



Bee City Canada School Application

for *Anderson Collegiate Vocational Institute* of *Whitby, ON*

400 Anderson Street, Whitby, ON L1N 3V6 Canada

Applicants:

Aidan Brushett
ACVI EcoTeam



WHEREAS, the goal of joining Bee City Canada is to promote healthy, sustainable habitats for bees and other pollinators – there are over 800 native bees (20,000 worldwide) and over 140,000 pollinator species in Canada; and

WHEREAS, bees and other pollinators around the globe have experienced dramatic declines due to a combination of habitat loss, use of pesticides, the spread of pests and diseases, and climate change; resulting in serious implications for the future health of flora and fauna; and

WHEREAS, schools have the opportunity to support bees and other pollinators on school property and in the community; and

WHEREAS, supporting bees and other pollinators fosters environmental awareness and sustainability, and increases interactions and engagement; and

WHEREAS, the benefits of pollinator-friendliness are:

• **Healthy ecosystems —**

pollinators are required for reproduction of about 85% of flowering plants globally, plants that:

- 1) are vital for clean air and water;
- 2) provide food, fibre, medicine and shelter for people, livestock and wildlife; and
- 3) support the species that pollinate crops and form the basis of food webs.

• **Increased vegetable and fruit crop yields** due to insect pollination. Pollinators provide 65% of the food we eat.

• **Increased demand for pollinator friendly plant materials** from local nurseries and growers.

• **Increased support and awareness for school pollinator initiatives.**

WHEREAS, Anderson Collegiate Vocational Institute

should become a **Bee City Canada School** because:

- *As a secondary institution, we have the ability to connect with a large group of youth capable of taking action in their own lives and the lives of others.*
- *Pollinator decline in recent years has become a crisis, with effects of habitat loss, climate change, air pollution, pesticide use, and diseases/pests threatening the stability of already dwindling populations.*
- *With Health Canada now proposing to phase out imidacloprid, a dangerous neonicotinoid pesticide, it is essential that we continue pressure and action at the grassroots/community level.*
- *As an urban community, many students are unaware of where our food truly comes from and the biological processes responsible for its production. Becoming a Bee School would help to correct this disconnect.*
- *Although we often feel distanced from nature and that it has no impact; becoming a Bee School and understanding the critical importance of pollinators to our lives would directly demonstrate our connection to even the tiniest creatures of Nature.*
- *A youth voice for the protection of pollinators would add a unique, powerful message to pollinator campaigns, accessing completely new demographics.*

- *Engaging the whole school in an environmental initiative will provide the school with a strengthened feeling of identity, unite various clubs, and create a unique impact on our communities that can only be made with a youth voice.*
- *The Anderson CVI community is full of passionate, capable youth and adults alike who are willing to take on the challenge of becoming a Bee School.*
- *The network of clubs in the school, including Student Council, EcoTeam, and Athletics Council would be able to work towards a unified goal that affects all of us and plays on everyone's abilities*
- *Anderson CVI already has several systems in place (e.g. STEM projects) that can aid pollinators and benefit our cause, or be altered to incorporate an environmental perspective.*

- *It's simply the right thing to do. Our lives are impossibly intertwined with nature, so it is natural that protecting the health of the environment should be common sense. It benefits not only ourselves, but ensures that we maintain biodiversity for the trillions of other organisms on this planet that have a right to life on our shared planet.*

WHEREAS, ideal pollinator-friendly habitat:

- Provides diverse and abundant nectar and pollen from plants blooming in succession from early spring to late autumn.
- Provides water for drinking, cooling, nest-building and butterfly puddling.
- Has been designated pesticide-free.
- Is composed of mostly, if not all, native species of annual and perennial trees, shrubs, native grasses,

wildflowers, ground cover and vines, which have co-evolved with native pollinators.

- Includes, where possible, designated pollinator zones in public spaces with signage to educate the public and build awareness.
- Provides undisturbed spaces (un-mulched areas of soil and sand, pithy stemmed stalks, leaf and brush piles, un-mowed fields or field margins, fallen trees and other dead wood) for nesting and overwintering for native pollinators; and

WHEREAS, in order to enhance understanding among staff, students and the public 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 Schools:

1. **Adopt and pass** this Bee City Canada resolution.
2. **Designate a committee** of at least two teachers and two students and including (where possible) the caretaker.

Names and positions:

Aidan Brushett
ACVI EcoTeam

[REDACTED]

Marisa Shea
Staff Facilitator, EcoTeam

[REDACTED]

Jennifer Nelson
Staff Facilitator, EcoTeam

[REDACTED]

ACVI EcoTeam: *Aimen Shah, Alexander Wainwright, Ali Aamir, Aubrey Skanes, Hannah McFarlane, Jishnu Talukdar, Maddi McAfee, Megan Scotchburn, Nabeelah Hoosain, Paraney Babuharan, Sabrina DeSousa, Sarah Brown, Vince Tran, Zachary Train, and more*

3. Develop a **School Pollinator Habitat Plan**. Plant a locally native pollinator garden at your school or in the local community, using ethically grown plants. What is the overall pollinator vision for the school. Share some of the curriculum components planned.

