

## **OTF Grant Creates a Lot of “Buzz” with the Corridors for Pollinators Initiative**

**Windsor, ON** – On Saturday June 25<sup>th</sup> at the Ojibway Nature Centre, local MPP Lisa Gretzky and Dan Allen, an Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) volunteer will formally congratulate Tallgrass Ontario on receiving a \$75,000 Seed grant from for its Corridors for Pollinators Initiative. The OTF grant will be celebrated on at 1:00 p.m. at the Ojibway Nature Centre, 5200 Matchette Road in Windsor during the Tallgrass Ontario Annual General Meeting.

“I would like to congratulate the Corridors for Pollinators Initiative for the much needed Ontario Trillium Foundation grant. It is important to protect the natural habitat for our wildlife in this region and restore the native vegetation to ensure a prosperous future for generations to come.” Lisa Gretzky, MPP Windsor –West.

The Corridors for Pollinators Initiative will work with municipalities, townships, and other public and private landowners to develop practices that support and create good quality wildlife habitat, in particular for the Monarch butterfly. Native tallgrass prairie will be planted along roadsides, utility corridors and within parks to create critical breeding and nectaring habitat for pollinators. The bonus for land managers is not only will these areas become more aesthetically pleasing due to the abundance of wildflowers, maintenance costs will be reduced such as mowing and spraying.

Tallgrass Ontario, a charitable organization dedicated to identification, conservation, management and restoration of tallgrass prairie, savanna and related ecological communities in Ontario, and partners such as Ontario NativeScape, are committed to changing traditional practices management practices as they are not conducive with supporting quality wildlife habitat.

“Traditional maintenance practices have been to seed roadsides with aggressive and/or non-native species that require regular mowing and spraying. These practices reduce the amount of habitat for pollinators and other wildlife species,” said Dan Stuart, President, Tallgrass Ontario

Tallgrass prairie, which once covered a significant part of Ontario, can be established in these spaces to provide valuable habitat for pollinators as well as a diversity of wildlife including grassland songbirds, snakes, and mammals. In particular, the wildflowers of tallgrass prairie provide an extended timeframe as a nectar source, blooming from April to October.

The leading grantmaking foundation in Canada, the Ontario Trillium Foundation strengthens the capacity of voluntary sector through investments in community-based initiatives. An agency of the government of Ontario, OTF builds healthy and vibrant communities: [www.otf.ca](http://www.otf.ca)

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