



Love pollinators.
Love nature!

Land Acknowledgement

The Town of the Blue Mountains is located within the the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe – the People of the Three Fires (the Ojibwa, the Odana and the Pottowatomi) represented today by the Saugeen Ojibway Nation. We also recognize the Metis people of Ontario, whose history and people are well represented in Grey County.

Over 500 years ago, the First Nations welcomed us to share this land now called Ontario. We are grateful to explore and play on the Blue Mountains and thank all those who were and are caretakers of this beautiful area.

We are also mindful of the broken covenants and the need to reconcile with all our allies and relations.



Highlights

34 Pollinator gardens planted to date

420 Native wildflowers planted in 2023

13 Canoe gardens

10 Public gardens

11 Private gardens

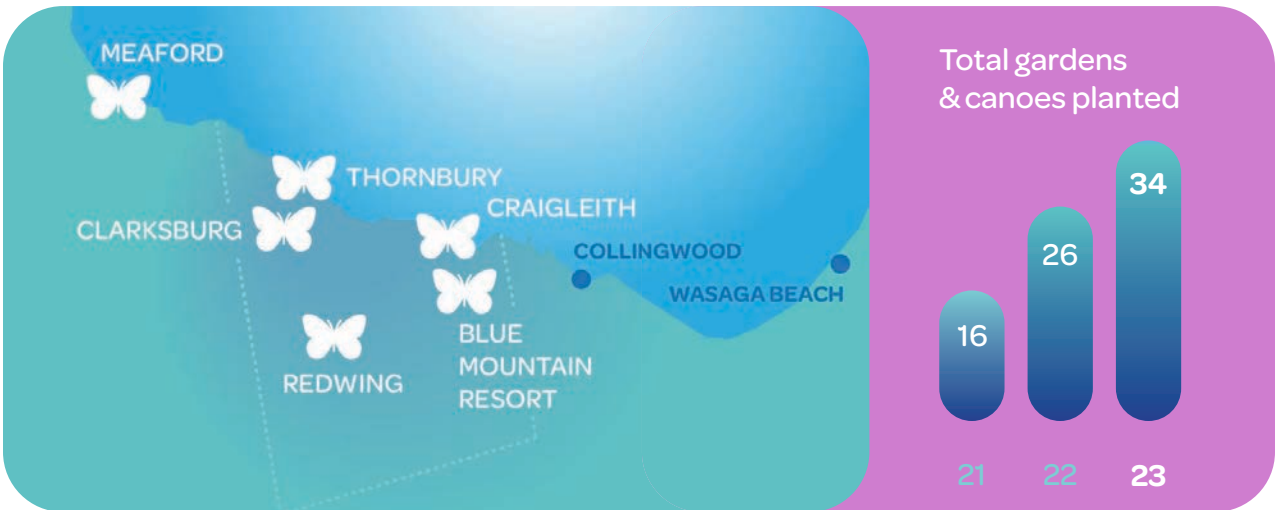
Some key achievements

- Gained Butterflyway status

One of only 119 in Canada as of Dec 31, 2023
- Educational outreach

Supported major butterfly garden project at BVCS in Thornbury, 2023
- The Arthur Street Garden

Established at the new TBM parking lot in Thornbury, 2022




Initiated in 2021, Pollinate The Blue Mountains (PTBM) is a grass-roots community-based volunteer-led initiative with a dual mission to: ONE, take action in support of, and TWO, raise awareness of the plight of Ontario's native pollinators. Our projects and initiatives are aimed at focusing the collective energy and resources of community members to improve native habitats and their stewardship in the Town of The Blue Mountains (TBM).



Visit our
website
to find out
more





Since inception, we have helped establish and register a total of 34 pollinator gardens, of which 13 are canoe gardens, 10 public gardens and 11 private gardens. Also, with our assistance, TBM has Butterflyway status with the David Suzuki Foundation (DSF), one of only 119 in Canada.

We have a small group of active members, most of whom are registered Butterflyway Rangers, and work to implement the goals of the David Suzuki Foundation Butterflyway Project. Members of the 2023 Executive included: Elizabeth Brims, Kris Wichman, George McMaster, Sandy McMaster, Arnis Pukitis, Trevor Halton and Peter Rossall.

This report highlights our main activities in 2023 related to the four strategic priorities that drive our activities. We had four meetings this past year: Feb. 21, May 17, Sept. 12 and Dec. 14. Minutes are recorded and stored on our members portal of our website for Executive reference, but are available on request.



