

A close-up photograph of purple flowers, possibly lavender, with a bright sun flare in the background. The text "Why become a Bee City?" is overlaid in white.

Why become a  
Bee City?

# What is Bee City Canada?

Bee City Canada is a federally recognized charity focused on engaging and inspiring cities, towns, First Nations, schools, campuses and other organizations across Canada to take action to protect pollinators.

Designated Bee Cities work with Bee City Canada to achieve this goal in three key ways:

- 1) **Creating**, maintaining and/or improving pollinator habitat
- 1) **Educating** their community about the importance of pollinators
- 1) **Celebrating** pollinators during National Pollinator Week

Communities in Bloom and the Horticultural Society, along with local businesses (greenhouses, wineries conservation areas, etc) are already involved in achieving many of these goals.



# Bees aren't the only Pollinators!

Bees (native and honey) are not the only pollinators that are recognized and will benefit.

Other important pollinators include butterflies, birds, bats, wasps, flies, moths and beetles to name a few.





# Current Bee Cities in Ontario

Cambridge  
Brampton  
County of Simcoe  
Collingwood  
Midland  
Hamilton  
Orangeville  
Region of Waterloo  
Timmins  
Mississauga  
Barrie  
Orillia  
Richmond Hill  
Wellesley

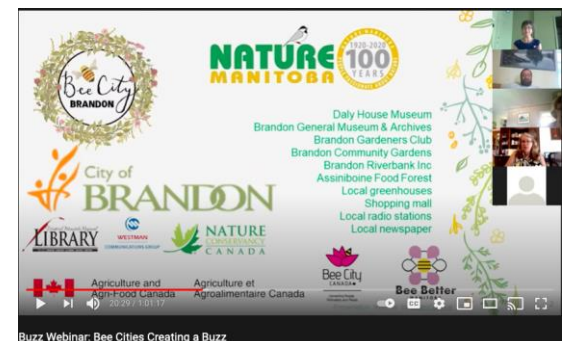
Richmond Hill  
Oshawa  
Guelph  
Ajax  
Newmarket  
Niagara Falls  
Waterloo  
Kitchener  
Whitby  
St Catharines  
Stratford  
Toronto

Kingsville would be the southernmost city to become bee/pollinator friendly.

# Bee City Benefits

Becoming a Bee City comes with many benefits:

- 1) **Learnings from *Bee City Canada* Community** – We will gain access to learnings from the many cities that are already working with Bee City Canada to protect pollinators within the constraints of our municipality. Bee City Canada will make it easier to find unique and practical solutions that work for our municipality.
- 1) **Inspiring *Our* Community** – Becoming a Bee City and promoting it through signage and press shows our citizens that we are serious about pollinator protection and inspires them to learn and take action with us.
- 1) **Thought Leadership from Bee City** – Resident pollinator experts will work to provide us with pollinator protection thought leadership in the form of webinars, consistent newsletters and more.



# Bee City Benefits

A Bee City begins conversations about:

- How to grow healthy food and the importance of biodiversity
- How to reduce and eliminate chemicals that are harmful to pollinators, our food and the planet.
- Raising awareness of the benefit of using native plants in habitat restoration (cost benefits in planting a pollinator garden vs lawns in water usage)
- Setting an example and inspiring residents with the knowledge that they have a role to play.
- The economic benefits of eco-tourism.
- Improving the city's municipal environment and the physical and mental health of the residents by connecting them with nature and encouraging healthy, clean food consumption. Healthy citizens = healthy, productive cities.



# Evolving with Our Needs

Support doesn't stop once we've become a Bee City. We are entering a partnership with Bee City Canada, who care deeply about our success.

Bee City Canada keeps in touch with Bee Cities to learn about their efforts, where they are hoping to go and how they can help them to get there. As a result of this, they are able to provide support and resources that address our evolving needs.





# How to Become a Bee City

To become a Bee City, here is what is needed:

- Select one or more municipal employees to serve as your Bee City Liaison(s) and have them fill out a Bee City application (<https://beecitycanada.org/bee-cities/application/>).
- Present the Bee City Resolution form [Resolution Form](#) your city council and have it signed by your mayor.
- Submit the Bee City application and signed Resolution form along with your city logo, photos (if available) and a 100-word write-up for social media to [applications@beecitycanada.org](mailto:applications@beecitycanada.org).
- Bee City Canada will review your application and notify you as soon as it is approved or if they have questions.
- Once approved, Bee City Canada will declare you a Bee City and provide a Declaration Certificate.
- As a Bee City, you are asked to **1) celebrate** being a Bee City through public awareness, **2) execute** your resolution to make an impact on your community and **3) record** your activities through a yearly renewal.





# Yearly Renewal

While there is no fee to become a Bee City (the first year is free), fees will be applied to annual renewals based on the size of our city. Fees are used to cover administrative costs, develop resources (e.g., webinars) and to organize virtual and (hopefully in the future) in-person regional Bee City gatherings.

They ask that we describe our efforts to protect pollinators in our yearly renewal. This allows them to stay up-to-date on what we are doing and offer support and resources that reflect our needs.

Based on Kingsville's population, annual fee would be \$200 and would be paid from the Communities in Bloom budget.

# Thank You!

Questions?

