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Connecting People,  
Pollinators and Places

## Bee City Canada Application

# A) City or Community Information

Municipality/First Nation **THE TOWN OF BLIND RIVER**

Province/Territory **ONTARIO**

## Mayor, Chief or Chair of Commission

Name & Title **MAYOR SALLY HAGMAN** and **CAO CLERK KATIE SCOTT**

Name of Applicant & Title **KAREN BITTNER, DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**

Organization or Department: **PARKS AND RECREATION/COMMUNITY SERVICES**

Address **11 HUDSON STREET**

City/First Nation **BLIND RIVER** Province/Territory **ONTARIO**

Postal Code **P0R 1B0**

Email **KAREN.BITTNER@BLINDRIVER.CA** Phone **705-227-0141**

**Bee City Liaison & Title** (if not Applicant)           **SAME AS APPLICANT**          

Please list the members of your **Bee City Pollinator Team**. This group will oversee the Bee City program. (Expand or reduce table as required)

Name	Affiliation	Email
KAREN BITTNER	MUNICIPAL STAFF	KAREN.BITTNER@BLINDRIVER.CA

## Media Contact (if not Applicant)

Name & Title **SAME AS APPLICANT**

Tell us about any initiatives currently taking place in your city, community or region which protect 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.

The Town has many initiatives:

- ✓ We have eliminated cutting milkweed throughout town to allow monarchs to feed and develop
- ✓ We have planted 6 roadside major flowerbeds that will evolve to 3 season features
- ✓ Local horticultural society and beautification group work to plant around our community
- ✓ 200 trees were planted in conjunction with tree Canada and home hardware this spring
- ✓ 5 memorial trees have been planted by active community members within the last 4 years
- ✓ We have a trail expansion project with Mississauga First Nation where we will be installing interpretive panels in English French and Ojibwe to teach locals and visitors both language and facts
- ✓ We are redoing all outdated wetland creature panels
- ✓ We have rebuilt and expanded a garden in front of our library to add plants to downtown
- ✓ We install massive flower baskets every summer for downtown that remain in place until September
- ✓ We teamed with Rotary to expand a flower bed within downtown at our LCBO and filled it with hand me down perennials. This bed is flourishing

- ✓ We promoted bee health in march by interviewing a local bee keeping family who sells honey! This created a “no mow” movement to help our bees throughout blind river this spring 😊
- ✓ We do not fine properties allowing native plants to flourish, especially during drought etc. to support feeding and shelter.
- ✓ Empty areas around our marine park have been updated to perennial beds. No chemicals permitted
- ✓ We’ve eliminated the use of red dyed mulch in our beds, we use donated wood chips from local arborists

There’s more.... I can fill a book ---- we LOVE our wildlife.

Shelly has been emailed our newsletters that prove our commitment. Please note our focus on local in order to promote recycling and reduced footprint. Also our first virtual garden tour 😊

## B) Yearly Renewal Fees

**There are no fees on the initial application. The fees below apply on the yearly renewal.**

Less than 5000 population	FREE
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## C) Commitments and Actions

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

1. **Creating Biodiversity in Pollinator Habitats:** Describe your plans to create, improve and maintain pollinator habitat, while reducing or eliminating pesticide use. Please see our above actions. 2020-2021 will be expanding on our already-in place initiatives with a heavy focus on education and signage. We do not allow pesticide use at the municipal level. This has been in place for years.

2. **Educating the public about the importance of pollinators:** Describe how you plan to educate residents, city staff and others about the importance of pollinators and what people can do to protect them.

Our Staff believe in this already. The culture is established and all departments respect our seasons that protect wildlife growth cycles. Our signage projects will link our projects to information in a simple format that is easy for travelers, locals, students, and adults.

3. **A yearly commitment to celebrate:** Describe the cities plan to celebrate pollinators during International Pollinator Week (third week of June).

2021 will be our first ever pollinator plant! The hort society has saved milkweed seeds and council has approved a planting site at our marine park. Ideas like this that engage volunteers and all-age education are key to ensuring celebrations do not become stagnant. This site was chosen as it is a 5-7 minute walk for 2 elementary, 1 secondary, and 2 daycares! It is also a gateway to our community for travelers. Our goal is to have everyone learn and realize blind river's commitment to environment.

4. **Briefly discuss your cities long term pollinator strategy.** How will your cities landscape change in the next year? In the next 5 years?

Please see above

5. **Please provide a 50 to 100 word write up on what it means to be a Bee City.**

We will share this exciting news through our social media outlets.

Hello!

Please check out our awesome newsletters that talk about active travel, bee care, gardening and beautification. These were forwarded to Shelly 😊 Bee City is more than a label, and popping in a garden. It is a community movement and commitment to being green, lowering emissions, and being aware of our surroundings.

## D) Other Requirements

I/we, the undersigned agree to:

1. Publicly display Bee City Canada designation through signs, city/region/community website and other means.
2. To annually report to Bee City Canada. A renewal form and an invoice for applicable fees will be emailed one month prior to renewal date.

**YES**

## E) Requested Attachments

With your completed application, please provide:

1. Your city, region or First Nation logo (png format) and any usage guidelines.
2. Any photos you would like us to share on social media. This could include pollinator gardens, public events, etc.

INFO TO FOLLOW 😊

## F) Signatures

Applicant

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'KSK' or similar, written in a cursive style.

Signature

Karen Bittner

Print Name

**Director of Facilities & Community Services**

**August 29, 2020**

Title

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 an official Declaration, recognizing your city or First Nation as a Bee City.

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