



Bee City Renewal 2023

Name of City, Town, Municipality or First Nation

Town of Collingwood

Province

Ontario

Applicant's Name

Jessica Lehr

Applicant's Job Title

Volunteer, Pollinate Collingwood

Organization or Department

Pollinate Collingwood

Address

5 Burnside Court
Collingwood, ON
L9Y 4R7

Applicant's Phone

+17054447008

Applicant's Email

lehr.jmj@gmail.com

Are you the primary contact person?

Yes

Pollinator Team Members

Jessica Lehr Pollinate Collingwood
Jeff Young Pollinate Collingwood
Carrington Lauzon Pollinate Collingwood
Shannon McCready Pollinate Collingwood
Carolyn Davies Pollinate Collingwood.
Kathleen Knoll Blue Mountain Watershed Trust
Wendy Martin Town of Collingwood
Kerri MacDonald Environment Network
David Ohrling Collingwood Climate Action Team
Dean Collver (Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture, Collingwood)

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

Collingwood had a second positive year as a Bee City Canada community. The Town continues to receive positive feedback about the established pollinator gardens and special event initiatives from the public.

Local collaborations grew again this year with the Town of Collingwood working with local eNGOs in support of Earth Day, the Garden Club of Collingwood partnering on two native pollinator gardens at the Collingwood Arboretum, Blue Mountain Watershed Trust showcasing two pollinator-based 'Be the Change' documentaries, and Pollinate Collingwood providing free plants, seeds, and information at special events hosted by other organisations. These activities were opportunities to connect with new and diverse audiences while collaborating with local organisations.

Pollinate Collingwood worked with the Town of Collingwood, a local condominium corporation, and schools to establish new pollinator habitat in addition to the aforementioned gardens. The group also maintained existing pollinator gardens from the previous years and nurtured community relationships that they previously formed.

The Town of Collingwood and Pollinate Collingwood introduced the Bees + Trees Canopy Program, a rebate program supported by a generous donation from Julie Di Lorenzo. This program encourages residents to plant native grasses, forbs and trees in support of native pollinators.

Although COVID-related restrictions have eased, public engagement still comes with limitations such as smaller venues and lower attendance. Most people still wore masks to indoor presentations, however, we trust that community engagement opportunities will continue to increase with time.

In 2022, there was minimal coverage of Bee City Canada, native plant gardening, or native insects by local news and media, but 2021 had an exceptional number of interactions. 2023 should bring more with the introduction of the Town of Collingwood Pollinator Protection Plan and special events.

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

Collingwood has been taking proactive initiatives toward supporting native pollinators and the elimination and reduction of pesticides and herbicides for several decades. On January 1, 2008 the Town of Collingwood passed a bylaw banning pesticide use, a time before the provincial laws were created. The Town now follows the Provincial Pesticides Act and standards, which also includes herbicide use. A Hazardous Vegetation Management Plan outlines procedures for the Town working with perilous, detrimental, nuisance and invasive vegetation on public lands.

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

During 2022 eleven new native gardens were established by Pollinate Collingwood on municipal, school, and community lands for a total of 1,249 square feet. Municipal gardens included two gardens in collaboration with the Collingwood Garden Club at the Collingwood Arboretum, one at the Collingwood Museum, and two alongside the Pine Street parking lot. Schools included Pretty River Academy, Cameron Street Public School, and Wild School of the Blue Mountains. Silver Glen Preserve, a condominium development, established a new native garden in a common area. Between establishing these new sites, and to compensate for losses, Pollinate Collingwood planted 426 plants, forbes, and shrubs across 53 species.

Perennial, forbes, and shrub list:

black-eyed Susan, rose milkweed, common milkweed, butterflyweed, harebell, golden Alexander, pale purple coneflower, prairie dropseed, Canada wild onion, wild lupine, Canada wild rye, pearly everlasting, dense blazing star, wild strawberry, anise hyssop, pearly everlasting, St. John's wort, wild geranium, cardinal flower, great lobelia, virgin's bower, large leaf aster, wild bergamot, stiff goldenrod, blue flag iris, slender mountain mint, big bluestem, purple prairie clover, purple coneflower, prairie sundrops, showy goldenrod, oxeye sunflower, yellow coneflower, cutleaf

coneflower, Junegrass, Ohio spiderwort, hairy beardtongue, NE aster, Missouri ironweed, foxglove beardtongue, wild quinine, switchgrass, white goldenrod, Helen's flower, wild blue indigo, side oats grama, smooth aster, lanceleaf coreopsis, American groundnut, eastern redbud, serviceberry, elderberry, chokeberry

The Town of Collingwood implemented the Bees + Trees Canopy Program in both the spring and fall of 2022. Forty-three individuals applied for the grant for native pollinator plants for their residential properties.

Collingwood Climate Action Team (CCAT), Consumption and Waste working group, initiated conversations with Pollinate Collingwood about moving the Simcoe County leaf bag pick up to a later spring date to promote the spring emergence of native pollinators. Work to date includes co-writing a draft letter to go out to Simcoe County eNGOs and other supporters for signatures prior to being presented to the county. Supporting groups to date include WBCAT (Wasaga Beach), Greys for Green (Alliston), and Georgian Bay Forever.

The Town of Collingwood planted and named the Di Lorenzo Tree Park in honour of Julie Di Lorenzo's donations to the Town in support of the planting of native trees and plants. Located at Fisher Fields, the park consists of 100 newly planted native trees including balsam fir, hemlock, maple, spruce, pine, birch, beech, sumac, and more.

