



## Bee City Canada Application

## A) City or Community Information

**Municipality/First Nation** *Town of Richmond Hill*

Province/Territory *Ontario*

### **Mayor, Chief or Chair of Commission**

Name & Title *Dave Barrow, Mayor*

**Name of Applicant & Title** *Myles O'Brien, Environmental Education & Engagement  
Coordinator*

Organization or Department *Planning & Regulatory Services*

Address *225 East Beaver Creek Rd.*

City/First Nation *Richmond Hill* Province/Territory *ON*

Postal Code *L4B 3P4*

Email *myles.obrien@richmondhill.ca* Phone *905-771-5464*

Please list the members of your community's **Bee City Working Group**. This group will oversee the Bee City program. (expand or reduce table as required)

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Email</b>
<i>Maria Flores</i>	<i>Manager, Sustainability</i>	<i>maria.flores@richmondhill.ca</i>
<i>Ann Marie Farrugia</i>	<i>Manager, Natural Environment</i>	<i>annmarie.farrugia@richmondhill.ca</i>
<i>Myles O'Brien</i>	<i>Town of Richmond Hill</i>	<i>myles.obrien@richmondhill.ca</i>
<i>Michelle Bourdeau</i>	<i>Town of Richmond Hill</i>	<i>michelle.bourdeau@richmondhill.ca</i>
<i>Helen Chen</i>	<i>Resident</i>	<i>helen.chen358@gmail.com</i>

Tell us about any initiatives currently taking place in your city, community or region which aim to help pollinators. These may include existing pollinator gardens, habitat restoration projects, efforts to reduce or eliminate the use of pesticides and public education activities to raise awareness about pollinators.

### Policy

- *Richmond Hill's Official Plan includes a policy to increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees in town landscaping, and encourage use of milkweed where appropriate*
- *Richmond Hill's Environment Strategy recommends a Naturalization Strategy to prioritize areas of publically owned land for naturalization and locate potential private lands for naturalization efforts*
- *Signing the National Wildlife Federation's Mayors' Monarch Pledge in 2016*
- *Approval of a Community Garden Policy in 2017*
- *Annual Council proclamation of Pollinator Week*

### Operations

- *Native perennial species planted at community centre gardens*
- *50 milkweed plants planted at Rumble Pond Park (2017)*
- *Recommendations provided to diversify seed mix within Bradstock Park revitalization plan, to increase habitat for pollinators*
- *Updated mowing requirements to allow for greater naturalization; restoration planting in identified areas that were previously mowed/manicured*

### Mayor's Monarch Pledge

- *Community centre displays focused on Monarch butterflies*
- *Promotion of CWF Backyard Habitat Certification Program*
- *Partnerships with TRCA and Evergreen to deliver gardening workshops, including focused workshops on pollinator gardens ("Creating a Monarch Oasis Garden")*
- *Volunteers collect & save milkweed, other seeds for the Richmond Hill Seed Library*

### Community Programs

- *Community Stewardship events, including tree planting, and invasive plant removal with youth volunteers*

- *Ongoing coordination of Phyllis Rawlinson Community Allotment Garden and support for new gardens under the 2017 Community Garden Policy, including a pollinator garden at Mill Pond Gallery*
- *Annual Healthy Yards Program – subsidized native plant sales including pollinator favourites (e.g. milkweed); plant, garden & pollinator information included in tote bags given out at event; native species awareness & education at booths*
- *Greening the Hill booth at public events – promotes native species through games, brochures, free wildflower seeds*

#### Other

- *Hillcrest Mall property owner – Installation of rooftop beehives and communication to neighboring residents to encourage native species planting*

## **B) Commitments and Actions**

I/we, the undersigned, understand that the Bee City Canada program consists of three commitments, and that we will take the indicated actions to support those commitments:

1. **Creating Healthy Pollinator Habitat:** Describe your plans to create, improve and maintain pollinator habitat, while reducing or eliminating pesticide use.

