



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Surrey, B.C.,
September 16, 2018

Celebrating commUnity Success

Surrey – Showcasing recovery and resilience, the Village of Clinton hosted the 15th Annual BC Communities in Bloom Awards and Conference weekend. On September 15th 18-communities, representing all areas of the province were recognized for their efforts in community enhancement. This year there were two new 5-Bloom winners: congratulations to Lumby and Abbotsford, as well as Sooke and Hope who have been multiple year recipients of the 5-Bloom award. 4-Blooms were awarded to Whitehorse, Clinton and Cache Creek with Sicamous earning this recognition for the first time. Achieving 4 and 5-Blooms is an amazing accomplishment of collaboration from municipal, business, residents and service groups.

Congratulations to all our 'in Bloom' participants who are making their hometowns be the best they can be through the Communities in Bloom program of "People, Plants and Pride...Growing Together".

2018 PROVINCIAL RESULTS		Mention or Project Name
Abbotsford, City of	5-Blooms	Co-op Community Viewing Platform at Willband Creek
Lumby, Village of	5-Blooms	Proactive Strategic Action Plan
Hope, District of	5-Blooms	Hope Community Garden Relocation
Sooke, District of	5-Blooms	Sport Turf All-Weather Field at Milne Park
Cache Creek, Village of	4-Blooms	Winning the BCAA Play Here Initiative Playground Funding
Clinton, Village of	4-Blooms	Clinton's Cultural Heritage
Whitehorse, Yukon, City of	4-Blooms	Community Spirit
Sicamous, District of	4-Blooms	Involvement of the Splatstin FN on the Sicamous CiB Committee
Chetwynd, District of	Friend	
Kent, District of	Friend	Roadside Information Kiosk
Salmo, Village of	Friend	
Armstrong, City of	Member	Let's Paint the Town Campaign
Burnaby, City of	Member	
Castlegar, City of	Member + National	Highway Garden of Hope
Coquitlam, City of	Member + National	
Mission, City of	Member	CiB School Participation Program
Clinton	Member	Dog Off-Leash Park

CRITERIA AWARDS	SPONSORED BY	WINNER
TIDINESS AWARD	Teck Resources Limited	Cache Creek
HERITAGE AWARD	Urban Systems	Clinton

Special glass trophies were presented by our Gold Bloom Sponsors whose financial support makes it possible for us to deliver the CiB program throughout the province.

COMMUNITY CHAMPION AWARD - BC Communities in Bloom Sponsored

Deb Heap from the District of Sicamous was nominated by the BC Communities in Bloom Board. This award recognizes the dedicated leadership and promotion of the CiB program in their community. A quote from Melinda Smyrl, Planner for the District of Sicamous: "Her greatest assets are indeed her tenacity and her passion for highlighting the beauty that is and could be in this community and spearheading everyone toward a common, positive vision."

Continued page 2...

BC'S NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL 5-BLOOM FINALISTS

Results for Ashcroft, Castlegar, Coquitlam and Trail will be announced September 29 at the National Communities in Bloom Awards being held in Strathcona County, Alberta.

Congratulations to all our participants who have, no doubt, been challenged by the CiB program. Starting with simple goals, a small group of volunteers and few resources, they are at the ground floor of building something worthwhile for their community.

For experienced CiB communities, reaching the 4 and 5-Bloom level is an accomplishment that recognizes all their hard work. Volunteers are the backbone of this program and each community's team efforts are a testament to how well "People, Plants and Pride...Growing Together" works!

- 30 -

Download photos from the event from our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/cibbc>

BRITISH COLUMBIA COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM

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BACKGROUNDER

BC Communities in Bloom is a not for profit society administering the dynamic CiB program where citizen groups, organizations, businesses and local governments come together to ignite and unleash the potential within each community. Because of this unique annual challenge, a new vibrancy and prosperity is reflected in the lasting legacies to our communities.

REASONS COMMUNITIES PARTICIPATE:

- Stimulates Community Energy & Pride of Place
- Encourages Tidiness & Beautification in Residential & Business Areas
- Networks Various Organizations with a Common Goal
- Promotes Excellence in Environmental Initiatives
- Catalyst to Inventory Community's Assets
- Friendly Competition provides Focus & Deadline for Projects
- Evaluation Report is a Cost-Effective Measurement of Success



EVALUATION PROCESS & CRITERIA

During late July, on an agreed date, two judges assess the community on the accomplishments of four sectors: municipal, corporate, private and institutional within each of the essential criteria of Tidiness, Environmental Action, Heritage Conservation, Urban Forestry, Landscape (includes Turf & Groundcovers), Floral Displays and Community Involvement.

RESULTS

All participating communities receive a rating of one to five 'Blooms' (unless entered as first year Novice). Selected 5-Bloom communities receive an invitation to participate in the following year's national program.

In addition to their rating, each BC CiB participant receives a comprehensive report, prepared by qualified judges. This report reviews the features and projects in each of the criteria areas that the community has undertaken and presented and offers constructive comments and suggestions for the following year. Of course, all participants are winners as they celebrate pride in their hometown with a program that recognizes their potential as resilient liveable communities!

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