



Welcome!

Thank you for your interest in the Schools in Bloom competition.

Schools in Bloom is a not-for-profit organization (charitable status pending) developed to stimulate pride and beautification at Ontario schools through a fun and friendly competition.

Formed only four years ago, over one hundred schools and thousands of students, teachers, parents and community members have participated in the Schools in Bloom Schoolyard Greening Competition.

All Ontario schools, from Kindergarten to Grade XII, are invited to enter the annual competition.

We provide a framework for schools to focus on five key areas of schoolyard improvement:

- ✓ Clean Up & Tidiness Effort
- ✓ Environmental Awareness
- ✓ Schoolyard Greening & Gardening
- ✓ Student & Community Involvement
- ✓ Curriculum Integration of Outdoor Spaces

Top-placing schools win bragging rights and a fabulous prize package including the school's very own student-decorated display planter showcased at the bottom of the world's tallest building and generous host of last year's awards - the CN Tower!

This application package provides program details, the benefits of participating and a step-by-step process on entering your school in this year's competition. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact us, as we would be most happy to assist you in the application process. The deadline for completed school entry forms is March 31, 2007.

Schools in Bloom thanks Scotts Canada, The CN Tower, Communities in Bloom - Ontario, and Ontario Gardener magazine for their support and generosity. Thanks also to the committed individuals, their communities and schools that have made Schools in Bloom a growing success.

Get ready. Get set. Go Schools! Enter the Schools in Bloom Schoolyard Greening Competition!

Good Luck!



“Our school community has never been so engaged in, and justifiably proud of, an initiative. Participating in the Schools in Bloom contest has been a great opportunity for our school to showcase our greening efforts within and beyond the curriculum!”

*Ralph Westgarth, Teacher, Elginburg P.S., Elginburg ON
A 2006 First-Place Winner*

The Benefits

The Schools in Bloom Schoolyard Greening Competition is much more than a contest. Schools in Bloom encourages students, teachers, parents, and the community to work together to create vibrant schoolyard environments.

Your school can use participation in Schools in Bloom to help:

- ✓ Foster school spirit & pride
- ✓ Develop beautification programs
- ✓ Revitalize schoolyards
- ✓ Encourage teaching gardens
- ✓ Preserve Canada's bio-diversity
- ✓ Create environmental awareness
- ✓ Strengthen neighbourhood ties
- ✓ Facilitate community involvement
- ✓ Improve quality of life
- ✓ Inspire budding leaders
- ✓ Learn from each other
- ✓ And have lots of fun greening!

The Evaluation

From the applications, schools with the most developed programs and plans will be advanced to the next level of competition: a visit from two Schools in Bloom judges in late May or early June 2007.

Schools selected for the advanced level of participation will be evaluated during an on-site school visit. These schools will receive a detailed report, including concrete recommendations and feedback for areas of continued improvement and recognition of school participation and accomplishments in the five key categories:

- ✓ Clean Up & Tidiness Effort
- ✓ Environmental Awareness
- ✓ Schoolyard Greening & Gardening
- ✓ Student & Community Involvement
- ✓ Curriculum Integration of Outdoor Spaces

The Process

Follow this step-by-step process to participate in this year's competition. There is absolutely no fee for entering or participating in the Schools in Bloom fun and friendly provincial competition.

- ✓ Speak with others in your school and community
- ✓ Receive approval from your school
- ✓ Send in your school's entry form by March 31, 2007
- ✓ Be sure to include answers to the five Schools in Bloom judging criteria questions
- ✓ Hear by May 1 whether your school has been selected for in-person evaluation
- ✓ Plan your evaluation visit (maximum 90 minutes)

ENTRY DEADLINE IS March 31, 2007

2007 Application



1. School Information

Please provide the following information.

****Please attach the judging criteria answers separately**

School name		
Principal		
School Phone	School Fax	
School Email		
School Mailing Address		
Grade Levels	Enrollment	School Board

2. Contact Information

Name	
Position	
Phone	Fax
Email	

3. School Programs

Write 75-100 words on each of the five Schools in Bloom judging criteria. The information provided will be used by an evaluation committee to short-list schools for visits by judges in June. There are a series of questions listed with each criterion, which should be considered in formulating your responses. Feel free to elaborate about your school's programs.

Clean Up & Tidiness Effort

Who is involved in keeping the schoolyard tidy? What initiatives are in place for the effort? Do students, staff, teachers and administrators work together to clean things up? Is the school involved in tidiness programs for the surrounding neighbourhood?

Environmental Awareness

Does the school have programs for recycling and composting? What is done to conserve water and electricity? What is the level of participation among students? Staff? Teachers? Administrators? How is everyone encouraged to participate and innovate?

Student & Community Involvement

How is the school involved in betterment programs for the community? How does the school draw the community into involvement in betterment programs for the school? Who is involved in community exchanges: students, administrators, staff, teachers parents, neighbours, businesses, others?

Schoolyard Greening & Gardening

What has been done and by whom to create a green and healthy outdoor environment for the school? Are gardening and planting projects in the schoolyard practical and ecologically sustainable? How are students involved in planning and executing projects?

Curriculum Integration of Outdoor Spaces

How are greening, tidiness, environmental and community programs integrated with the curriculum? How do classes use the outdoor spaces? How does the curriculum help with the development of environmental programs?

Optional Please tell us about the nature and character of your school; what makes your school unique? (100 words or fewer)

THANK YOU. A confirmation of receipt will be sent to you. You will be notified by May 1, 2007 whether your school has been selected for the judging tour. Judging will be confirmed during the first week of May.

Please send entry by March 31, 2007

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