

Growing Together GREAT PLACES

B.C. COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Lake Country GC in the News
- Grant Opportunity #GreenMyCity
- Hope Award presentations
- What is a Community in Bloom?

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British Columbia
Communities in Bloom

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BC Communities in Bloom (CiB) director Heather Doheny recently presented **Lake Country Garden Club** Committee Chair, Silvaanah Atley, and Parks Manager, Shaun Lesowski, each with a framed certificate in recognition of the Lake Country Pollinator and Xeriscape Gateway Garden as a BC CiB 2023 Showcase garden. “A Communities in Bloom Showcase is an opportunity for communities, service groups or individuals to share and celebrate community-building projects and the people that work on them,” said Doheny. Lake Country is fortunate to have such a dedicated group of volunteers and Parks teams members that collaborate well on something the community can be proud of. It is one of the few xeriscape demonstration gardens in the Okanagan.

Xeriscape is all about gardening with nature and conserving water used on the landscape by planting drought-tolerant plants. “The irrigation at the Little Piece of Lake Country Garden was not even turned on until early June,” said Doheny. Okanagan Waterwise principles are highlighted in this feature garden so community members can see how beautiful waterwise landscaping can be. Xeriscape doesn’t mean zeroscape. The Little Piece of Lake Country Garden was featured on the Lake Country Garden Tour this year; and garden club members appreciated the opportunity to chat with residents about how to use drought-tolerant plants in personal landscaping projects.

Read the full press release [here](#).

This grant opportunity is available to all CiB communities.

- Are you involved in community greenspace projects? (i.e., pollinator gardens, community gardens, green space renovation projects)
- Is this project on public space? (i.e., Municipal parks, schools, churches, or community centres)
- Does your project benefit the community?
- Are you looking for additional volunteer support in addition to funding?
- Are you looking for a grant to match your funds to complete your project?
- Are you a dedicated volunteer committed to the success and longevity of this project?

If you have answered yes to these questions, please consider applying. Once you have applied the team at the Green Cities Foundation will review your application for eligibility then set up a meeting to discuss further. What do you have to lose? This is a great opportunity to partner with a Foundation with a secure backing of volunteers dedicated to greening urban communities.

The Green Cities Foundation (GCF) is a private foundation established by the Canadian Nursery Landscape Association (CNLA), connecting plants and people for a greener healthier urban climate.

Below you will find more information on the Green Cities Foundation **#GreenMyCity** grant application. For further questions please feel free to reach out to Teagan Schroeder teagan@gcfoundation.ca directly.

LET'S GREEN YOUR COMMUNITY!

Apply for a green space renovation project in your neighbourhood!

WE OFFER:

- ✓ Matching funds
- ✓ Material donations
- ✓ Labour support

APPLY TODAY!
gcfoundation.ca/apply

#GREENMYCITY

Additional Details:
[Word Document](#)

Submission Application:
[Jotform](#)

Hope acknowledges Volunteers

Kemone Moodley from the Hope Standard, sent the photos last night from our awards evening.

Way to go, Hope CiB!
We once again received a 5 bloom banner presented by Kerry Bysouth, last year's judge and a BC CiB director. In addition, we were presented with a special golden gnome award for all our volunteer efforts.

We presented Esther Brysch, director of the Hope Community Garden, a 2023 Garden Hero award for the incredible job she has done over the years.

And I was humbled to receive a special Shea Larking carving for my efforts locally.

Thanks to all of you for making a difference.

Teresa Williams, Co-Chair Hope CiB.



BC CiB Director Kerry Bysouth presenting the Garden Gnome for Outstanding Community Involvement to Hope CiB Co-Chairs Teresa Williams and John Mason.

What is a Community in Bloom?

Scattered throughout British Columbia there are many excellent examples, and they are not all located in typical tourist areas!

CiB is a community enhancement program to inspire pride in one's hometown; to celebrate uniqueness and galvanize residents to be part of the solution.

Assessing a community on its appearance, environmental action, heritage conservation, tree management, plant & floral displays, and landscape areas with community involvement as the thread that runs through each criterion, is what makes this program valuable to our participants.

Having the unique CiB criteria to follow creates a focus and deadline to affect real change.

Local committees will build a team of volunteers with varied backgrounds: landscape design professional, urban planner, master gardener, media, economic development, chamber of commerce or business owner, parks and recreation, public works, Mayor or Councillor all working together to help their community.

It also provides recognition for local volunteers that go under the radar: garden clubs, trail groups, cemetery historians, or the local that picks up litter while walking their dog. Every community has champions that contribute to making their hometown better. The Communities in Bloom program provides a place to recognize these efforts.

THERE ARE THREE PARTICIPATION LEVELS TO THE CiB PROGRAM: Provincial, National and International.

At the provincial level: municipal participants are assessed against themselves to improve their bloom score through the annual evaluation. It may take 3 to 5 years to achieve 5-Blooms. Once a community has achieved this level, they may choose to enter the National CiB program to compete against other 5-Bloom communities of similar population size from across Canada. Some have gone onto International competition.

Each province has their own Provincial Edition and in 2005, BC Communities in Bloom (BC CiB) was formed as a society to support our volunteers who give their time as specialists in horticulture, parks and recreation, municipal management and community engagement. At the heart of our organization is our team of dedicated volunteers who bring a wealth of experience to our society as judges, board and committee members in addition to representing their geographical region.

Our provincial program (BC CiB) focuses on three main events:

- A spring training workshop to prepare new and returning facilitator/judges and board members.
- In the summer (typically the second week in July), we coordinate the travel of multiple pairs of judges to various regions of the province to evaluate registered participants over a 24 to 48-hour period.
- In early fall, the Annual Provincial Awards will be held (Virtual or In person presentations can be arranged). The CiB program works at its absolute best when it is a collaborative effort made up of a variety of key stakeholders.

Budgeting: Some communities have had luck with planning a multi-year municipal budget while others create a CiB or beautification society to spearhead their CiB fundraising efforts. The biggest challenge for any group is when there is only one sector driving the effort.

After 25+ years of Communities in Bloom in Canada, we are encouraged to see former 5-Bloom national participants registering back in the provincial program to engage a new group of volunteers in Growing Great Places Together!

Registration Info – www.bccib.ca

Or contact Catherine at
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604 576-6506



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