



Bee Campus Renewal 2023

Name of College/University

Humber College

Address

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Toronto, ON
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Applicant's Name

Gabi Hentschke

Applicant's Position/Role

Sustainability Communications & Engagement Coordinator

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Are you the primary contact person?

Yes

Pollinator Team Members

Brie Gardner
Student

Claire Magsino
Student

Jasmine Bates
Student

Fran Freeman
Humber Beekeeper

Nicole Jameson
Student

Jimmy Vincent
Coordinator of Education, Camps, and Community Outreach

John Coffman
Humber Beekeeper

Liane Cook
Program Coordinator Horticulture Apprenticeship

Lynn Short
Instructor, Faculty of Applied Sciences and Technology; Environmental Stewardship Coordinator for
Humber Arboretum

Roman Fuzak
Maintenance and Custodial Services Manager

June MacDonald-Jenkins
Sr. Dean Faculty of Social and Community Services Principal, Lakeshore Campus

Tessa Soltendieck
Sustainability Manager

Gabi Hentschke
Sustainability Communications & Engagement Coordinator

Briefly summarize your Bee Campus experience during the past year.

In the past year, Humber College strengthened campus awareness on pollinator initiatives through multiple events and engagement that had a wide reach within the college community. The groundskeeping team focused on the care and maintenance of existing pollinator gardens to ensure viability of plants. Four Bee Campus signs were installed on campus pollinator-friendly gardens.

In addition to pollinator awareness and groundskeeping, the Indigenous Education and Engagement (IE&E) team focused on reinforcing Indigenous students, staff, and faculty connection to sacred medicines on campus. The IE&E team revitalized community involvement with the Medicine Garden, that counts with three of the four sacred medicines: Asemaa (tobacco), Muskodaywushk (sage), and Weengushk (sweetgrass). The fourth medicine, Geezhig (cedar), was used in the cross pieces of the structure above the garden.

The Humber Arboretum team continued efforts related to invasive species removal, strengthened community programming that raises awareness on pollinators and native species restoration, and native species planting.

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 new pollinator garden near the B driveway entrance was established in the summer of 2022. Existing pollinator gardens and areas landscaped using native species were maintained with care by the groundskeeping team. During the winter months, additional attention was paid to vegetation by replacing salt with environmentally friendly ice-melter to keep sidewalks free of ice. Plywood was also set up along most sidewalks bordering garden beds to prevent the ice-melter from entering the areas. Staff turnover was a challenge faced by the groundskeeping team in 2023, affecting the ability to set up new pollinator gardens on campus. Plans to establish more pollinator gardens will be pursued in 2024.

IE&E revitalized the existing Medicine Garden at the North Campus through multiple events paired with Indigenous teachings in the summer of 2023 that included tobacco planting and medicines harvesting. Tended by Lynn Short for over a decade, the Medicine Garden is organized in four quadrants that represent the colours of the medicine wheel: red, yellow, black, and white. Native plants like coneflower and bee balm are paired with medicines according to the garden's colour scheme as represented on document uploaded.

With support from students, campus beehives received a new coat of paint to ensure they are weatherproof. A small cluster of beehive boxes was painted in the summer of 2022, and the remaining boxes were done in May of 2023. The events counted with over 10 students and Sustainability Ambassador volunteers, who quickly painted the wooden boxes while learning about

the importance of pollinators. Two student journalists covered the event and published an article on Humber News about the campus honeybees.

The Humber Arboretum Environmental Stewardship Coordinator, Lynn Short, completed an invasive species removal report and research on dog strangling vine with Humber students this past year. Lynn also partnered with Humber instructor Liane Cook's Sustainable Horticulture Class to remove invasive species while replanting native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers in the fall of 2022. Humber Arboretum staff member removed over 200 European buckthorn shrubs. Invasive plant removal work takes place at the Humber Arboretum to stop invasive species from taking over the area and eradicate native species.

Longstanding partner of the Humber Arboretum, Toronto Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), donated over \$3,000 in mixed native species planters (over 200 planters) in the fall of 2022. Sixty of these have been planted onsite with West Humber Collegiate Institute (WHCI) Students and another 30 were given to West Humber Collegiate for their pollinator friendly learning space that the Humber Arboretum is helping to create through the TDSB's Community Connected Experiential Learning grant. Some of the native plants received from the TRCA have yet to be planted.

