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Date: September 30, 2021
To: Mayor and Council
Author: Karin Sonnenberg, Kingsville Communities in Bloom Committee
RE: Bee/Pollinator Friendly Community
Report No.: PR 2021 – 10

RECOMMENDED ACTION

That Council,

- 1) Approves the application for the Town of Kingsville to be a Bee/Pollinator Friendly Community as part of Bee City Canada

BACKGROUND

The Communities in Bloom (CIB) Committee of Council purpose is;

- 1) To work with the Municipality, Businesses and Individuals to prepare the Town of Kingsville's annual Communities in Bloom Judges' Tour, and
- 2) To promote the general betterment and positive self-image of our community using the identified strengths that exist in the community.

This past year the Committee has focused on the following items;

- Partnering with the Kingsville Horticulture Society to have three COVID-19 tribute gardens
- A weekly social media campaign on Kingsville Parks and Recreation Facebook page that highlight ways to better the community and hashtagged w#KingsvilleBlooms
- Social media shout-outs of encouragement to anyone who is working for the betterment of Kingsville
- Planting a tree in Lakeside Park in honour of the front-line workers in COVID-19
- Planning to be a part of the 2022 Year of the Garden initiative
- Championing a scarecrow decorating contest as part of Migration Festival
- Preparing for the November 1, 2021 Pumpkin Parade.

The committees have also supported and promoted the creation of bee/pollinator-friendly gardens. Learned over recent years, bees and other pollinators around the globe have experienced dramatic declines due to land fragmentation, habitat loss, use

of pesticides, industrialized agriculture, climate change and the spread of pests and diseases, with serious implications for the future health of flora and fauna. The Pollinator Partnership Canada has developed a 'Bee City Canada' program to protect and promote pollinators and ecosystems through conservation, education, and research.

On August 3, 2021, the Committee moved that Karin Sonnenburg will represent CIB and present to Council a request to be a part of a Bee Friendly Community.

DISCUSSION

What is a Bee Friendly City?

- Bee City Canada is a federally recognized charity focused on engaging and inspiring cities, towns, First Nations, schools, campuses and other organizations across Canada to take action to protect pollinators.
- Designated Bee Cities work with Bee City Canada to achieve this goal in three key ways:
 - Creating, maintaining and/or improving pollinator habitat
 - Educating their community about the importance of pollinators
 - Celebrating pollinators during National Pollinator Week
- Further details can be read at <https://beecitycanada.org/>

Communities in Bloom and the Horticultural Society, along with local businesses (greenhouses, wineries, service groups, conservation areas, etc.), are already involved in achieving many of these goals.

Benefits of Becoming a Bee City community:

- 1) Learnings from Bee City Canada Community – We will gain access to learnings from the many cities already working with Bee City Canada to protect pollinators within the constraints of our municipality. Bee City Canada will make it easier to find unique and practical solutions that work for our municipality.
- 2) Inspiring Our Community – Becoming a Bee City and promoting it through signage and press shows we are serious about pollinator protection and inspires others to learn and take action with us.
- 3) Thought Leadership from Bee City – Resident pollinator experts will work to provide us with pollinator protection thought leadership in the form of webinars, consistent newsletters and more.

How to become a Bee City:

- 1) Select one or more municipal employees to serve as your Bee City Liaison(s) and have them fill out a Bee City application (<https://beecitycanada.org/bee-cities/application/>).

- 2) Present the Bee City Resolution form [Resolution Form](#) to your city council and have it signed by your mayor (Appendix A)
- 3) Submit the Bee City application and signed Resolution form along with your city logo, photos (if available) and a 100-word write-up for social media to applications@beecitycanada.org.
- 4) Bee City Canada will review our application and notify us as soon as it is approved or if they have questions.
- 5) Once approved, Bee City Canada will declare us a Bee City and provide a Declaration Certificate.

What needs to be done if Kingsville joins Bee City Canada?

As a Bee City, we are asked to,

- 1) celebrate being a Bee City through public awareness,
- 2) execute our resolution to make an impact on your community, and,
- 3) record our activities through a yearly renewals.

Being a part of this initiative is to increase awareness and not policy driven. The above items would be taken on by the Communities In Bloom Committee and embedded in the 2022 work plan. Administration would be requested to support the public awareness by leveraging the Town's social media account to increase awareness.

Should Kingsville make an application and be approved, we would be the first Bee City in Canada, in Southwestern Ontario. There are many Ontario communities such as - Collingwood, Midland, Hamilton, Orangeville, Region of Waterloo, Kitchener, Waterloo, Township of Wellesley, Timmins, Mississauga, New Tecumseh, Township of Georgian Bay, Barrie, Orillia, Township of Severn, Oshawa, Richmond Hill, Guelph, Ajax, Newmarket, Niagara Falls, St. Catharines, Kawartha Lakes, Toronto and Stratford.

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Promote the betterment, self-image and attitude of the community.

Improve recreational and cultural facilities and opportunities within the Town of Kingsville.

Support growth of the business community.

To become a leader in sustainable infrastructure renewal and development.

Link to Council 2021-2022 Priorities

- ☐ COVID-19 and the health and safety of the community
- ☐ Customer Service: Training, Technology, Staff, Review Standards/Level of service

- ☐ Housing: Affordability (lot sizes, developer incentives, second dwellings, density, etc.)
- ☐ Greenhouse: lights & dark sky, odours (site plan compliance, bylaws, other tools)
- ☒ Programming Increase: Youth and Seniors
- ☐ A development plan for Downtown Kingsville / Main Street
- ☐ Financial savings: Schools closings, Migration Hall
- ☐ Economic Development: strengthen tourism/hospitality
- ☒ COVID - economic recovery
- ☐ Communications: Strategy – Policy (social media), Website refresh and other tools, Public engagement
- ☐ Housing: Migrant Worker Housing – Inspections (Building/Fire), regulate, reduce, or increase
- ☐ Committees / Boards: Review and Report
- ☐ Policy Update: Procedural Bylaw
- ☐ Economic Development: diversify the economy, create local jobs, industrial, Cottam
- ☐ Infrastructure (non-Municipal): Union Water expansion & governance
- ☐ Infrastructure (Municipal): Asset Management Plan update, the infrastructure funding deficit
- ☒ No direct link to Council priorities

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

There is a \$200 annual membership that covers promotions, resources and network sharing. The fee is waived the first year as thanks for joining. Funding for this will come from the Communities In Bloom's budget.

CONSULTATIONS

Bee Friendly City
All members of Communities In Bloom
Horticulture Society

Karin Sonnenberg
Volunteer on Communities in Bloom, Kingsville

Karen Loney
Karen Loney, MA
Manager of Recreation Programs and Special Events

Appendix A

Draft Resolution for

(Municipality or First Nation)

of _____
(Province or Territory)

for approval by City Council, Band Council or Appropriate Official.

Bee City Canada Resolution

WHEREAS the goal of Bee City Canada designation is to promote healthy, sustainable habitats and communities for pollinators;

THAT bees and other pollinators around the globe have experienced dramatic declines due to land fragmentation, habitat loss, use of pesticides, industrialized agriculture, climate change and the spread of pests and diseases, with serious implications for the future health of flora and fauna; and

THAT cities/townships/First Nation communities and their residents have the opportunity to support bees and other pollinators on both public and private land; and

THAT supporting pollinators fosters environmental awareness and sustainability, and increases interactions and engagement among community stewards; and

THAT by becoming a Bee City, the City/Township/First Nation can highlight initiatives already in place and further engage local communities in an environment of creativity and innovation which will promote a healthier life for our community;

THAT staff be authorized to submit the Bee City Canada Application to designate (City/Township/First Nation) as a Bee City; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT (City/Township/First Nation) accepts the designation and commits to the

standards of the Bee City Canada Program.

Read, approved and adopted this

_____ day of _____, 20_____.

Town of Kingsville

Mayor, Chief or appropriate official

Print Mayor, Chief or official's name

A close-up photograph of purple flowers, possibly lavender, with a bright sun flare in the background. The text "Why become a Bee City?" is overlaid in white.

Why become a
Bee City?

What is Bee City Canada?

Bee City Canada is a federally recognized charity focused on engaging and inspiring cities, towns, First Nations, schools, campuses and other organizations across Canada to take action to protect pollinators.

Designated Bee Cities work with Bee City Canada to achieve this goal in three key ways:

- 1) **Creating**, maintaining and/or improving pollinator habitat
- 1) **Educating** their community about the importance of pollinators
- 1) **Celebrating** pollinators during National Pollinator Week

Communities in Bloom and the Horticultural Society, along with local businesses (greenhouses, wineries conservation areas, etc) are already involved in achieving many of these goals.



