

Growing GREAT PLACES Together

B.C. COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM NEWSLETTER

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Mailing Address:

4451 212-Street, Langley, V3A 7Z8
(604) 576-6506

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Coordinator Catherine Kennedy

catherine.bccib@gmail.com



For those who may have missed it, we're pleased to share the recording of our recent webinar presented in collaboration with the Compost Council of Canada. Food Gardening Matters: **Cultivating Resilient Communities Through Therapeutic Gardens** from March 25, 2026. Watch the recording here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W42dIUnRvcU>

A sincere thank you to our moderator, Susan Ellis, and to our speakers, Tina Liu and Anne Kadwell, for sharing their valuable insights and expertise. We encourage you to share this recording with your networks so others can benefit from the discussion.

Last Chance to Register your Community is May 31, 2026 - [Form](#)

Non-Evaluated Program



VOLUNTEER BIOGRAPHIES

Our BC Communities in Bloom (BC CiB) program would not be possible without the talented group of volunteer Judges & Directors who represent the province. With a variety of horticultural backgrounds or experience in their own community's CiB program, our judges bring a wealth of knowledge to your community.

2026 BOARD MEMBERS

Darlene Kalawsky,
BC CiB Chair
Castlegar – Retired
Business Owner



Darlene Kalawsky has been involved with Castlegar CiB program since 2006 and passionately supports the changes that CiB makes in communities across Canada. Darlene has been with the BC CiB organization since 2012. She also sits on the national CiB Board.

Tom Meyer, Vice Chair
New Westminster –
Business Owner



Tom has over 35 years of experience in the Landscape Design and Build industry. With a

few years spent administering programs and working on committees with the BC Landscape & Nursery Association. Tom has been a judge for BCLNA provincial and CNLA national landscape awards of excellence. Tom has a BA from Queens University, Certificate of Landscape Architecture from Ryerson Polytechnical and studied horticulture at University of Guelph. Tom is also a judge.

Anne Kulla, BC CiB
Treasurer. Chilliwack –
Business Owner



Anne is the owner of a landscape design/install/maintenance company in Surrey and has her diploma of Horticulture from Kwantlen and her ISA Arborist certification. She has volunteered with the BC Landscape and Nursery Association since 2006 and is passionate about horticulture and has judged for us since 2023.

Linda Tomlinson,
BC CiB Secretary
Kelowna – Retired



Linda is an experienced judge from Alberta and the National CiB Program and in 2020 she moved to Kelowna. She is a graduate of Olds College landscape program and has written for the Alberta Gardener.

Shirley Fowler
Armstrong - City
Councillor



Shirley is in her 20th year as an Armstrong City Councillor, and a Director with the Regional District of the North Okanagan. She is also the chair of Armstrong in Bloom. She is a former BC CiB

Board Chair and Judge and has been with us since 2008.

Edward Stanford
Fort St John - Urban
Planning Consultant



Edward is a municipal government consultant specializing in urban design, governance and community planning. Edward has been involved in the local Fort St John Communities in Bloom committee since 2000 and a BC CiB board member since 2011.

Heather Doheny
Kelowna – Retired



Heather has been a member and strong supporter of BC CiB since 2009. She was a Judge and Director from

2014 through 2016; and is pleased to be back on the Board since 2023. She was an active participant on the West Kelowna and Westbank First Nation CiB Committee from 2008 through 2016. As well she is a retired Master Gardener, active community volunteer, and compost nerd...and is well known as the Okanagan Lazy Composter!

Valerie Sikkema
Langley City
– Horticulturist



Valerie Sikkema is happy to have been appointed as a new BC CiB Director and Judge. She holds a B.Sc.(Agr.) in Horticulture from the University of Guelph and gained her foundational industry knowledge growing up at her parents' garden centre in Ontario. Valerie has been on the team at Van Belle Nursery since 2006 and is an active leader in the horticulture community, currently serving as the Grower Chair at BCLNA. Now semi-retired, she enjoys her garden at home and taking long walks in Langley City where she lives.

Shirley Culver
Kamloops
– Retired

Shirley is a long time Kamloops resident, she



was a councillor for the City of Kamloops from 1987 to 1999. As well as a retired community economic development coordinator for Community Futures Thompson Country. In 2005, she was the Chair of the Kamloops CiB Committee when the City of Kamloops achieved 5-Blooms for the national Communities in Bloom competition.

Jackie Morra
Maple Ridge –
Garden Speaker &
Horticultural Therapy



Jackie Morra is a popular home décor and garden personality who speaks at various trade shows, consumer garden shows and

garden clubs across Canada. Jackie has been sharing her 20 years of experience within the horticulture industry through garden features, teaching horticulture therapy, creating unique floral displays, and building marketing partnerships to share her passion for the benefits of gardening.

