



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



GEORGIAN BAY
BIOSPHERE
MNIDOO GAMII
Spirit of the Water

Honey Bee Festival

PREPARED FOR
Township of Georgian Bay, Donors & Sponsors

FUNDRAISER PROPOSAL 2021



Dear Mayor & Council and Honey Bee Festival Sponsors:

Thank you for expressing an interest in making a donation to the Georgian Bay Biosphere. Your proposed gift has the potential to make a significant impact on public education about pollinator habitat, creation of pollinator habitat, and conservation of biodiversity in eastern Georgian Bay. You have invited us to propose ways in which proceeds of the Honey Bee Festival might fill a need in our mandate while extending the impact of our work. Below, we outline two specific areas where such a gift will be applied. We are, of course, open to discussing any details or other options, or specific projects within the Township.

IMPACT AREA #1 NATIVE PLANTS for POLLINATORS

A gift in this area would further knowledge-based strategies for species at risk and biodiversity conservation.

Specifically, it would provide the resources we need to create an inventory of native pollinators within the Biosphere, including species that are at risk.

This type of data will contribute to more rigorous research and analysis, and guide the design and installation of pollinator habitat gardens. To date we have planted 17 in the Biosphere.

IMPACT AREA #2 POLLINATOR EDUCATION

A gift in this area would significantly expand the impact of our education programs by fostering ecological literacy in youth and creating life-long ambassadors for the pollinators of eastern Georgian Bay. It would allow us to deliver our unique "Pollinator Power" curriculum and field trips to our apiary for grade 4, 5, 6 students. It would double our summer 'Kids in the Biosphere' nature activities, by reaching an additional 300 families.



With over 15 years of experience designing native plant pollinator gardens, we see the potential for the Township of Georgian Bay fundraiser to create more patches for pollinators using marginal lands, road shoulders, and wildflower corridors. As urban sprawl, chemical loads, and climate change threaten pollinator habitat, eastern Georgian Bay should be a sanctuary.

With proceeds from the Honey Bee Festival, our staff would be available to advise residents, cottagers and businesses about the "Best for the Biosphere" species for waterfront, shade and sun.

Working with the University of Guelph, Bee City Canada, and other partners, the GBB is well-placed to advise on the design of pollinator corridors, best practices for maintaining habitat on road shoulders and creating new gardens. Training resources for municipalities and businesses are available for species at risk, including monarchs and milkweed.

> <https://www.gbbr.ca/conservation-guides/>

POLLINATOR EDUCATION



Your gift to *Kids in the Biosphere* would enhance the impact of our education programs to children in local communities and those who cottage on the Bay.

Since 2010, we have offered quality education programs and resources year-round that are designed to foster ecological literacy. Our activities for youth are directly related to the ecology, geology, species, culture and history of the Bay.

Typically, our staff will interact with 1,000 children each year across 10 or more schools, and educators have downloaded our lesson plans over 40,000 times. > gbbr.ca/education

However, with Covid-19, our access to area schools has been restricted, creating an opportunity for innovation. We want to create a new junior naturalist club outside of school as soon as possible.

In the summer, we have 300 families that participate in *Kids in the Biosphere*, but we see enormous potential for it to grow and involve even more young people. Combining nature activities, science, and a blog for children to send in stories and photos. Grandparents especially enjoy the program with their grandchildren. > gbbr.ca/kids

Incorporated in 1998 and designated a world biosphere reserve by UNESCO in 2004, the Georgian Bay Biosphere is a non-profit registered charity. Our mandate is to conserve biodiversity and support sustainable development, with people and nature in balance.

We seek to offer pollinator education for all ages, with visits to the apiary, pollinator surveys and monarch gardens and milkweed management.

We benefit from over 900 hours of volunteer time each year in areas such as: wildlife monitoring, water quality monitoring, habitat gardening and Community Gardens that donate 20% of produce to area food banks.

In 2001, we rescued 4,000 turtle eggs from road construction, incubated them in our lab and released them with members of the public. Our species at risk education has thrived since 2008, leading to our "State of the Bay" ecosystem health reports - research & analysis to inform protection and policy.



Thank you very much for the opportunity to share the programs that would greatly benefit from your gift. It would be our delight to receive a donation in honour of the Honey Bee, an important pollinator in a sustainable food system.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Rebecca Pollock'.

**Rebecca Pollock Ph.D.,
Executive Director**

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