

PEOPLE, PLANTS AND PRIDE...

Growing Together

B.C. COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM NEWSLETTER

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BC COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM

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Communities in Bloom

More Than Just Flowers

Since 2006, I have been given the opportunity to judge communities in Saskatchewan, Ontario and now BC. And, without a doubt, nearly every time I mentioned to my neighbours or friends that I was leaving on my annual judging tour they would say “off to judge flowers again, are ya?”. This was always the segway for me to explain to them the true purpose of the CiB program.

Judging for Communities in Bloom is more than just judging flowers. Those communities who have been long time participants in the program know this very well. *I always looked at the word ‘bloom’ as a metaphor for community pride, development and promotion.* This is reflected in how your communities are judged. Yes, we judge floral displays, landscaping and urban forestry which you might consider a flower-like category, but our evaluation of a community goes much beyond that.

Forty-five percent of the score given to a community addresses three categories, community tidiness and appearance, environmental awareness, and heritage and natural conservation. And, from my experience, these categories are the ones most often overlooked. In my opinion, this is where a community can lose or gain a ‘bloom’ on their final score. The local CiB committee needs to consider this when recruiting committee members and in preparing the Community Profile Book. Design the judges’ tour to showcase these categories and ensure that we get to meet community representatives that can best describe what has been happening respective to these categories. This is also an excellent opportunity to involve First Nations communities.

Personally, this what I look forward to seeing. I like museums, visiting heritage buildings, historical sites, recycling facilities, community gardens, walking nature trails and exploring wetlands. To me, a community’s appearance is also part of first impressions that was mentioned by Kerry Bysouth last month. Seeing today’s litter doesn’t bother me. It is garbage that has been accumulating for days that reflects poorly on one’s community. Please remember, every effort to create a tidy community counts.

I’m sorry that my fellow judges and I are not able to visit your community this summer. Keep the CiB spirit alive and vibrant in your community and we’ll see you in 2021.

Bruce Hobin, Osoyoos

2020 SHOWCASE PROGRAM



British Columbia Communities in Bloom has announced a "Bloom Where You're Planted" recognition program for individuals, communities, and neighbourhoods of all sizes.

This is an opportunity to acknowledge and support our participants and volunteers in unique ways while staying right where we are! Showcase a place or a space, a garden helper or how you are using CiB to make a better home, community, and world!

How to Get Involved:

- Register in the appropriate population category before **SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**
- Submit a **Grow where you're Planted Showcase Entry: 3 photos and a 100-word description.**

Details:

- Profile new CiB engagement or recognize special groups already working hard in your community.
- All entries will be featured in the BC CiB Growing Together Newsletter as they are received.
- All entries will receive a special recognition certificate.
- All photos submitted will be entered into a contest to win a prize and will be reviewed by a panel of BC CiB judges. 3 winners will be chosen.
- Photos submitted must be from the 2020 season, please submit 3 of your best photos with full rights in high resolution (a minimum of 300dpi at print size or a minimum weight of 800kb). These photos will be used by BC Communities in Bloom for the promotion of your community and BC CiB Program.



Judge's Corner

Being a judge with Communities in Bloom oftentimes is a humbling experience. We are welcomed into communities and shown a wide array of what each community has to offer. We are looked after very well, get to meet with friendly, passionate people who are the heart of the communities making Communities in Bloom come alive. Most of the communities I have evaluated, I had driven through on my way to other places. Never thinking to stop and take a look around. I can assure you that every community part of Communities in Bloom is worthwhile checking out!

The heart of Communities in Bloom, People, Plants and Pride Growing Together, really come to life when a local CiB Group has participants from municipal government, businesses within the community, community groups and individual residents. You find this back in our evaluation grid. While we cannot do any in person evaluations this year, it may be an opportunity for our participating communities to have a close look at the evaluation criteria and check where your areas of improvement are. Maybe it is growing your volunteer base, or starting conversations with your local chamber of commerce, municipal government, gardening groups, schools etc.

To the communities I have had the pleasure to evaluate I would like to say: thank you so much for your hospitality, the wonderful tours and friendship!

Floortje Molenaar, Peachland



Photos Bottom left: Sicamous
Top right: Clinton, Cougar Canyon
Bottom right: Bowen Island