



Bee Campus Renewal

Name of College/University

Wilfrid Laurier University

Address

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Applicant's Name

Katarina Milicic

Applicant's Position/Role

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Are you the primary contact person?

Yes

Pollinator Team Members

- Julia Bedford
 - Emily Tong
 - Anette Schiller
 - Vithusa Anpalakan
 - Jennifer Marshman
 - Katarina Milicic
 - James Emary
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Briefly summarize your Bee Campus experience during the past year.

Throughout the past year, the Bee Campus experience has been very successful and rewarding. As a Bee Campus at Wilfrid Laurier University (Laurier) we have created several different activities to raise awareness in our community. In June, we organized a social media campaign to celebrate International Pollinator Week. Throughout the week, we promoted a variety of activities to appeal to youth, young adults, and families and encouraged our audience to aid in the declining bee population. We began by spreading awareness on this issue through publishing interesting bee facts. In addition, we hosted a colouring contest and provided an opportunity for artists to share their work surrounding bees and nature. One of the most popular activities was at-home crafts and activities, explaining how to make your own bee bath and pollinator garden using native plants.

We also created our first quarterly newsletter. Through this publication, we share engaging articles and facts regarding bees. The quarterly newsletters will continue to be

published at the beginning of each new season so participants best understand the needs of bees at different time periods.

At the beginning of 2020, PolliNation delivered their Bee Leaders programming at elementary schools in-person. Due to the current pandemic, we transitioned to an online environment through our Summer Buzz virtual camp. This program featured 4 sessions that were led by special guest speakers and focused on how to be a changemaker. The first session was about PolliNation and the current pollinator crisis. Finally, a member on the PolliNation team was able to present at the ceremony for Waterloo Region becoming the first Bee Region. At this event, PolliNation was able to present a bee hotel to the region.

Please tell us about any campus initiatives focusing on creating new, improving or maintaining existing habitat for pollinators. This could include work on campus grounds and other areas.

A campus initiative that focuses on maintaining existing habitat for pollinators is the pollinator garden located at Northdale Campus in Waterloo. This garden also features a bee spiral which is used as an educational piece and features a variety of different native plants.

Another campus initiative through PolliNation is the creation of bee hotels that act as a habitat for solitary bees. These hotels can be placed in any garden near pollinator friendly plants and bees will nest in the cavities within the hotel. These hotels are intended to combat the issue of urban sprawl.

Plant list: Some plants found in our pollinator garden include: shooting star, golden alexander, prairie smoke, Canada columbine, wild strawberry, bluebell, mountain mint, swamp milkweed, black-eyed susan, smooth aster, New England aster and others.

Please tell us about any campus initiatives aimed at educating students, faculty staff or the local community about pollinators.

This past Fall term, Bee Campus released our first issue of our quarterly newsletter. Through this, we have spread awareness about our role as a bee campus. In addition, we focus on educating others through bee facts and have shared articles such as bee house care, bee washing, and provide updates on technological advancements to assist the declining bee population. We also strive to incorporate the broader Laurier community, and invite others to share their art and photography featuring bees and their habitats.

We have also invested more time in our Instagram account to ensure we are communicating well with the Laurier and greater KW community. One of our campaigns is called the “weekly buzz,” in which we share bee facts once a week. In addition to this, we also post “friday features” to showcase bee photography from the larger community. Instagram has proven to be a helpful tool, as we have used it to spread awareness regarding our Bee Leaders programming. As our programming has transitioned to an online environment due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Instagram worked well to inform others about our Summer Buzz Camp.

Please tell us about your participation in International Pollinator Week celebrations (if applicable) and other pollinator-themed events. Include photos, web links, stories and any other media.

The Bee Campus team is an avid participant in International Pollinator Week. Our main form of participation for this event was through our social media platforms, specifically our Instagram page. With a growing platform of interested learners, students, professionals and other organizations, our Instagram is a great way to spread awareness about pollinator events. For Pollinator Week, we took initiative to plan and execute a multifaceted social media campaign. This was kicked off on Monday of Pollinator Week with our announcement of our colouring contest. We posted native bee trivia and educational facts each day and throughout the week shared pollinator recipes (such as dandelion cookies), an infographic on how to make a bee-friendly garden a bee bath. PolliNation is proud of its success regarding Pollinator week, as it proved to be active and engaging. The link to our Instagram is as follows:
https://www.instagram.com/pollination_laurier/ .

How did your campus promote being a Bee City Campus?

Laurier promoted becoming a Bee Campus in a variety of ways. The first way was through a written article that was shared on the Laurier website announcing the news that Laurier was now a designated Bee Campus (<https://www.wlu.ca/news/news-releases/2019/nov/laurier-earns-its-pollinator-wings-with-official-bee-campus-designation.html>). This article was then picked up by a multitude of newscasters such as Kitchener Today, The Record and Exchange Magazine. It was also shared on the radio by 570 News. Through the announcement from this article, it was then shared on Instagram through Laurier Sustainability and on PolliNation Laurier. The Bee Campus team also created a quarterly newsletter where they shared what a Bee Campus was. Unfortunately, Laurier did not add in signage to the garden due to the pandemic, but we are hoping to add it in the following year.

How can Bee City Canada help to facilitate your vision of a campus community which supports pollinators?

Bee City Canada can help to facilitate our vision of a campus community which supports pollinators by continuously updating us with new information and updates. With this information, we can do our part to implement the required updates to ensure our campus continues to support our pollinators. It is also useful to see how other bee campuses are approaching the pollinator crisis, as their tactics can serve as inspiration for us to make our campus efficient.

Has your campus posted Bee City Canada signage?

No

Has your campus created a Bee City website or webpage?

No

What are your plans for the coming year?

As Bee Campus Laurier continues to grow, we have many things planned throughout the year. To begin, we plan to continue our quarterly newsletter. Through this newsletter we plan to educate the Waterloo community about the importance of pollinators. We plan to bring awareness to bee facts, involve the community in upcoming events, and use our platform to speak about the issues of the decline in the bee population. Furthermore, we believe it is important to educate future leaders about how they can make a positive impact. Through the PolliNation Bee Leaders of Tomorrow Program, we will continue to offer virtual workshops to educate elementary students about the issue of the decline of the bee population. Through this workshop we emphasize the importance of what it is to be a leader. Finally, we plan to create a bee themed mural with the assistance of the City of Waterloo and local artists. The purpose of this mural is to bring awareness to the importance of bees. It will also help spark the conversation of how the community can do their part in being able to help with the issues that the bee population faces.

Bee Campus Renewal Fees

10,001 – 20,000 students - \$400

We welcome your comments and suggestions to help us improve Bee City Canada, our web site, communications and other areas.

One way to improve Bee City Canada is to update the Bee Campus team with updates through email. This will help us keep track of things and learn new information.

Name of Dean/President/Official

Deborah MacLatchy

Submitted by

Katarina Milicic

Date

02/18/2021