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## Sicamous CiB – Community Clean-up April 2021



“Big thanks to all the volunteers that came out Saturday.

Jeff, Gord and I were thrilled with the community support for the Clean Up, which was a huge success.

We had over 40 volunteers came out to enjoy the

beautiful spring weather and give the community a face lift. The bright yellow DOS / Communities in Bloom “Hope is growing” T shirts could be seen all around town.

Sicamous Bible Church and Sicamous Pickleball Club both had large contingents come out and our MLA Greg Kylo rolled up his sleeves and lent a hand. Bryant Laboret and his skid steer were a huge help with bush whacking and the Snow mobile clubs chain and brush saws made a big difference.

We also had great business support with Twin Anchors and Bayview Homes donating dump trailers and Ace Parkland Building Supplies giving us a great deal on pansies. As always DOS and AIM provided the supplies and signage.

Over 1300 KG of garbage and brush was collected from along roadsides. There was no charge as the CSRD provided volunteers with waivers for everything collected on the day.

Volunteers weeded and planted the Senior’s Housing Flower beds as well as sprucing up beds at the Legion, Red Barn and Fire Hall.

At the end of the event volunteers were treated to a physically distanced yummy bag lunch prepared by Judy and donated by the Legion.

Unfortunately Mayor Terry just missed us (we just worked so darn fast), but he asked me to pass on his appreciation and say how amazing things looked as he drove through town.

All in all in was a great day.

We have several volunteers that help on an ongoing basis. I encourage all of you to wear your T shirts as you continue to pull weeds, plant, and pick up litter on your walks around town. People are noticing and you can see the improvements and increased pride in the community.

I have attached a few pics and will be sure to post more on the Communities in Bloom FB page. Send along any good ones that you may have taken throughout the day.” Deb Heap, Sicamous CiB Chair

## Intergenerational Garden – Maple Ridge, Pitt Meadows, Katzie Senior Network



The Intergenerational Garden is an outdoor classroom initiative in downtown Maple Ridge, BC that brings together school-age children, seniors, and the wider community to grow, learn and build relationships. Constructed and managed by the Maple Ridge, Pitt Meadows, Katzie Seniors Network the Garden engages over 400 students and 20-30 senior volunteers in planting, tending, and teaching the value of growing your own food and sustainability. Gardening knowledge is passed down from seniors to younger generations, so the experience and knowledge are not lost in our community. The Intergenerational Garden is a strong supporter of food security in the community, annually growing and donating hundreds of pounds of produce to the local food bank. Students and volunteers also enjoy the produce together and make soups and salads in the classroom.

The Intergenerational Garden is on land owned by the City of Maple Ridge and is open to the public to visit daylight hours. Neighbours in the area often visit on their daily walks to check on the plants and chat with the volunteers.

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, the Intergenerational Garden has adhered to the public health guidelines established for community gardens and public schools. The volunteers have been grateful to have an outdoor space they could work in (in a socially distanced manner) which greatly benefited their physical and mental health during a time when many seniors suffered due to the isolation. When classes returned to school in June 2020, students and teachers also benefited from the outdoor classroom space.



## Lake Errock Community Association

### Submission #1

Anneke Anderson loves gardening, has an eye for detail and the street view of her yard and house really show it. This year, Anneke decided to share a picture of the few flowers that seemed to still flourish when all the others were wilting beneath the hot sun of July.



### Submission #2

Cena McDonell is one of my fortunate neighbours whose property is right on the lake. I love looking at the beauty of her large garden as I drift by on a paddleboard or in my kayak.

Cena and her partner devote much of their time to tending to the garden all through the summer and fall, and as you can see, she was quite honoured and proud to show off her Best Garden Selection of this year.





### Submission #3

Dina Robertson and her husband, Ian live in one of the houses atop some of the rock outcropping on the North side of the Lake, which presents some challenges such as light, quality of ground to garden, and a steep slope from her house down to the dock on the lake in which she grows various plants at various layers of rock.

Dina and her husband embrace the sensitive eco system that exists, and so plants a lot of species that are native to the area that encourage native fauna that pass through each season such as the Pacific Chorus frog, migrating birds that pass through our temperate winters and even one of at least two resident black bears that call Lake Errock home. For example, our Native Red Currents and Native Huckleberries are feeding wildlife during the gap that exists just before spring starts to fill our gardens with life once again. She has also planted a Native Pacific Dogwood; once a Provincial symbol in which it was illegal to pick, has been replaced by structures and sidewalks and is a rare sight anymore.

