

PEOPLE, PLANTS AND PRIDE...
Growing Together
 BC COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Challenges for a New Year
- Grow Your Way Poster
- Invasive Species Launches an App
- 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

2016 COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIP

City of Coquitlam
 District of Mission

2016 Awards Host - District of Hope

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

My Challenges for a New Year

How many of us are excited when Dec 21 passes and we start to look forward to more daylight hours? I know I do!

I live at the wet coast (Surrey) and I respect the weather challenges that face the rest of the province. It must be hard to think about the new year when spring is still under inches of ice and snow. As so many British Columbians are keen outdoorsmen, I would love to hear how our CiB communities spend their winter days. I will post this to our facebook page too so that we can share your comments.

For me the New Year is the start of registration for the Provincial Edition of the Communities in Bloom (BC CiB) program. Identifying new participants is the biggest challenge as last year's participants are often ready to hit the ground running when the spring thaw arrives. So here is my to do list for the New Year:

Discover CiB Champions...this may be YOU

Have you ever wondered "Can I be a Judge" or "Can I start a CiB group in my community?". We need to talk!

Promote the Novice Category

This is a great first step for new communities to find out more about the Communities in Bloom Program. The best part about being a Novice Community is that you will get a pair of judges in your community to workshop with your interested people.

Find New Sponsors

I am not a natural salesperson, but when you believe in what you represent I have to say it makes it a lot easier. If you are acquainted with a business that would benefit from sponsoring a CiB Criteria please let me know. I think the annual presentation of Criteria Awards is a highlight for our participants and our Sponsors.

So there you have it, my top three challenges for the new year. Isn't that what they recommend with New Year's Resolutions, to say it out loud to create accountability? ...there is no turning back...

P.S.

- March 31, 2016 is the Registration Deadline for the CiB Provincial Edition
- On February 18th I will be at the BC Recreation and Parks Spring Training Horticulture Day (Coast Hotel and Convention Centre, Langley) with a table full of information. Please stop by and say hi.
- And on a personal note; I am back to school for a CAD Landscape Design course at Kwantlen University one morning a week. I expect this middle aged dog can still learn a few new tricks!

Wishing you a Happy New Year :) Catherine Kennedy, BC CiB Executive Director

"A great program that raises awareness of all the amazing things going on in your community, the judges provide a much needed outsider perspective in a positive manner that encourages all committee members to continue on in their efforts to make the community a better place to live, work and play."

Tom Kadla, MBA, ASCT, CMC

Chief Administrative Officer, Village of Lumby

GROW YOUR WAY

Communities in Bloom

Photo Credit: Angie Bailey, District of Sooke



CONNECTION

Exchange ideas with other communities

PARTICIPATION

Engage citizens of all ages and abilities

BEAUTIFICATION

Enhance your community's quality of life

HOW TO GET STARTED

1. See what's growing on-line at www.bccib.ca
2. Connect with others passionate about community
3. Contact the Provincial Coordinator for more info
Catherine (604) 576-6506 or c.kennedy@telus.net

BC COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM

provides a framework for enhancing community liveability.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE MARCH 31

for Novice, Evaluated and Non-Evaluated Categories

BC gardeners can now be 'PlantWise' on the go with new mobile app and website

Have you heard? Gardeners and landscapers planning for next year's gardens can now use their mobile devices to find out which plants are non-invasive.

The Invasive Species Council of BC (ISCBC) is pleased to announce the launch of the PlantWise program website and user-friendly mobile app to help British Columbians 'be PlantWise' and help curb the spread of invasive plants.

The new PlantWise app and website allows you to easily look up your growing zone or region and see which plants are most appropriate and which non-invasive plants are the best choices, as recommended by the experts.

Because many invasive plants are just as beautiful and functional as non-invasive plants, they can be hard to differentiate. With this new mobile app and website, it's now much easier to be 'PlantWise' and know what you grow. The mobile app can be downloaded at www.beplantwise.ca or from your phone's app store.

PlantWise is a prevention-based program designed for the



horticulture industry and consumers to encourage you to choose only safe, non-invasive plants. PlantWise offers gardeners education and awareness about Grow Me Instead, a popular resource that lists 26 invasive horticulture plants with multiple safe and attractive alternatives for all growing zones. All the resources of Grow Me Instead, along with links to retailers across BC who are becoming invasive-free, are available on the PlantWise mobile app and website at www.beplantwise.ca.

Invasive plants are a huge threat to biodiversity. With unique characteristics that other plants lack, invasive plants can out-compete native vegetation and cause

environmental and economic harm. Many invasive plants are sold to customers, escape cultivation and are now invasive in BC.

Join the movement to be PlantWise! The total sales by garden centres of invasive plants is now under one per cent for the industry; however, there are invasive species still being sold and traded in BC, and through PlantWise, ISCBC encourages all British Columbians to be more PlantWise.

A special thanks to our PlantWise retail Partners and community and stewardship group Ambassadors!

For more information about PlantWise, or to become a PlantWise partner in your community, visit www.bcinvasives.ca



About the Invasive Species Council of BC

The Invasive Species Council of BC (ISCBC) is a registered charity working to minimize the ecological, social, and economic impacts caused by invasive species. Their goals are to: educate the public and professionals about invasive species and their risk to ecosystems and economies through activities such as workshops, seminars and newsletters; coordinate research relating to invasive species and make this available to the public; and undertake and support actions that improve the health of BC's natural ecosystems. For more information or to find your local invasive species committee visit www.bcinvasives.ca.

Funding for this project has been provided through the Canada-BC Agri-Innovation Program under *Growing Forward 2*, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative. The program is delivered by the Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC.

DELIVERED BY

FUNDING PROVIDED BY



What's Growing On

Need more information on how to get your community involved?

Register Now for 2016

Deadline: March 31

Novice, Evaluated, Non-Evaluated Programs

Go to our [website](#) or contact Catherine at c.kennedy@telus.net

Membership Forms - link to website www.bccib.ca

Individual, Showcase or Community Memberships

Tell us your commUnity story

BC Communities in Bloom participants are invited to share what you are doing in your community that makes it a special place to live, work and visit. Short articles of 500 words or less with 3 or 4 photos are welcomed for our newsletter.

Lumby Trail
Photo by Rod McLean



News from National

- 1. [Submit an article for the CiB magazine](#). It's not too early to submit!**
- 2. [2015 Community Profile Books](#) are now available on LIN.**
- 3. [2015 Symposium Presentations](#) are now available on LIN.**