



Dawson's Insect Resort

Last Fall, the "insect resort" in the Conrod's courtyard area was built as part of the Peace Centre's [Habitat Restoration Project](#), by Projects for Peace workshop participants. Goal: Attract 100 species in the courtyard (gym roof) by creating a variety of micro-habitats.

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DAWSON is
Celebrating
**EARTH
WEEK**
April 20-27

Strategic Plan

Dawson's 2016-2021 strategic plan boldly states our commitment to act as an ecologically and socially responsible agent with the goal of being a leading Canadian educational institution in promoting and practising sustainability in all its endeavours. The on-going effort of the entire Dawson community to achieve our sustainability goals is striking and commendable. We will be implementing a rigorous sustainability assessment and tracking system that will be third party verified with reports made available to the community next year.

Dawson has made a choice to reduce its ecological footprint and in so doing, we are living a core value within the strategic plan of well-being for all, sustainably. We are continuing on our path of educational excellence that is transformative and positive for students and society. Thank you for your efforts!

Richard Filion – Director General, Dawson College



Academic News

Meetings are set in April to identify content, structure and best practices for a Sustainability Certificate at Dawson and making links to the Learning Communities teaching approach – Ian Mackenzie (English dept.) is leading discussions. A meeting will be held for all interested teachers on April 20, 12:00-2:00 in 3F43.

Chase Moser & Tonia De Belis (Biology) are developing a "Living Campus" Course for all students that would use biodiversity projects on Dawson grounds (monarch nursery, peace garden, eco-zones, honey bees, vegetable gardens, pond) as study areas.

An updated survey of sustainability and sustainability-related courses offered at the College will benchmark our present offerings and help us gauge next steps.

Goodwill Project – A volunteering platform is being reviewed by Derek Gaucher, coordinator of IT Solutions and piloted by the Office of Academic Development, as a method to bridge staff knowledge and skill with specific projects at Dawson. Stay tuned and get ready to engage!



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Dawson's Centre for Training & Development (CTD) - Community Outreach & Professional Training



CTD, in association with several NGO's, will be a future hub for:

- Sustainable Happiness Certificate
- Positive Aging workshops
- Urban ecology education
- Professional development for educators related to sustainability.

A Naturehood Youth Camp will be piloted at Dawson, in collaboration with Nature Canada, during the summer of 2017. We will reinvent the day camp experience!

Our entire staff is excited to learn about and offer Community Outreach & Professional Training Programs that transfer Dawson's incubation of high-impact learning to the community.

Maeve Muldowney – Director, Centre for Training & Development (CTD)

Professional Development & Research



Two University students from Mexico joined us for one semester through a Leaders of the America's scholarship.

Dawson sustainability efforts have been featured in journal articles, a text book and supported by a host of external funders highlighted by two SSHRC grants - [Sustainable Campuses](#): project lead Gisela Frias and Food & Justice: project lead Anna-Liisa Aunio. Congratulations to both for establishing Dawson's presence in sustainability research.

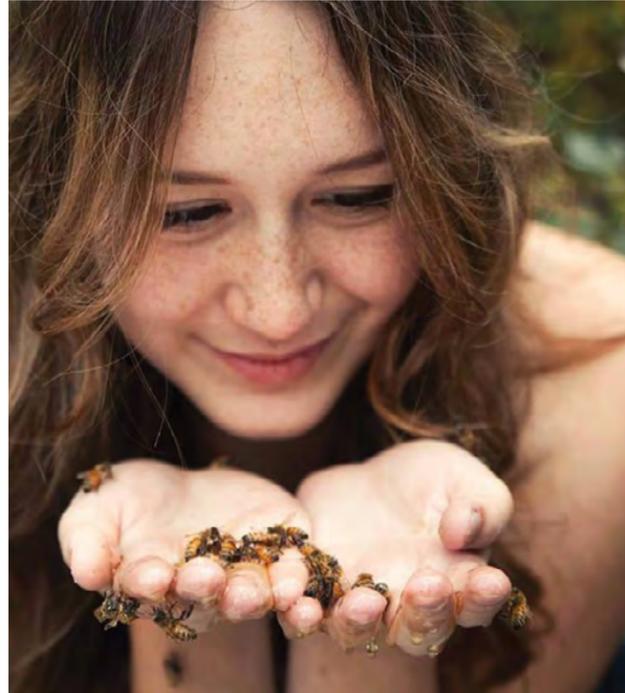
Several Entente Canada Quebec (ECQ) grants have supported biodiversity-related initiatives at the College, including the Monarch Nursery Project, the Rooftop Honey Bee Project, the Peace Centre's Habitat Restoration Project and the 3 Sisters Rooftop Garden.

See highlights of all Dawson sustainability research and publications at [Dawson's Professional Development & Research](#) web site.

We welcome still more teachers to engage in sustainability research at Dawson.

*Uzma Jami – Coordinator of Research
Azra Khan – Coordinator of Professional Development*

Dawson College Foundation



A [Living Campus Case booklet](#) in digital form is now completed and will be used to promote Dawson's collective efforts to use the building and grounds as a living laboratory. Living Campus and well-being for all has proven to be of great interest for our community and plays an active role in developing lasting relationships within the Greater Montreal area.

The Foundation is pleased to support the College through this dynamic initiative that will lead to important contributions for our first Major Fundraising Campaign. To all our donors, thank you for your support!

Francis Lessard
– Executive Director, Dawson College Foundation

Media & Publications

Dawson's goal of becoming a leader in sustainability is reflected in the media attention Dawson has received locally and nationally. Here are just some of the recent reports.

Donna Varrica – Director, Communications

Globe & Mail - [Living campus reduces stress, engages students and creates powerful teaching moments](#)

Montreal Gazette - [Seeds of understanding in Dawson College's Three Sisters Garden](#) and [If a butterfly flaps its wings at Dawson College, how will the election be affected?](#)

CTV Montreal – [Living Campus & 10 year commemoration – Model for other schools](#)

CTV National – [Butterfly release](#)
Dawson-Ecological Peace Garden

Dawson Peace Centre Video - [Projects for Peace](#)

[Biopolos](#) (increasing biodiversity in major cities) by the World Wildlife Fund is featuring Dawson's Living Campus initiative



Student Services

- Teacher and student sustainability orientation guides are being developed
- 1249 Club health challenge returns

The challenge – Dawson staff & student fitness teams try to bank the same distance (approximately 1249 kms) travelled by 12 female bees to produce 1 teaspoon of honey! Dawson's 60,000+ rooftop bees will visit an average of 30,000 flowers to create each teaspoon of honey.



Plant & Facilities (P & F)

- Dawson energy and waste reduction campaigns have reduced Dawson's greenhouse gases (GHG) from 914 metric tons in 2013 to 417 tons in 2016. The College will be carbon neutral from 2016 forward, continuing to reduce its carbon footprint and plant trees to offset the remaining CO2. Veronique Paris is Project Lead.
- [Taking Root Inc.](#) to offer a 50% reduction for students and staff of Dawson who want to calculate their carbon footprint and offset their emissions through tree planting
- P & F has the largest responsibility for the sustainability tracking & assessment reports for Sustainability Gold Standard criteria within the College
- 4H roof to be replaced with a green roof soon!
- The CoLab (3F43), with its 17 foot living wall, has had much use with 100's of meetings booked and many more drop-in meetings taking place

Dawson Student Union (DSU)



The DSU's collaborative efforts with Sustainable Dawson is building capacity for all things environmental at the College. Annie Quadros, the DSU sustainability representative, has been involved in many activities.

We are increasing [Composting](#) capacity at the College and created 480 kgs of earth from food scraps in a 6 week pilot last fall. This earth was used in our gardens.

The Recycling Centre by 2nd floor escalators, originally designed and constructed by students from the Interior Design program, has a new look. Please deposit used eye glasses, cell phones, batteries and ink cartridges there so we can give them new life.

Dawson Peace Centre

[Habitat Restoration Project](#)

Peace Centre – rooftop pond, meadow habitat and decomposition areas will be completed in April and our “Insect Resort” will be evaluated for inhabitants. Phase two of the Habitat Restoration Project is being developed.

Coming next Fall - 100 Meters of Peace Challenge – what can you do 100 metres from your home or office to make the world a better place for you, others or the natural environment?

Diana Rice – Peace Centre Coordinator



International News



One of three partner Institutions, UPEMOR University in Morelos, Mexico is creating a sister Peace Garden to Dawson's, their jardin acuatico de la paz. It will be a very large pond with a goal of attracting 200 species. Dawson and UPEMOR students are creating a beautiful outdoor mural that celebrates our partnership, friendship and wildlife.

Biodiversity Zones



Canada's largest moth species, the cecropia, was breeding in Dawson's Ecological Peace Garden in the summer of 2016.



With six bird feeding stations and regular bird watching tours offered by Chase Moser of the Biology department, we have identified 52 species visiting our trees and gardens, including Northern Orioles (above).



Monarch Nursery Project

Brenda Lee (Academic Dean's Office) finished a 5 day internship at a Monarch breeding facility in Florida in Feb. to review breeding options at Dawson. Thanks to Brenda for spear-heading this important Dawson initiative.

Dawson Gardens



Dawson Gardens – The 3 Sister's Garden showcases indigenous gardening methods and will house native medicinal plants this year. Diana Rice (Peace Centre), Orenda Boucher (First Peoples' Centre) and Anna-Liisa Aunio (Dawson Gardens) are coordinating this effort. The vegetable and herb garden outside the cafeteria is a place to teach students about urban food security with produce sold at the weekly Dawson market. Anna-Liisa Aunio is project lead.

We welcome any suggestions and collaborative projects.

Please contact the Sustainable Dawson Staff or [Steering Committee](#) members for suggestions about sustainability policy direction:

Cindy Elliott, program coordinator, cdelliott@dawsoncollege.qc.ca

Jenn de Vera, interim program coordinator, jdevera@dawsoncollege.qc.ca

For more information, visit [Sustainable Dawson](#)



Reconnecting people, community and Nature