



Celebrating Canada's 150th



**FOR
IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**

Surrey, B.C.,
October 2, 2017

BC Communities show their Canadian Pride

Surrey - On Thursday September 28th, 18 communities from all over the province were recognized in the British Columbia Communities in Bloom (BC CiB) program. Many participants chose to feature their Canada 150 projects that were created to commemorate this significant national milestone.

Deserving of special recognition are the evaluated participants, who annually presented their entire community to visiting BC CiB judges. The evaluation process supplies a focus and deadline to improve their community year after year. Achieving 4 and 5-Blooms is an amazing accomplishment of collaboration from municipal, business, residents and service groups.

The 14th Annual BC Communities in Bloom Awards Banquet was held in Abbotsford and has marked another successful year. Congratulations to all our 'in Bloom' participants who are making their hometowns be the best they can be through the Communities in Bloom program of "People, Plants and Pride...Growing Together".

2017 PROVINCIAL RESULTS		Mention or Project Name
Hope, District of	5-Blooms	Chainsaw Wood Carvings
Abbotsford, City of	4-Blooms	The International Friendship Garden
Lumby, Village of	4-Blooms	Working Together to make Lumby Strong
Whitehorse, Yukon, City of	4-Blooms	Whitehorse Municipal Compost Site
Sicamous, District of	3-Blooms	New Roundabout
Salmo, Village of	Novice	Where all Roads Lead Video
Cache Creek, Village of	Friend	Withdrawn from Evaluated due to Wildfires
Chetwynd, District of	Friend	Gazebo on Carver's Row and New Trail Lights near Rodeo
Kent, District of	Friend	Canada 150 Vimy Park Beautification
Sooke, District of	Friend	In progress
Fort St. John	Friend	In progress
Clinton, Village of	Showcase	Clinton Pioneer Cemetery
Fruitvale, Village of	Showcase	Railway Park
Lake Country Garden Club	Showcase	Canada 150 Floral Design
Burnaby, City of	Member	In progress
Castlegar, City of	Member	Castlegar in Bloom for Canada's 150
Coquitlam, City of	Member	Canada 150 Project and Protect our Pollinator Project
Mission, City of	Member	Mission CiB's Canada 150 Bloom Program

CRITERIA AWARDS	SPONSORED BY	WINNER
HERITAGE CONSERVATION	Teck Resources Limited	LUMBY
ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION	Urban Systems	WHITEHORSE, YT
CANADA 150 (evaluated)	BC Communities in Bloom	ABBOTSFORD

Special glass vase Criteria Awards were presented by our Gold Bloom Sponsors, whose financial support makes it possible for us to deliver the CiB program throughout the province.

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COMMUNITY CHAMPION AWARD - BC Communities in Bloom Sponsored

Darlene Kalawsky, was awarded the BC CiB Community Champion Award in recognition for her ongoing work in Castlegar and for her work at the Provincial and National levels of the Communities in Bloom organization.

Darlene was instrumental in starting Castlegar Sculpture Walk, which now has the designation of Sculpture Capital of Canada. She devotes time to many initiatives including Library Board, Rotary, Canadian Peony Society, Heritage Community Food Bank, SPCA, Concerts in the Park, Adopt-a-Road, Nature Fest, Fall Fair, Garden Tour, Royal Canadian Legion. Darlene also serves on the board of numerous non-profit organizations.

Darlene started the beautification of Castlegar when she joined CIB approximately 14 years ago. Her motivation and drive has pushed Castlegar to become a major tourist attraction. Darlene's tireless and selfless efforts do not go unnoticed by citizens of Castlegar, tourists and especially by her devoted Castlegar CIB volunteers. Congratulations Darlene on this much-deserved accolade!

BC'S NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL 5-BLOOM FINALISTS

Ashcroft, Castlegar, Coquitlam, Kamloops, Mission, Sun Rivers Golf Resort Community, Trail.

Congratulations to all our participants who have, no doubt, been challenged by the CiB program.

Starting with simple goals, a small group of volunteers and few resources, they are at the ground floor of building something worthwhile for their community.

