



Meeting Date: September 17, 2025

Submitted by: Scott Mairs, Director of Community Services

Report No: CMS-10-2025

Subject: Bee City Canada Designation/Resolution

Recommendation:

THAT Report CMS-10-2025 re: Bee City Canada Designation/Resolution be received;

AND THAT Council endorse the attached resolution to designate the Municipality of Middlesex Centre as a designated Bee City Canada community.

Purpose:

To seek Council's endorsement of the attached resolution to designate Middlesex Centre as a Bee City Canada community, thereby committing to pollinator protection through habitat creation, education, and celebration.

Background:

Bee City Canada is a national program under Pollinator Partnership Canada that recognizes municipalities committed to protecting pollinators. The program is built on three pillars:

1. Habitat Creation – Establishing and maintaining healthy, biodiverse environments for pollinators.
2. Education – Promoting awareness and understanding of pollinators' roles.
3. Celebration – Hosting events such as Pollinator Week to engage the community.

Pollinators like bees, butterflies, and other insects are essential to ecosystems and agriculture. However, their populations are declining due to habitat loss, pesticide use, climate change, and disease.

Analysis:

Designating Middlesex Centre as a Bee City Canada community offers several benefits:

Environmental Stewardship and Biodiversity Protection: Supports native pollinators and enhances local ecosystems by promoting native plantings and reducing pesticide use.

Community Engagement and Education: Encourages residents, schools, and organizations to participate in pollinator-friendly initiatives, fostering environmental awareness and stewardship.

Positive Public Image and Leadership: Positions Middlesex Centre as a leader in sustainability, aligning with broader climate and environmental goals.

As part of the designation, Middlesex Centre will:

- Develop a Municipal Pollinator Habitat Plan,
- Celebrate Pollinator Week annually (June),
- Publicly acknowledge its Bee City status through signage and website updates, and
- Submit annual reports and renew its designation.

In addition to the broader Bee City Canada initiative, Middlesex Centre has already demonstrated a strong commitment to pollinator conservation through the dedicated efforts of the Middlesex Centre Pollinator Team led by Margaret Gelinias and Pat Fowler. This team has led numerous community-based projects focused on habitat restoration, native plant promotion, and public education. Furthermore, the municipality previously participated in the Mayor's Monarch Pledge through the National Wildlife Federation, which involved pledging to take specific actions to help save the monarch butterfly and other pollinators. These initiatives have laid a strong foundation for continued leadership in pollinator protection and align seamlessly with the goals of Bee City Canada.

Financial Implications:

An annual fee is required based on population size. For Middlesex Centre (population under 25,000), the annual fee is \$200. Additional costs may include signage, educational materials, and habitat development, which can be offset through partnerships and grants. Staff will allocate funds in the 2026 operating budget to support various pollinator initiatives throughout the municipality.

Strategic Plan:

This matter aligns with following strategic priorities:

- Engaged Community
- Responsive Municipal Government

Attachments:

A1 – Bee City Canada Resolution – Municipality of Middlesex Centre