

Pollination Guelph Joins the Friends of Pollinators Action Coalition

There is increasing evidence to show that neonicotinoid pesticides, commonly used as a seed treatment on corn and soybeans, are killing our bees directly or causing sub-lethal effects that negatively impact their immune systems and ability to forage, reproduce, and survive. Pollination Guelph has recently joined the Friends of Pollinators Action Coalition to help raise awareness of this problem and to pressure the government to ban this class of pesticides until the required research is completed. This coalition includes several groups concerned about the issue, including the Council of Canadians, the National Farmers Union, Pollination Canada-Seeds of Diversity, Sierra Club Canada, to name but a few. More information about the coalition can be found at <http://www.practicalfarmersontario.ca/friends-of-pollinators-action-coalition-statement-of-principals-and-purpose.html>. The more groups that stand united the greater an impact we can have on the federal government – will your organization join us?



Are you a Friend of Pollinators?

Help Us Ban Neonicotinoids – Public Comment Period Ends Thursday, December 12, 2013

Are you concerned about the impact of neonicotinoid pesticides on pollinators and our environment? Do you want to help ban these dangerous insecticides? Act now before the December 12, 2013 comment period ends. It's easy to do and only takes a few minutes: just fill out the comment form at http://org2.salsalabs.com/o/5654/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=15437 to send your thoughts to Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA).

The PMRA has publicly stated that the use of these pesticides is unsustainable and has killed bees, yet their proposed actions for 2014 do not call for a complete ban – rather edits to label recommendations on the pesticides, changes to planting practices, and calls for more research. But we do not have time to wait years for more information before making a decision: our plants, animals, soil, water, and environment in general are being irrevocably harmed. We need to follow the lead of the European Union and call for a ban now. Every voice counts so please send in your comments ASAP.



Corn is widely planted on the landscape and insecticides used on it have huge impacts on bees.

Save the Date – 2014 Pollination Symposium to be held at Trinity United Church on March 22

Our annual symposium continues in 2014 with a new location and an exciting lineup of speakers and activities. It will be held on Saturday, March 22, 2014 at Trinity United Church, which is located at the corner of Stevenson Street and Speedvale Avenue in the north part of Guelph. Mark the date on your calendar and plan to attend! More information will be available in the New Year.

Vote for Wildlife Preservation Canada's Operation Pollination Program On-Line

Want to help save endangered pollinators? Vote for Wildlife Preservation Canada's Operation Pollination at Shell Canada's Fuelling Change program web-site: <http://fuellingchange.com/main/project/441/Operation-Pollination>. Wildlife Preservation Canada is a strong supporter of our work at the Eastview Landfill Pollinator Park and is doing great work for pollinators across Canada. They could get \$50,000 for their projects if they receive the most votes. Register and get 30 free votes, then get more votes by making a Shell purchase (gas, chocolate, milk – anything!) and redeeming receipt codes for votes.



Fall Grant Success – \$8,526 towards Community Projects

Pollination Guelph is pleased to announce that the *Guelph Community Foundation* continues to support our work by presenting us with two grants this fall: \$3,000 for the Clair Road Emergency Services Centre (CRESC) pollinator-friendly landscaping project (in partnership with the City of Guelph Healthy Landscapes Project) and \$2,526 through their Musagetes Fund for the upcoming Re:mediate project at the Eastview Landfill project (in partnership with local artist, Christina Kingsbury). The *TD Friends of the Environment* has also supported Pollination Guelph in the past and continues to do so with a new award of \$3,000 towards the CRESC project. Watch for more details on these projects, including opportunities for you to participate, in upcoming newsletters.



First Hectare at the Eastview Landfill Pollinator Park Successfully Planted

After several years of making plans and overcoming obstacles, Pollination Guelph successfully planted the first hectare of the 45 hectare Eastview Landfill Pollinator Park on September 19, 2013. The seed mix, designed in consultation with our supplier Ontario Nativescapes, will grow into a meadow that is both pollinator and grassland-bird friendly, and will add beauty and diversity to the landscape. We received great publicity on the planting from local media, including front page mention in the Guelph Mercury, a large write-up in the Guelph Tribune, an article in Guelph Snap, as well as inclusion in the news on Magic 106.1 and CJOY radio.



Phase 1 of our Pollinator Park has now been planted.

This phase of the project would not have occurred without the financial assistance of Wildlife Preservation Canada and the TD Friends of the Environment Fund, as well as in-kind support from Bartram Woodlands, the City of Guelph, and Pollination Guelph donors and volunteers. A big thank-you is also due to John Oskham, the farmer who lent us his tractor after mechanical issues had us searching for a second tractor during the afternoon on planting day. We appreciate the support that everyone has given us on this large-scale demonstration project, and are actively looking for funding for the next phases in 2014 and beyond.

Pollination Guelph's First Live Talk-Show

Pollination Guelph was recently in Rogers TV's Guelph studio for a live talk-show discussing our various projects and activities. It also featured a previously-filmed video shot on-site at our Eastview Landfill, Trans Canada Trail, and Hospice Wellington plantings. The show aired live on October 15th, and then re-aired on October 16 and 19. We received great feedback from people who tuned in to watch.



A view of the live feed that went out during our recent talk-show.



Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;
Conspiring with him how to load and bless
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eves run;
To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;
To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells
With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,
And still more, later flowers for the bees,
Until they think warm days will never cease,
For Summer has o'er-brimm'd their clammy cells.

-John Keats

