

Growing Together

GREAT PLACES

B.C. COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM NEWSLETTER

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Growing Great Places Together
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**Check out our
 2023 Provincial Edition Participants at
www.bccib.ca**

Community Profile: District of Hope and Hope CiB



Hope is a mountain town nestled at the edge of the Coast and Cascade Mountains. We are a natural gateway to the beauty of British Columbia. This area is at the confluence of the Fraser and Coquihalla Rivers as well as the hub for Highways 1, 3, 5, and 7. The local people, the Sto:lo (people of the river) have been hunter-gatherers for over 9000 years.

Today Hope is a vibrant and growing community. Our name says it all.

You can find more information about Hope's CiB group at: [Facebook.com/hopecommunitiesinbloom](https://www.facebook.com/hopecommunitiesinbloom)

Congratulations to Invermere and the Groundswell Network Society!

In late April, Scotts Canada Limited announced the 2023 Gro for Good Grants recipients in support of Community Gardens and Green Spaces across Canada.

This is the fifth edition of the program which aims to keep the spirit of community and connection to nature alive in Canada by providing grants to deserving communities, schools and non-profit organizations seeking to develop sustainable gardens and green spaces.

The recipients of the 2023 Gro for Good grants, valued at \$2,500, are:

1. Groundswell Network Society, Invermere, BC
2. Thorold Community Activities Group, Thorold, ON
3. Elmastukwek First Nation, Benoit's Cove, NL
4. NorWest Co-op Community Food Centre, Winnipeg, MB
5. Al Ritchie Community Association Inc., Regina, SK



Gro for Good™

As indicated in the grant program information, the recipients have the opportunity to compete in a contest to win an additional grant prize. We invite you to visit Scotts Canada's GroMoreGood Canada Facebook page to support the 2023 grant recipients by voting for your preferred garden in September 2023.

In partnership with Scotts Canada, Communities in Bloom, Plant · Grow · Share a Row, and Nutrients for Life applaud your efforts to enhance your community. We wish you a pleasant gardening season and encourage you to apply for a Gro for Good grant again next year.

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

Community Showcase – Coquitlam Inspiration Garden and Park Spark



Created in 2007, the Inspiration Garden began as a compost demonstration garden. Years later, the Inspiration Garden is now a dedicated hub for growing, supporting and connecting gardeners in the community. Coquitlam residents are able to have fun, get involved and learn new skills about gardening within a variety of programming and activities including workshops, tours and garden volunteer opportunities.

Inspiration Garden workshops for green thumbs of all ages

Participating in exciting garden workshops teaches new techniques, helps participants gain gardening experience and encourages people to get their hands dirty in the best possible way. Workshops are offered at various times during the day, evenings and weekends, so they're accessible to everybody. Workshops are available for all ages and abilities, vary monthly, and run from April through October.

School garden tours encourage teachers to bring students to the garden to get hands-on experience, explore, and learn about the benefits of gardening. School tours are offered throughout the school year and cover a wide range of topics including pollinators, composting, plant life cycles and life in the soil.





Drop-in opportunities allow the Coquitlam community to stop by the garden, get a tour, meet their neighbours, and interact with people at the garden; it's all about building a sense of community and the chance for people to connect and share common interests.

Enriching volunteer opportunities

The Inspiration Garden boasts over 120 active garden volunteers, ranging from experienced gardeners to people just starting out. With no obligation or commitment required, people are able to volunteer at

their own pace; just show up, have fun and get involved. Volunteers are able to share resources, gain gardening experience and learn about the importance and benefits of gardening.

There are also over 60 youth volunteers that come out to experience the garden. As part of the Youth Urban Garden team, youth get to learn a little bit about gardening, connect with their outdoor park spaces and gain volunteer experience they might need for school, while also having fun in a positive atmosphere, interacting with other youth.

The Inspiration Garden provides a space for people to "bee inspired", connecting the community to their outdoor park spaces and enhancing park experiences.

"Together with Park Spark, we can 'Bring Coquitlam Parks Alive!'"

