

PEOPLE, PLANTS AND PRIDE...

Growing Together

BC COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM NEWSLETTER

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- How to become an In Bloom Community
- Bee Friendly & Plant Something Contest
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BC Landscape & Nursery Association
BC Recreation & Parks Association
Sandman Hotel Group

BC Communities in Bloom

Suite 102 - 19289 Langley Bypass,
Surrey, BC V3S 6K1 (604) 576-6506

www.bccib.ca



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REGISTER FOR 2017



Photo Credit: Angie Bailey, District of Sooke



CONNECTION

Exchange ideas with other communities

PARTICIPATION

Engage citizens of all ages and abilities

BEAUTIFICATION

Enhance your community's quality of life

HOW TO GET STARTED

1. Download a Registration Form: www.bccib.ca
2. Choose a Participation Level: Novice or Evaluated.
3. Contact the Provincial Coordinator for more info
Catherine (604) 576-6506 or c.kennedy@telus.net

BC COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM

provides a framework for enhancing community liveability

REGISTRATION DEADLINE MARCH 31

for Novice, Evaluated and Non-Evaluated Categories



**Celebrating
Canada's 150th**





Celebrating Canada's 150th



How to become an in Bloom community

Who: any municipality, regional district or geographical area that forms a “community”

What: evaluation of criteria quality within Municipal, Business and Private Sectors

Where: trained CiB judges spend a full day in your community

When: mid July, this annual event supplies focus and deadline for participants

Why: showcases community while celebrating uniqueness, recognition for contributors

How: Register by March 31 to participate

Get Started Today!

REQUEST INFORMATION

Communities interested in participating will receive additional program information and registration form.

REGISTRATION

Upon confirmation, the community will receive a 'Getting Started' information package by email.

FORM A COMMITTEE

Include at least one member of the local government, citizens, businesses and service or heritage organizations interested in improving their community.

See page 6 for participation options as we also offer the Novice program to introduce the CiB program to a new or rebuilding team.

BUDGET

It is helpful to have some base funding or fundraising projects to cover the registration fee, promote your community's involvement, honour your volunteers and attend the provincial awards ceremony & conference. Hosting the judges is often supplemented with in-kind donations.

CRITERIA & EVALUATION FORM

Careful review of the evaluation form and sequence of the criteria is helpful in developing your judges' itinerary and Community Profile Book. A blank evaluation form is sent to each participant to confirm existing accomplishments and determine actions/areas for improvement. First time participants are encouraged to ask neighbouring CiB communities or contact the provincial office for help. Many participants use the first year to locate organizations already working in the criteria area and ask for their help in “ticking” the boxes or being available on the evaluation day.

FUNDRAISING IDEAS

Hold a garage sale, plant or vegetable sale, hanging basket/ planters for sale, organize a carwash, bake sale, silent or live auction, themed evening or offer as a group to do landscape maintenance for a donation to your CiB committee.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

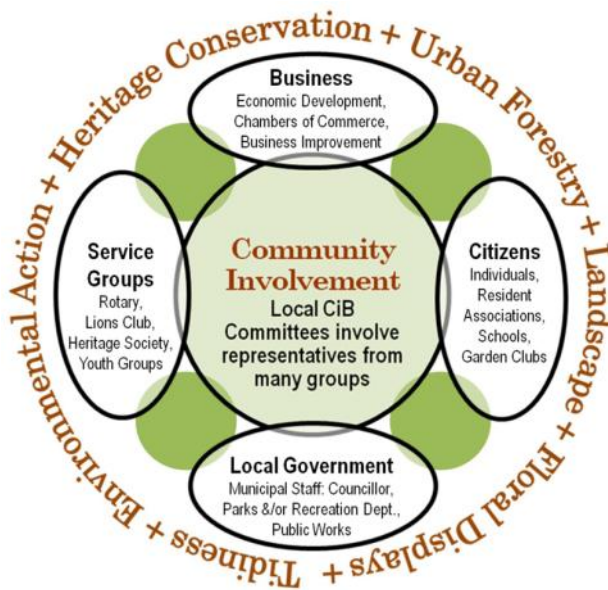
Participants involve a large segment of the community spanning all areas of the CiB criteria. Hold community wide contests offering donated prizes to the winners. Have a table at your local market days to promote volunteer sign-up for specific projects. Encourage “family” participation. Be visible, have fun, show your appreciation.

