



‘The Butterflyway Project’ Supports Local Pollinators

A new community-led project has taken flight in Wasaga Beach, aiming to create a vibrant Pollinator Corridor to support butterflies, bees, and other important insects. Inspired by the national 'Butterflyway Project', local residents are starting to plant butterfly-friendly gardens, with the hope of spreading awareness and encouraging more people to get involved.

The 'Butterflyway Project', an initiative of the David Suzuki Foundation, is a citizen-led movement growing highways of habitat for pollinators across Canada. Volunteers, known as Butterflyway Rangers, have worked with schools, city/town agencies, and homeowners to plant thousands of wildflowers in hundreds of pollinator patches. This effort has turned neighbourhoods and cities into thriving Butterflyways.

Now, this inspiring initiative has reached Wasaga Beach, starting with a unique twist. Residents in the area have launched the first 'Butterflyway Canoe Garden', using canoes as planters for native wildflowers and shrubs that support local pollinators. The project was spearheaded by local enthusiasts, who took inspiration from a similar idea developed by Aidan Dahlin Nolan. Aidan, a volunteer with the David Suzuki Foundation, pioneered the concept of using retired canoes as planters in Toronto, bringing over 30 canoe gardens to schoolyards and parks.

The Wasaga Beach project pays homage to the historical significance of the Nottawasaga River by using “retired” canoes as planters. Filled with soil and native plants, these canoes not only add beauty to the area but also provide essential food and shelter for butterflies, bees, and birds. These creatures are vital to the health of our food system.

“There are likely many unused canoes resting under porches and in sheds all over Wasaga Beach,” says the team behind the project. These canoes could be repurposed to expand the Butterflyway throughout the town, bringing nature back into neighbourhoods and creating a community-wide Pollinator Corridor.

The Pollinate Wasaga Beach Team is encouraging more residents to participate by planting their own butterfly-friendly gardens. The project aims to connect green spaces across the town and create an ecosystem where pollinators can thrive.

For more information on the Butterflyway Project, visit the [David Suzuki Foundation website](#).

Excerpt from article written by Joe Bickerstaff, BeachBooster publication.