Bees aren't the only Pollinators!

Bees (native and honey) are not the only pollinators that are recognized and will benefit.

Other important pollinators include butterflies, birds, bats, wasps, flies, moths and beetles to name a few.



Current Bee Cities in Ontario

Cambridge
Brampton
County of Simcoe
Collingwood
Midland
Hamilton
Orangeville
Region of Waterloo
Timmins
Mississauga
Barrie
Orillia
Richmond Hill
Wellesley

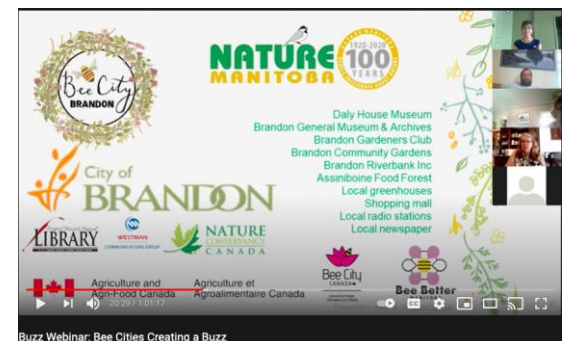
Richmond Hill
Oshawa
Guelph
Ajax
Newmarket
Niagara Falls
Waterloo
Kitchener
Whitby
St Catharines
Stratford
Toronto

Kingsville would be the southernmost city to become bee/pollinator friendly.

Bee City Benefits

Becoming a Bee City comes with many benefits:

- 1) **Learnings from *Bee City Canada* Community** – We will gain access to learnings from the many cities that are already working with Bee City Canada to protect pollinators within the constraints of our municipality. Bee City Canada will make it easier to find unique and practical solutions that work for our municipality.
- 1) **Inspiring *Our* Community** – Becoming a Bee City and promoting it through signage and press shows our citizens that we are serious about pollinator protection and inspires them to learn and take action with us.
- 1) **Thought Leadership from Bee City** – Resident pollinator experts will work to provide us with pollinator protection thought leadership in the form of webinars, consistent newsletters and more.



Bee City Benefits

A Bee City begins conversations about:

- How to grow healthy food and the importance of biodiversity
- How to reduce and eliminate chemicals that are harmful to pollinators, our food and the planet.
- Raising awareness of the benefit of using native plants in habitat restoration (cost benefits in planting a pollinator garden vs lawns in water usage)
- Setting an example and inspiring residents with the knowledge that they have a role to play.
- The economic benefits of eco-tourism.
- Improving the city's municipal environment and the physical and mental health of the residents by connecting them with nature and encouraging healthy, clean food consumption. Healthy citizens = healthy, productive cities.



Evolving with Our Needs

Support doesn't stop once we've become a Bee City. We are entering a partnership with Bee City Canada, who care deeply about our success.

Bee City Canada keeps in touch with Bee Cities to learn about their efforts, where they are hoping to go and how they can help them to get there. As a result of this, they are able to provide support and resources that address our evolving needs.



How to Become a Bee City

To become a Bee City, here is what is needed:

- Select one or more municipal employees to serve as your Bee City Liaison(s) and have them fill out a Bee City application (<https://beecitycanada.org/bee-cities/application/>).
- Present the Bee City Resolution form [Resolution Form](#) your city council and have it signed by your mayor.
- Submit the Bee City application and signed Resolution form along with your city logo, photos (if available) and a 100-word write-up for social media to applications@beecitycanada.org.
- Bee City Canada will review your application and notify you as soon as it is approved or if they have questions.
- Once approved, Bee City Canada will declare you a Bee City and provide a Declaration Certificate.
- As a Bee City, you are asked to **1) celebrate** being a Bee City through public awareness, **2) execute** your resolution to make an impact on your community and **3) record** your activities through a yearly renewal.



Yearly Renewal

While there is no fee to become a Bee City (the first year is free), fees will be applied to annual renewals based on the size of our city. Fees are used to cover administrative costs, develop resources (e.g., webinars) and to organize virtual and (hopefully in the future) in-person regional Bee City gatherings.

They ask that we describe our efforts to protect pollinators in our yearly renewal. This allows them to stay up-to-date on what we are doing and offer support and resources that reflect our needs.

Based on Kingsville's population, annual fee would be \$200 and would be paid from the Communities in Bloom budget.

Thank You!

Questions?