EVALUATION DAY

After the judging date is established the community is notified and given the names of the judges, and the lead judge's contact information.

- **Community Profile Book (CPB):** following the sequence of the evaluation form, your CPB serves as a tool to help the judges evaluate and understand parts of your community possibly not toured. A map of the community is helpful too. [A Municipal Information Form](#) is to be added to your book and will be sent with the CPB Guidelines handout. The CPB book may be used later as a marketing tool by the Chamber or Tourism offices.
- **Itinerary:** submit your proposed itinerary to the lead judge ideally two weeks ahead of the visit. The judges are happy to offer suggestions on how to maximize a tour that showcases all the evaluation criteria. A balance of some walking and driving is appreciated as you will want to show approximately 80% of your community.

- **Hosting the Judges:** the evaluation day is typically scheduled within the third week of July. In most cases you are asked to provide 2 nights for the two judges in separate rooms, at the same location (B&B's or Billeting if certain conditions can be met) Depending on the location of community, transportation for judges to and from the airport or nearby community may be requested if they do not have their own vehicle. Meals during the evaluation day are usually worked into your tour: e.g. Breakfast with committee, (don't forget 'water' stops) lunch and/or dinner with volunteers. If time permits, a wrap-up meeting the following morning is ideal with a few key people for the judges to ask their final questions before departure.



- **Welcoming the Judges the first night:** it is nice to plan an introduction meeting with your committee or an event that celebrates your community. Recognition awards for the local winners (Tidiest Business, Most Bee Friendly Residence, etc), or a volunteer appreciation ceremony to honour your volunteers (rather than the judges).
- Reminder regarding the second night in the community: Plan for quiet time (minimum 4 hours) after the tour so that the judges may review all they have been shown and told. This time is critical for the judges to provide constructive comments and suggestions.
- The judges will submit the completed evaluation to the Provincial office at the end of the tour. The final report and "bloom" rating certificate will be presented at the awards ceremony in the fall.
- Surveys will be sent to all provincial participants to evaluate your CiB experience.

BLOOM RATING

Typically communities spend 3 to 5 years working to achieve a 5-bloom rating. The "Bloom" rating is as follows:

- 0 to 55% = 1 Bloom
- 55 to 63 % = 2 Blooms
- 64 to 72% = 3 Blooms
- 73 to 81% = 4 Blooms
- 82% and over = 5 Blooms

PROVINCIAL AWARDS CEREMONY

The BC CiB Awards & Conference is held in the fall and hosted each year by a different British Columbian community. This event offers a chance to network with other communities while providing a great opportunity for judges and community representatives to attend educational workshops and showcase their achievements through Community Exhibits. At the Awards Dinner, Certificates and Reports are presented to all participants in addition to our sponsored Criteria Awards.

CRITERIA AWARDS

The purpose of these awards is to recognize outstanding achievements in a criteria. These awards are not based on population category nor do they reflect the overall bloom rating. Therefore, it is quite possible to be a Criteria Award recipient with 3 or 4 Blooms, based on particular achievements or creative initiatives in one of the criteria.

This year at least one of the criteria awards will recognize a Canada 150 project/event.