For experienced CiB communities, reaching the 4 and 5-Bloom level is an accomplishment that recognizes all their hard work. Volunteers are the backbone of this program and each community's team efforts are a testament to how well "**People, Plants and Pride...Growing Together**" works!

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Download photos from the event from our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/cibbc>

BRITISH COLUMBIA COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM

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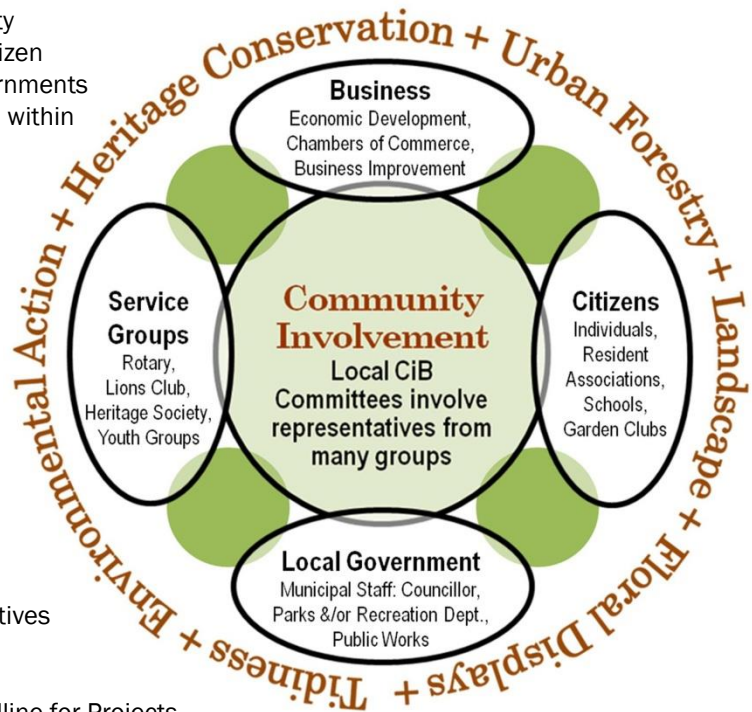
BACKGROUNDER

BC Communities in Bloom is a not for profit society administering the dynamic CiB program where citizen groups, organizations, businesses and local governments come together to ignite and unleash the potential within each community.

Because of this unique annual challenge, a new vibrancy and prosperity is reflected in the lasting legacies to our communities.

REASONS COMMUNITIES PARTICIPATE:

- Stimulates Community Energy & Pride of Place
- Encourages Tidiness & Beautification in Residential & Business Areas
- Networks Various Organizations with a Common Goal
- Promotes Excellence in Environmental Initiatives
- Catalyst to Inventory Community’s Assets
- Friendly Competition provides Focus & Deadline for Projects
- Evaluation Report is a Cost-Effective Measurement of Success



EVALUATION PROCESS & CRITERIA

During late July, on an agreed date, two judges assess the community on the accomplishments of four sectors: municipal, corporate, private and institutional within each of the essential criteria of Tidiness, Environmental Action, Heritage Conservation, Urban Forestry, Landscape (includes Turf & Groundcovers), Floral Displays and Community Involvement.

RESULTS

All participating communities receive a rating of one to five ‘Blooms’ (unless entered as first year rookie). Selected 5-Bloom communities receive an invitation to participate in the following year’s national program.

In addition to their rating, each BC CiB participant receives a comprehensive report, prepared by qualified judges. This report reviews the features and projects in each of the criteria areas that the community has undertaken and presented, and offers constructive comments and suggestions for the following year.

Of course, all participants are winners as they celebrate pride in their hometown with a program that recognizes their potential as resilient liveable communities!

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

Gold Bloom	Gold Bloom	Supporters
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- BC Landscape & Nursery Association and CanWest Horticulture Expo
- Bylands Nursery
- V.I.P Soaps
- Gardens British Columbia
- Invasive Species Council of BC
- BC Recreation & Parks Association