Municipality of Whitestone

Whitestone, ON

Mayor George Comrie

Pledge Summary

The Municipality of Whitestone is located in the District of Parry Sound, Ontario, Canada. Our municipality is in the middle of beautiful lakes and pristine forests and conservation of these lakes and forests are part of the environmental initiative the municipality is committed to. As well, we recognize the importance of creating monarch and pollinator habitat at parks, gardens, and other green spaces, that every member of our community can equally enjoy.

Action Items Committed for 2025

Communications and Convening

- Launch or maintain a public communication effort to encourage residents to plant monarch gardens at their homes or in their neighborhoods. (If you have community members who speak a language other than English, we encourage you to also communicate in that language; Champion Pledges must communicate in that language.)

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.
- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.
- Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor George Comrie	2025	3/30/2025	Signatories
Mayor George Comrie	2023	4/4/2023	
Mayor George Comrie	2022	2/3/2022	
Mayor George Comrie	2021	5/4/2021	Signatories

Action Items

In total, how many individuals have been reached through the Mayors' Monarch Pledge in your community this year (Jan-Dec)? Please limit your answer to only the

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number of individuals reached in the answer field below (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only.).

500

Of the total number of individuals engaged, how many youth (0-18) were reached through the Mayors' Monarch Pledge in your community this year (Jan. - Dec.)? If none, please write 0." (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only.)

60

In total, how many acres of monarch habitat have been created in your city in the last 12 months? Please limit your answer to only the number of acres in the answer field below (e.g., 3). Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

0.5

Where was the habitat created this year? Example locations may include residences, schools, places of worship, rights-of-way, roadsides, community gardens, shared public spaces, and more.

residences and public spaces

How are you leveraging the Mayors' Monarch Pledge program to engage marginalized communities, such as low-income communities or communities of color?

Outreach efforts focus on making pollinator education and habitat building activities accessible to all residents of the Municipality. This includes offering free workshops, sharing resources through the public library and community centre, and promoting pollinator friendly practices through the local school. Pollinator gardens and habitat projects are located in publicly visible and accessible spaces so that all residents can benefit and learn from them. By integrating the Monarch Pledge into existing community programs and partnerships, we work to increase awareness, participation, and environmental stewardship among groups that may have fewer opportunities to engage in conservation initiatives.

What was your community's motivation for taking and continuing to work on the Mayors' Monarch Pledge?

Whitestone Council wants to ensure its residents are aware of pollinator friendly practices. We also aim to ensure that pollinator gardens and habitat projects increase awareness, participation, and environmental stewardship.

What resources have been most helpful to you thus far and what new resources would you like to see to help meet your goals? What resources would be useful to help expand equitable engagement in community processes and access to high-quality, usable nature?

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Publicly available pollinator-conservation toolkits, guidance from the Mayors' Monarch Pledge. it would be valuable to have resources that support community-driven planning, including facilitation guides, culturally relevant programming ideas, and data on nature-access disparities.

What else should we know about your monarch butterfly conservation efforts over the last year?

Our Environmental Stewardship Committee, appointed by Council, had a large turn-over of volunteers in 2025. Many of the initiatives were to be run by those volunteers who left, so it has been the responsibility of the remaining members to complete the actions. Those that have been working on completing the actions have been working hard and are looking forward to taking the pledge again in 2026 to further their efforts.

Selected Action Items

Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

What is the total acreage of land treated to remove invasive plants? Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

Please describe the extent of revisions or maintenance to invasive species removal programs, as well as the practices or techniques used to remove the invasive plants.

Launch or maintain a public communication effort to encourage residents to plant monarch gardens at their homes or in their neighborhoods. (If you have community members who speak a language other than English, we encourage you to also communicate in that language; Champion Pledges must communicate in that language.)

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Whitestone Newsletter August 2025 AODA standard 8 5x14 (003).pdf

Please describe the methods of public communication below (e.g., printed materials, social media, print media).

The municipality mails a printed newsletter to all residents three times a year, to over 1500 households. The August 2025 newsletter included an item from the Environmental Stewardship Committee regarding the planting of the new pollinator garden.

Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community

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location.

Where is the demonstration garden located and how does this location relate to the cultural significance of the monarch (if relevant)? (Please provide an address or coordinates, if possible)

Ardbeg firehall - 8 Macdonald Drive, Whitestone, ON

What community organizations, groups, or leaders (if any) did you partner with or engage to complete this effort?

Municipal Councillors helped plant the garden along with volunteers from the Environmental Stewardship Committee.

What is the size of the demonstration garden (in acres)? Please limit your answer to only the number of acres in the answer field below (e.g., 0.5 acres). For reference, 1 acre = 43,560 square feet and is about the size of a football field without the end zones. Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

.25

Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.

What community organizations, groups, or leaders (if any) did you partner with or engage to complete this effort?

Dunchurch Agricultural Society, local public school

How many plants were planted? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

100

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

seedlings were given out to residents and students at the Whitestone Lake Public School. The seedlings were handed out at the annual Fall Fair and left at the library for any resident to take.

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