PROJECT SWALLOWTAIL

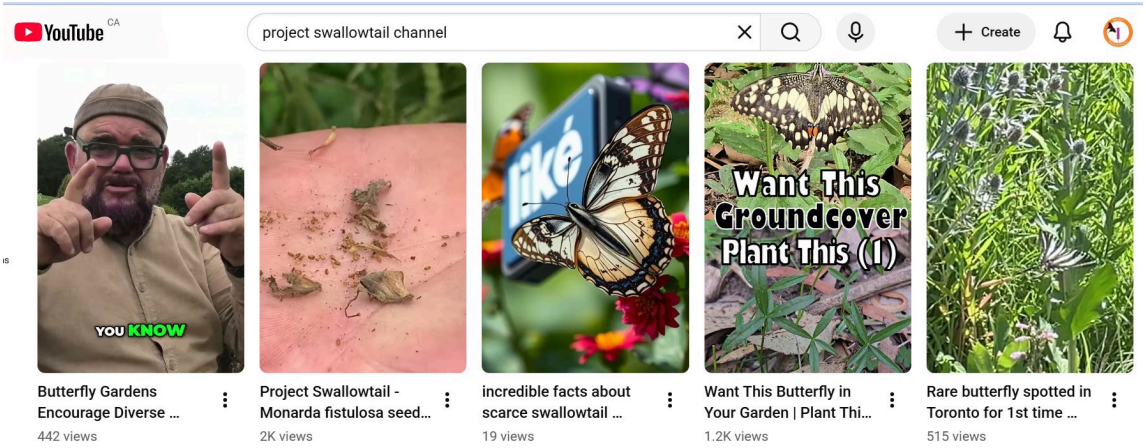
neighbours united for nature

Project Swallowtail Late Autumn 2026 Newsletter

Time to Leave the Leaves

Stories to give us hope and inspiration

(any changes and updates to events will be posted in our Calendar listings)
Please see our social media for more events, stories and photos



Hope Scrolling and other ways to brighten the coming winter days

Editors Note: I read many newspapers online and belong to lots of environmental groups. There is much bad news about endangered species and habitats but instead of just doom scrolling, I like videos and stories that show people doing things that improve our world and especially help in wildlife and plant conservation. The above banner of videos is from Project Swallowtail's **YouTube channel.** Also see
Pollinator Partnership Canada's **YouTube channel**.
The North American Native Plant Society (NANPS) also has a **YouTube channel** (below) and also **NANPS Garden Videos**



Project Swallowtail Photo, Story and Video Contest

It is the end of the growing season and I am almost out of member stories. **The PHOTO and STORY CONTEST** is a way to encourage you to share your own work with us.

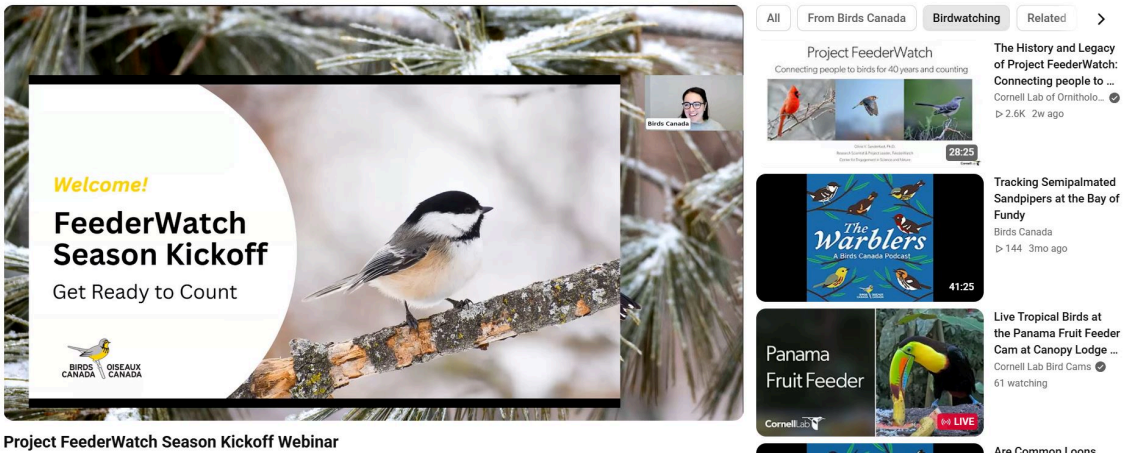
Our Steering Committee has decided that all stories and photos are important and that the **contest winner will be drawn at random from entries**. We currently have a prize of $100 gift certificate for Ontario Native Plants. We would really like additional prizes (we have one extra) and feel that anyone who offers a prize can select who receives it. The scope has also been extended to include video and other media, anything that tells your story. Because we don't have enormous storage capacity we ask you to post your entries on your own platforms if they are over 10mb and add a link to them. The **Photo and Story Contest Form** captures these links, files and other documents and will be used to determine the contestants. The deadline is Dec. 31st and the winner/s will be selected in early January. We will begin sharing the entries with you in our January newsletter and to prize donators earlier so they can select their winners.
Please email projectswalllowtail@gmail.com if you have any questions or want to offer prizes.

Project Swallowtail Photo and Story Contest Form

I hope that the stories below make you feel that there is a lot of good environmental news to be found. This edition is Canadian stories. The next one will be international.

Events

Project FeederWatch begins now!



Project FeederWatch Season Kickoff Webinar

Project FeederWatch (Birds Canada and Cornell Lab of Ornithology)

At Birds Canada, we bring together the passion and dedication of thousands of volunteers and collaborators with the expertise of professional scientists to collect and share data, deepen our understanding of birds, and identify the conservation solutions needed for them to thrive. Project Feederwatch began in 1976. **It runs from November to April** and invites you to share observations of birds visiting your backyard and community space. There is also a Christmas Bird Count among other citizen science surveys.
https://www.birdscanada.org/programs/project-feederwatch
How to participate and watch birds https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RF1Yr9Ir098
Gardening for Birds https://birdgardens.ca/

Learn about Birds. (Birds Canada)
https://www.birdscanada.org/programs/birds-canada-learn
All about Birds (Cornell Lab) https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/ free resources, courses
The State of Canada's Birds https://naturecounts.ca/nc/socb-epoc/main.jsp

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iNaturalist FREE WEBINAR: Building a global movement for nature
November 18, 2026, 12pm

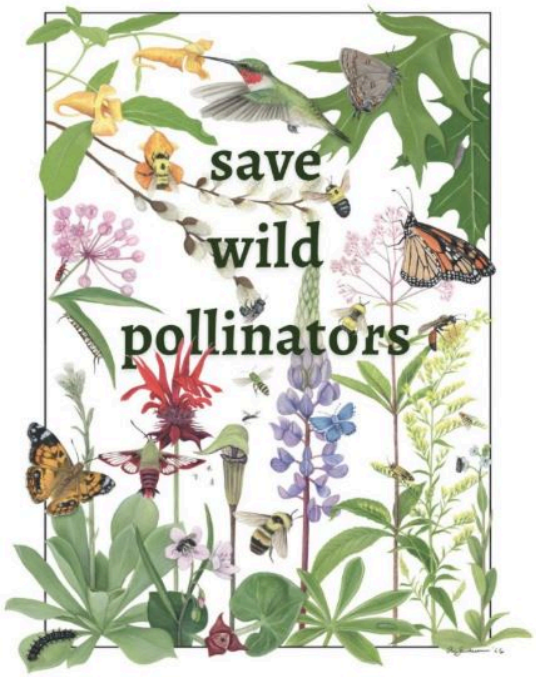
Register and get a link to the recording if you can't attend.
https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/4417938091800/WN_uxqwJHG6StSCY_GSDEE52g#/registration



With community science, anyone can make a real difference for protecting nature. Every observation on iNaturalist started from a simple act of someone noticing nature. Together, these individual moments have become a global movement that brings people together, advances science, and helps protect species.
https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/project-swallowtail

Stories and other info

Colla Conservation Science Lab poster available to download



Colla Lab founder Dr. Sheila Colla was a creative interdisciplinary conservation scientist, whose life's work was dedicated to the protection of wild pollinators. She often collaborated with artists to help her think about her research in new ways and to present her findings with attention to beauty.

Artist Ann Sanderson, a friend and gifted science illustrator, has created a poster to share to encourage viewers to recognize their own essential place in our shared ecosystem and take action to help at-risk species. The 8.5 x 11" poster has a matching B&W version that describes all of the pollinators and companion plants.

The Irma Coulson Public School in Milton, Ontario, became Canada's first ever Climate Ready School in 2022

We worked with the Halton District School Board to transform their school grounds into a regenerative place where children can learn, develop, and grow in their community while nature restores and renews the land around it.

The ICPS Pilot integrates lessons from Berlin's Sponge Schools project, designed to ensure that school grounds can absorb 100% of rainfall on the school site while mitigating flood risk in their neighbourhoods.



Green Roof Innovation Testing Laboratory (GRIT Lab)



John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design at 230 College Street is the only one of its kind testing the environmental performance associated with green roofs, green walls and solar photovoltaic technologies in Canada. To date, **GRIT Lab** includes 33 green roof test beds, 3 green walls, a weather station, and 270 sensors connected to over 5,000 linear feet of wiring.

Catherine Howell, architecture student: I'm also writing about bees and Sedum versus meadow planting. Right now there is a big push to promote native pollinators in Ontario. It has been shown that native plants attract more native bees, but Sedum, which is not native to this region, is the preferred green roof planting type. It goes to show that we have to carefully consider plant selection on green roofs if we want to promote biodiversity. (meadow planting | Photo by Josie Harrison)

Not Far From the Tree - Our Impact 2026

We hosted 222 fruit picks, as well as some really fun events! These included a tree giveaway, cider press parties, a tree tour, pizza parties, and more.



A partnership with **Kimbourne Park United Church** has allowed us to grow a landing pad for cold fruit storage, access to a commercial kitchen, and a growing library of fruit-processing equipment.

Looking ahead, we have dreams for food-preservation skills workshops, community food donations programs, and making fruit-processing equipment more accessible through rentals. Rather than registering or incorporating as an independent organization, NFFTT is a project of the MakeWay Charitable Society's (MWCS) Shared Platform

The Next Wave: Stories from the Future of Toronto's Waterfront



DESIGN EXCELLENCE, SUSTAINABILITY, TRANSPORTATION, DEVELOPMENT SITES

The Next Wave: Stories Shaping the Future of Toronto's Waterfront



INFRASTRUCTURE, PARKS AND PUBLIC SPACES

Toronto's largest park in a generation just got bigger: Biidaasige Park opens 10 new acres of waterfront public space



PARKS AND PUBLIC SPACES, COMPLETE STREETS, SUSTAINABILITY

Turning Space into Place: Ookwemin Minising's Pop-Up Community Space

Ookwemin Minising

A new neighborhood will be home to Canada's longest car-free stretch: 'A linear park' Ookwemin Minising (pronounced Oh-kway-min Min-nih-sing, meaning “place of the black cherry trees” in Anishinaabemowin/Ojibwemowin) is an ambitious urban revitalization project in downtown Toronto. Created through the transformative Port Lands Flood Protection project, this new 98-acre island reimagines former industrial land as a climate-positive, mixed-use community surrounded by restored river wetlands.
Good Good Good News stories , CreateTO and Urban Toronto



A new neighborhood will be home to Canada's longest car-free stretch: 'A linear park'