### Submission #4

Another participant for the Best Garden Selections of 2021 is Fred Block.

The flowers are modest and lovely and really bring out the happy feelings that the best of summer brings out in all of us.



## Submission #5

Our fifth participant in the neighbourhood who was selected for having one of the Best Selected Gardens of 2021 is Jeff Rempel.

The beautiful think about Lake Errock is the fact that it is not a 'cookie cutter' neighbourhood. Each house and garden has its own character and feel. Jeff's house is beautiful and his garden is simple and elegant but the feel is always warm and welcoming. Just look at the gorgeous blooms of the hydrangea, colour matching the house. Just beautiful!



## Submission #6

Our sixth participant chosen for Lake Errock's Best Garden Selection of 2021 is Joanne Hartley.

I personally love the picture she chose to share because of the lights reflected and highlighting some of Joanne's gardening style, which has a bit of an oriental flavour to it.

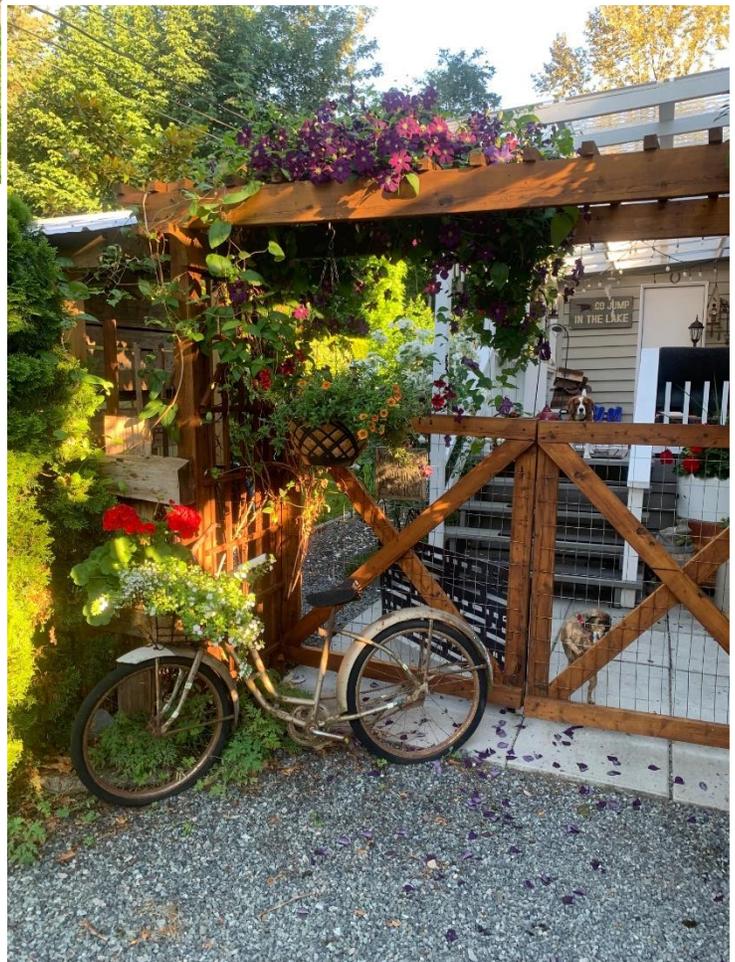
Joanne and her husband both run a Bed and Breakfast. When guests aren't enjoying a cool down in the lake which is a block from the house, they can lay back, have a cool drink and maybe even read a book beneath a gorgeous garden canopy, plus the hospitality of excellent hosts!

Lake Errock's 7<sup>th</sup> participant and Best Selected Garden for 2021 is Wendy Gayton.

As mentioned before, Lake Errock is not a cookie cutter neighbourhood and diversity ranges from the natural environment surrounding us, to the wildlife that passes through, to the types of houses and gardens that fill the neighbourhood. Wendy's property is no exception.

Wendy has a style of antique items and shops and shacks but is very humble and unassuming from the street view. Then you pass under an arbour of purple clematis and that is where the magic begins. There is literally a 'Secret Garden' behind that arbour and from there, it is a tour of nooks and crannies filled with interest and all kinds of special plant species that are a sense overload of smells and sights.

It was wonderful to have so many share their gardens with me. I had really nice visits with each, and it was an opportunity to converse and get to know some of my neighbours better. Joyce Slett, Lake Errock Community Association.



## Coquitlam CiB - Park Spark Garden Volunteers

The City of Coquitlam's Park Spark Garden volunteering initiative encourages green thumbs of all ages and abilities to join in, share knowledge, learn new skills, and make a difference while helping keep the Gardens throughout Coquitlam looking their best.

Garden volunteers can drop in year-round to the Inspiration Garden, an educational horticultural space dedicated to inspiring, growing, supporting, and connecting gardeners in the local community. Alongside Park Spark staff and an onsite City of Coquitlam gardener, volunteers can engage in a variety of gardening activities and collaborate to deliver educational programming, informational signage and an electronic newsletter identifying "Blooms of the week", pollinator fun facts, gardening tips/tricks and upcoming activities.

Park Spark Garden volunteers are also able to engage with a variety of community partners. Park Spark Garden Volunteers join the Fraser Pacific Rose Society, a non-profit society that maintains the City's Centennial Rose Garden, with their annual rose show. They also help with regular rose garden maintenance encouraging opportunities for new rose growers. Park Spark Garden Volunteers also team up with the Dogwood Garden Club, dedicated to promoting gardening in the community, to host their annual plant sale. Proceeds go to support demonstration workshops, school programs and horticulture scholarships. One of the Garden Club members also stewards the City's demonstration mason bee house at the Inspiration Garden.

The Youth Urban Garden team is also part of the Park Spark Garden volunteer initiative, providing opportunities for local youth to meet likeminded peers and get involved in their local community.



Due to the success of this Garden Volunteer initiative, with over 120 dedicated volunteers, we have recently expanded our Park Spark Garden volunteer program to the Poirier Grounds.

## Castlegar Communities in Bloom Plant A Little Hope

Team Leader Barb in pink, Coordinated School program Plant A Little Hope. They provided 609 pkgs to all of our elementary schools. Sunflowers donated by West Coast Seeds, Soil Dig Garden Centre Completed in Kalawsky GM Drive-Thru!



## Castlegar Communities in Bloom

I LOVE being a Bloomin' Grandma

Here is a series of photos of Grandmas and their Grandkids having a great time together. We encourage kids to be early bloomers. Bottom photos our Granddaughter Miri doing a Hope is Growing Chalk Drawing for Chalk It Up Week.



## Cottages on Osoyoos Lake - Planting a Pollinator Garden

This past spring, the Landscape Committee at the Cottages on Osoyoos Lake chose to undertake a community project to establish a pollinator garden at the entrance to the Cottages. The location chosen was the median area at the entrance gates to the property. This current area had been planted to blue sheep fescue. However, the condition of these fescues had deteriorated, with many plants either dead or dying. Very few were still healthy. So, the plan was to remove these grasses and convert the area to the Pollinator Garden.

Members of the Landscape Committee, as well as community volunteers, would be responsible for planting the garden. Activities included removing of the fescue (healthy ones would be relocated elsewhere on the site) and then the planting of the pollinator plants. A list of compatible plants for the Pollinator Garden was then chosen.

The Committee was then fortunate to receive a Neighbourhood Small Grant from the Community Foundation – South Okanagan Similkameen. This grant allowed the Committee to purchase the plants, soil and mulch that was required for the project. As well, Greenscape Landscaping of Penticton, the company that looks after the Cottages' landscaping requirements, assisted the project by providing all the materials at their cost therefore allowing the garden to come in on budget.

The project got underway on June 21 with the hope that it would be completed relatively soon. First, came the intense heat in the South Okanagan. Planting of the garden was on hold. Everything resumed on July 15. Then, just before the mulch arrived, the fires hit on July 19.

Finally, by July 26, it was completed. The feedback from the community has been very positive.

Everyone is looking forward to 2022 to see this garden flourish.



## Village of Clinton – Bench

Clinton’s visitors can have a rest at a new bench and picnic the table near the public washrooms and community garden. (Photo credit: Yvette May) Andy May reading the Clinton Lariat.

The bench — created by Cariboo chainsaw artist Ken Sheen — was purchased with funding left over from the CCCTA grant. The village was also able to purchase two new picnic tables, one of which has been installed near the washrooms. The other one will be going just down the road in Robertson Square.

I forgot one important thing about the new bench.

It is placed at the bus stop. The Clinton, Cache Creek & Ashcroft Community Bus pick up residents to take them to Kamloops on Mondays, Ashcroft Wednesday & Friday. The last Monday of the month it goes to 100 Mile House.

