

# Growing Together GREAT PLACES

B.C. COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM NEWSLETTER

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

- Community Champion Award
- Scott's Gift Bag
- CiB and the 3 Pillars of Sustainability
- Tips For Starting A Successful Communities In Bloom Group
- Grant Opportunity #GreenMyCity

**GOLD SPONSORS:**



**GREEN BUD SPONSOR**

Equinox Environmental Products

**NATIONAL CIB MAJOR SPONSOR**

Scotts Canada

**SUPPORTERS**

- BC Landscape & Nursery Association
- BC Recreation & Parks Association
- Invasive Species Council of BC

**MEMBER OF**

Gardens BC – [Blog Post](#)



British Columbia  
Communities in Bloom

19951 FRASER HIGHWAY  
LANGLEY, BC V3A 4E2  
(604) 576-6506

[www.bccib.ca](http://www.bccib.ca)

[Facebook](#)

[Newsletter Subscription Info](#)



BC CiB Community Champion Award was presented in late November by Yvette May (left) to Shirley Fowler. This award has made its rounds



to 14 deserving recipients through the years. [Check out our website for all the winner's names.](#)

Shirley's game pieces complete the board and it will now reside with Shirley who has been involved at all levels of the CiB program.

Thank you Shirley for your continued positivity.

## Scotts Gift Bag of Goodies



On Tue, Nov 14, 2023 Teresa Williams wrote:

Congratulations to Bev Mason, the winner of a special award given to us by the National Communities in Bloom- a Scotts Miracle-Gro gift bag.

Bev is our local Butterfly Ranger and the driving force behind the CiB planters, throughout the year. She also plants, harvests and sells both garlic and blue pumpkins at the Hope Community Garden for fundraisers.

This hard-working [Hope Communities in Bloom](#) volunteer is an ideal choice.



Presenting the 5-bloom banner to the District of Hope Council tonight. Bev will bring Buddy the Gnome to show then take him home and take pix at her Open House In December. Then he will be passed on to another worthy volunteer.

Bev is the wife of our co-chair, John Mason.

Thanks to all. She was delighted!

Teresa



## **CiB supports the 3 pillars of Sustainability.**

### **SOCIAL INFLUENCE**

Engages citizens of all ages.

Builds commUnity pride.

### **ECONOMIC IMPACT**

Improves green spaces for locals and visitors.

Attracts business support and investment.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECT**

Encourages responsible horticulture practices.

Creates awareness for climate change mitigation efforts.

**Recognition for staff and volunteer groups.**

**Provides a framework for action with proven results.**

**Transforms overall appearance of community.**

**Growing Great Places Together**

**[www.bccib.ca](http://www.bccib.ca)**

# Tips For Starting A Successful Communities In Bloom Group

Form a local CiB Committee:

- Look for a community cheerleader who will help spearhead your CiB effort.
- Try for one municipal representative from Council, Parks & Rec or Public Works
- Look for a representative from your local Chamber of commerce, BIA, Economic Dev.
- Encourage NEW gardeners and provide some guidance from local garden club members, master gardeners, local nursery/garden centres.

Create awareness for your CiB groups efforts:

- Municipal communications, website
- Social media (create a new page or ask for help from established groups)
- Local papers (Great for Garden Tips or announcing community events)

Engaged the community:

- Promote to homeowners, apartment dwellers, youth, and other service groups.
- Initiate projects to appeal to a variety of age groups. Create opportunities to be culturally diverse.
- Allow volunteers to direct projects they want to be involved in.
- Encourage community wide tidy-up efforts.

Consider new legacy projects for community:

- Low water gardens (xeriscape), rain gardens, community gardens with portion being donated to local food banks.
- Renovate a tired area. Improve the gateway gardens near entrance signage.
- Encourage Pollinator gardens – Identify the types of pollinators that are to be attracted.

Create a local Awards program to recognize your outstanding residential or business properties:

- Nominate your neighbour application process or develop award categories and find the best ones.
- Creating a window signage decal or door hanger as an award. (Getting some Scotts Best Garden Selection signs are an application process early in the year)
- Recognize best ones in local papers.
- Host a Thank-You event for volunteers and contributors at a year-end party.
- Winners of key prizes can nominate following year's champions.

Fundraising ideas

- Sponsor or rent self-watering planters (municipality purchases, CiB group plants and business maintains)
- Plant sales, Seedy Saturday's, Partner with a grower to sell a particular plant.
- Garden Tours, Christmas concerts.
- Parking lot concerts, Concerts in the Park
- Festivals need manpower for events and will often donate to the CiB group.
- Many of these ideas had sponsors paying for things like the band, food, etc.

## How To Get The Most Out Of A CiB Evaluation

Start with three criteria first year if your community is small or volunteer group is brand new.

Works best when there is a representative who understands each evaluation criteria.

- Plan for a Judges tour to showcase 80% of the community in all evaluation criteria.
- Tell your community's story with a Community Profile document to communicate the elements not shown on the evaluation tour.
- Profile Document can become a "Welcome Package" of information for new residents and businesses.
- Upon registration more information is provided from BC Communities in Bloom with the Getting Started Package.
- Celebrate your community's results!

Contact Catherine to request more information at [c.kennedy@telus.net](mailto:c.kennedy@telus.net) 604 576-6506

## Green Cities Foundation: 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](mailto: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](http://gcfoundation.ca/apply)

**#GREENMYCITY**

The graphic features the Green Cities Foundation logo (a stylized city skyline with a leaf) and two photographs: one of three women in blue shirts smiling, and another of a group of people in blue shirts gathered around a tree in a park setting.

Additional  
Details:  
[Word Document](#)

Submission  
Application:  
[Jotform](#)