

PEOPLE, PLANTS AND PRIDE... Growing Together

BC COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Provincial Awards Luncheon - Oct 3
- Community Showcases from Kelowna & Chetwynd
- Invasive Aquatic Plants
- What's Growing On

We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia



GOLD SPONSORS:



BRONZE SPONSOR



GREEN BUD SPONSOR

V.I.P. Soap Products

COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIP

City of Burnaby
Sun Rivers Resort Community

SUPPORTERS

Gardens British Columbia
Destination BC
Invasive Species Council of BC
BC Landscape & Nursery Association
BC Recreation & Parks Association
Langley Sandman Hotel & Denny's



BC Communities in Bloom

Suite 102 - 19289 Langley Bypass,
Surrey, BC V3S 6K1
(604) 576-6506

www.bccib.ca



Friend us on Facebook

Provincial Awards Luncheon only \$50

If you haven't already, please book your hotel for the 2015 Communities in Bloom Symposium and the Provincial, National, International Awards event being held in Kamloops. People from all over the world will be in attendance for this celebration of community excellence.

The Provincial Awards will be like previous years where Evaluation Reports, Bloom Certificates and Sponsored Criteria Trophies are awarded for outstanding effort in Heritage, Landscape, Tidiness, and Floral.

The National & International Awards are in the evening at the same event location.

All provincial participants are encouraged to attend the Symposium and fun dinners planned throughout the week. Kamloops has an amazing team of organizers dedicated to educating and showcasing how important the Communities in Bloom program has been to the City of Kamloops. [Hotel Link](#) [Registration Link](#)

2015 Symposium and BC Provincial, National and International Awards Ceremonies
Interior Savings Centre (ISC) | Kamloops, British Columbia – September 30th – October 3rd, 2015
Presentations and information with this year's theme "Community Redefined"
Unique networking & exchange opportunities with delegates from Canada, the United States, Europe and Asia

www.communitiesinbloom.ca | www.facebook.com/communitiesinbloom | [@cibcef](https://twitter.com/cibcef)
www.tourismkamloops.com

Black is the New Bloom!

BC CiB Judges in Fort St John July 20th: I thought you would get a laugh out of the attached photo. You probably see a predominance of flower/bloom type photos come across your desk of judges posing in front of community floral displays, well here are Darlene, Teresa and FSJ Co-Chair Karen just yesterday checking out the blooming Kal-Tire stewardship program!

From Edward Stanford



COMMUNITY SHOWCASE: Kelowna Communities in Bloom Green Thumb Garden Awards



The Kelowna CiB Committee is under the auspices of the Parks Services Department and has been coordinating a Green Thumb Garden Contest for many years to help beautify Kelowna and draw the public's attention to a greener and stewardship oriented city.

As many as 12 categories are advertised to Garden Clubs, Okanagan Master Gardeners, nurseries and the media. Usually 35-50 nominations are received from the public and landscape enthusiasts. Nominations categories include street, residential gardens and commercial properties, heritage properties and school gardens as well as community projects. They are assessed by several judges who decide on the lucky winners.

The highlight is the Awards evening with the presentation of beautiful plaques and garden stakes. What a rewarding experience for all.

Many thanks to Wilma Schellenberger (white floral top) who works tirelessly with our committee to achieve this goal.



The awards ceremony set up.

Hospice House



One of the categories



One of 19 Community Gardens



Small Private Garden



COMMUNITY SHOWCASE:

Chetwynd Entrance Cluster

Chetwynd is home to beautiful handcrafted chainsaw sculptures of indigenous animals and local scenes that can be found throughout town, businesses and homes.

The chainsaw carving project began as part of the Rendezvous '92 Committee, which was created to help with celebrations for the 50th anniversary of the construction of the Alaska Highway. The Chetwynd Rendezvous '92 Committee wished to leave a lasting legacy of the Community's participation in the special event to celebrate this milestone of the Alaska Highway.

Today Chetwynd has over 130 carvings located in various places around town.

This past summer we have revitalized the corner where the old Chevron gas station used to be located. We added chip, rock, and waterless plants that require less maintenance.



COMMUNITY SHOWCASE:

Chetwynd 2015 Expo Mound

In 2014 we started planning to revitalize the Expo Mound entrance. We took the fence down that surrounded the area, commissioned a new “Welcome to Chetwynd” sign, took out all flowers and greenery. We added chip, rock, and waterless plants that require less maintenance. Lights will be added as well to connect the walkway system with the chainsaw carving theme. The new enhanced entrance is a great facelift to the walkway through town.

**History**

To commemorate and celebrate the highway's 50th year, a partnership involving Alaska, British Columbia, the Yukon, Alberta and the Northwest Territories has been formed. This umbrella organization, **Project '92**, will co-ordinate and sanction community events, attractions, shows and displays, promotions, licensing and corporate sponsorships on behalf of the five participating jurisdictions. The events and celebrations held in commemoration of the anniversary can be identified and marked under the proposed title **Alaska Highway Rendezvous '92'**.

The concept of a rendezvous is appropriate to a wartime remembrance. It implies a reunion, a meeting, a clandestine arrangement, a romantic liaison, a coming together, the movement of people and a destination. The Alaska Highway Rendezvous '92' banner is general and fits any of the participating jurisdictions or events, yet it is unique and evocative and will be easily remembered through the rhyme

within the name itself. The events will also be fun, historic, exciting! Vintage vehicles from the World War II period will mass and retrace the torturous supply route. They will roll on wheels and tracks, through mountain ranges, across valleys, canyons and rivers. But the highway of the 1992 will be a smooth “dream come true” compared to the rough and rugged one-lane road carved out of the northern bush 50 years ago.

The aboriginal peoples of the north will be a vital part of the Project '92 program, In 1942 the Alaska Highway brought the modern world to northern natives who were, for the most part, living on the land in traditionally self-sufficient harmony with their environment. The shock of being catapulted into the latter half of the 20th century has taken a toll. It is appropriate to respect and support the original culture and traditions of our native northerners. Alaska Highway Rendezvous '92 will shine a spotlight on the north and welcome the world to visit, participate and invest in the future of the north.

Water Gardens and Invasive Species Don't Mix

Water gardens are a great way to add biodiversity to existing gardens and yards, but did you know that because of their popularity, aquatic gardens and aquariums have become a significant pathway of spread for aquatic invasive species in British Columbia?

Aquatic invasive species can spread alarmingly fast, impacting our communities with damage to the environment, management costs to the economy, and social impacts such as reduced recreation in infested areas. Invasive species are not native to BC and lack the predators and pathogens that would typically keep them under control in their native ecosystem.

The majority of aquatic invasive species are introduced accidentally to the wild; however, a number of them are intentionally used in aquariums and water gardens and should be avoided for purchase and removed appropriately if you recognize them on your property or in your aquarium. For example, Eurasian watermilfoil and parrot's feather form dense mats that float on the water's surface and restrict light from penetrating. Over time this devastates underwater vegetation that fish and wildlife depend on, and can make areas impassable for motorized/non-motorized recreation.

Aquatic invasive species also have the ability to damage property such as boats, dams, and equipment, creating costly repairs and/or management.

Along with direct damage, the presence of aquatic invasive species on lakeside properties can deplete overall property value.

When it comes to reducing the spread of aquatic invasive species, *prevention* is the most important and cost-effective strategy. Thank you for doing your part to help prevent further spread and damage within our natural ecosystems.

To find out more about aquatic invasive species and free ISCBC membership: visit www.bcinvasives.ca or call 1-888-933-3722.



Here are several aquatic invasive species that are common to BC, and because of their detrimental impacts to BC waters, please avoid these in aquariums or water gardens:

Eurasian Watermilfoil is an invasive aquatic perennial first seen in the Okanagan in the 1970's, and has since spread to lakes throughout the



Okanagan Valley, Kootenays and Lower Mainland. The plant forms thick vegetation mats that limit boating, swimming, and fishing, displace native plant species and decrease biodiversity and water quality. Boats and boat trailers carrying plant fragments are the most common way it spreads between water bodies.

Knotweed There are four different species of invasive knotweeds in BC: Japanese, Bohemian, Giant and Himalayan knotweed. Showy white flowers and



heart-shaped leaves have made knotweed a popular horticultural plant, yet it is very invasive, spreading rapidly along water systems and roadways. Knotweeds shade out other plant species, dominating streams and riparian areas and causing soil erosion and loss of fish habitat. Knotweeds can be found in southern BC, the Shuswap, the Lower Mainland, and Haida Gwaii.

Parrot's Feather is an aquatic plant species native to South America. It is a popular ornamental species for backyard aquatic gardens and ponds because of its feather-like bright green foliage. Parrot's feather is now listed as an invasive



species within BC and is illegal to purchase in several American states due to its ability to rapidly take over water bodies. Currently, parrot's feather is found in Richmond and is continuing to spread throughout the Lower Mainland.

Purple Loosestrife is an invasive wetland perennial common throughout most regions of BC and is currently listed as a regionally noxious weed under the BC



Weed Control Act. This woody shrub lacks nutritional value and dominates native and endangered wetland plant species. Purple loosestrife does not provide beneficial habitat to animal species; instead it crowds out important native plant and animal species.

Yellow Flag Iris is a wetland perennial found in BC's Lower Mainland and the southern interior. Native to Europe and North Africa, its appealing yellow flower



and sword-shaped leaves make it a popular species in garden centres for purchase, and home water gardens. Yellow flag iris threatens aquatic ecosystems

due to its ability to spread rapidly, form dense patches and restrict water flow in streams and irrigation ditches. It negatively affects wetlands, wildlife and outcompetes native plants, yet its popularity makes efforts to contain new infestations difficult.

What's Growing On

UBCM September 21, Monday 9am - noon

BC Communities in Bloom will be in attendance to provide information to Mayors and Councillors at the Union of BC Municipalities 2015 Convention at the Monday morning session: **Tools, Resources and Funding for Local Government**. Please stop by and say hi if you are attending this informative event.

Communities in Bloom Symposium Sept.30 - Oct.3

[Link to the National Website to see the Symposium at a Glance and the list of event hotels.](#)

Provincial Awards - October 3

From **11:30 am - 2:30 pm** Come Celebrate Community Success at the **British Columbia Communities in Bloom 12th Annual Provincial Awards**. From remote wilderness areas to bustling tourist havens, participants will celebrate their unique geography, history and horticultural assets. Bloom Certificates, Evaluation Reports and Criteria Awards will be presented. All are welcome to attend this awards luncheon.

New challenge in 2015

National and International Finalists will have the challenge of being awarded Bronze, Silver or Gold level to their 5 Bloom rating.

The levels will be awarded based on the scoring of their evaluation as follows:

5 Blooms: 82 to 83.9%

5 Blooms (Bronze): 84 to 86.9%

5 Blooms (Silver): 87 to 89.9%

5 Blooms (Gold): 90% and over



You can still submit for these special projects:

[Scotts Miracle-Gro Youth Garden Contest](#) (deadline August 13, 2015)

[Home Hardware Dealer Involvement Contest](#) (deadline August 31, 2015)

[National Photo Contest](#) (deadline August 31, 2015)

[2016 CN EcoConnexions - From the Ground Up](#) (deadline September 11, 2015)

VANCO
FARMS LTD.

2015



Fundraise with tulip bulbs!

Where gardening meets community support

Vanco Farms Ltd., in partnership with Communities in Bloom, is proud to renew its fundraising campaign available to all communities, organisations, service groups and institutions across Canada.

Support the joys and benefits of gardening and beautification while fundraising for your special cause or project.

Tulips are easy to plant – great for all ages! – and require little maintenance. They provide a joyful boost of colour after those long winter months, and bring springtime cheer to any flower bed or planting location. When growing in rich and well drained soil, they will propagate and bloom again year after year. ([More Information](#) / [Order Form](#))