

Growing Together

GREAT PLACES

B.C. COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM NEWSLETTER

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AWARD RESULTS FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM

Results were announced September 25th for all BC CiB participants and have been posted to the website at <https://www.bccib.ca/blog>

Congratulations to the District of Hope and the Hope CiB team who received 5-Blooms and a special Golden Garden Gnome trophy for Outstanding Community Involvement. Also receiving special criteria recognition were the District of 100 Mile House for Community Appearance and the City of Armstrong for Plant and Floral Displays.



Mrs. Shirley Fowler was recognized by the BC CiB Directors as our 2023 Community Champion for her work in her community and on behalf of the Provincial CiB organization.



Participants in the Communities in Bloom program celebrate excellence in greenspaces and social

engagement. The BC CiB program provides a proven process to help engage, and activate your residents, service and business groups around a positive message of 'Growing Great Places Together'.

Check out SLIDE SHOW of this year's 2023 BC Communities in Bloom participants at [PROVINCIAL AWARDS](#)



Armstrong Councillors Ryan Nitchie and Shirley Fowler receiving the Plant and Floral Display Criteria Award sponsored by Teck from BC CiB Director Edward Stanford and E.D. Catherine Kennedy.



100 Mile House Mayor Maureen Pickney (on right) receiving the Community Appearance Criteria Award sponsored by Urban Systems from BC CiB Director Shirley Fowler.



BC CiB Director Heather Doheny presenting a showcase certificate to Silvaanah, Lake Country Garden Club's Garden Committee Chair.

The inaugural Golden Garden Gnome for Outstanding Community Involvement went to the District of Hope for their amazing group of dedicated volunteers! Mayor Victor Smith accepts on their behalf.



Community Showcase – Town of Qualicum Beach – The Brant Wildlife Children's Festival

The Brant Wildlife Children's Festival (BWCF) held at Arrowview Elementary School on April 5, 2023, was a remarkable event that underscored the essence of community collaboration.

Orchestrated by the Qualicum Beach Streamkeepers (QBSK) as a pivotal segment of the Brant Wildlife Festival, the BWCF became a vibrant platform for students from School District 69 to exhibit their burgeoning leadership skills while highlighting their passion for environmental stewardship.

The event showcased the diverse spectrum of knowledge that SD69 students, ranging from preschoolers to high school scholars, had acquired about nature, wildlife, climate, and the intricate cycles of life. This experiential learning was underscored by the presence of local community groups that shared similar missions, fostering an environment of shared dedication.

Arrowview Elementary Students (AES), together with their dedicated teachers and staff, demonstrated an impressive commitment by crafting displays, art installations, and interactive games. Their enthusiasm bridge the gap between classrooms and the community, fostering a collective sense of responsibility for the environment.

Parents, families, and the public were offered a unique insight into the students' earnest devotion to preserving nature, paralleling the community groups' endeavors.

The Brant Wildlife Children's Festival, propelled by the collaborative spirit of QBSK, SD69 students, and local community groups, not only celebrated education but also fostered an enduring sense of communal harmony centered around environmental consciousness.

For a video of the event visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JEZ3vyyuDY4>



The Brant Wildlife Festival celebrates nature, particularly Brant geese as they rest and feed on the shores of Parkville and Qualicum Beach.

SD69 students will have their work on display alongside educational displays and games by the Qualicum Beach Streamkeepers and other local community groups.

April 5, 2023
3:00 - 5:00pm

Arrowview Elementary School
650 Bennett Road
Qualicum Beach
Entrance by Donation

**BRANT
WILDLIFE
FESTIVAL**

**QUALICUM
STREAM
KEEPERS**



For more, check out the Brant Wildlife Website



Community Showcase – Town of Qualicum Beach – Global ROAMS

The following submission was written by a local 15-year-old student, chosen by his teacher at Kwalicum Secondary School (KSS), to demonstrate the power of active learning.

“Global ROAMS (Rivers, Oceans, and Mountains School) has been a transformative journey for me as a student, immersing me in outdoor education and environmental science. Through the Youth Action Project, I had the opportunity to make a noticeable difference in my community.

For my project, I participated in a tree-planting initiative at Grandon Creek, where we planted an impressive 570 trees. Our goal was to restore and preserve the local ecosystem, and it was awesome to be a part of a project that can make a positive impact.

The experience showed me a deep appreciation for nature and highlighted the power of collective action. Each sapling represented our dedication to environmental dedication and our commitment to a sustainable future.

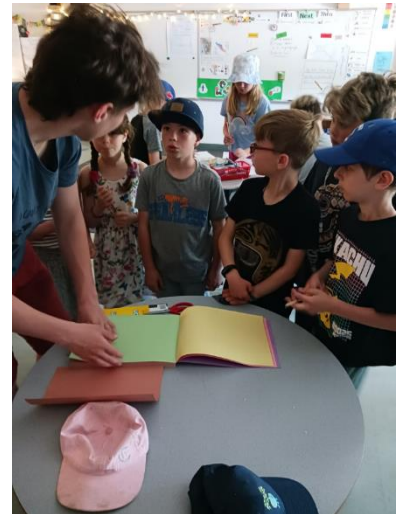
While my project focused on tree planting, I was inspired by my peers' initiatives. Some raised funds for the North Island Wildlife Recovery Centre, supporting the rehabilitation of injured animals. Others collaborated with Rotary for garbage an Earth Day clean-up event, enhancing cleanliness and protecting wildlife and two groups went to local elementary schools to teach them about protecting our environment.

Global ROAMS broadened my horizons, highlighting the interconnectedness of our world. It equipped me with many valuable skills and a deep sense of responsibility to protect our environment.

Through this program, I became an informed global citizen and a speaker for sustainability. Global ROAMS empowered me to make a difference, showing that small actions, like planting trees, can create significant positive change.

I am grateful for the opportunity to be a part of Global ROAMS, for the unforgettable experiences, lifelong connections, and knowledge gained. Together, we can create a brighter future for our planet, one tree at a time.

Mason Lewis (Grade 10) Kwalicum Secondary School”



Community Showcase – Town of Qualicum Beach - Mindfulness in May

Mindfulness in May is an annual youth exhibition in Qualicum Beach featuring fine art and literary art from young artists in grades 6 to 12, registered in School District 69. The 2023 theme was “The Art of Nurturing Nature”.

This exhibition was a combined effort of a local visual artist Diane Moran, and sponsorship from MLA Adam Walker, Rotary, Vancouver Island University, School District 69, and the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Reserve. “The theme, The Art of Nurturing Nature excites everyone, but for youth it has special appeal because it is also their future”, said Diane.

Jordyn Murphy was a youth artist who received the Senior prize for both art and literary categories and Peoples Choice!

“My inspiration for the painting was the indigenous concept that women are the ultimate givers of life, and I wanted to symbolize the relationship between motherhood and nurturing nature.

As for my poem, “Nature’s Call” was written about my best friend, Teela Daniher. She is constantly striving for the right thing, and is often organizing and involving herself in beach cleanups and tree planting. This topic really struck my interest when I considered that at my age, I could very likely experience absolute climate collapse.

*“Nurturing Nature, a solemn vow to keep,
For a youthful girl, it's a promise that runs deep.
She tends to the earth with gentle care,
Nature's preservation, her mission to share.”*

I think that companies should be held to higher standards in regards to what they’re doing to our planet. “Profits over Planet” is a concept we need to rethink.”

