



Connecting People,  
Pollinators and Places

## Bee City School/Campus Application Form

**Cottingham Public School**  
Toronto, Ontario

**Toronto District School Board**

## **A) School Information:**

School/College/University/Educational Institution Cottingham Public School

Toronto District School Board

Address: 85 Birch Avenue

City/First Nation: Toronto Province/Territory: Ontario

Postal Code : M4V 1E3

Phone 416 393-1895

## **B) Applicant Information:**

Name Gina Christakis Position Principal

Email Phone

## **D) Becoming a Bee School/Campus**

Briefly summarize why your school/campus/educational institution should become a Bee City School/Campus (add/remove lines as needed).

Cottingham Public School is a school located between Avenue Road/Dupont and Yonge/Summerhill. The school population is currently 160. This school is located next to Lionel Conacher Park and is filled with the playful voices of children throughout the year. Most recently, the park lost many of the trees that had been standing for over 100 years due to old age. The park never had any garden areas and it was a shame to see the trees come down.

While our school is small in population, our students have big hearts. Our generous parent community raises funds to ensure that our students have many enriching opportunities since we do not get funded with many resources due to our school size.

As the Principal of the school, I am always excited to bringing new learning opportunities to our Cottingham students. Becoming a Bee City School is a wonderful experience that will enrich and educate our students about pollinators and their important role in the ecosystem. Our students are very passionate about protecting pollinators and their habitats. They have shown their commitment during the past few years supporting ME to WE initiatives and I know they are ready to participate in this Bee City garden initiative.

Our school had the Blue Marble Eco Club years ago facilitated by a parent that studied various habitats in the city. When the parent returned to work, we lost this Eco Club. Working with Bee

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City will allow our students and teachers to beautify and rehabilitate the natural environment on our school property. We are fortunate to be building an outdoor classroom sometime this year and we hope that our Bee gardens will be an added key component to our outdoor spaces. As we learn more about pollinator friendly gardens, we look forward to encouraging many pollinator friendly gardens to be scattered throughout the neighbourhood. We will ensure that pollinators in the area are provided with all the essentials to thrive in our community.

## E) Commitments and Actions

In order to enhance the understanding of the students and staff about the vital role that pollinators play and what each of us can do to sustain them, the applicant agrees to meet the following commitments required of all Bee City Schools/Campuses:

1. **Adopt this Bee City Canada Resolution.**
2. **Create a Bee City Working Group**, the team which will be responsible for the Bee City program at your school/campus. We recommend a committee of at least two teachers/instructors, two students and caretaking/facilities staff, where possible (expand/reduce table as needed).

Name	Role	Email address
Gina Christakis	Principal	
Teresa Smegal	Teacher	
Rania Zaki	Teacher	
Jennifer Lockwood	Parent	
Issy Durno	Student	
Ella Cherenek	Student	
Owen and Liam Merritt	Students	

3. **Develop a Pollinator Habitat Action Plan:** Outline any initiatives which aim to improve, maintain or create new habitat for pollinators. Examples could include planting a locally native pollinator garden at your school or in the local community. Describe your plans for habitat and include a plant list, if possible.

As Bee City members, we are committed to take action in protecting pollinators. Our vision is to create our own local gardens on our school property followed by encouraging the community to create gardens throughout the neighbourhood also.

We will begin by creating our Cottingham Bee Ambassadors Club and offer our students more workshops to learn about bee pollinator gardens. With our Bee City partners, we will map out garden areas. We are interested in an herb garden, perennial borders, shrub borders and we would like to establish plants that will allow continuous food sources for both humans and pollinators alike. Our long term vision is to continue building our garden spaces with an emphasis on selecting plants beneficial to native pollinator species. We are also interested in cultivating an annual food garden. Some pollinator plants could include: zucchini, tomato, beans, peas, peppers, pumpkin, watermelon, cucumber and raspberries.

A long term plan goal would be to create sensory gardens that would allow accessibility to all community members similar to the Enabling Garden in Guelph.

The key features of our garden spaces would enable people to enjoy the benefits of pollinator gardens and sensory interest (sight, sound, smell, touch). The outdoor classroom area would be a reflective area similar to many garden areas in our city and we would encourage continued programming to educate students and community members about the importance of our pollinator and sensory gardens.