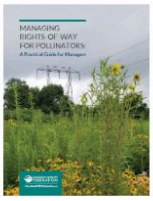
Reconsider Mowing



Creating Monarch and Pollinator Habitat



Gardening for Butterflies Handout



MANAGING RIGHTS-OF-WAY FOR POLLINATORS: A Practical Guide for Managers

Rights-of-Way Habitat Networks

The Canadian Wildlife Federation is growing a network of ROW managers who are interested in learning and applying new integrated vegetation management techniques to help restore habitat for pollinators. The Canadian Chapter of the Rights-of-Way as Habitat Working Group is open to all ROW managers across Canada.

Nature-based solutions delivered by farmers

Through ALUS (Alternative Land Use Services), farmers steward these landscapes by working with nature to improve water quality, enhance habitat, and strengthen ecosystems, while supporting resilient farm operations and thriving communities.

Arnprior Solar Project

As a responsible company that champions low carbon growth, we also consider the environment where we work and live. We added several biodiversity and environmental features with our Arnprior Solar Project such as a monarch butterfly conservation project, a bee and honey project, and a natural weed abatement pilot project.
Case Study: https://www.edf-re.com/flipbook/670

Beavers, Bison and Goats, Habitat Building Heroes



Beavers create wetlands



Bison help native grasses grow



Goats remove invasive species

Beavers in habitat restoration

Why Beaver Dams Matter
Beaver dams do far more than create small ponds. They:

- Increase wetland habitat
- Reduce erosion
- Support biodiversity by creating homes for insects, fish, birds, amphibians, and mammals
- Improve water quality by slowing water flow and trapping sediment

https://trca.ca/conservation/restoration/beavers/ (TRCA)
https://highparknaturecentre.com/beavers-in-high-park/
https://highparknature.org/article/beavers-in-high-park/

WWF - Wild, Bringing bison back to Manitoba
From Indigenous-led rematriation efforts to WWF-Canada's work growing native seeds for prairie grassland restoration, communities are rebuilding the relationships between bison, plants, people, and the land. Because bringing back a keystone species is about helping an entire ecosystem thrive.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=meaP2wItEqs
Good Nature - WWF Canada Youtube channel https://www.youtube.com/@wwfcanada

Goat grazing (prescribed or targeted grazing) has emerged as a highly effective, eco-friendly method for ecological restoration across Canada. Municipalities and conservation groups are increasingly deploying "eco-herds" of goats to control aggressive invasive species, suppress woody vegetation encroachment, and restore native grasslands, wetlands, and meadows without the use of chemical herbicides

Prescribed Goat Grazing Project - City of Toronto
https://www.toronto.ca/services-payments/water-environment/trees/forest-management/urban-forest-management/prescribed-grazing/

Goats in the City are part of an affiliated network of target grazing companies in North America https://goatsinthecity.ca/

TRCA Puts Goats and Sheep to Work Restoring The Meadoway
https://trca.ca/news/goats-sheep-grazing-restoration-meadoway/

If you are still up for more groups and stories you can view this **compilation document** containing links to dedicated and verifiable groups international, Canada and Toronto.

We'd Love to Hear From You!

We're looking for more stories, events, photos, and updates to share with the Project Swallowtail community in our newsletters!

- To share an event, please add it to the **Event Form**.
- View events in our website **Calendar**
- To contribute articles or messages, use the **Newsletter Content Form**.
- Feedback on our interactive maps. (available only to map participants)
- Gardening and plant info on our **Google Drive**
- Our new **Project Swallowtail website**
- **Publications and Resources**
- Project Swallowtail **Sign-Up form** (for friends and family, you are signed up)
- To add your garden to our map please **Update your Profile**
- Our April 2026 newsletter has links to our maps. If you are on the map you should have received it. If you need the links email **projectswallowtail@gmail.com**

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neighbours united for nature

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