

St. Alban's Garden of Pollinators

Photographed by
Chris Miller

St. Alban the Martyr Anglican Church in Acton has a pollinator garden thanks to Pam Sheldon, a member of the church's Greening 4 God committee, who a few years ago applied for a Takla Foundation grant with the help of Credit Valley Conservation's Greening Corporate Grounds initiative, and was awarded \$10,000.

Creating the garden began in 2020 when Ben Rowley and Noah Varju of Hometown Landscapes Construction in Acton, carved out the beds across the southern and western edges of the church. Church members joined them in planting and watering native pollinator varieties. A few birds and butterflies have been spotted in the garden.

In 2021, the second year, Milton's Sean James Consulting & Design's team designed and added a rain garden to direct water away from the basement into two stone-filled channels with native plants.

"These two local companies did wonderful work for our project," notes Pam. "The goal of our work was to honour all God's creatures and to build the gardens in an environmentally positive way, hence, the rain gardens and all natives. All God's creatures include all living things, birds, bees, butterflies, beneficial insects, plants, and trees. Our second goal was to reach out to the community with a restful place to walk by, sit on our benches and just take in the peaceful surroundings."

This year Pam hopes to add a bench carved from a tree and a seed library to share with the public.

*With files from
Gayle Withers-Miller.*



▲ Planting begins in the garden.



A finished bed, planted and mulched.



▲ A small bench welcomes visitors to sit near the birdbath and birdhouses.



◀ A sign reads "All God's Creatures" near a vine-covered trellis.



▲ Davis Anders, left, and Dalton Poelmann, both part of Sean James Consulting's team, at work in a large bed.



▼ Taking a break from gardening, Gayle Withers-Miller, left, and Pam Sheldon.



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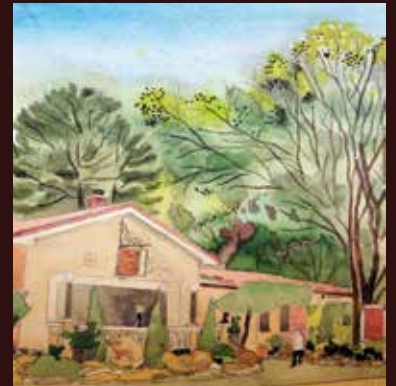
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