

Creating a Buzz!

Bridge City Pioneers Sell Seeds to Help Keep Bees Busy

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The Bridge City Pioneers sold seeds that will result in more plants for bees to pollinate.

Dione Wall was recently in San Diego, California and couldn't help but notice the flower power.

"It was March and I was struck by how many flowers were already in bloom, compared to here in Saskatchewan," said Dione, a Service Rep who is a member of the Bridge City Pioneers Executive. "As I was admiring them, I noticed all the bees, buzzing about, doing their job and minding their own business."

"It reminded me about the bee populations and how important they are, not just for flowers but, in the big picture, the health of the planet."

Bee populations around the world have been drastically declining since the 1990s, with a loss of almost 20 million hives in North America alone. Since bees are responsible for about 80% of all pollination worldwide -- pollinating up to 300 million flowers per day -- the loss of bees puts us all at risk.

The bevy of busy bees in California gave Dione, who holds the Environment portfolio for the Pioneers in Saskatoon, an idea.

"I thought it would great if we could come up with a new environmental project that involved bees this year," she said. "Specifically, if we could find a supplier who could provide us with affordable,

highly viable seeds, which could be planted in either a pot or the ground and would attract bees and other pollinators.”

With spring having already sprung and with the seed planting window rapidly closing, the Bridge City quickly became a hive of Pioneer activity. The Pioneers needed to find the proper seed supplies, build the seed packs and distribute and sell them so they could be planted in time.

“I scrambled to get the Save the Bees project together rather quickly,” said Dione. “Fortunately, we have amazing people who work here at SaskTel. Sixteen people stepped forward to help assemble all 1022 packs in a three-hour flurry of glue sticks and envelopes. Then another 13 people helped with distribution and sales. Without all these people, the project would have been a flop!”

The results of all the hard work? Sweeter than honey, of course! The seed packs sold out almost immediately. It will mean happier bees with more plants to pollinate. A community initiative (yet to be determined) will also benefit because of the funds that were raised.

“Truthfully, the speed at which the project took off and how it resonated with so many people really took me by surprise,” said Dione. “I am so glad and grateful that it was a success!”

After the buzz the Save the Bees project created, you can rest assured it will be back next spring!