

A decorative branch with small, oval-shaped gold leaves, positioned in the top left corner of the slide.

Grass, Be Gone!

Presented by the Intermediate Students
at
DeWitt Carter Public School






Why Change?



A decorative branch with small, oval-shaped gold leaves, positioned in the top-left corner of the slide.

Purpose

To convince you to support our
proposal to replace a stretch of
grass median in Port Colborne with
native plants

A decorative branch with small, oval-shaped gold leaves, positioned in the bottom-right corner of the slide.

Our Field Trip

In September,
we participated
in a field trip
to observe
more than 14
native gardens
in Port
Colborne



Our Field Trip

What we Observed:

- There are more than 1,800 square meters of dry, grass medians
- Gardens with a variety of plants attracted a variety of wildlife
- Gardens with native plants were not dried up



Origin of Lawns

- In the 1700's having a well-maintained lawn meant that you were wealthy
- After World War II, maintaining a lawn required the use of chemicals and tools that were re-purposed from the war



Do Lawns Make Sense in 2022??

- We have world-wide water shortages and droughts
- We have shortages of nutritious local produce
- Pollinators like bees are decreasing
- Native plants and animals are losing habitat





Why Is Grass Bad?

- Grass is a non-native "ecological dead space" that does not provide food or habitat
- Lawns require more than 11.5 trillion litres of water, 27 million kilograms of pesticides and 11 billion litres of gasoline to maintain
- Grass is the largest irrigated crop in North America



Benefits Of Native Plants

- Native gardens focus on the ecological purpose of plants which is to provide food and habitat
- Native plants have deep root structures that store water & provide drainage
- Native plants support biodiversity



Lawns vs Native Plants

"Having less grass and more plants
is the most important thing we
can do to limit the impact of
climate change"



Plants Native to Port Colborne



Milkweed



Wild Ginger



Black-eyed Susan



Goldenrod



Echinacea



Wild Strawberry

How can Port Colborne be a Leader for Change?

Re-plant monoculture grass medians in
Port Colborne with native plants that use
less water and provide habitat and food
for wildlife



How Would this Benefit Port Colborne?

- Port Colborne would be known as one of the cities that are helping against climate change
- Port Colborne would be protecting precious water resources
- Port Colborne would be protecting native species

What Do We Need from Port Colborne City Council?

- Approval to remove grass and plant native plants in a specific section in downtown Port Colborne (e.g., along West Street, Steele Street or Elm Street)
- Funds to purchase plants and equipment (\$1,000)



Timeline

- Purchase equipment & plants - March 2022
- Remove grass - April 2022
- Plant native plants - May 2022
- Maintenance - June 2022

Who Will Do the Work?

DeWitt Carter students will remove the grass, plant the native plants and do maintenance until the end of June 2022.



Upkeep & Maintenance

Using mulch & planting densely
reduces water use & weeds





Do We Have Your Support?

