

PEOPLE, PLANTS AND PRIDE...

Growing Together

B.C. COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM NEWSLETTER

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BC COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM

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Registration Deadline Extension – May 21

The registration deadline for all British Columbia Communities in Bloom Program options has been extended to the third week in May.



Sicamous, BC – Hope is Growing

Submitted by Deb Heap, Sicamous CiB Chair

Big thanks to all the volunteers that came out Saturday.

Jeff, Gord and I were thrilled with the community support for the Clean Up, which was a huge success.

Over 40 volunteers came out to enjoy the beautiful spring weather and give the community a face lift. The bright yellow DOS / Communities in Bloom “Hope is growing” T shirts could be seen all around town.

Sicamous Bible Church and Sicamous Pickleball Club both had large contingents come out and our MLA Greg Kylo rolled up his sleeves and lent a hand. Bryant Laboret and his skid steer were a huge help with bush whacking and the Snow mobile clubs’ chain and brush saws made a big difference.

We also had great business support with Twin Anchors and Bayview Homes donating dump trailers and Ace Parkland Building Supplies giving us a great deal on pansies. As always DOS and AIM provided the supplies and signage.

Over 1300 KG of garbage and brush was collected from the roadsides. There was no charge as the CSRD provided volunteers with waivers for everything collected on the day. Volunteers weeded and planted the Senior's Housing Flower beds as well as sprucing up beds at the Legion, Red Barn and Fire Hall.

At the end of the event volunteers were treated to a physically distanced yummy bag lunch prepared by Judy and donated by the Legion. Unfortunately, Mayor Terry just missed us (we just worked so darn fast), but he asked me to pass on his appreciation and say how amazing things looked as he drove through town.

All in all, it was a great day.

We have several volunteers that help on an ongoing basis. I encourage them to wear the T shirts as we continue to pull weeds, plant, and pick up litter on your walks around town. People are noticing and you can see the improvements and increased pride in the community. I will be sure to post more pics on the Sicamous Communities in Bloom FB page.



Castlegar, BC – Plant a Little Hope – School Sunflower Campaign

Each year the Castlegar Communities in Bloom team tries to do a project with our local schools. This year, in midwinter, we had a Zoom meeting and tried to think of a way to make gardening fun for students within the confines of Covid-19 restrictions. We came up with the 'Plant a Little Hope' project which was enthusiastically received by teachers at all four elementary schools. We had planned to distribute 400 kits of sunflower seeds, pots, soil and planting instructions in brown paper bags, but schools asked for more, so we made as many more as we could. We were able to distribute 600.

Some of the package assembly was prepared at home by volunteers and then eight Communities in Bloom members met one Sunday morning. Masked, sanitized, and widely distanced at Kalawsky GM's drive through bay, we filled bags with potting soil and assembled everything into the paper bags. In just over two hours we completed the kits and put them into large bags ready for delivery to schools over the next few days. We now wait for progress photos from the schools and to eventually see cheerful sunflowers in many yards this summer.

We are grateful to West Coast Seeds for donating the seeds, Dig Garden Centre for donating all the pots and soil, Kalawsky's GM for the huge space and Clinton Communities in Bloom for the inspiration.

Team Leader Barbara (in pink), Coordinated School program Plant A Little Hope.



Encourage Perseverance and Celebrate Small Victories

Join the program that helps focus your community's efforts to network and engage many levels of your municipality.

Registered participants receive access to provincial and national information sessions, symposium sessions throughout the year.

[Modified Evaluation](#)* is the only category eligible for the Criteria Awards.

[Novice](#)* is a great first step into the Communities in Bloom program.

[Friends](#)* category profiles your involvement in CiB.

*Modified Evaluation, Novice, and Friends registration form [here](#).

Other Ways to Participate

[Showcase](#) your local group or neighbourhood project.

[Individual Membership](#)

Lay the groundwork for full participation in 2022

Added Benefit

2021 provincially registered participants are invited to join in on some educational sessions hosted by National Communities in Bloom with the first one happening on May 6. Catherine will be in touch with our registered communities.

Some of the gorgeous Spring Daffodils from last year's fall bulb fundraiser!



NEWS FROM NATIONAL



PLANT, SNAP & SHARE!

DETAILS FOR PARTICIPANTS:

Register your garden below.

Plant your Hope Garden, take a photo of it, share it on social media and ask your friends to do the same!

Tag @CiBCef(Instagram) or @communitiesinbloom (Facebook) and use the hashtag #HopeisGrowing to spread hope across Canada in 2021!

AND: if you enjoy a little friendly competition, once you've completed PLANT, SNAP & SHARE, then enter: THE HOPE GARDEN CONTEST

CONTEST STEPS

1. Register your garden at www.HopeisGrowing.ca
2. Download the official Hope is Growing garden sign.
3. Include Hope is Growing signage in your garden.
4. Post your Hope is Growing photo on social media (Facebook or Instagram), tagging @CiBCef (Instagram) or @communitiesinbloom (Facebook) using hashtags #HopeisGrowing and include your category hashtag:
 - Residential Small Garden, 500 sq ft and under (i.e. balcony, townhouse): use #CiBResidentialSmall
 - Residential Medium Garden, 500-1500 sq ft: use #CiBResidentialMedium
 - Residential Large Garden, 1500+ sq ft: use #CiBResidentialLarge
 - Residential Professional Garden, designed/installed by a Landscape Horticulture Professional: use #CiBResidentialProfessional
 - School Garden: use #CiBSchoolGarden
 - Public Garden (i.e. Public Garden, Long Term Care Home, Hospital, Church, University/College): use #CiBPublicGarden
 - Children's Garden: use #CiBChildrensGarden

DATES FOR POSTING PHOTOS:

- May 1st 12:01 am EDT to August 31st 11:59 pm EDT
- The contest is open to all individuals across Canada.
- No product purchase is necessary – simply help us spread hope with your gardens in 2021!
- A draw for each category and one grand prize winner will be held on October 7th 2021.



ORDER T-SHIRTS WITH LOGO - Before May 26

2021 Hope is Growing T-Shirt Order Form

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5YC2HRH>



Celebrate Compost Week

Compost Awareness Week was first created in 1995 with the belief that if all of us shouted at once, the chance of being heard was great.

Our message was and continues to be simple: COMPOST!

This one word can be interpreted many ways – from backyard composting, vermicomposting, on-site or centralized composting as well as anaerobic digestion, with the digestate being composted post the energy draw.

The benefits of compost are very real – from landfill diversion gains of up to 50% and landfill methane emission reductions, healthier and more productive soils, water conservation and quality enhancements and increased nutritional value of food crops grown.

All this through the simple, thoughtful act of recycling your organics instead of sending them for burial in the landfill.

[Read more...](#)