

# Butterflies – our creatures of the sun

By Grazyna Tonkiel

Butterflies are the symbol of spring, summer, warm weather and sunny days. Once they are gone, off site, all of us forget about them during the cold, frosty winter. Where do these delicate and beautiful creatures disappear during winter and seemingly, at the snap of a magic wand, emerge in the spring?

Except for a few migrants species, which like geese fly south to the USA, Mexico or Ecuador, the majority of day and nocturnal (moth) butterflies stay with us all winter long. These butterflies have developed brilliant strategies for surviving even the coldest parts of the year.

The butterflies which hibernate as fully developed adults – (imago), during autumn search for shelters like: tree hollows, garden sheds, garages. Sometimes they even install inside of our dwellings. When the weather changes and temperature drops, they start producing a glycol-like, sugary substance.

The substance does not freeze like water, and consequently helps the little creatures to survive sub-zero temperatures.

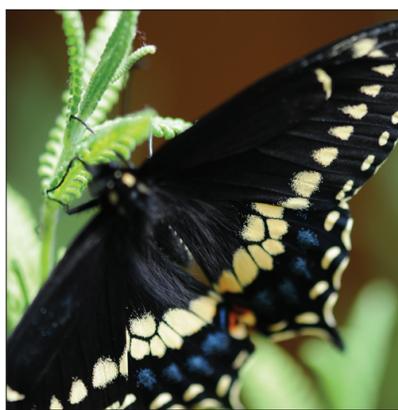
Morning Cloak is one of them. It is an unparalleled inspiration for me. The Morning Cloak winters as adult butterfly

fly – (imago) and every spring emerges from hibernation as one of the first butterflies. They look like the royalty of my garden. Their wings dressed in dark, navy blue, velvety scales and gold leaf like ornamental edges. They blind my senses with the shimmer of their wings as they fly. There is nothing more elegant than their velvety wings and sapphire like dots.

Some butterfly enthusiasts and my art admirers just notified me of seeing butterflies in Richmond Hill and Etobicoke. It definitely was another jewel of our gardens, Compton Tortoiseshell. They wake up from winter sleep as soon as temperatures reach 10 °C, and as early as March. They are partially black and brown with white spots and wide golden wing edges. They always remind me of floating gold leaf pieces I see often when applying gold background to my drawings.

The tiny Eastern Tailed Blue butterfly, winterizes as chrysalis (cocoon) hibernating in the pods of plants. As a matter of fact all of magnificent Ontario Swallowtails hibernate as chrysalises.

Last fall, when I was transferring my tender herbs to my greenroom to protect them from the winter cold, I unknowingly moved one Black Swallowtail chrysalis with the plants. It was



probably buried in the topsoil in one of my pots. To my surprise and delight, a fully developed butterfly emerged a week ago, prompted by the warmer spell of spring.

Fritillaries, another type of butterflies, hibernate as caterpillars tucked amongst vegetation in dead leaf nests or underground. Some species lay eggs in late summer or autumn and do not hatch until spring when food is plentiful. This is what happens to our sum-

mer companions during winter time.

Butterflies need energy and the warmth of the sun. In order to fly they have to warm their little bodies to 20 °C. This is why we see them only on warm and sunny days, and I hope to have many of those in 2016.

Spring is here. I already performed my spring ritual – singing Rachmaninoff's song title Spring Waters to the sounds of our King Trail's creek. Now I'm waiting for the magic to happen. I am waiting for warm weather, sunny days and the butterflies.

Please take pictures of your four-winged visitors and share them with me at [www.gtonkiel.com](http://www.gtonkiel.com).

*Grazyna Tonkiel is an accomplished opera singer, visual artist and a conservationist. She was the soloist at Polish National Opera and Ballet Theater in Warsaw and won national and international vocal competitions, her butterfly studies are in collections in over 10 countries. She can be reached at her Gallery Solo studio in King City – [www.gtonkiel.com](http://www.gtonkiel.com).*

## Councillor Eek appointed to committee

By Mark Pavilons

A King councillor has extended her helping hand to another agricultural body. Councillor Avia Eek has been appointed, by Order in Council, to the Lake Simcoe Coordinating Committee.

The committee chair urged Eek to seek the post and she was “absolutely delighted” at the thought.

“With my background as a farmer (which covers the agricultural component); a municipal councillor (which covers the Lake Simcoe municipality component); and a director on the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority board of directors (which covers the LSRCA component), I felt I could provide important input, if selected, to this committee.”

The process began in January and Eek found out about her appointment near the end of April.

She appeared at Queen's Park before the Standing Committee on Government Agencies (made up of MPPs from all three provincial parties) on May 3, to answer each party's questions. This baptism under fire took 30 minutes and while nervous, Eek rose to the challenge. Her appointment was unanimous.

The Lake Simcoe Coordinating Committee provides a forum to co-ordinate implementation of the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan and identifies and resolves issues that arise in relation to the implementation of the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan.



# King

## 7-Day Weather Outlook

From Thursday, May 19 to Wednesday, May 25

THURS 19TH	FRI 20TH	SAT 21ST	SUN 22ND	MON 23RD	TUES 24TH	WED 25TH
						
Mainly Sunny High 18C° Low 6C°	Mainly Sunny High 20C° Low 8C°	Mainly Sunny High 20C° Low 9C°	Mainly Sunny High 22C° Low 11C°	Mainly Sunny High 25C° Low 13C°	Mainly Sunny High 27C° Low 15C°	Mainly Sunny High 27C° Low 15C°
Wind NW 10k	Wind S 10k	Wind N 10k	Wind N 10k	Wind S 5k	Wind SW 15k	



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