



MODIFIED EVALUATION | NOVICE WORKSHOP | FRIENDS

Submissions from:

City of Nanaimo

City of Armstrong

District of Hope

District of Sicamous

District of 100 Mile House

Village of Clinton

District of Sooke

City of Coquitlam

City of Abbotsford

City of Nanaimo – Novice

Built on the traditional lands of the Snuneymuxw and Snaw-Naw-As First Nations, our community is over 100,000 people and growing; people who live, work, play and thrive here. Since Nanaimo incorporated in 1874, we've been a coal town, a timber town, a mill town and a tourist destination.

Nature and green space are on our doorstep. Stretching along the waterfront and framed by a forested backdrop, all Nanaimo residents are minutes from quality outdoor experiences. As people continue to seek ways to connect with nature and live active lives, these spaces increase in demand.



City of Armstrong – Modified Evaluation

First, the judges want to commend the City of Armstrong for their participation in the 2021 BC Communities in Bloom albeit a one-day modified evaluation. After last year's cancellation of all BC CiB community evaluations, Armstrong indicated that they were eager to get started once again. With the COVID-19 concerns still somewhat present, what also complicated this year's judges' visit was the excessive heat that plagued the area in late June and early July and the smoke from regional wildfires. All this being considered, the judges congratulate Shirley Fowler and the Armstrong CiB Committee for their perseverance and providing us with a very special day.

Organizing a one-day tour, even though only three categories were evaluated, created many challenges. Judges were only allotted five hours, so the tour schedule had to be well organized, and every stop timed to the minute. You did an excellent job here.

What the judges enjoyed, was meeting all those who contribute to Armstrong's CiB program. Their enthusiasm was evident from the start. They are definitely proud of their community. Having a strong core of community volunteers is the secret to a successful CiB program. Please pass on our sincerest thanks for their contributions to this program.



District of Hope – Modified Evaluation

Special Mention:

Restoration of Chainsaw Carvings.

This ongoing project is really breathing new life and colour into the streets of Hope. Painstaking work and patience, skill and dexterity and hours of work from many volunteers. Carving, grinding, repairing, drilling, painting, varnishing. The results? A real stop you in your tracks WOW factor! The various carvings that have had some TLC have come to life!



Some pieces have added appropriate coloured paint to the carvings and bring a whole new dimension to the streetscape. Many more are programmed for revitalization but obviously there is so much work lovingly restoring each piece of art, it will be an ongoing project for some time.

Congratulations - Outstanding work!

Sicamous COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM 2021



Rising from the metaphorical and literal ashes.



SICAMOUS STRONG. View of the Two Mile Creek Wildfire from the Sicamous Beach Park.

What do you do when you have an unprecedented heat wave, evacuated residents and horrible toxic smoke from wildfires and an unpredictable pandemic? You find ways to grow hope in your community.

Early in the year we were riding a wave of optimism from our efforts the previous year and made the intention that this year had to be better than last year. Volunteer groups proudly wore their "Hope is Growing T-Shirts" and were anxious to continue the seniors housing flower bed cleanup we started in 2020. The fall bulbs we had planted around town were popping up everywhere.



HOPE IS GROWING. The volunteer lunch following the Annual Community Cleanup.

We redid the flower bed at the south entrance to downtown with a big beautiful yellow spark to mirror the spark in the Sicamous logo and the colour of the Hope is Growing campaign.

The success of the art installation and gardens at the Red Barn Arts Centre encouraged us to follow up with another art and garden partnership on the Resource Centre fence behind the Sicamous Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion facing main street. It creates a beautiful back drop to our Farmers Market and the other work we have done to beautify the Legion.



LIFE WITH SPARK. The Sicamous "spark" flower bed created at the south entrance to downtown

At the request of the Resource Centre, we went with a theme of harvest, food, and family. We also added flowers and mushrooms as a nod to Communities in Bloom and the Fungi Festival.

The ladies of the Eagle Valley Arts Council worked their magic to create beautiful pieces in vibrant colours that are a spectacular addition to our Main Street and Farmer's Market venue.



FANCY FENCING. Artwork from the Eagle Valley Arts Council now adorns the fence facing the Sicamous Legion.

Sicamous COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM 2021



EVOLUTION OF AN IDEA FOR A GARDEN.

Although this year's feature project is beautiful, it was part inspiration and planning and part everything Mother Nature could throw at us. The space started out as a weed patch in a neglected area with no water. It is a large space, so our drought tolerant seedlings didn't cover much. We had annuals donated when they became too much work to keep alive in 40+ temps. They filled beds out here and at our Seniors housing project but involved significant volunteer work with the extreme heat, smoke, and ash.

We did our best to coordinate planting colours with the artwork they fronted and once the annuals are finished more drought tolerant plants and fall bulbs will be added. Amid one of the worst years for gardening in the community. Our amazing volunteers ensured our previous year's feature gardens continued to thrive as well as assisting staff with public gardens.



