# Carlington Hampton News September 2021

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A successful first year for the Clyde Bee & Butterfly Patch

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Megarhyssa macrurus (Long-tailed giant ichneumonid wasp) Photo by Susie Shapiro

### WHAT'S A POLLINATOR GARDEN WITHOUT POLLINATORS?

Year One of the Clyde Bee & Butterfly Patch

The pollinator population in the Patch is still quite modest but we're now seeing more bees, wasps and flies visiting the Anise Hyssop, the Goldenrod, the Shrubby Cinquefoil and the Yarrow, among the many other native plants planted here.



Hummingbirds, flies, wasps, skippers, moths and beetles also pollinate plants, and certain butterflies, but most butterflies go straight for the sweet nectar and bypass the pollen.

Pictured L-R: Thick-legged hover fly (*Syritta pipiens*). Common eastern bumble bee (*Bombus impatiens*). Dark paper wasp (possible) (*Polistes fuscatus*)







Joining the honeybees and bumble bees, are mining bees, cellophane or plasterer bees, sweat bees, leaf-cutter bees, mason bees, and several other bee species. But it's not all pollen parties all the time. Predatory insects like robber flies or the humpback beewolf, and plant-eaters like the obscure plant bug, are also checking out the Patch, looking to snack on a pollinator or two! Friends of Hampton Park is launching an **Action Group** to recruit volunteers for projects this fall and winter (invasive removals & trail design), and to plan for the spring of 2022 and beyond.

If you're looking for a different kind of volunteer gig, or you're concerned about the future of Hampton Park please join us!

> Volunteer Info Session Tuesday October 5, 2021 7:30 – 8:30 pm

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86198917069?pwd=ckZHMk42c3didmY1dmQ5ZmxLaUtZdz09





# LDD Egg Sack Control

*Lymantria dispar dispar*, aka gypsy moths have invaded Ontario but we can all do our part to keep their numbers in check.

We began the Hampton Park control program in May 2021, first banding trees with burlap to capture the caterpillars, then hanging plastic containers containing a pheromone to trap male moths and stop them from mating (*pictured at left*).

Now comes the most effective phase: egg sack removal. *Pictured below: White female LDD moths lay their eggs (brown areas) on a Norway spruce near the pool. Inset: As the sacks age, they turn white.* 

Beginning in October and going till next March or April, we will remove these egg sacks using two methods: scraping and spraying.

If you want to help remove these invasive egg sacks in Hampton, join the Zoom volunteer meeting on October 5 for more details (see p. 3).

If you can't make the date but want to learn how to remove them from your own trees and property, email <u>CarlingtonHampton@gmail.com</u> for easy-to-follow instructions.



**Take a deep breath:** Jake Cole of the Sierra Club's **Breathe Easy** campaign lent an air quality monitor so that volunteers could take particulate matter 2.5 (PM 2.5) readings in Hampton and Carlington.

PM 2.5 is made up of small bits of fine matter, less than 2.5 microns or less, and comes from many sources including car exhaust, construction activity, forest fires, wood smoke, and industrial emissions. PM 2.5 particles can penetrate the lung barrier and enter the blood stream; chronic exposure leads to a variety of diseases, including cancer. The <u>World Health Organization</u> has set a guideline of 10 ug/m3 (microns per cubic metre) as a "safe" level of PM 2.5.



Multi-tasking! Lending a hand with the "Egg," air quality monitor while also tending to the Clyde Bee & Butterfly patch!



The first samples taken in August coincided with smoke alerts from this summer's forest fires and readings were, therefore, very high. Readings in September were much lower (well under WHO guidelines) and provide some indication of what normal air quality is like in our neighbourhoods. *See Resources for links to more in-depth information about local air quality readings.* 



Learn more about the Breathe Easy campaign at the Sierra Club: <u>https://www.sierraclub.ca/en/</u> <u>breatheeasy-campaign</u>



This summer, volunteers with Friends of Carlington and Friends of Hampton Park went out bat hunting with Ottawa biologist, Bettina Henkelman.

Using a bat detector that picks up the high-pitched frequencies of their calls, dozens of bats were recorded over three nights: two in June in Carlington, and one in August in Hampton.

#### The maps on the next pages show where the bats were detected.

Of the species detected in Hampton, 25 were Big Brown bats (pictured), three were Silver Haired, and two were Hoary bats. There is also a chance that the endangered Tri-colored bat was also detected but its call is similar to other rare species.

Learn more about these amazing mammals and why they need our protection. Canadian Wildlife Federation https://cwf-fcf.org/en/explore/bats/ Bat Watch https://batwatch.ca/sp\_canada



Canada has 19 species of bat and about nine are found in the Ottawa area.

Bats can eat up to 1,000 insects per hour, providing millions of dollars in pest control for free every year.

Bat pups can weigh up to 1/3 that of their mother at birth!

Bats are losing habitat to development, and some species have been beset with "white nose" disease, a fungus that can wipe out entire bat colonies. Ms. Henkelman explained that there was no evolutionary pressure for bats to make distinctive calls, so they are much harder to identify than birds.

#### Legend

PERSUB = Perimyotis subflavus (Tricolored bat) LASCIN = Lasiurus cinereus (Hoary Bat) LASNOC = Lasionycteris noctivagans (Silver-haired Bat) EPTFUS = Eptesicus fuscus (Big Brown Bat)

### They're also hard to tell apart visually. Many local species have similar colouring, and the size difference may be less than 1 cm.

Bat calls vary depending on what they're doing, the type of habitat, and even local dialects.

For example, they produce wider, flatter calls when searching for food, but as they hone in on prey, the calls get closer together.

#### Map of Bats detected in August 2021 in Hampton Park



## Map of Bats detected in June 2021 in the Carlington Woods

#### Legend

PERSUB = Perimyotis subflavus (Tri-colored bat)
LASCIN = Lasiurus cinereus (Hoary Bat)
LASNOC = Lasionycteris noctivagans (Silver-haired Bat)
EPTFUS = Eptesicus fuscus (Big Brown Bat)



# Local Contacts & Resources

Friends of Carlington Woods <u>https://www.facebook.com/groups/110542</u> <u>8122826947/</u> Twitter: @CarlingtonHill

Ottawa-Field Naturalists Club https://ofnc.ca/

Hampton-Iona Community Group https://hamptoniona.wordpress.com/

Carlington Community Association https://www.carlingtoncommunity.org/ NCC efforts to protect bats https://ncc-ccn.gc.ca/blog/protecting-bats

Breathe Easy Ottawa https://sharonboddy.wordpress.com/2021/08 /09/breathe-easy-ottawa/

Pollinators and your winter garden <u>https://seeds.ca/d/?k=debf8f85d421b7be443</u> 3eed1ad9020bf00001219

Put your garden to bed – the pollinatorfriendly way

https://www.pollinationguelph.ca/singlepost/2016/10/24/put-your-garden-to-bed-thepollinator-friendly-way