Describe your habitat plans:

- *Planting of pollinator friendly native wildflowers across the school grounds:*
 - *Creation of a pollinator garden in the library courtyard, approx. 60 square meters:*
 - *Garden is full sun/partial sun depending on season, plants will be ordered suitable to the conditions of the garden.*
 - *Minimum 25-30 species of native wildflowers, ordered from the local pesticide-free nursery, Native Plants in Claremont, chosen to bloom throughout the whole growing season.*
 - *Some plants will be cultivated by the SVN3U class ahead of time (indoors)*
 - *Ground will remain un-mulched, with pithy stems and clippings left on the ground to provide habitat for pollinators.*
 - *Several mature conifers and deciduous bushes are present in the garden already.*
 - *A clean pond is present with gradual edges, allowing butterflies, bees, and other insects access to drinking water. A muddy pot will be added to allow mineral content in the water for butterfly wicking.*
 - *Bee hotels will be placed in the garden to provide habitat for the bees and a safe places for the insects to overwinter. Habitat consists of boxes filled with 6" pithy stems blocked at one end by a stem node*
 - *Addition of native plants to pre-existing gardens:*
 - *Extra native plants will be placed in the garden adjacent the school entrance, with an "ACVI Pollinator Garden" sign denoting the purpose.*
 - *Other plants may be cultivated and maintained in the school greenhouse during winter months or when they cannot be placed in gardens.*
- *Creation of habitat by the grade 9 STEM classes.*
 - *Grade 9 classes are creating bee boxes for their STEM project, 2017*
 - *Project can be repeated in concurrent years to maintain awareness*
 - *Fired ceramic containers filled with hollow stems*

4. **Annually celebrate** Pollinator Week (third week of June) and, if possible, some other appropriate occasion with educational events, pollinator habitat plantings or restorations, celebrations or promotions that showcase the school's commitment to enhancing native pollinator health through biodiversity and habitat. Involve as many people as possible. Be Creative; use dance, music, visual arts, films, presenters.

Describe your celebration plans:

- *Hosting of a pollinator awareness week run by the ACVI EcoTeam, 29 May-2 June:*
 - *Interactive presentation: Will engage the school on the pollinator crisis in a fun, competitive, game-styled way. Run by EcoTeam member and with Ontario Nature Youth Council resources.*
 - *Wildflower planting: Students have the opportunity to receive native milkweed seeds and plant them in pots. Flowers can be grown at home and planted in gardens to spread native species across the community.*
 - *Before/after bake sale: A week-long bake sale with products containing honey and other animal-pollinated ingredients. Will demonstrate the importance of pollinators by showing how little would remain at a bake sale without them.*
 - *Documentary screening: Queen of The Sun: What Are The Bees Telling Us?. Will be held in the evening to educate students on pollinator plight in fun manner.*
 - *"Bee-Ball" game: will be hosted by athletic council to engage in a fundraiser.*
 - *Week-long STEM Showcase: Grade 9 students will create display on their bee hotels to show what they are doing to make a difference, how others can too.*
 - *Black&Yellow spirit day.*
 - *Spelling Bee (to generate interest)*
 - *Week-long booth in foyer: Honey tasting to engage students during lunch hour, with handouts including 'Pollinator Pals' poster from Ontario Nature Youth Council and other educational resources.*
 - *EcoTeam member wearing bee costume all week.*
- *Incorporation of pollinator plight into curriculum:*
 - *Will develop a case study on pollinator plight and the human impacts on ecology into the grade 9 ecology curriculum for the classes SNC1D and SNC1P and the environmental science class SVN3U.*
 - *Encouragement of grade 9 STEM to continue creation of bee boxes in 2018.*
- *The EcoTeam will host another event at Thanksgiving on the importance of pollinators to agriculture and where our food comes from.*

5. **Annually apply for renewal** to Bee City Canada and submit a report of the previous year's activities. During the year share your stories, art, photos, and videos for posting on the Bee City Canada website.

6. **Publicly acknowledge** the school's commitment by agreeing to display Bee City Canada signage in a prominent location.

NOW, THEREFORE, BEE IT RESOLVED THAT:

ANDERSON COLLEGIATE VOCATIONAL INSTITUTE

accepts the designation and commits to the standards of the Bee City Canada program.

Read, approved, and adopted this

20 April 2017

Signature of School Principal:

