

Bee City School Application Form



Queens Margaret's School

British Columbia

A) School Information:

School: Queen Margaret's School

Address: 660 Brownsey Avenue

City: Duncan Province/Territory: British Columbia

Postal Code: V9L 1C2 Phone: [\(250\) 746-4185](tel:2507464185)

B) Applicant Information:

Name: Nicole Lorusso

Position: Teacher, STEM Department Head

Email: nlorusso@qms.bc.ca

Phone: 250-510-7276

C) Becoming a Bee City School

Briefly summarize why your school should become a Bee City School

Queen Margaret's School should be certified a Bee City School because the actions of our school and school community have already shown that we recognize the critical role that bees play in the ecosystems that cradle us, and how important it is to protect pollinators.

D) 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:

- 1. Adopt this Bee City Canada Resolution. (see Section F)**
- 2. Create a Bee City Pollinator Team.** The team which will be responsible for the Bee City program at your school. We recommend a committee of at least two teachers/instructors and two students as well as parent(s) and caretaking staff if possible. Expand table to add more rows, as needed.

Name	Role	Email address
Susan Cruikshank	Principal	scruikshank@qms.bc.ca
Nicole Lorusso	Teacher	nlorusso@qms.bc.ca

If you have any questions, please contact Shelly Candel - shelly@beecitycanada.org or 647-402-0133

Alison O'Marra-Armstrong	Director of Instruction	aomarra@qms.bc.ca
Bruce Mcpherson	Head of facilities	bmcpherson@qms.bc.ca
Nyomi Godard	Student	
Katia Bannister	Student	
Maia Cassie	Student	

3. **Develop a Pollinator Habitat Action Plan:**

We are excited to make our school even more welcoming to bees than we already have. The focus of our plan is to expand bee-friendly habitat by creating more pollinator gardens on campus. We have worked with our facilities manager, guided by advice from a partner organization, Beewatch Canada to choose pollinator plants for gardens outside a new building, including native pollinator plants. The plants will be located below the site of an indoor beehive being installed by Beewatch Canada. The plants will include woolly sunflower, red flowering currant, red columbine, tall Oregon grape, snowberry, barberry and linden tree.

We are also planning the build a new garden bed along the perimeter of our school garden where we will plant 1m sections with the same native pollinator plants. The location is also nearby our mason bee houses and habitat for indigenous ground-nesting bees. We have been growing these plants since the fall through our participation in the Cowichan Green Community's Resiliency Project Native Plant Nursery. We have committed to growing the plants from seed and then returning half the plants to the Resiliency Project to be planted at a nearby neighborhood boulevard native plant garden to encourage and expand local bee habitat and build community connections. We also hope to be part of that planting process. The plants include Douglas Aster, Woolly Sunflower, Yarrow and Goldenrod.

4. **Promote Education about Pollinators**

To promote education about pollinators, we have numerous initiatives with the aim of educating students, staff, volunteers, parents and the local community about pollinators. We have invited local bee expert to our school to do a workshop with the Life Sciences 11 and Physical Geography 12 classes, and members of the Eco Club. The local expert

If you have any questions, please contact Shelly Candell - shelly@beecitycanada.org or 647-402-0133

from Plan Bee Now! has also worked with us to install educational mason bee nesting boxes within the Senior School Garden and will continue to work with our school to care for mason bees and their habitat.

We have also identified ground nesting bee sites and have marked and roped off those sites and have shared educational information about the location the bees, and their behaviors via social media.

We are also creating signage with informational facts about bees and native pollinator plants, which we will be placing them around the Queen Margaret's School Campus. We are developing a scavenger hunt and will invite our grade 4-12 students to do participate and learn more the bees and their habitat at our school campus. In addition, we are working with the school librarian and a primary teacher to develop an activity for the K-3 students.

We are also in our second year of participating in the University of Guelph's cross-Canada Bees@Schools citizen science program. We have installed a research nesting tube on campus. In the fall, we will return the nesting tube to the University of Guelph where they will use DNA barcoding to investigate the bees and what they eat to learn more about the distribution of wild bees in Canada.

We have also partnered with Beewatch Canada and have recently had a honeybee hive installed inside our new classroom building! The hive is visible on both sides and students can watch the bees build their colony and make honey. Our school is excited to harness this unique educational opportunity and expand opportunities for our students to develop their understanding of bees.

Students also recently presented at a City of Duncan Council meeting where they shared the work they have been doing and challenged the City of Duncan to become a certified Bee City. They adopted the first motion to examine what would be required to commit to becoming a bee school and we hope they will pass the official resolution to apply to become a Bee City at the next council meeting.

We are also planning to host a community webinar to provide a platform for experts and youth to share their expertise and experiences with the larger community.

5. Celebrate Pollinators:

Because National Pollinator Week takes place in late June, after the school year has ended at Queen Margaret's School, we will opt to celebrate bees on World Bee Day on May 20th and the week preceding. To celebrate pollinators on World Bee Day, our school would like to tackle two projects, one engaging students of all ages from our school and the other with the intention of involving members of the wider community in our celebrations. The first project we would like to undertake is painting a pollinator mural on the wooden greenhouse in our school garden. We would like to include all interested students — from kindergarten to grade 12 — at our school to be able to participate in the painting of this collaborative mural, so that QMS students for years to come can feel like they've contributed to something tangible at our school.

The second event we'd like to host during our week of pollinator celebration is a webinar featuring local bee experts from various fields. We are considering partnering with a local youth organizing group to market this webinar to the greater community and ensure that as many people in our community are able to join us online to learn about and celebrate bees with our school.

Additionally, our art program creates banners that are hung throughout the city. We are very excited that our art teacher has offered to make pollinators the theme of this year's banners, which bring attention to and spread appreciation of bees throughout our city!

E) Other Requirements

1. Publicly acknowledge receiving your Bee City School 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 School designation. A renewal application will be sent to you.

F) Resolution and Signature

If you have any questions, please contact Shelly Candel - shelly@beecitycanada.org or 647-402-0133

WHEREAS the goal of Bee City Canada is to promote healthy, biodiverse habitats in communities across Canada.

THAT bees and other pollinators around the globe have experienced dramatic declines due to habitat loss, use of pesticides, industrialized agriculture, climate change and the spread of pests and diseases, with serious implications for the future health of plants, reptiles, birds, insects, mammals and humans; and

THAT schools 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, increases interactions and engagement in the school and reminds of our responsibilities to take care of mother earth for future generations; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT Queen Margaret's School accepts the designation and commits to the 3 pillars of the Bee City Canada Program; creating healthy biodiverse pollinator habitat, educating whenever possible and celebrating.

Approved and adopted this

7th day of May 2021

Signature of Principal/Official: _____

S. Cruikshank

Please print Principal/Official's name: _____

S. Cruikshank

Submitted by: Nicole Lorusso Date: May 7, 2021

G) Requested Attachments

With your completed application, please provide:

1. Your school logo (in png format) and usage guidelines.



If you have any questions, please contact Shelly Candel - shelly@beecitycanada.org or 647-402-0133

2. A short 50–100-word write-up of why it's important to become a Bee City School. Include photos if possible and ensure there is parental permission. This will help us share the exciting news through our social media outlets.

Queen Margaret's School is committed to ensuring our students are connected with the outdoors through hands-on learning that they have the skillset to protect the natural world. We also strive to encourage awareness and action from students, so we are excited to create a school community that understands the importance of pollinators and works to protect them. Becoming a Bee City School will be a positive contribution to QMS' student body and to our local pollinators.

Photos:



Figure 1. Marking ground nesting bee sites



Figure 2. Our Beewatch indoor beehive and bee entry/exit tube.



Figure 3. Our three mason and tube-nesting bee houses.



Figure 4. One of our new pollinator-friendly gardens.



Figure 5. Growing our native pollinator seedlings.



Figure 6. Our new educational mason bee house.

Send your completed application to: applications@beecitycanada.org.

If you have any questions, please contact Shelly Candell - shelly@beecitycanada.org or 647-402-0133