Buzzing about the bees

Chamber, Earthwise launch campaign to attract pollinators

**KRISTINE SALZMANN**  
**REPORTER**

D id you know about one third of what we eat is dependent on bees? It’s something provincial apiculturist Paul van Westendorp thinks few consumers are aware of, and he hopes a new campaign organized by Earthwise Society and the Delta Chamber of Commerce will help spread the word about the significance of insect pollinators.

Called Feed the Bees, the two groups want to raise awareness in Delta through this initiative about the importance of bees to farmers, the global decline in bee populations, and how to plant gardens that promote biodiversity.

“arable land can be improved through the presence of biodiversity,” said van Westendorp in a media release. “Our farms and our gardens need bees as pollinators. If we feed bees we can attract them and keep them.”

While not a provincial project, van Westendorp said Feed the Bees was launched at the Chamber’s 100-year anniversary tailgate party last Thursday (Aug. 26).

At the society’s Grow Local Fair tomorrow (Sept. 4), there will be a display about the Feed the Bees program, a demonstration of beekeeping equipment, a honey bee hive tour in the afternoon (2 p.m.), and a number of biodiversity tours of the farm.

This fall Earthwise will also host a series of workshops for the public on insect biodiversity, including one Sept. 22 with master beekeeper Brian Campbell of Blessed Bee Farm.

As well, executive director Patricia Fleming said Earthwise hopes to introduce the campaign to local schools, by teaching them about bee-friendly plants as well as mason bees, which are excellent pollinators, easy to look after, and unlikely to sting.

“We’re really happy to be in partnership with the Chamber,” said Fleming. “Our message is always trying to encourage people to make small steps that can make a big impact on the environment. And providing habitat for bees is a very simple thing people can do that can have a big impact on regional biodiversity and the health of bees, and that has a positive impact on agricultural productivity.”

**Future Shop – Correction Notice**

Gateway T5E Laptop (NVIDIA 1303040/1342008). Please note that the incorrect processor was advertised for this product. This laptop has an Intel Pentium processor, NOT an Intel Core i3 processor, as previously advertised. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused our valued customers.

**Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Provision of Animal Control Services and Related Services**

The purpose of this RFP is to solicit proposals for animal control and related services from proponents having the necessary business expertise, financial capacity and combination of education, training and experience to successfully execute the required services over a multi-year period.

This RFP process is open to all qualified and interested parties, including those that responded to the related expression of interest process that was recently administered by the District.

The RFP document, including further details on this process, can be obtained by directly downloading it from BC Bid at www.bcbid.gov.bc.ca/open.dfl/welcome.

The District has scheduled an informational meeting for interested parties as follows:

**Location:** District of Mission City Hall Conference Room  
**Address:** 6645 Slave Lake Street  
**Date/Time:** Wednesday, September 8, 2010  
**Time:** 1:30 pm

The closing date for this RFP is Thursday September 23 at 3:00 pm local time.

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