

**PEOPLE, PLANTS AND PRIDE...**

# Growing Together

**BC COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM NEWSLETTER**

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Host: District of Hope - Sept 30 - Oct 1

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BC Landscape & Nursery Association  
BC Recreation & Parks Association  
Sandman Hotel

**BC Communities in Bloom**

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## Showcasing Hometown Pride in 2016

Communities in Bloom (CiB) participants are working hard to transform their communities and increase civic pride. In mid July, participants will profile their unique geography, history and horticultural assets to a pair of BC CiB judges. Communities receive an annual evaluation score as they work up to the coveted 5-Bloom level. Good luck to all British Columbian ‘in Bloom’ communities as they showcase the best of our province! For a list of this year’s participants please go to our website [www.bccib.ca](http://www.bccib.ca)

BC Communities in Bloom is part of the National CiB program that has helped transform communities for over 20 years. It provides a framework to improve environmental, economic, and social well being through teamwork.

**Provincial Edition**

- Abbotsford
- Bowen Island
- Cache Creek
- Fort St. John
- Lumby
- Salmon Arm
- Sicamous
- Sooke
- Terrace
- Whitehorse, Yukon
- Non-Evaluated:**
- Hope (Provincial Awards Host)
- Chetwynd
- Kelowna (Showcase)

**BC CiB Membership Supporters**

- Burnaby
- Castlegar
- Coquitlam
- Mission
- National & International**
- Ashcroft
- Castlegar
- Coquitlam
- Kamloops
- Trail
- Sun Rivers Resort Community
- West Kelowna/Westbank F.N.

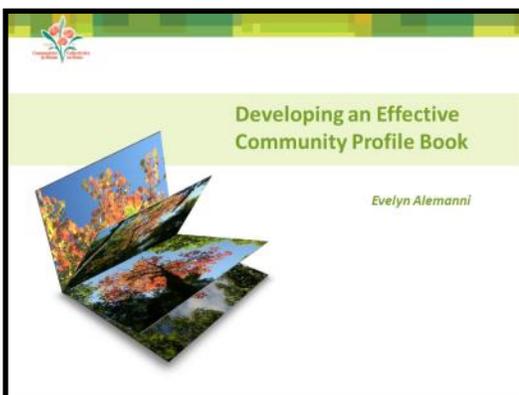
**Check out our website for new photos and links to these communities [www.bccib.ca](http://www.bccib.ca)**

## 2016 Board of Directors and Judges

Many thanks to our team of amazing volunteers who travel from all over the province to attend the Judge’s Workshop Day.

Top row, left to right: Edward Stanford (Fort St. John), Kathy Reinheimer (Maple Ridge), Shirley Fowler (Armstrong), Peter Crawshaw (Nanose Bay), Rea Smith (Armstrong), Heather Doheny (Kelowna), Teresa Williams (Hope), Susan Burdeyney (Cache Creek), Shirley Culver (Kamloops).

Seated: Yvette May, Vice-Chair (Clinton), Darlene Kalawsky, Chair (Castlegar), Don Alberg (Parksville), Bert Pulles (Mission). Not shown: Shirley Gratton (Prince George) and Bruce Hobin (Ontario/Victoria) are also part of the judging team this year.



At this year’s Judges Training we were able to use two PowerPoints created by Evelyn Alemanni, National CiB Judge.

BC CiB’s Shirley Fowler (left) with Maureen Walker of Enderby catching up on old times.

Shirley may not be judging this summer...but she sure has been working the ‘neighbourhood’ promoting the program to many communities in the North Okanagan & Shuswap regions.





# BC CiB Directors...Walking the Talk



**Rea Smith**

My involvement with Communities in Bloom started more than 13 years ago when our community decided to pull together to enter our little town in the program. What began as a small group of dedicated volunteers soon grew into a community wide program that involved every age group from school children right up to senior citizens. The pride of the whole town was evident when we won both the provincial and the national titles. To this day, many areas of town reflect the continued efforts to showcase residential and business areas to their best.

Once our efforts had been recognized and awarded, it seemed a natural transition to enter the provincial program as a judge. What always impresses me as I visit each new community is how the CiB program brings out the best in people. It is clear that the “philosophy of community” is uppermost in the minds of the participants, and they are all so proud of showing off their projects and achievements. Through the CiB program, many communities have worked on projects that have had a lasting impact on their towns. While each community chooses its own projects, it is evident through the profile books that the judging grid is followed very carefully.

I am always reminded that without volunteers, no community can ever achieve its best. How wonderful it is to see these volunteers celebrated by local governments and businesses. It is also impressive that so many volunteer groups have chosen to mentor neighbourhood communities to entice them to join the program. As long as this enthusiasm remains strong, the Communities in Bloom program will flourish for many years to come.

## Kelowna

This photo was taken at Guisachan Garden as part of the Dutch-Canadian Tulip Friendship Garden Blooming Celebration that took place in April.

The planting of the bulbs was a result of a Canadian Garden Council Grant received in the Fall of 2015.

Claudia Buhler

Parks Community Relations Coordinator  
City of Kelowna





## SAVE THE DATE

**BC Provincial Awards  
& Conference in Hope**

**September 30  
October 1**

All conference participants will get a chance to win this custom bench carved by Randy Swope.

## Team Work

*Due to space constraints here is the full article from the recent Spring National CiB Magazine.*

**H**ope is nestled at the far end of the Fraser Valley; the most populous valley in British Columbia. It is surrounded by the peaks of the Cascade and Coast mountains, a diverse coastal rainforest and bordered on two sides by the Fraser and Coquihalla Rivers.

The area around Hope was first settled nearly 9,000 years ago by the Sto:lo First Nation. They established the trails through the mountains and routes via the rivers that later would be co-opted by the Hudson's Bay Company (1848) and those seeking their fortune in the Fraser River Gold Rush (1858).

Hope CiB is a diverse group of people coming together to foster volunteerism throughout our community. With a population of 6,000 people we have a high percent of retirees moving to Hope from the lower Fraser Valley. Along with our local residents, CiB has a huge resource

of skilled volunteers willing to donate their time to projects for the betterment of Hope. Our "I'm a bloomin' volunteer" t-shirts are worn as a badge of honour to be part of a team giving back.

To be a successful CiB community, you need long term funding to keep the planning of projects moving forward. We have two five-year agreements with the District of Hope, plus a small amount of money put aside yearly for projects in the future.

One agreement is for the maintenance of the chainsaw carvings, which are located throughout the District of Hope. We are building a storage and maintenance department with the help of Advantage Hope. A few years ago, the carvings were showing their age and we had lost a number due to lack of maintenance. Hope CiB set about to undertake the task of sanding, gluing, wedging and refinishing the carvings to save them. This weekly work bee goes on throughout the entire year. In 2015 we hosted the World Class Chainsaw Carving Competition with 10 carvers from around the

world. Over the 4 days we had 4,200 people attend this amazing display of art. With the help of our media partners Black Press and Connect Media Team, we reached over ¾ million people for this event.

The second agreement with the District of Hope is to fund all our projects, such as Earth Day, Trash 2 Treasure, Graffiti control, plant & flower displays, organic weed control and cleanups.

Another important point to our success is having the District of Hope work crew on board with our program and helping out with many of our projects.

Hope CiB is about partnering with others in the community to leverage relationships for the greater good. We're consistently looking for new ways to make our community better. We are all about taking pride in our town's appearance.

Having a positive attitude really does make a difference!

By Victor Smith, Chair of Hope CiB