PHOTOS

Photography is critical for BC CiB to share information about your community. Participants submit 6 quality photos for the Website, Awards PowerPoint and Social Media. Photographs need to be digital, 1 MB minimum. Photo disclaimer: Submitted photos and entry documents give authorization to BC Communities

in Bloom to use at their discretion for program promotion.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROVINCIAL PARTICIPANTS

- Profile on www.bccib.ca with link to your website.
- Profile on National CiB website.
- Link to GardensBC website for all participants.
- Growing Together Newsletter (8 to 10 Issues)
- Community Displays at the BC CiB Conference & Awards
- Use of the Communities in Bloom Logo per the Logo Guidelines document.
- 5-Bloom Banners presented to Winners

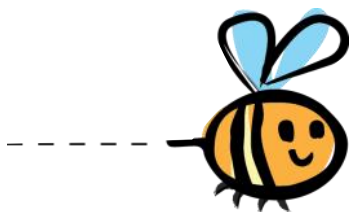
ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

- uses horticulture as the focus for community engagement (People, Plants and Pride...Growing Together)
- provides measurable results that serve as a baseline for future improvements
- CiB evaluation criteria is a tool to inspire change
- encourages networking and wider recognition for volunteer groups within the community
- showcases beautification initiatives which in turn inspires pride in hometown

www.bccib.ca

Contact: Catherine Kennedy, E.D.
c.kennedy@telus.net or (604) 576-6506

Final Note: our volunteers are specialists in horticulture, parks and recreation, community management and volunteer coordination; and represent all areas of the province. They are trained to deliver the CiB evaluation program and are passionate about sharing its many benefits.



PlantSomething is Buzzing with Bee Friendly Plants

Back for another year, PlantSomething 'Bee Friendly' educates gardeners on the importance of including pollen and nectar forage plants in their gardens. By using these plants in your garden you are helping to provide food for birds and bees around the province.

When selecting Bee Friendly plants you don't have to limit your garden to wild flowers, there is a wide selection of plants that provide pollen and nectar year-round. Look for the PlantSomething Bee Friendly logo in a participating Garden Centre or find a list of stunning Bee Friendly plants that you can add guilt free to your garden at www.PlantSomethingBC.ca. Check the website often as the list is constantly updated.

Plus! Show off your garden and community, enter to win a gardening prize worth \$250. Post a photo of a bee in your garden on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram with the hash tag #BCplants to be entered.

You put a lot of work into making your community bloom; take a moment to show it off. You deserve it!



Show Us How You Plant For the Bees!

Win a Wheelbarrow of Goodies



- Step 1: Find a garden centre at PlantSomethingBC.ca
- Step 2: Purchase your favourite BC grown plant.
- Step 3: 'Like' & 'Follow' PlantSomethingBC on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.
- Step 4: Enter by sharing a creative gardening photo using #BCplants.
- Step 5: Repeat!



Discover Bee Friendly Plants at PlantSomethingBC.ca

This project was funded in part by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the Government of British Columbia through the Agri-Food Futures Fund. This program is delivered by the Investment Agriculture Foundation of B.C.

DELIVERED BY



FUNDING PROVIDED BY



Upcoming Events:

- Ongoing - Accepting registrations for the 2017 Provincial Edition
- March 1 - BCRPA Spring Training HortDay: Catherine will be hosting a trade-show booth with HortEdBC
- **March 31 - Registration Deadline for Communities wanting to be Evaluated**
- **March 31 - Deadline for Novice**
- March 31 - Cut off for accepting new Judges
- April 22 - Judges Training Workshop, AGM and Golf Raffle Draw
- June 16 - National Garden Day with Garden Days June 8-16
- July 17-21 Possible Evaluation Dates for Provincial participants
- July 31 - Showcase Project Entries
- Sept. 27-28 - BC CiB Awards and CanWest Horticulture Expo

2017 PROGRAM REGISTRATION www.bccib.ca is now updated with 2017 program information. Applications being accepted. Deadline March 31. Evaluated, Novice & Friends Categories.

2017 MEMBERSHIP Become a provincial CiB member today. Show your support as a member or future judge! Contact Catherine

SAVE THE DATES SEPTEMBER 27 - 28/17

Provincial Awards Presentation

(more info to come) and the

CanWest Horticulture Expo

(Wednesday & Thursday) Tradex, Abbotsford.

Get inspired, enjoy the visual delights, see over 200 tradeshow booths, learn something new with session speakers or special symposium topics. New product showcase, Plant I.D. Contest, Outdoor Equipment Zone.

Special accommodation rates with shuttle to event. Tradex is at the Abbotsford Airport so this event is very accessible for communities around the province. (more info t/c as it comes available)

GOLF THE PROVINCE RAFFLE

Canada
BC Communities in Bloom
Collectivités en fleurs

Ticket Order deadline: March 31

TICKETS \$20 EACH - Each prize worth \$1000+

[More information on the website](#)

- First Place: First Choice**
- Second Place: Second Choice**
- Third Place: Third Prize**

[4 Rounds of golf with Cart for 2:](#)

- **2 Rounds in the Lower Mainland with one night accommodation and one dinner PLUS**
- **2 Rounds in one of three locations: Cariboo Chilcotin, Kootenays, or North Okanagan.**
- **Also with one night accommodation and one dinner**

Participation Options

REGISTRATION CATEGORIES	COST									
<p>NOVICE PROGRAM – First Year Audit</p> <p>This is an opportunity to have a face to face introduction to the CiB program criteria with your key stakeholders. No Evaluation Tour or Community Profile Book to organize, but be prepared to host a pair of BC CiB facilitators (meals with accommodation for 2-nights max.) and have 3 - 10 people ready to workshop.</p> <p>Facilitators will present a PowerPoint, show samples of Community Profile Books and view 3 evaluation criteria: i.e. Floral Displays, Landscape and Tidiness Efforts. A report will be created with some comments and suggestions for future efforts.</p>	<p>Fee dependent upon population size - see Registration Form</p> <p>(Email a request for additional information to c.kennedy@telus.net)</p>									
<p>EVALUATED PROVINCIAL EDITION</p> <p>Starting an 'In Bloom' committee will help create a valuable collaboration amongst your citizens, service groups, municipal staff and business owners.</p> <p>Evaluating six criteria, the report creates a benchmark score for future improvements. Participants are awarded a Bloom Rating Certificate and receive a written report at the Provincial Awards & Conference in the fall.</p> <p>This category also includes Mentoring for an experienced CiB community to help a new participant. Separate form and fee for each. Mentor Community will receive special recognition throughout the year.</p>	<p>Fee dependent upon population size – see Registration Form</p> <p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">ONLY CATEGORY ELIGIBLE TO WIN A CRITERIA AWARD</p>									
NON-EVALUATED										
<p>FRIENDS*</p> <p>For communities that want recognition for ongoing CiB initiatives but want to take time off from evaluation. Holds bloom rating one-year.</p> <p>*Bonus: this category is encouraged to provide a Showcase Project!</p>	<p>½ Fee dependent upon population size - see Registration Form</p>									
<p>PROVINCIAL MEMBERSHIP</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Individual</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">\$ 20</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Voting</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Showcase*</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">\$100</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Non-Voting</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Community*</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">\$500</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Non-Voting</td> </tr> </table> <p>- Newsletters (10+ issues/year) - Invitation to AGM (voting privileges for individual membership only) - Invitation to fall Awards and Conference - Entry point for judging (upon approved application)</p>	Individual	\$ 20	Voting	Showcase*	\$100	Non-Voting	Community*	\$500	Non-Voting	<p>As per the 2017 Membership Form (go to www.bccib.ca to download form and see additional benefits)</p>
Individual	\$ 20	Voting								
Showcase*	\$100	Non-Voting								
Community*	\$500	Non-Voting								
<p>SHOWCASE PROJECT* (non-evaluated)</p> <p>Profile for a specific project or geographical segment within a community. Open to everyone in British Columbia, submissions also accepted from other levels of CiB. Provide 100 words & 3 to 4 photos to be showcased in the provincial newsletter.</p>	<p>Fee: \$100 (go to www.bccib.ca to download form)</p>									
All Registered Participants will receive recognition on our Map, Press Releases, Website and Fall Awards										