



Welcome to the first quarterly newsletter of Pollination Guelph for 2009. We have been very busy over the past few months, and have lots of exciting news to pass along.

Unanimous Approval of the Pollinator Park by the City of Guelph Council

On February 17, the City of Guelph's Community Development and Environmental Services (CDES) Committee received a report from city staff recommending that the closed Eastview Landfill site be turned into a Pollinator Park, and a partnership be formed with Pollination Guelph. Our chair, Kevin Butt, made a presentation on our behalf to the Committee, and explained how we are prepared to be responsible for the planning, implementation, and maintenance of the pollinator-friendly planting areas. The Committee members were impressed with our work to date, and unanimously approved the report. On February 23, CDES brought the report and information from our presentation to City Council, which unanimously passed a resolution that the City sign a license agreement with Pollination Guelph so that we will be able to turn the ca. 45ha (112 acres) clay-capped landfill portion into a Pollinator Park.

Planning to Break Ground in 2009

With formal approval now given by Council, plans to break ground in 2009 are well underway. A sub-committee of Pollination Guelph's board has been formed to discuss the implementation of a demonstration garden and trial plots on a "small" 1.5ha (3.8 acres) area of the old landfill. In addition to these areas, we also hope to begin work in the adjacent wetlands on site, removing some problematic invasive species and planting some native species. We will be looking for volunteers, so stay tuned.

Public Symposium on Pollination and Pollinators at the Delta Guelph Hotel on April 18, 2009

Following on the success of last March's public workshops, we are going to hold a full-day of presentations on April 18, 2009, from 9am-5:30pm. The Delta Guelph Hotel and Conference Centre, on Stone Rd in Guelph, has graciously donated the use of their conference room for our series of talks on pollination and pollinators. Dr. Rufus Isaacs, from Michigan State University, will be our keynote speaker with a presentation that will be of interest to many: "Keeping Good Bugs Happy – Using Native Plants to Support Bees and other Beneficial Insects".

Other talks will include an introduction to pollination and pollinators (Victoria MacPhail, Pollination Guelph), problems facing honeybees (Ontario Beekeepers Association Tech-Transfer Team), topics related to native bees (Cory Sheffield, York University), land-fill uses and considerations for our Pollinator Park (students from the University of Guelph's Local Environmental Management Course), pollination in the Tri-Cities (Marianna Horn, University of Guelph), observing pollinators in your own backyard (Bob Wildfong, Pollination Canada), and an update on Pollination Guelph (Kevin Butt, Pollination Guelph). A silent auction of items donated from the community will run throughout the day, and local environmental groups are invited to set up a table to share their information with the public.

Pre-registration is suggested, with the admission fee payable at the door. We are still looking for additional partners to help sponsor this event, as well as donations for the silent auction, so if you are interested, or know of someone who would be, please contact us at pollinationguelph@gmail.com. More information will follow soon – check out our web-site (see below) for the most up-to-date information.

Have you been to www.pollinationguelph.ca yet?

Our web-site, www.pollinationguelph.ca, was launched last fall, and has been updated several times since. There is a section for up-coming events and meetings, links to web-sites on pollination and pollinators, and copies of our newsletters and reports. Our vision, mission, goals and objectives can be found on the site, as well as biographies of our board members, and lists (and links to) the various articles and media coverage about Pollination Guelph and the Guelph Pollinator Park. Visit us today!

Pollination Guelph Updates

- Our Vision & Mission Statements, Strategic Goals, Objectives, & Bylaws have been completed.
- Our applications for non-profit incorporation and federal charitable status have been submitted.
- Details are still being worked out, but the Golden Griddle on Woodlawn Rd in Guelph will be hosting a breakfast fundraiser for us in the near future.
- We are continuing to look into funding opportunities, work on our strategic plan, and educate the public about pollination.

News from Other Groups

Ontario BeeKeepers' Association Workshops in Guelph, Spring 2009

The OBA Tech-Transfer team will be holding workshops on Introductory Beekeeping (May 23), Beekeeping & Integrated Pest Management (May 24), and Introductory Queen Rearing (June 13), in Guelph this spring. The cost is \$115.50 per session per non-OBA member. Registration is on a first come, first serve basis. Contact the Tech-Transfer office at (519) 836-3609 or e-mail shrewless@yahoo.com for more information or to receive your registration package.

The introductory workshop is for participants of all experience levels. It consists of classroom sessions and hands-on lessons. Topics include basic honey bee biology, beekeeping equipment, working in the bee colony, seasonal beekeeper responsibilities, harvesting and extracting honey and preparing bee colonies for winter. Each participant will receive a copy of the Ontario Beekeeping Manual.

Pollinator Partnership - Win an Apple iTouch or a years-worth of Häagen-Dazs Ice-Cream

Create an original desert featuring pollinated ingredients and you may win a year supply of Häagen-Dazs ice cream and more! Take a photo of a bee or any pollinator doing their busy work for a chance to win an Apple iTouch! Visit www.pollinator.org for more information. Deadline to enter is June 1, 2009.

Mark Your Calendars

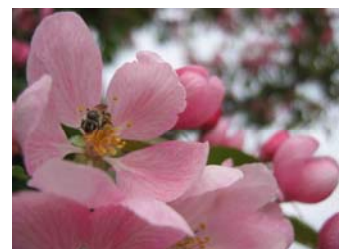
- April 18, 2009 - Pollination Guelph Symposium at the Delta Guelph Hotel and Conference Centre, Stone Rd, Guelph, ON (9am-5:30pm)
- June 22-28, 2009 - International Pollinator Week
- June 27, 2009 - City of Guelph's Healthy Landscape Program's International Pollinator Week Event at the Old Quebec St Mall, Wyndham St, Guelph ON (see our web-site for details)

How You Can Help

- Spread the Word! Pass around this newsletter!
- Make a donation for our silent auction on April 18
- Consider signing up to be a volunteer

Hope to see you out at some of our events this year!

The Pollination Guelph Board



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