

Growing Together GREAT PLACES

B.C. COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM NEWSLETTER

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British Columbia
 Communities in Bloom

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Thank you to all our 2024 Participants and Looking Good feature communities.

EVALUATED		Issue
Village of Chase (Since 2024)	May	Grow 3-Criteria
District of Sicamous (Since 2016)	June	Grow 3-Criteria
District of Hope (Since 2006)	June	5-BLOOMS
FRIENDS		Newsletter Issue
District of 100 Mile House	May	
City of Coquitlam	Oct	+ Showcase
City of Kelowna	Sept	+ Showcase
City of Prince George	June	
Town of Qualicum Beach	Sept	+ Showcase
COMMUNITY SHOWCASE - Great Places		
Castlegar CiB and Partners	July	
City of Castlegar	Oct	
Berwick Qualicum Beach	Sept	
Kelowna Garden Club	June	
Vernon & District Garden Club	Aug	
The Garden Club of Vancouver	Sept	

2024 RESULTS – Oct.7

[Website link](#)

LOOKING GOOD - AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

Langley City - Sendall Gardens	May
Kamloops - BC Wildlife Park	June
Chilliwack - Vedder Traffic Circle	June
Vancouver - Lane	July
Richmond - Airport Garden	July
Peachland - Swim Bay	July
Osoyoos - Nk'Mip Desert CC	July
Enderby - Cornerstone Garden	Aug
Armstrong - IPE office garden	Aug
Lake Country - Oyama Isthmus Park	Aug
Kelowna - Sculpture and Gardens	Aug
Nelson - Gateway Signage	Aug
Penticton - Festivals and Volunteers	Sept
Summerland - Memorial Park	Sept
West Kelowna WB Towne Centre Park	Sept
Pender Harbour - Maderia Park	Sept
Lake Country - Davidson Rd Mural	Sept



In Memoriam - Bert Pulles

We lost an amazing man this past weekend. And everyone who knew Bert Pulles would say the exact same thing.

To me he was Opa, my best friend, who taught me so many life lessons. To so many others he was "Bert the Mole Man" but all around, he was just an amazing man, an outstanding friend, the best family member and the slayer of moles!

His love for the community of Mission was so true. From helping create the friendship garden at the info center, to being a huge part of Communities in Bloom [both Mission CiB and BC CiB], his most proud task was bringing gardens to our elementary schools. He was proud to live in Mission and loved volunteering whenever he could.

He loved his job, and if you met him once, I'm sure you heard a Mole joke or two. He was passionate about what he did and his clients and the garden centers he sold to all knew that. Nothing made him more happy when my brother, his grandson, took over the family business a couple years ago.

I had the absolute honor of helping Opa through his medical issues the past 3 years. Through out all the doctors' appointments, weekly dressing changes, to surgeries and more... and I'll tell you... every chance he got, he flirted with all the nurses 🌈. But throughout all of it he always had a positive attitude. He loved life, although frustrated with his body's limitations. His body failed him, but his mind was always present, positive and eager for visits from friends and family.

There is a hole in our hearts, all of our hearts, as he touched so many. He lived to be 90 years old, a proud feat because his father passed away at 57. He will forever be missed and never be forgotten.

If you knew "Bert the Mole Man" or Bert himself, I would love to hear a story you have about him.

July 5th, 1934 - September 21st, 2024. We just celebrated his 90th birthday with friends and family this past summer.

Miss you so much Opa. "I need a hug from you"

Carey Myers- Pulles

thebluehouseonthecorner@gmail.com



FROM FACEBOOK:

Teresa Williams - *I got to know Bert at BC Communities in Bloom when we were both directors. He was such a willing worker and organized golf raffles to help fundraise for the group. He was passionate about his role. Such a friendly man and made me feel part of this wonderful group. My condolences.*

Daphne Kelly - *Many years ago Bert helped my father rid his yard of moles. Years later I met Bert through Communities in Bloom. An honest, sincere man with a great sense of humor. RIP*

Darlene Kalawsky - *I will miss you Bert, such an amazing friend.*

Victor Arthur Smith - *He was a supporter of Communities in Bloom in the next level. Wanted to make a difference in world and I believe he did. An honor to have known him.*



