

Growing GREAT PLACES Together

B.C. COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM NEWSLETTER

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Provincial Communities In Bloom Award Results

On September 29th in a zoom presentation, BC Communities in Bloom (BC CIB) awarded Certificates, 5-Bloom Street Banners and Criteria Trophies to this year's municipal and community participants.

Congratulations to first time 5-Bloom recipient Sicamous, as well as Clinton and Hope who have been multi-year recipients of 5-Blooms. 4-Blooms were awarded to Armstrong and 100 Mile House who continue to grow in the CiB Program. Also recognized were Qualicum Beach, Parksville, Coquitlam, Nanaimo, and Abbotsford as a Friends non-evaluated participant. As well, five Showcase projects from various community groups were also recognized with certificates. For a complete list of this year's participants please see page 2.

Congratulations to all our contributors who have, no doubt, been challenged by the events of the last few years. Recovery and resilience are clearly on display for these Communities in Bloom participants.

Achieving 4 and 5-Blooms is an incredible accomplishment of collaboration from municipal, business, residents and service groups all ***"Growing Great Places Together"***.



BC has created a special Year of the Garden Criteria Award to be presented in Victoria Oct 22.



Last Chance to Register
CiB National Symposium & Awards
Plan your Visit to Victoria
October 20-23

We are looking forward to celebrating all our provincial participants at this event!



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Langley, B.C., September 30, 2022

Celebrating commUnity Success

Congratulations to all our participants who have, no doubt, been challenged by the events of the last few years. Recovery and resilience are clearly on display for these Communities in Bloom participants.

On Thursday evening September 29th, Certificates, 5-Bloom Street Banners and Criteria Trophies were awarded to participants in the BC Communities in Bloom program at the 18th Annual Provincial Awards. This year there were three 5-Bloom winners: congratulations to first time recipient Sicamous, as well as Clinton and Hope who have been multi-year recipients of 5-Blooms. Armstrong and 100 Mile House continue to grow with 4-Blooms!

Achieving 4 and 5-Blooms is an amazing accomplishment of collaboration from municipal, business, residents and service groups. Congratulations to all our 'in Bloom' participants who are making their communities be the best they can be through the nationwide Communities in Bloom program of *"Growing Great Places Together"*.

2022 PROVINCIAL EDITION	RESULTS	Mention or Project Name
Clinton, Village of	5-Blooms	Clinton and District Outdoor Sportsman Association
Hope, District of	5-Blooms	Earth Day Recycling Program
Sicamous, District of	5-Blooms	Eagle Valley Resource Centre
100 Mile House	4-Blooms	Birch Avenue Plantings
Armstrong, City of	4-Blooms	Small Town Charm, Heritage Character and Spirit
Abbotsford, City of	Friend	Non-Evaluated + National Finalist
Coquitlam, City of	Friend	Tree Spree + National Finalist
Nanaimo, City of	Friend	Non-Evaluated
Parksville, City of	Friend	Welcome to Parksville Garden
Qualicum Beach, Town of	Friend	Beach Creek Estuary, Marine Spit & Memorial Ave Restoration
Marlys Diamond - QB	Showcase	Qualicum Beach CiB Legacies, 75 years Rotary and Fire Dept
Qualicum Beach Garden Club	Showcase	25 th Year Celebrations
Berwick Qualicum Beach	Showcase	Retirement Home Residents Gardens
Joanne Sales - QB	Showcase	Broombusters Invasive Plant Society
Lake Errock, Community Assoc.	Showcase	Non-Evaluated

CRITERIA AWARDS	SPONSORED BY	WINNER
PLANT & FLORAL AWARD	Teck Resources Limited	100 Mile House
LANDSCAPE AWARD	Urban Systems	Armstrong
YEAR OF THE GARDEN AWARD	to be announced October 22, 2022 in Victoria	

We acknowledge our Sponsors whose financial support makes it possible for us to deliver the CiB program.

COMMUNITY CHAMPION AWARD - BC Communities in Bloom Sponsored

Yvette May from Clinton was nominated by the BC Communities in Bloom Board. This award recognizes an individual who is involved locally and provincially. Yvette has been a driving force with the Clinton CiB Beautification Society. She has also promoted the many benefits the provincial 'in Bloom' program as a judge, board member and former chair.

BC'S NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL 5-BLOOM FINALISTS

Results for Abbotsford, Castlegar, Coquitlam and Trail will be announced October 22 at the National Communities in Bloom Awards being held in Victoria, BC.

Showcase Project

COQUITLAM TREE SPREE

City of Coquitlam – Friend Community

The Coquitlam Tree Spree is a new tree-planting and public-education initiative with the overall purpose of recognizing and promoting the value of the City's tree canopy. For 2022, the Tree Spree's inaugural year, Coquitlam has committed to planting 10,000 trees—double the City's typical tree-planting target—in both public spaces and private properties throughout the community.

Tree giveaways and Tree planting sessions have been incorporated into multiple community events and activities happening throughout the calendar year. Coquitlam residents, community groups, volunteers and local businesses have an opportunity to enhance Coquitlam's tree canopy, talk with city Arborists, receive a free ornamental tree to take home along with tips and tricks to plant and care for their tree.

