

## **Butterflies connect people**

A delegation, including the Mayor from the City Of Zitacuaro in the state of Michoacán, Mexico will be visiting Peterborough this September 9th to 11th. The purpose is to join forces with the Monarch Ultra team to raise awareness about the steady depletion of the Monarch Butterflies. Zitacuaro is the gateway to many Butterfly sanctuaries in the Sierra Madre Mountains, 2 hours west of Mexico City.

The loss of the Monarch population is caused by extensive use of pesticides in farming, habitat loss through mono cultivation and deforestation, climate change and disease. The recent declaration of the Monarch Butterflies being added to the Endangered Red List is most concerning.

Monarch Butterflies play a big part in the culture and spiritual lives of Mexicans. Their return to the Sanctuaries is celebrated every November coinciding with Dia de los muertos, the Day of the Dead. They say, the Butterflies are the the sole of the dead, returning to visit their loved ones.

The Monarchs also play a big economical roll in the lives of the native and indigenous population of the area. Thousands of tourists from around the world visit the sanctuaries to witness this annual natural wonder, providing jobs and a livelihood for many families.

Illegal logging in the sanctuaries has increased in recent years providing workers with an income but at the same time eradicating the habitat for the overwintering butterflies. A more sustainable option is to preserve the Forrest and the habitat for the Monarchs and expand the tourist industry with the much needed jobs.

During the visit we are scheduled to gather at Camp Kawartha with local environmentalists, First Nations representation and local dignitaries.

A visit at Curve Lake First Nation Indian Reserve with exchange of indigenous customs, a canoe and celebration will be amongst the activities on Sunday the 11th.

On Saturday the 10th. There will be an evening of celebration with refreshments, entertainment and cultural exchange at the Peterborough Market Hall.

As a supporter of the Monarch Ultra campaign and of Butterflies we would like for you to join us at the Market Hall event. There is no entr ee fee since we received a generous grant from the Peterborough United Way, helping with our expenses.

Please register at the link below to assure you a space and for the planning of refreshments.

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/zitacuaro-summit-an-evening-to-celebrate-monarch-butterflies-tickets-403125056897>