Pollinator Presentations, Advice and Gardens

Members of Pollinate TBM are available for pollinator-friendly presentations by request. Pollinate TBM will support residents seeking to create their pollinator gardens by providing advice, info and sharing resources. The design and installation of pollinator gardens is limited to public spaces.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



1. Community Outreach and Education: our focus is to support the community, raise awareness and educate residents on the benefits and need for pollinator gardens. In 2023 we will continue to work with the Beaver Valley Community School, the L.E. Shore Public Library and The Town of the Blue Mountains to enhance and expand existing pollinator gardens.



2. Habitat Stewardship: our focus is to improve the local environment throughout the Town of the Blue Mountains for our native pollinators. We will continue to develop the Beaver Valley Community Centre and Council Beach gardens as well as increase the number of canoe gardens throughout the town.



3. Municipal Policy: we support the Town of the Blue Mountains goal of community wellbeing and sustainability by enhancing the character of the Town, and supporting the expansion of the Town's Butterflyway. We support the development of local practices and policies to enrich the area with a pollinator diverse habitat.



4. Governance and Development: our goal is to continue to develop our organizational structure in a manner that ensures organizational sustainability and ensures accountability to the individuals and groups that support our efforts.



BVCS Canoe and Garden

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

- Executive team members attended and presented at a number of webinars, and presentations, plus participated in a local sustainability symposium covering a wide range of topics related to pollinator plantings. In 2024 we established connections with other organizations locally (Owen Sound, Meaford, Collingwood) and provincially to gain ideas and strategies to apply to our context.
- Presented an overview of PTBM at the Pollinator Symposium in Owen Sound.
- Listened to a presentation from 4RBees about strategies to support domestic bee hive health.
- Actively supported a major butterfly garden project at the local Beaver Valley Community School in Thornbury. Helped plan out planting ideas, funding sources, curriculum activities, information to parents and securing support from the school administration. Helped identify 5 common butterfly species found in our area, helped gr. 2 students research about the butterflies, their host plants and share among the classes. In June, ten classes prepared existing raised beds and planted a total of 240 native wildflowers. A summer watering program ensured success of the wildflowers and in the fall the beds were weeded and mulched in preparation for the winter. Educational signage will be added to each flowerbed in the spring and a succession plan established to ensure the pollinator beds fill in and thrive for years to come. A link to families is a big part of the program with signage and information going home and opportunities in the future to secure flowers or shrubs to plant in their own gardens to support pollinators.



New website coming 2024

- Helped support the installation of a pollinator plant filled canoe in the front garden of the school. A major rejuvenation was carried out with the help of a local master gardener and funds from the school parent council. PBM supported painting of the canoe, securing soil, planting and signage that provides information to the school community.
- We updated our logo and website with the help of local artist and web designer Trevor Halton.
- Established a connection with The Grey Bruce Native Seed Bank.
- Have an Instagram account on which we post ideas and resources to local residents.
- An article about PTBM and partnership projects with the Town was written and published in the local 'Review' monthly newsletter.
- Welcomed our second summer highschool student gaining community service hours, watering and maintaining the BVCS Canoe and Garden over the summer.



High school student Harry Halton



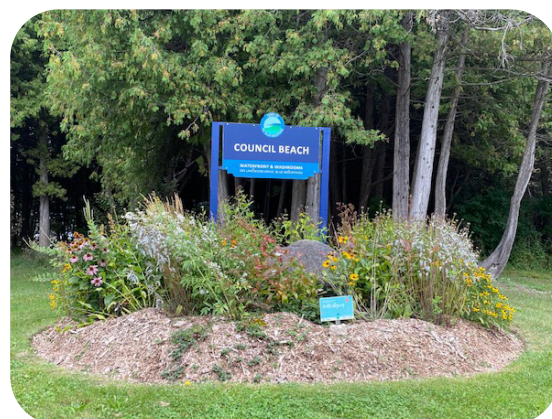
Arthur Street Garden

HABITAT STEWARDSHIP

- Arthur Street Garden: continued managing and planting at the new TBM parking lot in Thornbury. The Town prepared about 800sq. ft. of new flower beds on the edge of the new parking lot to use over three years for establishing a demonstration pollinator garden in this great public space. A large plastic watering tank was installed by the Town which they will keep filled all summer. Over 80 plants were purchased through local suppliers and installed in the spring. They continued to be watered and weeded by PBM volunteers over the summer.
- Council Beach Garden: continued monitoring and maintenance at the established TBM flower bed on the way into the beach parking lot off Highway 26. A PBM public information sign was also installed in this native flower bed.
- Library Courtyard: continued monitoring and maintenance of native pollinator plants in the courtyard of the library that were planted in 2022 in cooperation with Library staff.