*Richmond Hill will continue with the actions and initiatives listed in Part A), and will pursue further creation of pollinator habitat through:*

- *Community Gardens*
  - *New collective garden start-ups, including vegetable and pollinator gardens*
  - *Investigate bee hotels for community gardens*
  - *New gardens on Town land (in existing bed, such as children’s garden at Richmond Green)*
- *Community Stewardship Program – planting wildflowers and flowering species at future planting sites and events, and creating microhabitat using logs*
- *Healthy Yards Program – inclusions of Bee Hotel vendor at Healthy Yards pickup event. This provides residents the opportunity to purchase Bee Hotels*
- *Distribution of “wildflower seed packets” at events such as Healthy Yards, ward barbeques, park openings and other education events*
- *Design & Construction Capital Projects – Promote creation of new gardens in Town parks through future D&C projects (designing new parks and/or redevelopment of existing parks)*

2. **Education about Pollinators:** Describe how you plan to educate community members about the importance of pollinators.

*Richmond Hill will continue with the actions and initiatives listed in Part A), and will pursue further pollinator education opportunities through:*

- *Healthy Yards Program – inclusion of Bee Hotel vendor at Healthy Yards pickup event. This will allow for the opportunity to educate residents about Bee Hotels*
- *Community Stewardship Program – incorporate the Bumble Bee Watch program into our stewardship events*
- *Workshops through the TRCA – educate residents about the benefits of pollinators such as bees*
- *Display cases at community centres – new display added to the current circulated displays. Potential for a feature on a particular type of bee native to Richmond Hill*
- *Pollinator and bee-themed mural for the Phyllis Rawlinson bunker (located at the Town's Community Allotment garden within Phyllis Rawlinson Park)*
- *Add Bee City and pollinator information to Town website*
- *Investigate potential for producing short educational videos to complement Healthy Yards program (i.e. tree planting; garden planning; plant care)*
- *Explore the development of educational signage in public spaces that explains the role and importance of pollinators and pollinator-friendly plants*
- *Explore collaboration with Hillcrest Mall to educate surrounding residents & patrons about the mall's rooftop beehives and importance of pollinators in general*

3. **Celebrating Pollinators:** Describe how you plan to celebrate pollinators during International Pollinator Week (third week of June) or at other times.

- *Council proclamation of Pollinator Week*
- *Place "Pollinator Week" signs in display cases during Pollinator Week*
- *Photo contest through social media – framed as a "bee hunt". Find and photograph the various bee species in Richmond Hill; reference pre-existing factsheets and information resources (ex. apps, website, etc.) that could help people ID the bees*
- *Pollinator garden opening events/activities*
- *Explore the development of recognition signs for pollinator-friendly gardens. Committee would annually select garden(s) to be recognized and set up a sign unveiling event during Pollinator Week.*

## C) Other Requirements

I/we, the undersigned agree to:

1. Publicly acknowledge Bee City Canada designation through the city/region/community website, signage and other means.
2. Annually re-apply for Bee City Canada designation. A renewal application will be sent to you.

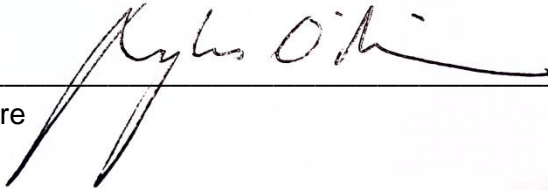
## D) Requested Attachments

With your completed application, please provide:

1. One or more photos representing your city/region/community for use on the Bee City website and social media platforms. These could showcase pollinator initiatives or the members of your Bee City Working Group.
2. Your city, region or First Nation logo (png format) and any usage guidelines.

## F) Signatures

### Applicant

Signature 

Myles O'Brien

Print Name

Environmental Education & Engagement Coordinator

Title

July 13, 2018

Date

## **G) Next Steps**

1. (Applicant) Email completed application and resolution (in PDF format) with requested attachments to [applications@beecitycanada.org](mailto:applications@beecitycanada.org) with “APPLICATION” in the subject line.
2. (Bee City Canada) Your application will be reviewed within three business days. We will notify you as soon as your application has been approved or promptly request any clarification, if necessary.

## **H) Bee City Canada’s Commitment**

Bee City Canada is committed to publicizing your designation as a Bee City through our website, social media and other channels. In addition, our “Bee City Welcome Package” will be sent to you and will include:

1. An official declaration, recognizing your city or First Nation as a Bee City.
2. An aid with helpful ideas for communities joining the Bee City Canada program.
3. Our media kit to use for making Bee City Canada signs and other artwork.

Bee City Canada is grateful for your commitment to take positive actions to help pollinators and for being a role model to other communities across Canada.