

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

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**One of our own: Cache Creek in Recovery**

On May 23rd the small Cariboo community of Cache Creek was dealt a catastrophic rainfall that sent flood waters racing through the community. BC Communities in Bloom organization was impressed to hear the announcement from the village Council meeting that **“We are proceeding with our entry featuring community strength! We’re looking forward to the tour this year!”** even before BC CiB offered to waive their registration fee!

And from another email: “Hi Catherine, Thanks for your kind thoughts. Very nice to know you folks [BC CiB] realize that we are a special case; even some of the street signs are dented, the logs hit some of them as the mud rushed by in the torrents that happened in almost every neighbourhood and through the downtown core. Funny that last week I was upset about parking lot line painting being refreshed!”  
 Carmen, Cache Creek CiB Committee Chair

Our thoughts and prayers are with the fine folks of Cache Creek during this time of recovery. Disaster relief will help many of those in need and we know you are a strong community filled with amazing people.

**Announcing  
 Canada’s Celebration of Gardens  
 June 19, 20 & 21, 2015**



Kicked off with National Garden Day, always the Friday before Father’s Day, **Garden Days** is a three-day celebration that takes place over the Father’s Day weekend. The program’s objective is to draw attention to our cultural garden landscape, history and innovations and to underscore the importance of public and private gardens, the values of home gardening and the promotion of environmental stewardship.

**Register your Garden Days Activity or Promotion**

To celebrate **Garden Days**, we invite you to organize something special at your Garden, Garden Centre or in your community. It could be as simple as free or reduced-price admission to your garden, a 15% discount in your shop or garden centre, a complimentary cup of coffee at your Café, or a special event you’d like to hold over the Father’s Day weekend -- it’s entirely up to you.

Whatever you decide to do, we invite you to register your activity on [www.gardendays.ca](http://www.gardendays.ca) . It’s as simple as clicking on the ‘Register Your Activity’ button and inputting your Garden Days activity information. **Please do so as soon as**

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**possible.** As soon as you register your activity, we'll send you the **Garden Days** Official Activity logo, which you can use in promotions of your activity.

### Program of Activities

There will be **Garden Days** activities and events held across the country in celebration of Canada's National Garden Day.

This three-day program of activities and events targets gardening enthusiasts, families, schools and tourists alike. **Garden Days** is an opportunity for Canadians to get outside in their own garden, visit their favourite public garden, stop in at their local garden centre or travel to a nearby garden destination to enjoy their favorite experience.

The program of activities and events will be featured on [www.gardendays.ca](http://www.gardendays.ca) / [www.lesjournéesdujardins.ca](http://www.lesjournéesdujardins.ca)

## Marketing and Communications

**Garden Days** will be supported by a vibrant national Public Relations campaign managed by Enterprise Canada, and Social Media campaign managed by Tara Nolan of the Canadian Garden Council. Please take every opportunity to connect your **Garden Days** activity to our Social Media outreach at Facebook.com/CanadianGardenCouncil and Twitter @CanadasGardens. It will reap benefits for us all.

## Promotions

### 1) Canada's Garden Street Contest Sponsored by Home Hardware

We want to know all about Canada's most outstanding Garden Street. The public will be invited to visit the [gardendays.ca](http://gardendays.ca) website to enter the contest and tell us how gardens, be they public or private, contribute to the quality of life and the aesthetic of their street and neighbourhood. The prize: \$1,000 worth of Mark's Choice Lawn and Garden Products from Home Hardware and the 'bragging rights' of being named Canada's Garden Street for 2015.

Contest closes at midnight, June 15, 2015. Winner will be announced via a nationally distributed media release and on the [gardendays.ca](http://gardendays.ca) website on National Garden Day, June 19, 2015.

The Canada's Garden Street Contest is sponsored by Home Hardware and supported by Communities in Bloom.

### 2) Municipal Garden Proclamations

In collaboration with Communities in Bloom, cities across the country will be invited to implement their own Official Garden Day Proclamation.

### National and Regional Spokespeople

As well as a vibrant social media campaign geared to sending the public to the [gardendays.ca](http://gardendays.ca) website to find out about **Garden Days** activities in their neighbourhood, we've got a terrific roster of media spokespeople on board to 'talk up' your event.

Mark Cullen and Larry Hodgson are the English and French, respectively, national Spokespeople for **Garden Days**.

Additionally, we have provincial spokespeople that you will no doubt recognize, who will be promoting **Garden Days** and maybe even your specific event, as follows: Brian Minter, British Columbia; Colleen Zacharias, Manitoba; t.b.c., Saskatchewan; t.b.c., Alberta; Denis Flanagan, Ontario; Albert Mondar, Québec; Niki Jabbour, Maritimes and Todd Boland, Newfoundland & Labrador.

Be sure to connect with your provincial spokesperson to let them know all about your **Garden Days** activity. You can do this by visiting the home page of [www.gardendays.ca](http://www.gardendays.ca) and clicking on the name of your provincial spokesperson.

**Garden Days** is a joyful country-wide celebration of the vital role that gardens and gardening play in our communities and our lives.

We hope you'll get involved! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards,

Carol Cowan  
Director of Operations & Marketing  
Canadian Garden Council  
Ph: 416-929-1066  
email: [zebra@passport.ca](mailto:zebra@passport.ca)

**Garden Days is organized by:** Canadian Garden Council

**Supported by:**

- Canadian Nursery Landscape Association and all its provincial members and Garden Centre members
- Communities in Bloom
- BC Garden Tourism Coalition
- Ontario Garden Tourism Coalition
- Quebec Garden Association

**Sponsored by:**

- Home Hardware
- VIA Rail Canada
- Enterprise Canada
- Baxter Travel Media
- Mark's Choice

**Please Note:**  
**more notice will be given next year!**

## Judges Tours begin: July 12 to August 12

### 2015 Provincial Participants

- Hope
- Yale mentored by Hope (Novice)
- Barriere
- Coquitlam
- Cache Creek
- Lumby
- Salmon Arm
- Bowen Island (Novice)
- Sicamous (Novice)
- Fort St. John
- Whitehorse, Yukon
- Chetwynd (Non Evaluated)
- Kelowna (Non Evaluated)
- Sooke (Non Evaluated)

**National Participants:** Ashcroft, Sun Rivers Clinton, Kamloops, Castlegar, Trail, West Kelowna, Maple Ridge, Mission

#### Teresa Williams, BC CiB Board Secretary & Judge – Hope

Teresa is a kindergarten teacher and an enthusiastic participant of Hope's CiB efforts. She has worked with Agriculture in the Classroom promoting their programs and volunteers at the Hope Community Garden. She is the co-chair of the Hope Garden Club.

#### Peter Crawshaw, BC CiB Board Member & Judge – Nanoose Bay

Peter was the City of Parksville's Parks and Facilities Superintendent until April of 2013 when he retired. Peter has been involved in CiB since 2004. Peter and his wife Corrie spend part of their gardening time growing and selling plants to help support a clinical mission in Malawi, Africa.

#### Rea Smith, BC CiB Board Member & Judge – Armstrong

Rea is a retired elementary school teacher and a life-long gardener. She was part of Armstrong's success in the CiB program and has continued her love of the program at the provincial level as a judge for many years.

#### Heather Doheny, BC CiB Board Member & Judge – Kelowna

Heather is a Master Gardener passionate about helping several Okanagan communities with their efforts in CiB. She has been involved with the District of West Kelowna Communities in Bloom since 2009. Being part of the judging team for DWK/WFN's 'Most Beautiful' contest and one of two facilitators for DWK's CiB sponsored garden program Roots, Shoots, and Boots are highlights for her. She is also involved as a committee member with Kelowna's Flower Power Garden Tour and has helped organize a new garden contest in Lake Country for 2015.

#### Shirley Culver, BC CiB Judge – Kamloops

Shirley is a Community Project Manager for the Community Futures Thompson Country. She has served as an elected councillor for the City of Kamloops as well has chaired their CiB committee that has won at all levels of the program. She is the daughter of a long time farm family in Smithers, BC and has a passion for all facets of the natural environment.

#### Lynette Twigge, BC CiB Judge – Qualicum Beach

Lynette has been with the Town of Qualicum Beach since 1995 and the municipality has been involved in CiB since 1998. As well as a Horticulturalist Lynette is a Master Gardener, Arborist, Landscape Designer and Turfgrass Manager. She has spear headed a 'Street Style' competition in Qualicum Beach to celebrate residential curb appeal.

#### Ali Double, BC CiB Judge – Langley

Alison has been 'In Bloom' since 2004. She has participated in the Bloom competition in the UK; being Lead Coordinator for her town's entry into the competition and also as a re-



### Volunteer Biographies

Our BC Communities in Bloom program would not be possible without the talented group of volunteer judges who come from all over the province.

