

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF GEORGINA
IN THE
REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK

BYLAW NUMBER 2024-0025 (REG-1)

BEING A BYLAW TO ESTABLISH THE TOWN OF GEORGINA
WITH A BEE CITY CANADA DESIGNATION

WHEREAS, the goal of Bee City Canada certification is to promote healthy, sustainable habitats and communities for native bees and other pollinators; and

WHEREAS, managed and native bees and other pollinators around the globe have experienced dramatic declines due to a combination of habitat degradation, fragmentation and loss; climate change; use of pesticides; and, the spread of pests and diseases, with serious implications for the future health of flora and fauna; and

WHEREAS, communities and their residents have the opportunity to support native bees and other pollinators on public and private land; and

WHEREAS, supporting pollinators fosters environmental awareness and sustainability, and increases interactions and engagement amongst community stewards; and

WHEREAS, the economic benefits of pollinator-friendliness are:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Healthy ecosystems — insect pollinators are required for pollination and reproduction of about 85% of flowering plants globally, plants that:<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. are vital for clean air and water;2. provide food, fibre and shelter for people, livestock and wildlife; and3. support the very species that pollinate crops and form the basis of food webs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increased vegetable and fruit crop yields due to insect pollination. One in every three bites of food we eat is courtesy of insect pollination.• Increased demand for pollinator friendly plant materials from local nurseries and growers.• increased awareness and resources for pollinator initiatives and community action groups focused on native pollinators and how to protect them; and
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WHEREAS, ideal pollinator-friendly habitat:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provides diverse and abundant nectar and pollen from plants blooming in succession from early spring to late autumn.• Provides water for drinking, cooling, nest-building and butterfly puddling.• Has been designated pesticide-free.• Is composed of mostly, if not all, native species of annual and perennial trees, shrubs, native grasses, wildflowers, ground cover and vines, which have coevolved with native pollinators.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Includes, where possible, designated pollinator zones in public spaces with signage to educate the public and build awareness.• Provides undisturbed spaces (un-mulched areas of soil and sand, pithy stemmed stalks, leaf and brush piles, un-mowed fields or field margins, fallen trees and other dead wood) for nesting and overwintering for native pollinators; and
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WHEREAS, in order to enhance understanding among municipal staff and the public about the vital role that pollinators play and what each of us can do to sustain them, The Town of Georgina agrees to meet the following commitments required of all Bee City Canada communities:

1. Adopt this Bee City Canada resolution (which articulates these commitments).
2. Designate the Community Services Department as the Bee City Canada program sponsor and the Manager of Parks Development and Operations from this department as the Bee City Canada program “liaison;” and
3. Assign facilitation of the local Bee City Canada program either to
 - a) a new or existing commission or
 - b) a non-profit organization, to encourage and coordinate local pollinator habitat and awareness activities. This body will serve as the intermediary between the citizenry and the local government on matters of enhancing pollinator awareness, conservation and habitat, fulfilling the following commitments:
 - develop a Municipal Pollinator Habitat Plan that will include a locally native, pollinator-friendly plant list with regional sources for such plants and a least toxic integrated pest management (IPM) plan. The plant list and IPM plan will guide the management of municipal lands to improve and expand pollinator habitats in your community. It will be publicized and promoted on the web to offer a valuable landscape-management model for other municipal landowners.
 - Set specific, measurable annual targets for an increase in the quantity of pollinator habitat relating to number of hectares or percent of public and private lands on which pollinator-friendly habitat will be created or enhanced each year.
 - Annually celebrate National Pollinator Week (third full week of June) or some other appropriate occasion with educational events, pollinator habitat

plantings or restoration, proclamations or promotions that showcase the municipality's commitment to enhancing native pollinator health through biodiversity and habitat.

- Annually apply for renewal of Bee City Canada designation and submit a report of the previous year's activities.
4. Publicly acknowledge the community's commitment by agreeing to display Bee City Canada or appropriate signage in a prominent location, and create and maintain information on your community website which includes links to this signed Resolution and the Bee City Canada's website, and reports of the pollinator friendly activities the community has accomplished the previous year(s).

AND WHEREAS Council deems it advisable that The Town of Georgina should be certified as a Bee City Canada Community;

BE IT THEREFORE ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GEORGINA:

THAT Town of Georgina accepts the designation and commits to the standards of the Bee City Canada Program.

READ AND ENACTED this 10th day of April, 2024.

Margaret Quirk, Mayor

Rachel Dillabough, Town Clerk