

PEOPLE, PLANTS AND PRIDE...

# Growing Together

B.C. COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM NEWSLETTER

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*Last month BC CIB partnered up with Liz Dick from Flower Effects Flower Farm for a plant fundraiser. This turned out to be very successful and is something we will continue. We thought it would be a great idea for Liz to introduce herself and her farm in our newsletter.*

**Special Effects Flower Farm - Growing the Unusual**

Basically, I started out last year with the idea that I wanted to turn our small acreage into a flower farm specifically for the production of flower confetti. However, I could not find the flower varieties that I wanted anywhere in Canada, so I started searching. I finally found suppliers for the types of flowers that I was looking for in the US and overseas but realized that I would have to buy in very large quantities. I wanted many types of flowers and very unique varieties and many of them I start from seed, but I have way too many for my acreage so I offer the excess for sale to people, so that they too can have a beautiful garden with unique flowers. This year after growing so many different plants, many people saw the pictures online and like to visualize that for their own garden. So, my clientele is growing not only for fresh cut flowers but for roots, bulbs, tubers, and plant starts.

My farm is based on Vancouver Island and all the flowers are grown outside in fields with no chemicals. This natural form of flower farming is appealing to many BC consumers as not only is it local, but healthy for the environment and helps thousands of pollinators every year.

***Stay tuned for our next plant fundraiser in the spring.***

# Some pics from the Special Effects Flower Farm this summer

Photographer Liz Dick

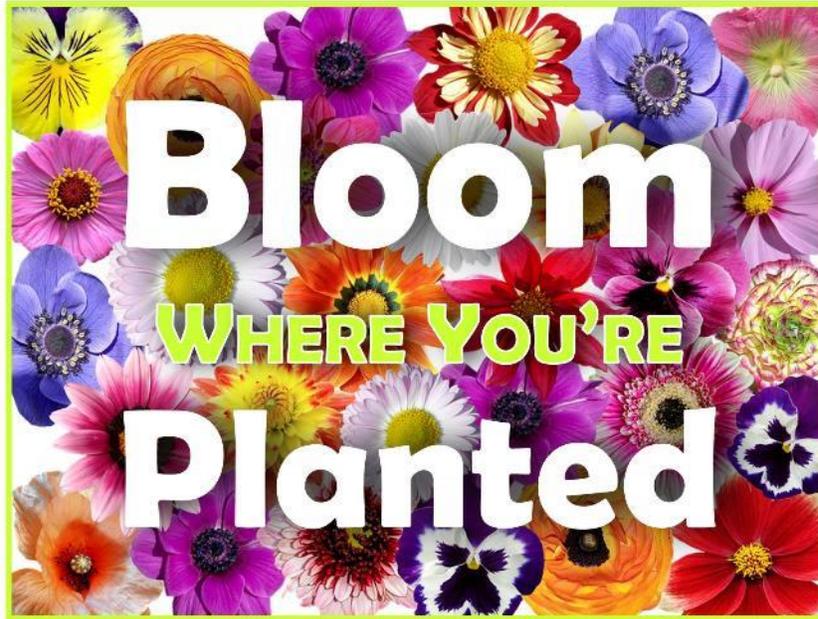
Left to Right:  
 Delphinium 'Cobalt Dreams'  
 Dahlia 'Aztec Gold'  
 Larkspur  
 Delphinium 'Morning Lights'  
 Astrantia  
 Poppy Shirley Angel's Choir  
 Snap Dragons 'Potomac Apple Blossom'  
 Calla Lilies

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2020 BC Communities in Bloom Fundraiser was a Success! Stay tuned for our next plant fundraiser in the spring.

## LAST CHANCE TO BE PART OF



**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.

### Photo Contest Prizes

all images submitted for **Bloom where you're Planted** will be entered to win a:

1. Scotts Swag Bag
2. Equinox Self Watering Planter
3. Terrace 20 in Black
3. Villa 20 in Terra Cotta





## ARMSTONG - THE COVID GARDEN

The COVID Crisis of 2020 caused an unprecedented upheaval of our normal way of life, around the world and right here in Armstrong. It turned out to be a "Time of Pause" to reflect, adjust our priorities, care for others, and spend more time alone with our families.

With a suspension of their normal lives, many young families looking for a positive educational activity, turned to gardening. Children helped pick the seeds of their favourite vegetables, and the hopes of a fresh, secure food source was the vision for the parents. Some had never gardened before, and with time on their hands, this was the perfect learning experience. THE COVID GARDEN was seeded.

Although not a new gardener, Aislinn Harmstrong and her family, built a veggie garden out of a spot in their yard that was not being used.

"Our three-year-old was very happy to help! We planted most of our vegetables from seed including our sunflowers which are now super tall", says Aislinn.

"COVID actually didn't give our family very much extra down time as we both kept our full-time jobs however since I had to work from home and my daughter had to stay home from daycare we had lots of opportunity to tend to the garden!

Although Aislinn's daughter loved all the snails in her garden, those garden pests presented trouble for Holly Dalgleish and her family. Seems the humans did not win the battle in Holly's garden, but the scene is set for a challenge match next year.

Gardening is an activity that helps reduce stress, so

it was a natural during this time of COVID. Being outside, is good for the mind and body, and is an activity that spans the ages. Not only do your plants grow but so does your self esteem.

Don't let any frustrations from this year, deter you from trying again. Armstrong's Communities in Bloom Committee is willing to help you down your garden path, all you have to do is ask!! Many mentoring opportunities available!!! Suggestions for weed control, pest prevention and controls, choosing varieties of seeds and transplants, and best garden practices are all topics that gardeners love to share. And don't forget that your garden will only be as good as the soil it's planted in, so that's the best place to start.

*To Plant a Garden is to Believe in Tomorrow.* Audrey Hepburn

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This story was previously seen in the "Your Country News" publication.

