

Bee City Canada 2022 Reapplication
Town of Collingwood, Ontario

Briefly summarize your Bee City experience during the past year. Please include information about challenges, feedback, and media responses.

In Collingwood we have had strong public and municipal support for native pollinator garden installations and educational events.

Despite challenges in public engagement due to Covid protocols we were able to host a native plant give-away in front of Collingwood's Town Hall for Pollinator Week. We were invited to attend and host a table at the "See the Salmon Run " festival, which is held annually by Blue Mountain Watershed Trust in late September. In early October we hosted a free documentary (Hometown Habitat: Stories of Bringing Nature Home) about native plants and community engagement. A total of 360 native plants were given away during these three events.

For March Break, Staycation Kits were created by both the local library and museum. Native plant seeds, educational sheets and colouring sheets were added to each Staycation Kit. Additional seeds were given out to the community in the early spring. All together 364 packages of seeds were distributed.

The Town Hall hosted a Bee City Canada street-side window display during the month of May, which showcased work to date by Pollinate Collingwood, the Town, and Environment Network.

Media response was excellent and included nine written articles published online via the Town website, Collingwood Today website and Facebook page, Simcoe.com, and the Toronto Star. Ontario Morning, CBC, interviewed Jessica Lehr in regards to the Town of Collingwood becoming a Bee City Canada community. The Town of Collingwood's Bee City Canada certification was announced on Pollinate Collingwood's Facebook and Instagram accounts, as well as all Town's website and social media sites.

Public interest has been high and more people are following Pollinate Collingwood on Facebook and Instagram, where Bee City Canada information is provided. Many people stop to inquire about Bee City Canada, native plants and pollinators, and the DSF Butterflyway Project when they see native gardens being worked on in Town. All feedback has been positive and comes with the comment to keep up the wonderful work.

One specific challenge this year was with pollinator garden maintenance. This challenge will be addressed in 2022 through improved communication, simplified gardens, and native plant identification tags.

Please tell us about your community's efforts to reduce the use of pesticides.

On January 1, 2008 the Town of Collingwood passed a bylaw banning pesticide use, a time before the provincial bylaws were created. The Town now follows the Provincial Pesticide Act and standards, which also includes herbicide use.

Outline community initiatives focusing on habitat creation and restoration. If possible, include a plant list.

During 2021 ten new native gardens were established on municipal land, including two sites along the Ste. Marie Street parking lot, two circle beds, a pollinator canoe, a bed at the new community garden at Sunset Point, native gardens at two of the "Welcome to Collingwood" signs, and a raised bed at the north end of Pine Street. A new rewilding site was established along Poplar Sideroad. In total, these new sites cover 2239 sq.ft of municipal land. Between establishing these new gardens, and to compensate for losses, we planted 484 forbes and grasses, 13 shrubs, and plants across 34 species, covering 2239 sq.ft of land.

Plant List: Large flowered coreopsis, Narrow-leaved sundrops, blue-eyed grass, Pale Purple Coneflower, Arrowleaf aster, Oswego Tea bee balm, Indian Grass, Spotted bee balm, Rough Blazing Star, Little Bluestem, Prairie Dropseed, False Sunflower, New Jersey Tea, Purple Giant Hyssop, Golden Alexander, Wild Columbine, Lanceleaf Coreopsis, White Hyssop, Prairie Coneflower, Wild Strawberry, Black eyed susan, Showy Goldenrod, Stiff Goldenrod, Common Ironweed, Hoary Vervain, Pearly everlasting, Bloodroot, Wild Onion, Anise Hyssop, Red Osier Dogwood, Nannyberry, Snowberry, Chokeberry.

How did your community promote being a Bee City?

- Bee City Canada's logo was added to the Welcome to Collingwood signs
- Social Media Posts (Experience Collingwood, Town of Collingwood, Pollinate Collingwood)
- Bee City Canada and Pollinate Collingwood street-side window display at the Town Hall for the month of May
- A native pollinator storywalk along the Heritage Park Community Garden fence

- Presentations given by Pollinate Collingwood draw reference to the community being a Bee City Canada community
- Woodworking class at Collingwood Collegiate Institute donated laser burned wood signs (on recycled cedar) that said Pollinate Collingwood on them. These signs helped to spread the word and raise money in support of native pollinators

Please tell us about your efforts aimed at educating your community, including residents, city employees, contractors, children and other groups.

- Various social media accounts (Facebook, Instagram) provided educational information as well as links to resources
- In-person educational events (Saturday morning table at Town Hall for National Pollinator Week, See the Salmon Run festival, documentary night at the Wild Stand, Cameron Street Public School)
- Provide native seeds and information to the community through Staycation Kits and other give-aways
- Virtual events/presentations (Ridge Hill Country School, Collingwood Collegiate Institute, Garden Club 599 (in Thornbury), local Girl Guide group)
- Engage with Municipal officials to support employee learning about native plants, consulted on design for new water play area near the Awen' Gathering Place for the inclusion of native plants
- Engage with Municipal officials and others regarding work on a local dyke and native plants
- Ongoing work with the Town's Pollinator Story Map

Please tell us about your community's participation in National Pollinator Week celebrations and other events.

For National Pollinator Week an educational tent was set up outside of the Town Hall. 260 native plants were handed out to members of the community. Directors of Pollinate Collingwood were on site to answer questions about Bee City Canada, native plants, and native pollinators.

Pollinate Collingwood was invited by Blue Mountain Watershed Trust to attend the "See the Salmon Run" festival. The community was eager to learn about native landscapes, the connection between terrestrial and aquatic habitats, and how to care for their new free native plants.

In early October Pollinate Collingwood hosted 'Hometown Habitat: Stories of Bringing Nature Home' at The Wild Stand General Store. Approximately 50 people attended this informative documentary and received a free native plant and information.

Describe your plans for creating, improving and maintaining pollinator habitat during the next year. *

- Revamp of Ste Marie St Community gardens for better community engagement and native plant/pollinator learning and observation
- Collaborate with the Collingwood Garden Club at the Arboretum to establish three native plant gardens
- Seeding and planting at Awen' Gathering Place
- Implement The Friends of Pollinators Program, which brings plants those who experience limitations to gardening
- Continue discussions and work with the Town of Collingwood regarding the creation of a Town of Collingwood Pollinator Strategy and Implementation Plan
- Continue providing educational programming, information, and special events locally
- Rewilding program expansion, stretching 2021's garden further to the west along Poplar Sideroad
- Continue to link local residents to native seeds, plants, and local native plant nurseries
- Provide a few templates of native pollinator gardens
- Provide an educational event (guest speakers), covid protocols pending
- Initiate the Sit-A-Sprout program, in which locals are provided with seeds and soil for winter stratification of plants (volunteers will grow plants for our gardens, keeping some plants for themselves as a thank you)
- Support the development and painting of a native pollinator mural at the Sunset Point Community Garden

Provide information about any events, activities or initiatives that you have organized and would like highlighted through our social media channels.

The highlight would be the continuation of work with local NGOs, school groups and special interest groups, the Town of Collingwood, and others to bring Bee City Canada and the importance of supporting native pollinators to the forefront of decision making regarding healthy ecosystems.