



Friends,

Welcome to the first quarterly newsletter of Pollination Guelph. We hope to help organize and promote all types of pollination-related activities within the City of Guelph, including the proposed pollinator park at the Eastview Landfill Site, while being a model for groups internationally.

Thanks to everyone who attended the pollination workshops at the Guelph Youth Music Center on March 7-8, 2008, and our first community meeting at the Evergreen Seniors Centre on July 3, 2008. Also, thanks to those individuals who expressed interest in attending these events but were unable to. The response to these meetings and others confirmed that there is a great deal of interest in the community to pursue a Pollinator Park within the City of Guelph.

This project will be one of the first and largest pollinator initiatives to occur in Ontario. It will also be an opportunity to highlight the City's commitment to being a leader in environmental issues.

## **Where We Stand**

### *March 2008 Pollination Workshops and Report*

Despite the worst snowstorm of the winter, over 200 people attended the March 2008 workshops, listened to presentations by local and international speakers, and participated in break-out discussion groups. Topics included pollination education, public participation, bio-engineering of the site, rights of ways and other potential areas for pollinator habitat, suggested research projects, among many others. A report on these workshops has been completed, and is available at <http://ward2guelph.wordpress.com> (search for "pollinator"), or by e-mailing [pollinationguelph@gmail.com](mailto:pollinationguelph@gmail.com). It will also be available on our new web-site, [www.pollinationguelph.ca](http://www.pollinationguelph.ca) (coming soon!), and <http://guelph.ca/healthylandscapes>.

### *Concept Designs and Council Support*

Schollen & Company Inc. are the consultants who have been hired by the City to prepare concept designs for both the Eastview Community Park (sports field component) and the Pollinator Park.

A conceptual design workshop was held on May 22, 2008 at the Arboretum Centre for the public to provide comments. Support for the pollinator park was also strong at this meeting. The consultants are currently incorporating these comments, and will be holding another meeting on November 25, 2008 at the Evergreen Seniors Centre to allow for more public participation in the planning and design phase (see details at the end of this newsletter).

Members of City Council are very excited about the proposed pollinator park, and city staff have been directed by Council to explore funding options and fundraising ideas by Community Groups through corporate sponsorships, government agencies, and donations for creating the Pollinators' Park.

City staff are currently preparing a report for the City Community Development and Environmental Services (CDES) Committee, in which they will present Pollination Guelph's proposal to develop the Pollinators' Park. CDES and Pollination Guelph will then seek Committee/ Council approval.

### *Introducing Pollination Guelph*

Pollination Guelph is the group recently formed from the ad-hoc committee that operated under the Guelph Pollination Initiative name. We are currently preparing to become an incorporated non-profit group, with the ability to accept charitable donations. An interim board has been formed from members of the community, with a variety of backgrounds and abilities, to help organize and direct the activities of Pollination Guelph. Our web-site address, [www.pollinationguelph.ca](http://www.pollinationguelph.ca), has been secured and we will be launching and updating it throughout the next few weeks, so bookmark it today and visit often!

### **What We're Currently Working On**

- Finalizing our Vision and Mission Statements.
- Preparing a strategic plan and related business plans.
- Creating documents and presentations that explain what pollination is, the benefits of pollinators, the need to preserve or create pollinator habitat, and more!
- Investigating funding opportunities.
- Talking to the City about our role in the design and implementation of the park.
- Educating the public in Guelph and surrounding areas about the importance of pollinators.

### **Our Next Steps**

- Calculating the value of the pollinator park to the community.
- Calculating the cost to design and implement a plan.
- Fundraising for local pollination events as well as the pollinator park.
- Planning an event for International Pollinator Week, June 22-28, 2009.
- Initiating aspects of the strategic plan and business plans.
- Making Presentations to City Committees and Council about the park.



### **How You Can Help**

- Spread the Word! Pass around this newsletter!
- Attend the next public open-house on November 25, 2008, and comment on the conceptual design plan for the Eastview Community Park and Pollinators' Park. The meeting will be held from 4:30-7:30pm (presentation by the consultants at 6:30pm) in Activity Room 4 of the Evergreen Senior's Center, located at 683 Woolwich Street, Guelph, Ontario.
- If you can not make the open-house, visit [guelph.ca](http://guelph.ca) after Thursday, November 27, to see the presentation panels and comments sheets, and send in any feedback you have.
- Stay posted. We're in the early stages of planning but we'll need your help soon!

Thanks for your interest!

The Pollination Guelph Board

Please note that this letter is intended for anyone interested in keeping up with the work of the Pollination Guelph board and volunteers. For more information about Pollination Guelph, or to be added to our mailing list, contact [pollinationguelph@gmail.com](mailto:pollinationguelph@gmail.com).

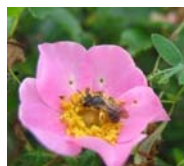
*Want to learn more about pollinators or pollination? Visit one of these web-sites today!*

[www.pollinator.org](http://www.pollinator.org)

[www.pollinationcanada.ca](http://www.pollinationcanada.ca)

[www.xerces.org](http://www.xerces.org)

[www.nativeplants.msu.edu](http://www.nativeplants.msu.edu)



[www.fws.gov/pollinators/](http://www.fws.gov/pollinators/)

<http://libraryportals.org/PCDL>

<http://nature.berkeley.edu/urbanbeegardens/>

<http://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/index.shtml>