In partnership with the Coquitlam School District, areas adjacent to and on school property are being planted up with trees. Students, teachers and parents help to plant and care for these trees while also learning about the importance of Coquitlam's tree canopy and many benefits.

The Tree Spree initiative has also been incorporated into the City's popular annual Block Party program, which encourages neighbors to gather, build new friendships and create a sense of community. Registered Coquitlam block parties receive a visit from volunteer Tree Spree ambassadors and staff, who bring free ornamental trees and demonstrate how to plant and care for them. To date, over 250 free trees have been provided to residents hosting block parties.

Free educational Tree and nature walks, led by City Arborists, Tree experts and avid volunteers are being delivered throughout Coquitlam's urban forests. These free walks provide Coquitlam residents with an opportunity to explore the City's tree canopy and its understory, learn about the different trees, flora and fauna that exist in the community and discover the many benefits the City's trees have to offer to residents' health, well-being and the environment.





Showcase Project

QUALICUM BEACH CIB LEGACIES

Marlys Diamond

Learning of the BC Communities in Bloom collaboration in celebrating The Year of the Garden was an inspiration to revisit the successful years of Qualicum Beach's national participation from 1999 to 2006. It became a wonderful way to renew the passion for gardening as Covid restrictions faded.

Qualicum Beach partnered with Parksville, our neighbouring municipality, to win the Canadian Classic in 2004. It was also the year that Qualicum Beach received Special Mention for our "Superbox Beautification Initiative." The latter led to nominating Vern Black as our "Garden Hero" under the Year of the Garden program.

Our two signs noting accomplishments had been damaged and removed. A key goal was to have new signs installed, one coming into town from Hwy.19 and the other on Hwy.19A. It brought Qualicum Beach Mayor Brian Wiese and Parksville

Mayor Ed Mayne together for a photo update, as neither was in office during the national participation.

The town also observed a joint milestone with the 75th anniversary of the beginning of the town's fire department and 75 years of having a Rotary club presence. The Rotary club has made significant contributions to the town each year, significantly establishing the "Rotary Friendship Garden" during town participation in the national Communities in Bloom. The site of the garden was an ideal place for our talented parks department to create the numbers "75" in red and replant a wire mesh fire hydrant that had been used previously.

The celebration of the town's Communities in Bloom legacy continues!

Photos:

1. Mayors and sign: Qualicum Beach Mayor Brian Wiese on left, Parksville Mayor Ed Mayne on right, and Marlys Diamond on the right, pointing to related "win".
2. 75th anniversary planting
3. A current Superbox

Submitted by Marlys Diamond, former councillor for Qualicum Beach, and the town's contact for BC Communities in Bloom and The Year of the Garden.



Showcase Project

QUALICUM BEACH GARDEN CLUB

Allison Foot

The Qualicum Beach Garden Club's special project was to rise from Covid restrictions and bring members together for a delayed celebration of our 25th anniversary and highlight many club activities that had been absent for the last two years.

The original celebration was scheduled for November 2020 and intended to celebrate the club's gift to the community of a large copper beach tree. The tree was planted in a high-profile location on the northeast corner of Memorial Drive and Village Way, with a commemorative plaque to mark the occasion.



In July 2022, 75 members and guests were brought together in a festive celebration and an opportunity to re-connect with each other. Wearing stunning hats personally decorated in a garden theme, the fun began with entertainment, "get re-acquainted games" and recognition of participants in various club activities. The special anniversary cake was ceremoniously cut by Barb and Bob Idden, two of the Club's original founding members. This year the idea of "Open Gardens" was introduced. Members could decide when their gardens were at their best summer show and open their gardens for members' enjoyment.

The club had worked collaboratively with the town in 2020 in arranging for the beech tree and commemorative plaque, and once again the town showed its support with the creation of a lovely small floral display in front of the plaque. Members are now planning ahead for 2023 with new interests including adapting their gardens to the challenges of climate change.

Photos: 1. Anniversary Cake, 2. Flowery Cake Delivery, 3. 25th Anniversary Commemorative Plaque



Showcase Project

BERWICK QUALICUM BEACH RETIREMENT COMMUNITY GARDENS

In the centre of picturesque Qualicum Beach, Berwick Qualicum Beach consists of 110 residents living in a dynamic retirement community. Our building has been open for three years now, and we have recently incorporated two exciting gardening projects we wish to share with you. These are our resident container gardens on our patios and our tea garden in our courtyard.

Both projects have beautified our environs, created friendships, and attracted bees and other pollinators. The container gardens are located in several sunny locations. Individuals and teams of residents were dedicated to caring for these throughout the summer. They have produced beautifully scented roses, mixed flower boxes, and scads of delicious cherry tomatoes for snacking and sharing. The tea garden consists of a variety of perennials chosen for their herbal tea flavour and colour qualities. We have harvested and dried many jars of leaves and flowers, which we used to create our signature BQB herbal tisane.

Thanks to these two garden projects our community is truly blooming on the inside and outside.