With a variety of horticultural backgrounds or experience in their own

community's CiB program, these judges bring a wealth of knowledge to your community. This year's judges are:

#### Darlene Kalawsky BC CiB Board Chair & Judge – Castlegar

Darlene Kalawsky is owner and Vice President of the Kalawsky Automotive Group in Castlegar BC. She has been involved with Castlegar CiB program since 2006, and passionately supports the changes that CiB makes in many communities across Canada. She was a founding member of the Sculpture Walk program which was named Sculptural Capital of Canada! She believes you should 'Be the Change You Wish to see in the World' (Gandhi).

gional judge to judge other community entries. Since her move to BC in 2010 she has judged for BC CiB and also served as a Board Member. She has her own gardening business and is a new Master Gardener.

#### **Catherine Dale, BC CiB Judge – Vancouver**

Catherine is a horticulture instructor at Burnaby School District, Langara College, Gaia College and other institutions and groups in the Lower Mainland. She credits the local Toastmasters for helping find 'my voice', along with experience developing evaluation skills. She is also a community garden advocate having worked for BC Housing in the past to establish community gardens, to provide horticultural therapy for seniors and employment skills for youth.

#### **Victoria Bentley, BC CiB Judge – Kamloops**

2009 was my first encounter with Communities in Bloom as this was Sun Rivers first year to be judged. I entered in our first "Get Potted" competition for Sun River's residents and proud to say I was a winner. The next year I was on the committee and have been ever since. Just the excitement of getting ready to greet our Judges was enough to make me think of being a judge. I took my time, but this year I decided it was time to do it. So here I am, very nervous about my first time out but also looking forward to meeting Lynette and our two communities.

#### **Board Members or not judging this year:**

#### **Karri Loadman, BC CiB Board Vice Chair & Judge– Kamloops**

Karri has been very involved in bringing the CiB program to Sun Rivers Golf Resort Community. She has a Master of Planning Degree specializing in Community Development and values what the CiB program brings to helping residents develop stewardship of place and their efforts to add quality to their hometown.

#### **Shirley Fowler, BC CiB Board Treasurer & Judge– Armstrong**

Shirley was the Landscape Gardener for the City of Armstrong, and helped the local CiB committee win both the Provincial and National titles. She is currently serving her 4th term as City Councillor, is a Board Member with the Regional District of the North Okanagan, passionate member of Armstrong Rotary Club, and Past President of the Interior Provincial Exhibition in Armstrong. She is the BC Fair's Volunteer of the Year 2014, recipient of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal, and was one of Armstrong's Citizens of the Year.

#### **Don Alberg, Past Chair & Judge– Qualicum Beach**

Don is a retired Superintendent of Public Works and Parks and has been a driving force in Qualicum Beach's very successful Communities in Bloom efforts since 1998.

#### **Edward Stanford, BC CiB Board Member – Fort St John**

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 2012.

#### **Bert Pulles, BC CiB Board Member – Mission**

Bert was a landscape gardener for 9 years, worked for the next 30 years in different companies from production foreman to plant manager, started my own business as "Mole Control" making using and marketing the "Mole Buster" for the last 25 years, and still very active with it. I have been a Chamber of Commerce Director for 3 years, and now totally involved with CiB In Mission have been Chair, Co Chair, President and now Past President.

#### **Myrna Matthews, BC CiB Board Member – Mission**

I joined in 2003 when the first meeting for CiB was called by Heather Stewart. I became Co-Chair for 4 years with Bill Elliott and Co-chair with Bert Pulles for one year. I am still on the executive, and love what I do. My position now (along with a few others) is the Archivist for Mission CiB. I have attended most of the provincial conferences and had the honour of representing Mission in Halifax at the National Conference.



Photo Top: 2015 Judges and Bottom: 2015 Directors

All our judges and board members are volunteers who give so much of their time for our spring training workshop, summer evaluation tours, writing reports, participating in the fall conference and as a resource to guide communities through this terrific program – THANK YOU, your efforts are appreciated!

## Be 'PlantWise' and Know What you Grow: Native plants vs. Invasive Plants



Did you know that only some non-native plants are invasive? Most introduced plants don't become established in their new habitat. Several are major food crops, such as corn, wheat, or potatoes, while others are grown as ornamentals, such as irises, willow trees, and lilacs. Invasive plants, on the other hand, have unique characteristics that allow them to out-compete native vegetation and cause environmental and economic harm.