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

At the Fall 2022 Residence Orientation, the Office of Sustainability led a sustainability-themed trivia followed by beeswax wrap making. In the event, Humber residents learned about the college's commitment to maintaining healthy habitats for pollinators and their importance. Support staff also had a chance to make their own beeswax wraps after a sustainability workshop during the 2023 Support Staff Professional Development Week.

In March, as part of the Humber Earth Month celebration, the Community Eco Night event organized by the Lakeshore Grounds Interpretive Centre counted with a presentation from Fran Freeman about the impacts of climate change on bees. The beekeeper's presentation to the Humber Lakeshore community discussed the negative impacts of weather events on bee populations across North America.

The Medicine Garden was celebrated in an Opening event with special guest Robin Wall Kimmerer, who spoke about sacred medicines and the Honourable Harvest. The values of the Honourable Harvest allow for animal and plant communities to thrive alongside humans, a lesson inherently connected to supporting pollinators.

The Sustainable Urban Beekeeping course continues to be offered at Humber College, teaching students sustainable beekeeping practices fitting for the urban setting. Elective courses are related to different business opportunities and activities using honey and other byproducts.

TRCA's Ravine Youth Team visited the Humber Arboretum to learn about habitat restoration and invasive species removal projects happening onsite with Lynn Short. They then participated in a full day of removing invasive species including phragmites and European buckthorn.

The Humber Arboretum team was also very active in promoting pollinator education, some of the events they held during the year include the following. Workshops at West Humber Collegiate Institute for approximately 90 students related to native plant and pollinator friendly gardening and environmental stewardship. Planted another 30 native species planters onsite with 5 different school groups, totaling about 250 students. Pollinator education is part of the Summer Camp programming, where kids learn about pollinator protections and appreciation during the Bees and Booms week.

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.

In collaboration with the Humber Arboretum, the Office of Sustainability hosted a Native Plant Blitz event to mark Pollinator Week. Students planted about 10 native plants in the Humber Arboretum grounds, near honeybee hives from the Sustainable Urban Beekeeping program. A student journalist covered the event and published an article on Humber News celebrating Pollinator Week. The Office of Sustainability and the Humber Arboretum also shared Pollinator Week-themed content on social media.

In March 2023, during Humber Earth Month celebrations, a Bee Campus booth was set up in the Sustainable Communities Gathering event to promote Humber's actions that support pollinators and to encourage students to sign the Pollinator Pledge. Part of the promotion included staff wearing bee costumes. Over 216 students attended the event at the North and Lakeshore campuses.

Other pollinator-themed events mentioned in the above sections include beehive painting, Medicine Garden events, and beeswax wrap making.

How did your campus promote being a Bee City Campus?

Humber's Bee City Campus status was promoted at multiple student-gear service fairs, presentations and training sessions run by the Office of Sustainability throughout the year. Over 350 students, staff, and faculty participated in sessions that mentioned Humber's Bee Campus commitment in the 2022-2023 school year.

Four Bee City signs were installed on campus pollinator-friendly gardens.

The Pollinator Pledge was promoted alongside Bee Campus information during Humber Earth Month in March 2023.

The new pollinator garden near the B roadway entrance was featured in a Humber Today article and in a CTV News interview among other media outlets.

As mentioned in sections above, two journalism student-written articles on Humber News make reference to Humber's Bee Campus status.

<https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/video?clipId=2507529>

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

Share more resources and examples from other institutions, especially on how challenges were overcome and awareness raising on campus.

The renewal form could be updated to avoid questions with overlapping/duplicate answers.

Has your campus posted Bee City Canada signage?

Yes

Has your campus created a Bee City website or webpage?

Yes

If you answered "Yes", please provide the URL of your Bee City webpage.

<https://humber.ca/sustainability/humber-certified-bee-campus>

What are your plans for the coming year?

The groundskeeping team aims to establish new pollinator-friendly gardens on campus. The bus loop pollinator garden plan was found to be a large undertaking with intensive planning needed, so construction will likely start in spring of 2025.

The facilities team plans to apply for a native plants grant in 2024 to revitalize campus areas. A new contract with TRCA has been signed for plant donations via TRCA Grants, and 400 pollinator-friendly shrubs are expected to be received next spring/summer.

Existing initiatives and awareness campaigns are ongoing work that will be carried out in future years.

Bee Campus Renewal Fees

More than 20,000 students - \$500

Name of Dean/President/Official

Lindsay Walker

Submitted by

Gabi Hentschke

Date

08/09/2023