JUDGES

Floortje Molenaar
Peachland
– Emergency Disaster
Services Coordinator



Floortje moved to Canada from the Netherlands in 2006. While working for Plant Publicity Holland she was involved with Entente Florale, the Dutch and European equivalent of Communities in Bloom. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Landscape Architecture and Environmental Management with a major in landscape management. She joined us in 2017 and is a judge.

Kerry Bysouth
Chilliwack - Retired



Kerry retired from the District of Mission in 2016 as their Parks and Facilities Manager. He has over 46 years of experience and was very involved in Mission's CiB efforts. Kerry joined us in 2019 and is one of our judges.

Catherine Kennedy
Langley – BC CiB
Executive Director



Catherine has been involved with the provincial CiB program since 2004. Her education and work experience in Graphic Design and Horticulture/ Landscape Design contributes to the day-to-day coordination of this amazing community enhancement program.



Beautifully coloured flower honours the past and welcomes the future

OTTAWA, ON, 2 APRIL 2026 – The Royal Canadian Legion is delighted to present its new “Legion 100” anniversary tulip to Canadians. Supporters can plant the bulbs during the organization’s anniversary year and welcome its next century when the flowers are in full bloom next spring. The symbolic flower was chosen in collaboration with the

Canadian Tulip Festival, which literally grew from the gratitude felt by the Netherlands after Canada’s key role in its liberation during the Second World War.

The Legion 100 tulip’s unique petals have vibrant white edges that point to the sky, celebrating the first one hundred years of Legion service, and welcoming the next. Infused with the red of Remembrance, the petals open to form an angled design reminiscent of the royal crown depicted on the Legion’s badge. Together, the shape and the colours tell a story.

“This flower truly reflects what the Legion stands for,” says Berkley Lawrence, Dominion President. “It also reminds us of the symbolic colours of our country and its freedoms, granted by the sacrifices of our Veterans.”

The limited-edition bulbs will grow into Darwin Hybrid Tulip blooms with strong stalks, and large blooms reaching up to five inches high. They can be ordered online and delivered across the country, through the [Legion’s online Poppy Store](#) and the [Canadian Tulip Festival’s](#) site. Any proceeds will support The Royal Canadian Legion in serving Veterans, and The Canadian Tulip Legacy. Legion 100 bulbs will also be available in person during the 2026 [Canadian Tulip Festival](#) in Ottawa which runs from May 8-18.

Throughout 2026, the Legion is holding special events at the national, provincial, and local levels, and kicking off additional new projects that will mark its entry into the next century.



Article shared from Kerry Bysouth, BC CiB Judge and Legion Member.

ATTENTION ALL COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM PARTICIPANTS

Youth in Action

Bert Pulles Memorial Award Nomination Form

BC Communities in Bloom Board of Directors is once again honoring a dear friend. Bert Pulles was a champion for the value and benefits of the Communities in Bloom program. He was a board member for many years. Bert was proud to live in Mission and volunteered his time and talents whenever possible. His proudest achievement was his work with students in creating a district wide Mission Schools Garden Program.

This is an award to acknowledge the contribution of young people in our communities.

NOMINATE YOUTH and their PROJECTS, such as:

- Garden Project or Food Production – state the purpose or who benefits.
- Environmental Action Initiative or Event – feature the key benefit.
- Beautification Efforts or Civic Pride – what is being enhanced the community.
- Youth Community Service - profile initiative, uniqueness, quality.



British Columbia
Communities in Bloom



ADDITIONAL DETAILS:

Submit an Entry with up to 3 photos and a 250-word summary.

- All entries will receive recognition and a frameable certificate
- Will be featured in the BC CiB Growing Together Newsletter.
- Photos must be applicable to the project submitted.
- One Nomination per project accepted for Youth 18 or younger (Youth Club, Group, or School)
- Two entries will be selected (by a three-person panel) to receive \$250 prize money.

Prize Sponsor:



PROJECT NAME:		
Club, Group or School Name		
Location of Project or Date of Event		
Nominator	Phone	Email (required)
Project Leader	Phone	Email (required)
Youth(s) Name (Optional)		
Submit 3 of your best photos with full rights in high resolution (a minimum of 300dpi at print size or a minimum weight of 800kb). These photos will be used by BC Communities in Bloom in our Provincial 'Growing Together' Newsletter.		
Please supply a short description (250 words Maximum) OR as an emailed attached word document.		
Email form: catherine.bccib@gmail.com or Mail: BC Communities in Bloom, 4451 212 St. Langley, BC V3A 7Z8 www.bccib.ca		
To be recognized in this year's BC CiB Provincial Awards PowerPoint, please enter BEFORE JUNE 10TH 2026		

See last year's entries in the [November Newsletter](#).