

# Growing Together

GREAT PLACES

B.C. COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM NEWSLETTER

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## Meet our Board Members and Judge Volunteers

### Volunteer Biographies

Our BC Communities in Bloom program would not be possible without the talented group of volunteer judges & directors who represent the province. With a variety of horticultural backgrounds or experience in their own community's CiB program, our judges bring a wealth of knowledge to your community.

### Chair

#### Floortje Molenaar – Peachland - Garden Centre

Floortje moved to Canada from the Netherlands in 2006. While working for Plant Publicity Holland she was involved with Entente Florale, the Dutch and European equivalent of Communities in Bloom. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Landscape Architecture and Environmental Management with a major in landscape management. She joined us in 2017 and is a judge.

### Vice Chair and Secretary

#### Kerry Bysouth – Chilliwack - Retired

Kerry retired from the District of Mission in 2016 as their Parks and Facilities Manager. He has over 46 years of experience and was very involved in Mission's CiB efforts. Kerry joined us in 2019 and is one of our judges.

### Treasurer

#### Shirley Fowler - Armstrong - City Councillor

Shirley is in her 19th year as an Armstrong City Councillor, is a 14-year Director with the Regional District of the North Okanagan, Chair of the Okanagan Sterile Insect Release Board as well as Chair of Armstrong in Bloom. Shirley previously was landscape maintenance contractor for the City of Armstrong for 12 years, while operating Fowler Gardening. She has been with BC CiB as Past Board Chair and is currently Treasurer. She has been with us since 2008.

#### Yvette May – Clinton - Retired Nurse

Yvette enjoys gardening and is a passionate supporter of Clinton's CiB community improvement efforts. She has been involved with the provincial organization since 2012 as a judge, board member and chair.

#### Darlene Kalawsky – Castlegar - Business Owner

Darlene Kalawsky is VP of the Kalawsky Automotive Group. She has been involved with Castlegar CIB program since 2006, and passionately supports the changes that CIB makes in communities across Canada. Darlene is a judge and former Chair and has been with the BC CiB organization since 2012. She also sits on the national CiB Board and is chair of the Provincial Liaison Committee.

### **Edward Stanford – Fort St John - Urban Planning Consultant**

Edward is a municipal government consultant specializing in urban design, governance and community planning. Edward has been involved in the local Fort St John Communities in Bloom committee since 2000 and a BC CiB board member since 2011.

### **Ali Double – Nanaimo - Business Owner**

Alison has been 'In Bloom' since 2004. She has participated in the Bloom competition in the UK; being Lead Coordinator for her town's entry into the competition and as a regional judge to evaluate other entries. Since her move to BC in 2010 she has judged for BC CiB, served as a Board Member as well worked in horticulture.

### **Linda Tomlinson – Kelowna – Retired**

Linda is an experienced judge from Alberta and the National CiB Program and in 2020 she moved to Kelowna. She is a graduate of Olds College landscape program and has written for the Alberta Gardener. Currently published in the Red Deer Advocate, the Mountaineer and Brooks Bulletin.

### **Heather Doheny – Kelowna - Retired**

Heather has been a member and strong supporter of BC CIB since 2009; on the Board and privileged to be a Judge 2014 through 2016; and pleased to be back on the Board this year.

She was an active participant on the West Kelowna and Westbank First Nation CIB Committee from 2008

through 2016. As well she is a retired Master Gardener, active community volunteer, and compost nerd...and is well known as the Okanagan Lazy Composter!

### **Tom Meyer – New Westminster – Business Owner**

Tom is a new judge this year. Tom has over 35 years of experience in the Landscape Design and Build industry. With a number of years spent administering programs and working on committees with the BC Landscape & Nursery Association. Tom has been a judge for BCLNA provincial and CNLA national landscape awards of excellence. Tom has a BA from Queens University, Certificate of Landscape Architecture from Ryerson Polytechnical and studied horticulture at University of Guelph.

### **Anne Kulla – Surrey – Business Owner**

Anne is the owner of a landscape design/install/maintenance company in Surrey and has her diploma of Horticulture from Kwantlen and her ISA Arborist certification. She has volunteered with the BC Landscape and Nursery Association since 2006 and is passionate about horticulture. She pleased to join CiB as a judge.

### **Catherine Kennedy – Langley - Executive Director**

Catherine has been involved with the provincial CiB program on a part-time contract since 2004. Her education and work experience in Graphic Design and Horticulture/Landscape Design all have helped in the day-to-day coordination of this amazing community enhancement program.



Left to right: Edward, Shirley, Mary, Heather, Linda, Kerry, Yvette, Darlene, Floortje, Anne, Tom, Allie, with Catherine behind the camera... 😊.



## Clinton CiB Showcase 2023

Susan Swan, Chair

Members of the Clinton CiB Beautification Society have planted the Village planters for several years. This year it was apparent that we were going to need some help as several of our members were not available.

Following the theme of the 2023 annual parade, "Spirit of Clinton - a community that pulls together to get things done" a call went out for help.

On the appointed day, Mrs. Karen Miller brought the grade four, five and six students down from David Stoddart School to help. It was drizzling rain, but these enthusiastic helpers got right to work. They dug and pulled weeds and planted flowers in the two desert planters in Reg Conn Centennial Park and the three outside the Dog Park. They also dug and pulled out two garbage bags of weeds from the big circle bed (formerly a wading pool) in the park. This one will be left unplanted this year to get the weeds under control.

With their assistance and that of my son, we got all 14 Village planters planted before the parade on the last weekend of May. The planters look great, and the students have proudly been keeping an eye on the ones they planted.

They certainly did their part in pulling together to get things done. We were very grateful for their assistance. It appears that we have some budding (no pun intended) gardeners in the group.





Pairs of Judging Teams are heading out next week to view our evaluated participants. Good luck 100 Mile House, Armstrong and Hope!

Reminder to our Friends Non-Evaluated Communities, Showcase entries are due anytime before the end of August.

