

## Attracting Non-Aggressive Pollen Bees



The Pollen Bee Nest provides homes for solitary bees.



A solitary bee at a tube opening. The stickers are provided so that once the tubes are filled they can be further protected from predators. The bees chew through it when they are ready to emerge.

There are more than 20,000 species of pollen bees worldwide and 3,500 of them live in North America. The term “pollen bees” was coined in 1992 to describe all the bees other than honey bees that help to pollinate crops and wildflowers.

There has been a significant reduction in the bee population lately, and both the honey bee and the solitary pollen bee have been affected. As over 60 per cent of food requires pollination, this is of concern to the very existence of the human race.

Many gardeners are paying attention to the solitary pollen bee. As the name suggests these bees do not live in hives nor do they have a queen. Some of them dig burrows in the ground to lay their eggs. Others like to nest above ground in tube-like cavities such as plant stems or holes left in wood by beetles. Pollen bees such as the Mason Bees and Leaf-cutter Bees that nest in cavities above ground are very vulnerable to predators and weather.

The Armstrong & Blackbury pollen bee nest uses a design that addresses these problems. The plastic weatherproof body of the nest keeps the inner components dry and secure. The 20 nest tubes are of different diameters to allow a variety of solitary bees to use them. Moulded, waterproof baffles at the front and back protect the tubes from attack by birds and rodents while also holding the tubes in place.

Installing the nest in the garden is very easy; all you need is a hammer and a sunny location. Planting native flowers, trees and shrubs will attract the bees to your garden, and providing water will help them build their nest as they use mud to seal the egg chambers within the tube. It takes 12 months for the new generation of bees to emerge from the nest; each nest can produce 100 to 150 bees. Solitary bees stay close to their nest, are non-aggressive and can pollinate 15 times faster than a honey bee.

Pollen Bee Nest is made in Caledon from recycled products sourced in the U.S. and Canada. It is for sale online and at locations throughout Canada and the U.S. The nest is a great gift for anyone with a garden or an interest in participating in conservation.

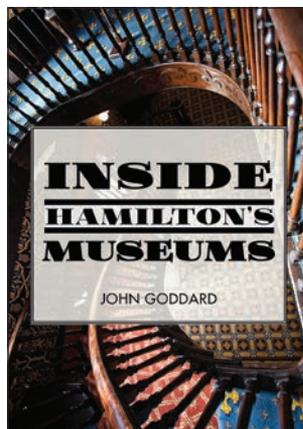
— Article and photos by [Pollenbeeneast.com](http://Pollenbeeneast.com)

## Inside Hamilton's Museums

Having previously written the well-received *Inside the Museums: Toronto's Heritage Sites and Their Most Prized Possessions*, John Goddard has now turned his gaze on Hamilton. In *Inside Hamilton's Museums* (Dundurn, \$19.99), the former *Toronto Star* reporter explores the history of Steel City through an exploration of its many museums.

In a book appealing to visitors and Hamiltonians alike (it's a strange phenomenon, but while people will eagerly explore museums in areas they visit, they rarely do so in their hometowns) Goddard chooses to focus his attentions on heritage-house museums, including Dundurn Castle, Whitehorn Historic House, the Joseph Brant Museum, Battlefield House, and Griffin House. Through these museums we meet some of Hamilton's most fascinating historic inhabitants.

Joseph Brant, for example, was one of the most influential aboriginal leaders to ever live, having guided his refugee people, who had remained loyal to the Crown during the American Revolution, north from New York State to settle along the Grand River. A replica of the home he built in Hamilton today serves



this remarkable man's story and displays some of Brant's personal artifacts.

Allan Napier MacNab is a true rags-to-riches story. Born virtually penniless, he served heroically in the War of 1812, then found his fortune as a lawyer, land speculator, politician, and industrialist (he was president of three railway companies, among other business interests). MacNab built a house which suitably reflected his status as one of the wealthiest and most powerful men in the province, a magnificent Italianate manor that has since been designated a National Historic Site.

Goddard introduces us to these individuals and others like them, and leads us through guided tours of their former homes, pointing out artifacts of notes and little-known historic facts

that bring their stories to life. Eminently readable, informative and accessible, it fills an important niche in Hamilton literature. Perhaps most importantly, it encourages readers, residents and visitors alike, to explore Hamilton's many heritage-house museums in person. — *Andrew Hind*

# Plant Tulips for Canada's Sesquicentennial



A special tulip has been bred to mark the 150th anniversary of Canada's Confederation. The petals are white with red streaks, giving the impression of the Canadian flag. Bred in the Netherlands for the National Capital Commission, it has become the official tulip for 2017 and is known as the Canada 150 tulip or the Maple Leaf tulip. The tulips bloom in mid season and grow to about 22 inches tall.

Bulbs will be available for purchase in early September for fall planting. They will be available exclusively at all Home Hardware stores and Building Centres in Canada. Prices are \$12.97 for a box of 25 bulbs, and a box of 100 for \$44.99. Boxes of 500 bulbs for community groups will cost \$199.99. People wanting large quantities should contact the nearest Home Hardware store about pre-ordering.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY HOME HARDWARE STORES LIMITED.

## Hidden No More

In 2013, James Dick Construction Ltd. (JDCL) announced plans for its "Hidden Quarry." It would be blasted 23 metres below the water table on a 100-acre Guelph Eramosa Twp. property on Highway 7 between Rockwood and Acton. JDCL would use an experimental underwater blasting technique in an environmentally sensitive and agricultural area, within 1,000 metres of hundreds of homes. 700,000 tonnes of aggregate a year would be hauled by up to 38 trucks an hour along the school bus routes and through already truck-burdened local towns.



Residents are concerned. Provincial policies and official plans stipulate that potentially negative impacts from quarry operations must be assessed in the context of the environment, safety, agriculture, roads, etc. This fall, beginning on September 27, the Concerned Residents Coalition, 1,100 strong and having raised almost \$400,000, will state its opposition to the Hidden Quarry to a single adjudicator at the Ontario Municipal Board, bringing five experts to speak to the many potentially negative impacts of the proposed quarry. Halton Region, Halton Hills, Guelph Eramosa Township and Milton join CRC in opposing the application.  
*By Linda Sword, member of the board of Concerned Residents Coalition*