Arthur Street Garden



Council Beach Garden



BVCS Canoe

- Public Canoes: continued maintenance of the 14 canoes that have been installed across the Town of the Blue Mountains and Meaford since 2021. New PTBM stickers with our QR code were also added so that the public can link directly to our website. NEW CANOES: 3 pollinator canoes were installed in 2023 - one in the front garden of the Beaver Valley Community School in Thornbury; two more were planned and planted at Blue Mountain Resort as part of their sustainability program. We approached TBM and the local Bruce Trail committee to install a demonstration canoe at the parking lot of the popular Loree Forest loop of the Bruce Trail. Unfortunately, permission was not received from the Roads Department who use that area to dump snow.
- Beaver Valley Community Centre and Arena: in response to a request by TBM, we were given a budget with which to plan and plant in two boulevard-type beds in the new parking lot. TBM prepared the site with new soil, cardboard weed reducer and mulch. Over 100 local sourced pollinator plants were planted in the fall and PTBM educational signage was added.



New PTBM Stickers



Beaver Community Centre and Arena

SOME OF OUR CANOES AND GARDENS



Arthur St garden



Council Beach garden



Napier St canoe & garden



BVCS canoe & garden



Thornbury private garden



Craigleith canoe



Thornbury private garden



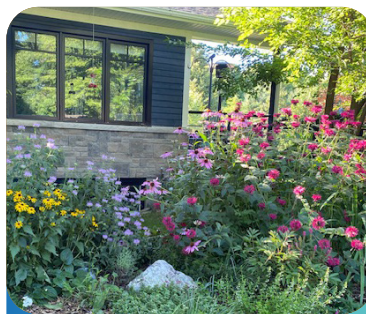
Bruce St North canoe



BVCC canoe & garden



High Bluff Lane & 10th line



Thornbury private garden



Thornbury private garden



BVCC Boulevard Garden and Canoe

MUNICIPAL POLICY

- Continued dialogue with TBM to grant relief from the Long Grass By-Law.
- Through the Grants and Donations Program Town of Blue Mountains provided funding to support our activities. They are expanding their commitment to pollinator plantings by requesting that we undertake planting two flowerbeds they have prepared in Nipissing Ridge Park in Craileith. They hosted a Trees Canada project of planting native trees and shrubs in a new urban park, but now want wildflowers there as well. The site has been prepared with soil, mulch and a watering tank has been set aside for PTBM in 2024.
- Worked with the Town Parks staff in order that the pollinator plants were not cut down in the fall.



GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT

- With expansion of activities, publicity and involvement of new committee members, discussions about organization and governance occurred. A number of models for similar volunteer groups were examined and early in 2023 the following were agreed upon as guiding principles for PTBM:
 - a) PTBM will remain a grassroots group and not incorporate or register as a not-for-profit organization. There will not be any formal operating procedures or by laws at this time.
 - b) Activities will be driven by annually generated Strategic Priorities.
 - c) Formal, full executive committee meetings will be held quarterly.
 - d) There will be a rotating chair and note taker for each meeting using a consent agenda model. Minutes will be sent out very quickly after each meeting and stored on the members portal of our website for Executive reference.
 - e) No formal committee structure of chair, secretary, etc. will be set.
 - f) A bank account has been set up for PTBM with two signatories registered.
 - g) An annual report summarizing the year's accomplishments will be created and posted on our website. It will relate to the Strategic Priorities for that year.

Our public contact means include:

E-mail: pollinatetbm@gmail.com

Web site: <http://www.Pollinatetbm.ca>

Instagram: @pollinatetbm



FINANCIAL

- Our sources of income included grants from the Grants and Donations Program at the Town of the Blue Mountains, as well as income from honorariums for presentations.
- Our expenses included: website provider and domain fees, educational signage for public plantings, pollinator plants, and bank fees.

Pollinate TBM would like to extend its thanks to the many individuals who have contributed canoes, plants, and labour in making our vision a reality. We appreciate all the donations, sweat equity and support received.

Associated Groups

David Suzuki Foundation - Butterflyway Project, Pollinate Collingwood, Grey County Master Gardeners, Blooming Boulevards- Mississauga



Corporate Supporters

Town of the Blue Mountains, Permastake Garden Marker, Haltoncreative

