

# Growing GREAT PLACES Together

B.C. COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM NEWSLETTER

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2022 Awards in Victoria – Hope CiB accepting the Provincial 5-Bloom Banner. Left to right: Kerry (BC CiB Vice Chair), Floortje, (BC CiB Chair), Teresa (Hope CiB), Darlene (BC CiB Director), Catherine (BC CiB Executive Director).



Marlys from Qualicum Beach



Sara and Erin from Coquitlam

It's a Tie! Year of the Garden Winners will be profiled in next month's issue.



## Showcase Project

### TOWN OF QUALICUM BEACH - Friend

Beach Creek Estuary, Marine Spit & Memorial Avenue Restoration

The roundabout conversion of Highways 4 and 19A might seem to be a project outside of the box for Communities in Bloom, but it is one

that has potential to enhance biota in the natural environment. We may be known for the award-winning landscapes of our streets and parks, but our attentions also extend to restoring elements of nature that have been damaged or lost to development and habitation.

The estuary of Beach Creek, long ago culverted to reclaim land for development, has been recreated by the building of the Green Shores marine spit, and nature has already begun to establish riparian vegetation and a brackish pool riffle sequencing that is important fish habitat. Beach Creek was without spawning salmon for 65 years due to the barrier to fish passage, but now, owing to projects completed by the Town in conjunction with community Streamkeeper volunteers, Coho salmon are now thriving.

The project shows how with a little creative thinking outside of the box, a natural environment can be woven through, under and around major transportation infrastructure and commercial development. The Green Shores approach to foreshore restoration incorporates more natural slopes and materials to dissipate wave energy, improve marine habitat, allow for the re-establishment of shoreline vegetation, and protect valuable infrastructure from sea level rise.

The centre island of the roundabout will soon be home to a First Nations sculpture that acknowledges the history and heritage of our area and celebrates the relationship we enjoy with Qualicum First Nations.

Submission by Bob Weir, P. Eng, Director of Engineering & Capital Projects, Town of Qualicum Beach

Captions for photos:

Photo 1: An aerial shot of the area transformation.

Photo 2: The naturalizing of vegetation at the marine spit.

Photo 3: Town Staff and SNC-Lavalin celebrating the prestigious Award for Engineering Excellence (Natural Resource and Habitat category) awarded for the Beach Creek Estuary project.



## Showcase Project

### QUALICUM BEACH BROOMBUSTERS

This year's Broombusters' project was to concentrate on removing broom from the road to the airport, the interchange, and roads leading into Qualicum Beach. Volunteers included 30 adults and members of the Kwalikum Secondary Student Council.

Scotch broom is a large, highly invasive plant that grows quickly, crowds out native species, prevents forest regrowth and is an extreme fire hazard. It's one of the greatest threats to biodiversity as it densely takes over fields, farms and previously forested areas. Native plants and young trees don't stand a chance.

Broom doesn't recognize boundaries, and neither do Broombusters. Each year volunteers work inside and outside of town boundaries, clearing roadways, parks and trails.

In 2006, when Qualicum Beach was involved in the national Communities in Bloom, town council was approached with the query, "Why aren't you doing anything about Scotch Broom in town?" Broombuster volunteers said, "We'll cut it – if you remove it." The Communities in Bloom council representative became a strong supporter. Every year now, the town disposes of the piles of broom cleared by volunteers. In 2022, volunteers completed clearing the highway interchange, 6 km leading to town, and progress at the airport and Little Qualicum Fish Hatchery. We believe this gives a very positive impression of the town!

Sixteen years after the formation of a small group of Broombusters, their work has spread to other communities, and inspired over 600 volunteers to cut broom over 6000 hours in over 12 municipalities and districts on Vancouver Island and surrounds.

Submitted by Joanne Sales, Executive Director of Broombusters [www.broombusters.org](http://www.broombusters.org)



## Images from the CiB Symposium and Awards in Victoria – October 20-23

Friday Technical Tours (left to right) Abkhazi Gardens, Hatley Castle and Butchart Gardens. Saturday Walking Tour with guide around Victoria's historic Inner Harbour.



**Many thanks to the National Communities in Bloom organizers who made this in-person conference such a success! As always, please share this newsletter with your CiB contacts.**