City of Castlegar – Castle Playground

The Castle Playground is now the tallest one in Canada and second tallest castle-themed playground in the world. Located at the confluence of the Kootenay and Columbia Rivers, this is a new 527 square meter playground at the City's Millenium Park. It includes a 11.5 meter (37.7 feet) tall playground made of Robina wood, with pour -in -place rubber safety surfacing, benches, and walkways with surrounding water wise plantings. This new attraction achieves sustainable design in the following ways. The shrubs selected are native to this region. The pathway surrounding the playground is wheelchair accessible. Root barriers were installed around all shade trees. The pour-in-pathway is made with two parts of rubber, new and recycled, meeting all requirements of the Canada Standards agency. This surfacing highlights local flora and fauna, including the lifecycle of the salmon, sturgeon and camas flowers. An incredible visual as you walk into the playground. It has been

thoughtfully designed to reflect the history of our people and our region.

As in all major projects community consultation is a standard process. With accessibility a concern, outreach to local School District staff, to determine the need for accessible playground components. It was revealed that 5% of students would make use of some features at this playground. As a result, the addition of a wheelchair accessible swing, merry go round, transfer station, benches with wide arms and backs, as well as multiple access points were added to this design.

With over 20 play features that includes crawling, swinging, balancing, jumping, sliding, climbing and sensory components, this playground will provide many hours of amusement and learning possibilities.

Millenium Park is the jewel of all parks, a spectacular natural setting of the outdoors on a rivers' edge close to the downtown core. It has numerous multipurpose pathways, heritage signage, pickle ball courts, beach volleyball, Sculptures on display, and a community sponsored concession building. With the addition of the Castle playground, the site has been a huge increase in visitors to the park.

Funding was provided in part by the Canada Infrastructure Program - Communities Culture Recreation Stream and the City of Castlegar.





City of Coquitlam – Proud to Grow Here Contest

This summer, the City of Coquitlam celebrated green spaces with the 2024 Coquitlam in Bloom “Proud to Grow Here” contest. This exciting initiative invited residents, businesses, and strata groups to showcase their stunning frontages and beautiful balconies. From the end of May through September, participants entered by submitting photos of their impressive outdoor spaces.

Contest Categories:

- Residential Fantastic Frontage
- Business Fantastic Frontage
- Strata Fantastic Frontage
- Residential Beautiful Balcony
- Business Beautiful Balcony
- Strata Beautiful Balcony

Each submission was featured biweekly on the city’s social media, providing a platform

for participants to display their floral creativity and garden pride. All entrants will receive exclusive Coquitlam in Bloom swag and a special “Proud to Grow Here” sign to highlight their participation.



Prizes will be awarded to the top entries in each category, recognizing the most outstanding displays of Coquitlam’s blooming beauty. This contest offered a wonderful opportunity to engage with the community, share gardening achievements, and contribute to the city’s vibrant floral landscape.

The 2024 Coquitlam in Bloom “Proud to Grow Here” contest aims were to celebrate and enhance the city’s green spaces by showcasing the best frontages and balconies. This initiative fostered community pride and ownership, encourages gardening creativity, and highlighted Coquitlam’s vibrant floral landscape.

Participants received recognition for their efforts and contributed to the city’s beauty, strengthening community spirit and environmental stewardship.



Sicamous
COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM

2024 SHOWCASE ENTRY



Sicamous Communities in Bloom partnered with the Eagle Valley Arts Council and the Sicamous & District Chamber of Commerce to create downtown walking tour maps of local heritage assets, gardens, and art board installations.

To facilitate this, we worked with a local motel to transform their site to anchor our Art and Garden Walk and convinced a local dock builder to install a large-scale frame as an art installation to screen an unsightly building and to transform their Main Street site.

Communities in Bloom approached Telus with a proposal to clean up their unsightly vacant lot and use it as a seating and viewing area for our new pickleball courts in exchange for the town maintaining the site. The new partnership has completed an important family activity centre for Sicamous.



SICAMOUS COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM STRIVES TO FIND CREATIVE WAYS TO MAKE OUR COMMUNITY A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE.