

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF GEORGINA

REPORT NO. CSD-2024-0005

**FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF
COUNCIL**

April 10, 2024

SUBJECT: Town of Georgina Bee City Canada Designation

1. RECOMMENDATION:

1. That Council receive Report No. CSD-2024-0005, prepared by the Community Services Department regarding Georgina Bee City Designation.
2. That Council authorize staff to complete the online Bee City Canada Application for Georgina to be designated a Bee City.
3. That Council adopt a By-Law to complete the Bee City Canada Application for the Town of Georgina.

2. PURPOSE:

Community Services is seeking Councils support as required by Bee City Canada as part of the application process to become designated as a Bee City. In doing so, Georgina will continue to enhance biodiversity and create educational opportunities for the community in collaboration with the Junior Optimist Club and other Community Groups while setting the stage for collaboration on future projects beneficial to native pollinators.

3. BACKGROUND:

In 2023, The Town of Georgina collaborated with the Junior Optimist Club to complete a butterfly garden on the ROC (Recreational Outdoor Campus) grounds' southern end. Along with a partnership developed with the Sutton High School Trades program. The high school students provided us with 6 Bee Hotels that were installed in the butterfly garden to expand on the habitat in that location. Planned work in 2024 will include the enhancement of wildflowers on the ROC Hill facing Baseline Road to increase the pollinator habitat in Georgina.

Georgina has an exceptional group of volunteers working on habitat creation, awareness, and education, along with monitoring pollinators and this designation would recognize past accomplishments will setting the stage for collaborative projects in the future.

Bee City Canada provides a framework for action to benefit pollinators including designation as a Bee City, Bee School, Bee Partner, and Bee Campus. Following designation, Bee Cities are required to report their accomplishments annually and host an educational pollinator event. Bee City Canada is a program of Pollinator Partnership Canada, a federally recognized charitable organization. Over the past few years several municipalities in Ontario including Town of Newmarket, City of Richmond Hill and Town of Whitchurch Stouffville became designated as a Bee Region.

Bee City Commitments	Action
1. Adopt this Bee City Canada resolution (which articulates these commitments).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will be completed once adopted by Council.
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;”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manager of Parks Development and Operations will be the program sponsor.
<p>3. Assign facilitation of the local Bee City Canada program either to</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a. A new or existing commission or</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Community Services Department along with The Junior Optimist Club of Keswick and any additional community partners will serve as the ambassadors for the Bee City program. • The Town of Georgina website will be updated to include a webpage with information on Bee City Canada along with an interactive “pollinator map”. • The Parks and Trails Master Plan will include opportunities to include naturalization and pollinator habitat friendly areas within Georgina. • National Pollinator Week will be celebrated

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<p>annually. In 2024 the Junior Optimist Club will be attending the Georgina Farmers Market to distribute wildflowers seeds and promote education on pollinator gardens.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Community Services Department will renew the Bee City Canada designation on an annual basis as required.
<p>4. Publicly acknowledge the community’s commitment by agreeing to</p> <p>a) display Bee City Canada or appropriate signage in a prominent location, and</p> <p>b) create and maintain information on your community website which includes links to this signed Resolution and the Bee City Canada’s website, contact information for your local community’s Bee City Canada liaison and designated “facilitator commission or non-profit organization committee,” and reports of the pollinator friendly activities the community has accomplished the previous year(s).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Educational board will be created and include Bee City Canada information and installed in the ROC Wildflower Garden located on the south grounds of the ROC. • In 2024 the ROC Wildflower Garden will be expanded with 170 fruit, floral and evergreen trees.

4. ANALYSIS:

The Bee City Canada designation will provide for the first time a snapshot of the accomplishments of community organizations passionate about enhancing biodiversity and creating educational opportunities. There are many organizations in Georgina pursuing projects beneficial to pollinators. The designation will bring together these organizations in collaborative partnerships for future projects.

5. RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN:

Creating a vibrant, healthy, and safe community for all - Support a safe, healthy, and inclusive community and continue to invest in community amenities and spaces

Advancing environmental stability - Celebrate and respect Georgina's natural environment, including Lake Simcoe. Support Georgina's resilience through environmental sustainability and climate mitigation and adaptation

6. FINANCIAL AND BUDGETARY IMPACT:

After the first year, a \$400 annual fee noted in the application is required to maintain designation following annual reporting to Bee City Canada. Funds for the annual Bee City Canada fee, educational and habitat projects, will be derived from the existing operational budget and through collaborative partnerships that will contribute funds and in-kind resources for projects.

7. PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND NOTICE REQUIREMENTS:

Not applicable.

8. CONCLUSION:

Georgina has a history of exceptional individuals and organizations dedicated to biodiversity, habitat enhancement, monitoring and education as most recently evidenced by the completion of a Butterfly Garden and the implementation of Community Gardens in Georgina. The Bee City Canada designation builds on this will make Georgina a better place to live for residents and native pollinators alike.

APPROVALS

Prepared By:	Jessica Anthony Administrative Coordinator
Reviewed By:	Bob Ferguson Manager of Parks Development and Operations
Recommended By:	Steve Lee-Young Director of Community Services
Approved By:	Ryan Cronsberry Chief Administrative Officer