BLOOM WHERE YOU ARE PLANTED. As seen in the photos above, Communities in Bloom volunteers continue to assist the District of Sicamous Public Works team to ensure the public gardens are groomed and vibrant.

Sicamous COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM 2021

Our efforts to beautify the senior's housing flower beds was also hampered by the difficult conditions. The beds had been neglected for years and were in terrible shape. We added plants retrieved from the site for the new Shuswap Healing Centre as well as donated annuals to fill in. Drought tolerant seedlings were planted to minimize maintenance of the beds in the future. Unfortunately, while the seniors were evacuated some of their own plants died. Communities in Bloom provided them with beautiful Fall Mums on their return home in the Hope is Growing theme colour.



"TO PLANT A GARDEN
IS TO BELIEVE IN
TOMORROW."
~ AUDREY HEPBURN

From top left: volunteers clean up the flower beds at the Senior's Centre, the fruits of their labour, Deb Heap greets residents at The Manor with Fall Mums donated by Communities in Bloom.

Improvements to the downtown have begun to escalate with businesses taking up the challenge as well. Communities in Bloom provided flowers and plants to assist their efforts, but the new businesses have exceeded all expectations with the extra efforts they have made to beautify derelict buildings and sites.

All the following pictures are new downtown businesses that started in the last year. Significant parts of downtown have been completely transformed, with run down businesses now being the exception rather than the norm of a few years ago.

WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER!

Sicamous COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM 2021

AROUND TOWN. Photos of new businesses whose efforts have beautified our growing community.



WE ARE THANKFUL FOR OUR PARTNERSHIPS & VOLUNTEERS.

Communities in Bloom is sponsored by the District of Sicamous and succeeds because of the support from Staff and Council and the strong partnerships and volunteers from the community. **THANK YOU:**

- Resident volunteers of Sicamous
- Local businesses
- Sicamous Legion
- Eagle Valley Arts Council
- Eagle Valley Community Resource Centre
- Sicamous Farmers' Market
- Sicamous Bible Church
- Sicamous Pickleball
- Sicamous Fire Department
- Eagle Valley Senior Citizens Housing Society

**100 Mile House –
Modified Evaluated**

Photo submissions only

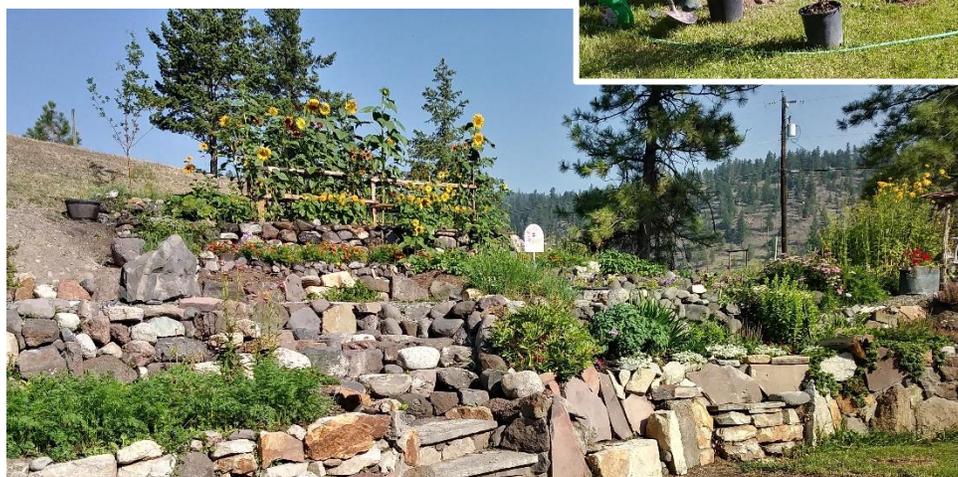


Village of Clinton – Friends

Sunday night in Clinton. Impromptu concert by the “Blue Wranglers”. Dustin Bentall, Trixie Berkel, Dan Fremlin and Bruce Ambler entertain on a makeshift stage to raise funds for the people of Lytton.



Volunteers plant shrubs to hide the electrical panels at the newly renovated Clinton Villa Manor senior’s residence.



We had many great gardens this year all over Clinton and the area. Candice was one of the biggest. She keeps her bees well fed.

District of Sooke – Friends

Ed MacGregor Park is a shining example of the natural beauty, both wild and cultivated, that Sooke residents are especially proud of.



City of Coquitlam - Friends



City of Abbotsford – Friends

Abbotsford City Hall once again had a huge success with its floral display gardens, along with the Mennonite Museum and Mill Lake Baseball Centre.

We continued adding more wraps on the electrical boxes along the South Fraser Way corridor and we may have inspired BC Hydro to do the same on their electrical boxes.

Fish Trap Creek always a busy park area, creates its own magic with the fall colours.

