

# Growing Together

GREAT PLACES

B.C. COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM NEWSLETTER

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## Lookin' Good B.C.

Hey Facebook people, we are sharing photos of people, plants and pride that are looking good this summer from all around our province.

In our travels this summer we have seen many communities that have lovely community gateway signage or plant displays that deserve some recognition.

Send us your photo:

Via Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/cibbc>  
or tag us at @bccommunitiesinbloom or  
email to Catherine at [c.kennedy@telus.net](mailto:c.kennedy@telus.net)

## Shout out to some fabulous communities we saw this year:

Lumby

Vernon

Kelowna

Summerland

Penticton

Peachland

Langford

Campbell River

Courtney

Comox

And of course, all our CiB communities: 100 Mile House, Abbotsford, Armstrong, Castlegar, Coquitlam, Hope, Kitimat, Prince George, Qualicum Beach, Sicamous, Trail, Clinton!



Parksville display garden submitted by a friend in Qualicum Beach!



Armstrong - from this year's evaluation tour with judges Darlene Kalawsky and Anne Kulla.



**Well done to all our participants and volunteers,  
it is lovely to see how well you are  
'growing great places together'!**



100 Mile House - from this summer with judges Kerry Bysouth and Tom Meyer.



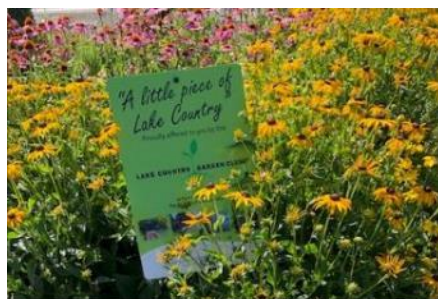


Hope - from Judges Allie Double and Linda Tomlinson.





## Community Showcase – “Little Piece of Lake Country” Xeriscape, Pollinator, and Gateway Garden



This community building garden project is a partnership between the Lake Country Garden Club (LCGC) and District of Lake Country (DLC). It is located directly adjacent to Highway 97 at the North entry point to Lake Country. Hence it also being a Gateway Garden.

DLC provides the land; irrigation, repair, and upgrade; mulch annually; insurance coverage; and mowing. LCGC provides plants, and Club volunteers do the garden maintenance on a schedule. Fall 2023 may include DLC's addition of a tree, and a park bench (supplied by LCGC) plus more interactive public learning experiences.

The garden began in 2017 as our Canada 150 Celebration Garden, with red/white annuals, but was transformed to xeriscape perennials in 2018. Okanagan College Horticulture students produced garden designs and one was selected. Plants were sourced locally from Kel Lake Nursery and Okanagan Xeriscape Association plant sale. There are spring bulbs, plants for pollinators... and some plants for winter interest.

In 2019 the District installed Russell fencing and an amazing Bug Hotel. Then COVID 19 hit! 2022 saw the Bug Hotel filled... with contents to be changed annually. In spring 2023 two members of the Garden Committee worked with children from a nearby after school daycare making paper tubes which the children added to the Bug Hotel. LPLC was one of 9 gardens on our 2023 public Garden Tour.

In 2023, the Garden Committee Lead met with DLC Parks to design permanent pollinator signage for the Bug Hotel. In July 2023 the colour signage was paid for and installed by DLC and adds so much to the setting. It is a draw for community members and visitors alike, visible from Hwy 97 and the Okanagan Rail Trail entry point beside the garden. The garden has 3 bright orange “Make Water Work” signs provided by the Okanagan Basin Water Board. While we tend “Little Piece of Lake Country”... many motorists honk and wave appreciatively as they drive by.





## Community Showcase – A Pollinator Garden added to Berwick Qualicum Beach's Retirement Community!

Spurred by the last year's recognition of our tea garden, Berwick residents were excited to bring an intergenerational approach to complement the town's theme of highlighting youth as the stewards of our environment.

Our exciting new project was intergenerational, bee-friendly, and beautiful!

This spring we worked with our local Guiding Group of Rangers to create both mason bee homes and a garden to support them. The Rangers presented a slide show informing us about mason bees and flowers, and together we assembled and decorated the bee houses which were mounted in our courtyard. The day our bees arrived was very exciting!

Our tea garden had some space, so together we planted bee and butterfly friendly perennials that the Rangers had told us about. To Bee Balm, a



known old favourite, we added a few such as Helen's Flower that we learned about during the Ranger's introductory presentation.

Each week residents have been tending the plants and have enjoyed playing 'spot the mason bee'! To our surprise, a few of the bees have made new homes in some decorative bamboo on a resident's balcony. If you look closely in one of the pictures you will catch a glimpse of painted bee decorations. They were added from the town's earlier days of competitive Communities in Bloom participation.

We look forward to sharing this project with a new 'crop' of Rangers this fall, when they come to help us put the bees to bed for the winter.

Submitted by Marlys Diamond,  
Member BC Communities in Bloom

