

## Grass, Be Gone!

Presented by the Intermediate Students at DeWitt Carter Public School





## Why Change?





#### Purpose

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

#### 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



- 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



Goldenrod



Wild Ginger



Echinacea



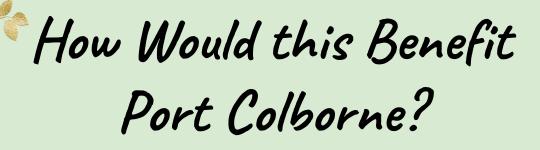
Black-eyed Susan



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



- 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?

