For more information**, please contact: Ruth Rendon, Senior Planner – Environmental, Policy Planning and Environmental Sustainability, ext. 8104.

## **Attachment**

1. City of Vaughan Pollinator Week Proclamation, Pollinator Partnership Canada

## **Prepared by**

Ruth Rendon, Senior Planner - Environmental, ext. 8104

Tony Iacobelli, Manager of Environmental Sustainability, ext. 8630

Bill Kiru, Director of Policy Planning and Environmental Sustainability, ext. 8633

# ATTACHMENT 1

## City of Vaughan

WHEREAS, pollinator species such as bees, butterflies and birds play a crucial role in Ontario's agricultural sector in producing much of our food supply; and

WHEREAS, pollination plays a vital role in the health of our forests, wetlands and grasslands, - about 80 per cent of wild, flowering plant species would not exist without pollination - and recreational opportunities as well as enhanced economic development opportunities for communities; and

WHEREAS, pollinator species provide significant environmental benefits that are necessary for maintaining healthy, biodiverse ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, the City of Vaughan has managed wildlife habitats and public lands such as City woodlands, grasslands, parks and other open space; and

WHEREAS, the Province of Ontario supports the agricultural sector in the protection and maintenance of pollinators and their habitats through the Ontario Pollinator Health Action Plan which has a goal to restore, enhance and protect one million acres of pollinator habitat in Ontario and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, the Honourable Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua, Mayor of the City of Vaughan, do hereby proclaim the week of June 18-24, 2018 as

## City Pollinator Week

throughout the City of Vaughan, and urge all citizens to recognize this observance.

**Thank you for helping pollinators!**