### Plants we will consider:

Redbud Tree- to enjoy the pink blossoms; loved by the native bees This could be planted on the south side of the school on Cottingham surrounded by Native ferns or Sedge

Service Berry-for a nice fall foliage

Assimina Triloba(Pa Pa Tree)- produces largest amount of Native food

### Wildflowers and Shrubs can include:

Denise Blazing Star

Black-Eyed Susan

Milkweed ( for the Monarch Butterflies)

Wild bergamot

Rosa Blanda

Buttonbush

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Joe Pye Weed  
Blue Columbine  
Coneflower  
Ohio spiderwort  
Greyheaded Cornflower  
Purple flowering raspberry  
Bee Balm  
Canadian bloodroot  
Swamp Rose

These plants will attract more bees, along with butterflies. We hope that our gardens will increase bee population and create a larger ecosystem that will make our school and community more environmentally healthy. We will ensure that these plants/seeds are purchased from garden centres or farmers that promote and sell native species. We will also consider designing and building some Bee houses/hotels. These could be designed and built by our Bee Ambassadors.

4. **Promote Education about Pollinators:** Outline any initiatives aimed at educating students, staff, volunteers, parents and/or the local community about pollinators.

We will be announcing and discussing our initiatives weekly in our school newsletter. We will raise awareness about bees, their importance and the fact they are endangered. We would like to educate the school/community about the benefit of bees and discuss the facts and myths associated with bees. Our goal is to dispel the myth that all bees produce honey and that all bees sting. We will focus our efforts on the Native Bees of Southern Ontario. We will create signage in the gardens to educate visitors about our garden spaces and create signs that identify the plants and explain their uses, and their importance to bees and other pollinators.

We will host an Earth Day garden clean-up inviting all classes to clean up and plant. We will offer space to each class and hold a planting event in which all classes can plant their garden.

In the fall, we can have a leaf drive to help improve soil quality in our gardens by adding much needed organic matter.

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During the spring, we will plant seeds for new pollinator friendly plants to add to our garden and encourage students to plant in their gardens at home.

5. **Celebrate Pollinators:** Tell us about how your school/campus will celebrate International Pollinator Week and/or participate in other pollinator-themed events.

During Pollinator week in June, we will celebrate by having a spirit day in which students can wear yellow and black or a bee costume to school. We will help raise awareness for the bees and what we can do to protect their habitats during Pollinator week. We will do a facts and myths segment during morning announcements during pollinator week and stress the importance of bees in our ecosystem and their impact on our local environment. In addition, we will be hosting a Bee Awareness poster contest, and the winner will receive bee related prizes.

## **F) Other Requirements**

1. Publicly acknowledge receiving your Bee City designation through your website, social media and by displaying Bee City Canada signage in a prominent location.
2. Annually apply to renew your Bee City designation. A renewal application will be sent to you.

## **G) Resolution and Signature**

**WHEREAS** the goal of Bee City Canada is to promote healthy, sustainable habitats and communities for pollinators;

**THAT** bees and other pollinators around the globe have experienced dramatic declines due to land fragmentation, habitat loss, use of pesticides, industrialized agriculture, climate change and the spread of pests and diseases, with serious implications for the future health of flora and fauna; and

**THAT** schools, colleges, universities and learning institutions have the opportunity to take actions to support pollinators by creating healthy habitats within their grounds and the broader community; and

**THAT** supporting pollinators fosters environmental awareness and sustainability, and increases

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interactions and engagement among school/campus community stewards; and

**THAT** staff be authorized to submit the Bee City Canada Application to designate (school/college/university/learning institution) as a Bee City School/Campus; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

**THAT** (school/college/university/learning institution) accepts the designation and commits to the standards of the Bee City Canada Program.

Read, approved and adopted this

5<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2018

Signature of Principal/President/Official: *Gina Christakis*

Please print Principal/President/Official's name: Gina Christakis

**Submitted by:** Gina Christakis **Date:** April 5, 2018

## **H) Requested Attachments**

With your completed application, please provide:

1. Your school/college/university/institution logo (png format) with any usage guidelines.
2. (optional) One or more photos representing your school/college/university/institution for use on the Bee City Canada website and social media platforms.

**Send your completed application to: [applications@beecitycanada.org](mailto:applications@beecitycanada.org).**