

There is a Buzz at LCHS – The ‘Bee-Wise’ Project !

We are excited to share that LCHS’s EcoVision Club (a club for student leaders interested in environmental change) and LCHS’s agriculture classes will be studying honeybees. As part of the their project, EcoVision would like to place two small honey bee hives in our gardens, surrounded by a 10 ft by 10ft by 6ft high fence with barbed wire on top. Only those students and staff working on the project will have permission to access the hives. The City of Lacombe has issued EcoVision a permit to have Honey Bees on the school property. Jayson Lovell, superintendent of Wolf Creek Public Schools, has agreed to our proposal and has requested that we pursue community consultations.



Staff and students working on this project are currently working with a local bee expert, Craig Clark, from the Red Deer Beekeepers Society, and Crestomere School (which already has bees) to learn about the complicated life of bees and how they make honey. Handling of the bees or visiting the hives will only happen under the supervision of our bee expert and with proper safety equipment (see picture). This is an exciting project and if the group is successful at managing the hives, we will have some tasty honey to share in 2017.



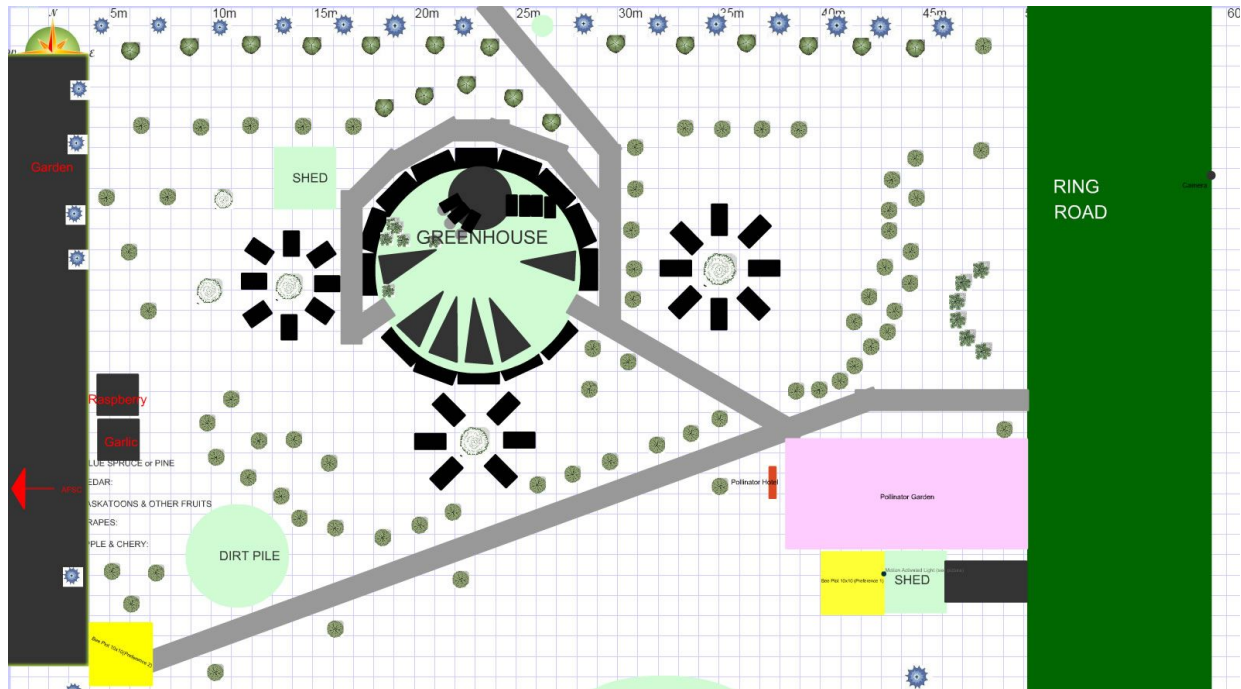
Are people in danger of being stung by the bees? *Because the hives will be located behind a fence, there should be no significant risk to our students or residents of Lacombe. Bees have frequently buzzed around the outdoor LCHS gardens in the spring and summer for the past three years and we have never had an issue. In addition, through our agriculture class and community workshops we will educate students & interested community members about how to handle bees.*

How long will the hives be there? *As long as they produce honey for us.*

What if a student/volunteer has an allergy/reaction to bee stings? *Please inform the LCHS as soon as possible so we are aware and can be prepared. Even without the hives, we should be aware of any students/volunteers who might be at risk. EcoVision will be hosting “BEE WISE” workshops on how to safely handle bees.*

Has EcoVision consulted with the City of Lacombe? *We have obtained permission from the City of Lacombe Manager to become beekeepers as in accordance to By Law #35 section 3 & 4.*

Where are the bees going to be located? *The bees will be located in our Dow Community gardens. The yellow locations on the plot plan are two potential locations, with the location behind the shed being our preferred location.*



Provide additional details about the consultation process. *Consultations will take place at LCHS during parent teacher interviews on October 20th & in March. Parents, Lacombe citizens and interested stakeholders will be invited to a meeting January 18th through our newsletter, an advertisement in the local newspaper, a post on LCHS website and any other notification medium recommended. Individuals are encouraged to express support, concerns or ask questions by attending the meeting, phoning Mr. Schultz (403-782-6615 ext 5205) or emailing our EcoVision students. (Avy Lamb - EcoVision Leader: lamb.a@wolfcreek.ab.ca)*

This is an exciting opportunity for our school to be involved in something great. Staff and students are enthusiastic and motivated to do whatever we can to make this project a huge success. We also extend a warm welcome to any community member who might have knowledge and experience with bees to come join our team. Let's come together and support our students in a learning project that is real, meaningful, and highly important to our earth. The LCHS community is very excited about the possibilities that might arise from our Bee Wise Project. With the support of the community, we hope to produce enough honey to sell as a fundraiser to support our Dow community garden and build our agricultural opportunities. If you have any further questions about this project, please contact Mr. Schultz by phone at 403-782-6615 or by email at steven.schultz@wolfcreek.ab.ca.