Invasive plants cause significant harm—they are recognized globally as the second greatest threat to biodiversity! Because many invasive plants are just as beautiful and functional as non-invasive plants, they can be hard to differentiate. We are often attracted to purchase and grow invasive plants, or sell and promote them. You can take action to help prevent their spread by becoming 'PlantWise' and know what you grow.

### What are Native Plants?

A native plant "occurs naturally in a particular region, province/state, ecosystem, and habitat without direct or indirect human actions" (Federal Native Plant Conservation Committee, 1994). Native plants have adapted and evolved along with competing native species, pest, predators and pathogens, often for thousands of years in an area. In so doing, they create an ecological balance that limits over-abundance. They can reproduce successfully, accommodate local environmental conditions, and live in balance with local species. Native plants disperse and expand their range through natural means—climate change, natural disasters, movement of wind, water, ice and wildlife—thus establishment and spread can take many years.

### What are Invasive Plants?

When plants spread beyond their native area, either deliberately or accidentally through human intervention, they become non-native, 'exotic'—or worse—invasive plants. Technological advances in transportation, development activities, global trade and sheer numbers have allowed the movement of plants around the globe and at a faster rate, with their volume and diversity unprecedented in earth's history.

Invasive plants don't occur naturally in ecosystems in BC. They quickly spread and negatively impact our environment, economy and society, including human and animal health. Once established, they can damage fish and wildlife habitat, reduce grazing land and crop yields, introduce parasites and disease, increase fire and erosion risk, and cause management costs to soar.

### 'Invasive' Characteristics

Invasive plants have characteristics that enable them to out-compete with native plants. They upset the ecological balance of the areas they establish, and cause costly and sometimes irreversible ecological damage. Invasive plants aggressively compete with resources such as sunlight, water, minerals, nutrients and space. Reasons how include:

- Free from natural controls
- Resist climate and soil condition extremes (i.e. drought, flooding)
- Rapid growth and short life cycle
- Early seed maturity and high seed production
- Effective seed dispersal
- Vegetative reproduction (roots, rhizomes and/or stems)
- Long seed dormancy
- Prolific flowering
- Resistance to grazing
- Dense or deep root systems

### What Can You Do?

Start by identifying the native, non-native and invasive plants in your garden. Ask a professional for help to identify a problem plant and make a plan before taking action, since some methods for removal are more effective and suitable for a certain species than others. Becoming 'PlantWise' and referring to the Grow Me Instead booklet can help you choose non-invasive plants in your area.

**For more information about PlantWise or to become a PlantWise Ambassador in your community, please visit [www.bcinvasives.ca](http://www.bcinvasives.ca).**

You can purchase or freely download Grow Me Instead resources from our website. Thank you for practicing responsible gardening!



## What's Growing On

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

### NEWS FROM NATIONAL CIB - Deadline June 15, 2015

We have launched a new contest: Canada's Garden Street this year in partnership with Canadian Garden Council (association of gardens, horticultural associations) and Home Hardware ...with Mark Cullen as the spokesperson

- citizens send in a photo and short text of their street online to [www.gardendays.ca](http://www.gardendays.ca)

- prize of \$1,000 of Marks Choice products

This contest is open to all communities throughout Canada ...thus, one of the objectives is to reach out to communities and/or Home Hardware dealers that are not already involved in the program to get them interested

The Canadian Garden Council, through Garden Days on their website and network and Communities in Bloom on our website, magazine and newsletter are promoting the contest.

PROVINCIAL | NATIONAL | INTERNATIONAL  
COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM 2015 SYMPOSIUM & AWARDS



COMMUNITY REDEFINED  
**KAMLOOPS**  
COLLECTIVITÉ REDÉFINIE

SEPT. 30 - OCT. 3, 2015

**SAVE THE DATE!**



[www.communitiesinbloom.ca](http://www.communitiesinbloom.ca)



Garden Days  
Les Journées du Jardin

Canada  
Communities in Bloom  
Collectivités en fleurs

# Canada's Garden Street

CONTEST

SPONSORED BY



Let us know why your street is the prettiest in the country and how it contributes to the quality of life for you and your neighbours.



Mark Cullen is Home Hardware's Garden Expert, and the national spokesperson for Garden Days.  
[www.markcullen.com](http://www.markcullen.com)  
10,000 garden questions. Answered.

You could win Mark Cullen's **Mark's Choice**® garden tools and supplies from Home Hardware: a \$1,000 value — and the bragging rights of being named the most beautiful street in Canada.

