

PEOPLE, PLANTS AND PRIDE...

# Growing Together

B.C. COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM NEWSLETTER

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BC Recreation & Parks Association

**BC COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM**

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[www.bccib.ca](http://www.bccib.ca)



## UPDATE 2020 BC CiB PROVINCIAL PROGRAM

Dear Friends,

The COVID-19 pandemic has created a truly unprecedented situation which affects us all. The purpose of this letter is to reach out and update you on this year's program. To ensure the safety of our communities and volunteers, **British Columbia Communities in Bloom** is cancelling the evaluation portion of the 2020 Provincial Edition. As the 'in Bloom' program is well established in all our current participants we know there are still things to be done, even if it is keeping the weeds at bay.

Both provincial and national Communities in Bloom organizations will continue to provide guidance, advice, and assistance to support all of 'our' communities with a 2020 Special Edition that will include showcasing our participants and to create some recognition opportunities as we journey back to a new way of doing things. Unfortunately, this also means this year's awards and conference event in Sicamous has had to be cancelled.

The Communities in Bloom program and all its wonderful elements are needed now more than ever. Please join us in sharing the great ideas that are happening in your communities. Let us celebrate resilience, flower power and food gardens; wherever we are allowed to, even if it is only from our front yards and balconies.

For 2020; all registered communities will become **Membership** communities (non-Evaluated), hold their bloom rating, with registration fees carried over to 2021.

For anyone else who is interested in Communities in Bloom this year, Membership is a great way to show your support for our provincial program and showcase some great features of your community. Membership also creates a way for us to identify future judges, board members and community participants.

Stay well and take care. Catherine

## FILE THIS UNDER “seemed like a good idea at the time!”

In February we announced:

**“BC Communities in Bloom introduces a **WELLNESS** theme for 2020** News reports profile the benefits of time spent in greenspaces and its positive effect on our mental and social well being. This year participants will be encouraged to show some of the ways their CiB program strengthens **WELLNESS**; from school & youth involvement, exercise groups in parks or even the volunteers who bond together to weed or plant a new garden. Never has it been so important to acknowledge how essential greenspaces and community engagement are to our health and happiness. ‘In Bloom’ communities are at the forefront of this changing awareness.”

As a result of the COVID-19 restrictions, we realize this will be a work in progress but as we start to find a new normal, we hope to recognize what our communities are doing in future newsletters and on social media. Send us some pictures and a few words about how your group is managing and we will share them in the newsletter and Facebook.



GaiaCollege.ca

Established in 2003, [Gaia College](http://www.gaiacollege.ca) offers a proven curriculum in [organic land care](http://www.gaiacollege.ca). We offer a range of organic horticulture and landscape design courses. Through Gaia, people around the world have learned how to design, install, and maintain landscapes to promote and preserve the health of the environment. To find out more information, please visit [www.gaiacollege.ca](http://www.gaiacollege.ca) Gaia College's upcoming online term starts on May 11th, the following is a link to our latest newsletter: <https://mailchi.mp/gaiacollege/news-from-gaia-college-march-2670482>



We know the important role our Communities in Bloom play and I am sure this year will be more important than most.

I am taking the opportunity to connect with our valued partners and pleased to inform you that we are manufacturing our full line up of Self-watering Desert Planters.

Link to the Full Catalogue:  
[www.DesertPlanters.com/catalog/](http://www.DesertPlanters.com/catalog/)

Proudly Communities in Bloom Official Supplier

If you need assistance, please do not hesitate to connect.

Sending my best to you and yours,  
Shannon Carson

Director: Desert Planters Division,  
Equinox Environmental  
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Cell: 204-688-2649 CAN: 1-800-665-7487  
[Sales@DesertPlanters.com](mailto:Sales@DesertPlanters.com) [Shannon@Eqnx.Biz](mailto:Shannon@Eqnx.Biz)

## LOOKING FOR SOME GARDEN INSPIRATION or ESCAPISM?

Most have Newsletters or Facebook pages to follow posts.

<https://www.gardendesign.com/>

<https://www.housebeautiful.com/>

<https://www.leevalley.com/en-ca>

<https://www.marthastewart.com/1504574/gardening>

<https://www.houseandgarden.co.uk/>

<https://www.bccib.ca/>

<https://www.communitiesinbloom.ca/>



# Membership <sup>2020</sup>

Recognize your CiB efforts and show support for the  
Provincial British Columbia Communities in Bloom Society

CATEGORY		POPULATION	FEE	AGM
<b>1</b>	Individual Member	1	\$20	Voting (or NV)
<b>2</b>	Community Member	up to 1000	\$50	Non-Voting
<b>3</b>	Community Member	up to 10,000	\$100	Non-Voting
<b>4</b>	Community Member	up to 20,000	\$250	Non-Voting
<b>5</b>	Community Member	20,001+	\$500	Non-Voting

## Membership Benefits

- Newsletters (10+ issues/year)
- Invitation to fall Awards and Conference
- Individual Members – AGM voting privileges, entry point for Board or Judging
- Community Members recognized on Website, Provincial Participants Map and GardensBC.
- Community Members Showcase Project: profiled in Newsletter (3 photos/100 words)

## POTENTIAL MEMBERS:

- Past, present or future ‘in bloom’ committees
- Communities or special interest groups with an interest in furthering the objectives of the BC Communities in Bloom society.

## LEGAL:

- Applicant must reside in BC to be a member or with permission from the BC CiB Board.
- Per the BC CiB Constitution and Bylaws our Board has the right of refusal.

[www.bccib.ca](http://www.bccib.ca)

Membership shows your support for the  
British Columbia Communities in Bloom Society

**Thank You!**

#__ Membership Category <input type="checkbox"/> Voting <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Voting (NV)	
Name of Individual or Community	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal?
City/Province/Postal Code:	
Contact Person	
Phone	
*Email (required)	
<input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____ Fee enclosed  <b>Fee payable to:</b> <b>BC Communities in Bloom</b> 19951 Fraser Highway Langley, BC V3A 4E2  <input type="checkbox"/> Please invoice, send form to: Fax (604) 574-7773 or c.kennedy@telus.net	<b>REQUEST FOR MORE INFO:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Judging or Board Member <input type="checkbox"/> Showcase Project <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Advertising <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsorship Program <input type="checkbox"/> Conference Hosting  <b>FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Paid or <input type="checkbox"/> Send Invoice  Invoice or receipt number: _____  Membership number: _____

## Coping with COVID-19

# What are you doing?

Are your CiB members looking for things to do?

- Encourage individual efforts to tidy up homes and neighbourhood areas
- Create a photo contest for tallest sunflower, most interesting planter creation, best front yard before & after, engage children in plant identification challenges.
- Encourage more vegetable growing
- Finding ways to show appreciation for local healthcare workers or care homes
- Asking for garden angels to help plant or maintain common areas
- Sharing information about how you support local businesses and government by following health safety guidelines with your CiB efforts?

# What is BC CiB doing?

- No Evaluations this year so all paid registration fees will be carried over to 2021. Communities will be considered Non-Evaluated and hold their previous year's bloom rating
- Creating opportunities to share ideas and good news stories from communities via our newsletter and Facebook page
- Encouraging wellness activities such as flower and vegetable gardening
- Supporting other provincial and national CiB organizations by sharing information
- Supporting sponsors and other provincial organizations with information sharing

2020 will be a year we will never forget. Let us work together to find common interests and passions for helping our communities to become better places to live, work and play.

Do you have a story or photos to share with others? Please send to Catherine at [c.kennedy@telus.net](mailto:c.kennedy@telus.net).