

## Bee City Campbellton

Bee City Campbellton was launched when the Mayor of the City of Campbellton contacted myself, as President of the Restigouche Gallery, and asked if the Gallery were willing to become the organizing group for a Bee City Canada project.

A discussion with the other Board of directors resulted in our saying yes to what we believed was a worthy and much needed project.

Why are pollinators important?

Pollinators are nearly as important as sunlight, soil and water to the reproductive success of over 75% of the world's flowering plants. • They are crucial to the production of most fruits, nuts, and berries on which people and wildlife depend.

Flies, Beetles, Ants, Moths, Wasps, Hummingbirds, Butterflies and Bees spread pollen from one plant to another as they navigate flowers for food.

What we can do.

Keep your garden pesticide free and buy pesticide free plants. Consider asking your local garden centre or plant nursery to join the Bee Friendly Grower program.

If you are growing from seed buy organic seeds. If using plants then make sure they have not been sprayed with pesticide. The pesticide residue can remain on the plant and kill more than the pests it was used to remove.

Our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/Ville-dabeilles-Campbellton-Bee-City-756015204558188/>) is part of our community outreach strategy.

Once the decision as made to proceed with the Bee City Committee, Bob Ewing, a local garden writer and permaculture designer, put together a committee to get the project rolling. One of the resolutions we are pursuing

is working with the City Council to declare the City of Campbellton a pesticide free city.

We will be celebrating International Pollinator week and will be hosting events at the local Community garden.

The group has begun making contact with local landscaping companies and plant nurseries. We are encouraging them to sell pesticide free plants and to label them as such, so their clients will know what they are getting.

Campbellton Bee City is connected through membership to the Campbellton Community Garden which is a pesticide, organic gardening site. The Community Garden will host one of our International Pollinator Week events.

The Community Garden sits in the middle of a large field that has sat untouched except as a waste dump for many years. The community garden was the first step in repairing and reclaiming this site. The Committee will take a section of the untouched property and clear it, in order to introduce native pollinator plants while repairing the soil. This can become a teaching experience and site.

The Committee is also focused on the future. As we encourage residents of Campbellton to plant for the bees on their own property we will be working with the City and property owners to identify other spaces around the city where pollinator friendly plants may be planted. The Committee is committed to the long-term success of this project and one of the plans we are developing is a pollinator focused art project for local youth, most likely working through the local school system.

A visit to a local beekeeper will be arranged so that people can learn more about the honey bee.