An additional forest initiative began in 2022 which focuses on healing and forest walking. A committee has been established to guide the development. The forest walk will focus on Indigenous knowledge sharing.

During 2022 Pollinate Collingwood gave away 205 native plants and 360 native seed packages in total to local residents for their own gardens, creating undocumented native habitat.

How did your community promote being a Bee City?

The Town of Collingwood and Pollinate Collingwood continue to promote being a Bee City through their social media posts with tagging on both Facebook and Instagram, discussions with community members and media, and during special events. Brochures for Bee City Canada are available through Pollinate Collingwood at the events that they attend. Bee City Canada is referenced and their connection to the Town of Collingwood on the Town's Bees + Trees Canopy Program website as well as on the Town's Pollinator StoryMap.

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

The Collingwood Museum hosted the Royal Botanical Museum's travelling display, 'A Place to Grow,' between June and early July. As part of the exhibit, Pollinate Collingwood supplied educational sheets and both single species and mixed species tallgrass habitat packages for free to be handed out to visitors. Approximately 175 seed/information sheets were distributed.

The Collingwood Public Library continues to purchase books in support of native plant gardens and native pollinators for their collections. Pollinate Collingwood donated three non-fiction books and two for youth to the library in 2022.

Three local schools were presented over the growing season with free plants and seeds. Two of the schools, Pretty River Academy and Wild School of the Blue Mountains, had an interactive lesson and planting session.

The Collingwood Garden Club included a native plant presence during their annual plant sale, inviting both Pollinate Collingwood and eARTh Revival. They also hosted native plant and pollinator specialist Lorraine Johnson as a guest speaker in September. The event was attended by approximately 50 garden club members. Pollinate Collingwood was present with displays and free information sheets, plants, and seeds for participants. eARTh Revival was also invited to sell native plants.

Pollinate Collingwood provided support at two 'Be the Change' films in 2022. The 'Be the Change' film series, organised by Blue Mountain Watershed Trust Foundation, shows documentaries in support of sustainable living. Pollinate Collingwood presented a slide show at 'The Pollinators' and handed out free seeds and milkweed plants and provided a brief presentation at 'Flight of the Butterflies.' Approximately 50 people attended each event.

Pollinate Collingwood attended the Earth Day flag raising and proclamation reading at the Collingwood Public Library on April 22. Local eNGOs, youth groups, and Pollinate Collingwood supplied educational tables for the 60 attendees of the event and provided free seeds and educational sheets.

The Town of Collingwood, with educational support from Pollinate Collingwood, initiated the Bee + Trees Canopy Program in 2022 (prior to 2022 it focussed on trees). In preparation for the launch, Pollinate Collingwood (Carrington Lauzon), created a native plant list that identified associated pollinators, general native plant information, natives vs cultivars, and more. These information sheets were accessible through both the Town of Collingwood and Pollinate Collingwood's websites.

The Pollinate Collingwood Facebook page continues to present information via that platform and links people to the Pollinate Collingwood website and the Town of Collingwood Pollinator Story Map. All sites provide access to education resources.

Approximately 604 people, including youth and adults, received education regarding native plants and pollinators at special events and school plantings in 2022.

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

The Town supported a Pollinate Collingwood led native pollinator plant and seed give-away in front of the Town Hall as part of National Pollinator Week. On Saturday, June 25, 2022 approximately 90 people stopped by the booth to learn about native plants and pollinators. All received a plant and seeds. Children had the opportunity to complete a pollinator craft. The event was also considered to be part of the Town's On the Land We Love series.

In addition to this event on this date, the Town also supported local Master Gardener, Anya Lowrance, with a tent and table to present information regarding invasive plants. The Town also placed tags as well as signage at Harbourview Park throughout July and August that identified invasive species. Anya Lowrance developed information cards/educational resources on the most common invasive plants. Positive feedback was received from both the community and the master gardening group.

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

The Bees + Trees Canopy Program will continue to run in both the spring and fall. As a result there will be an increase in native plants and trees creating habitat in Collingwood. Pollinate Collingwood has native garden plans already underway with the Collingwood YMCA Youth Program, the Collingwood Labyrinth, and the Barbara Wieder House in partnership with the Collingwood Garden Club.

Free plants and seeds, with continued donations from Julie Di Lorenzo, will be handed out at community events. This will help to create additional pollinator habitat.

Rewilding along Poplar Sideroad will continue in 2023, as will regular maintenance of existing garden sites.

The Environment Network has secured funding to build a greenhouse. They have the intent to grow both foods and native plants to support the community.

Education will continue to focus on what healthy native pollinator habitats look like and how to both create and support them.

The largest initiative in 2023 will be work on the Town of Collingwood's Pollinator Protection Plan. Public consultation began on February 9 and continues throughout the spring. Additional steps in the creation of the plan will continue to be led by Pollinator Partnership Canada as the contractor. The plan will help to guide the development, rehabilitation, and protection of native pollinator habitat for the Town of Collingwood.

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

A list of upcoming, but non-comprehensive, events follows:

Earth Day flag raising and event

National Pollinator Week event

Has your City/Town/Municipality/First Nation posted Bee City Canada signage?

Yes

Has your City/Town/Municipality/First Nation created a Bee City website or webpage?

No

Bee City Renewal Fees

10,001 – 25,000 population - \$200

We welcome your comments and suggestions to help us improve Bee City Canada.

Thank you for having creating and having this certification. Regards, Jessica