



2014



District of Sooke Evaluation Form

2014 Evaluation Form

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Canada

**Communities
in Bloom**

People, Plants and Pride...
Growing Together

**Collectivités
en fleurs**

Citoyens et espaces verts en harmonie...
une société florissante

GEMO

Category: Provincial Edition: Population 10,001 – 20,000

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2014 Evaluation Form

Name: Don Alberg Name: Shirley Culver

Evaluation date: July 23, 2014

IMPORTANT NOTES:

Evaluation is adjusted to the climate and environmental conditions of the community.

Some aspects of the evaluation might not be applicable: scoring will be prorated.

The score will vary from the previous year based on the facts that the evaluation form is subject to modifications each year and that the evaluation is based on the perception of the current judges.

SECTORS OF EVALUATION

Municipal:

- Municipal properties, parks and green spaces, streets, streetscapes
- Properties owned and run by municipality such as Museums, Historical sites

Business and Institutions:

Properties owned and managed by

- Business : commercial sector, shopping centres, commercial streets, industrial parks, manufacturing plants
- Institutions : schools, universities, churches, hospitals, service and community organization buildings (such as YMCA, Legion), private museums, government and crown corporations buildings (such as Canada Post)
- Tourism bureaus, Chamber of Commerce offices
- Farms : in rural communities, farms can be considered in this section

Residential:

- Citizens and Citizen groups acting within their own properties
- Residential property owners, rate payer groups

Community Involvement:

The principle of community involvement is so fundamental to the program that it is considered in each segment of the evaluation

- Individuals & Service and citizen groups – all contributing to various aspects of community improvement
- Organized clubs such as horticultural societies, garden clubs, community associations
- Service clubs such as Rotary, Lions, Optimist
- Participation (financial and/or in-kind or employee participation) by the Municipality, Businesses and Institutions.

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GENERAL COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

There are few communities who could match the enthusiasm and pride that the CiB Committee Members and District of Sooke staff have for their own community. Mayor Wendal Milne is an obvious strong proponent of CiB and the citizens of the District of Sooke. He has indicated he will not be seeking the Mayor's chair in the fall of 2014 and this is an obvious loss to the community as noted in the Sooke News Mirror on June 25th.

Special recognition goes to the Sooke Regional Chamber of Commerce who implemented the first business community clean up recognition awards. It is encouraging that 82 businesses were recognized for their efforts at Sooke Harbour House on July 22, 2014. Congratulations to all those businesses who participated!

The judges had an informative tour of the Sooke Fire Department hosted by the Sooke Fire Chief, Steve Sorenson. It is unique that the fire department is located in the municipal building and the array of photos depicting the history of the fire department was most enjoyable. There is obvious pride by the fire department in restoring the 1942 International Bickle Fire Truck, the first purpose built fire truck to serve the Sooke area.

The judges enjoyed the meeting with Mayor Milne and the presentation by Laura Hooper, Parks and Environmental Services Coordinator also attended by Gordon Howie, Chief Administrative Officer; Bonnie Sprinkling, Corporate Officer; Michael Dillabaugh, Director of Finance; Elisabeth Nelson, Municipal Engineer and Tina Hansen, Corporate Assistant. It provided the judges with a valuable overview of the District.

The municipal efforts to manage its goal of becoming a sustainable community continued in 2014. The District of Sooke adopted Bylaw No. 598 to strengthen policies for a "West Coast" theme in the Town Centre. The Bylaw among other things provides guidelines for usage of materials, building design, site design, landscaping, awning/canopies, signs, street scape, water-views, trees, furniture etc. There are several excellent examples of the West Coast Theme already in Sooke. It will be exciting for the District, CiB and its residents to see the theme unfold over the next few years. The judges applaud the policy by the District of assessing 2.5% of building permit fees to beautification and implementation of the bylaw.

One of the outstanding visual features of the District of Sooke is the beautifully constructed "sepia" toned historical photograph signage located throughout the District. They are utilized as way points, entry points, and pictorial information signage for citizens and visitors alike.

The CiB Photo Album is such a treasured keepsake and should be utilized as an investor/tourism lure piece. It is a wonderful pictorial representation of the vast array of community activities, volunteers, community love of the arts, stunning floral displays, and a demonstration on the importance of local food production to its citizens.

The Community in Bloom Garden Lunch hosted in the Sunriver Community Gardens (a Community Health Initiative) is superior. Phoebe Dunbar who is the mastermind of the Sunriver Community Gardens along with menu coordinator Pia Carroll showcased the local garden fare on a white linen tablecloth sit down lunch of wild west coast salmon accompanied by a vast variety of salads and vegetables featuring organic and local vegetables and fruit garnished with edible flowers all from Sun Rivers Community Gardens.

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By request of the judges, a tour the District of Sooke Wastewater treatment centre was included in the CiB tour. Thank you to Sean for your informative presentation on the and to sidekick dog – Hugo for providing a nice welcome.

Attila (a Sooke citizen who is in a wheelchair pulling a cart with plants and vegetables) provided the judges an unintended interception at Memorial Park. He invited the judging tour to his low income trailer park where he presented a showcase of activities on how, in a few short months, has wrestled the invasive Himalayan Blackberry from his and his neighbor's yards and planted flowers and vegetables to the delight of those around him.

The Juan de Fuca Salmon Restoration Society facility and salmon interpretive centre at Charters River is outstanding! The volunteer leadership of Elida Peers, and others who have dedicated so much time to this endeavor should be rightfully proud.

Sooke is home to the largest juried art show in Canada. Annually CIB judges are provided with a sneak preview of the show prior to its opening. The array, quality, and presentation of the pieces are truly inspiring. The show spans two weeks and attracts more than 350 volunteers.

The day closed with an intimate dinner hosted at the Sooke Region Museum with Councillor Kerrie Reay, Chair Brenda Parkinson, Laura Hooper, and others in attendance. Thank you to Lee Boyko, Sooke Region Museum Executive Director who prepared traditional salmon cooked on a wood fire accompanied by locally grown vegetables, salad and complete with scrumptious apple pie. The dinner served again with white tablecloths, Royal Albert china was prepared and served by community volunteers.

The future for the District of Sooke is very bright! Sooke Road with the development of the new TD Bank, construction of new street upgrades with conventional sidewalks, curbs and gutters will result in elevating community visual appeal to reflect a modern and growing community with a quality of life in a panoramic setting along the shores of Sooke Harbour envied by visitors and citizens alike.

Mention

Community Profile Book - There are two new sections to the Community Profile Book that are worth mentioning. The addition of "we listened" and "what's new" was very valuable to the judges to compare what the judges of last year noted and what the District of Sooke and the community added to the program this past year. Congratulations!

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TIDINESS		
<p>Tidiness includes an overall tidiness effort by the municipality, businesses, institutions and the residents throughout the community. Elements for evaluation are parks and green spaces, medians, boulevards, sidewalks, streets; municipal, commercial, institutional and residential properties; ditches, road shoulders, vacant lots, signs and buildings; weed control, litter clean-up (including cigarette butts and gum), graffiti and vandalism programs.</p>		
	Max	Actual
Municipal		
Tidiness, order, cleanliness and first impressions	15	13
Community anti-litter awareness programs	5	4
Effective bylaws, programs and policies and enforcement; litter control, graffiti prevention and eradication, graffiti removal kits to residents	10	8.5
Cleanliness of public green infrastructure: parks, streetscapes (sidewalks, planters, etc.)	15	14
Condition of urban signage and furniture such as benches, litter and recycling containers	15	13.5
Business & Institutions		
Tidiness, order and cleanliness and first impressions	15	12
Condition of buildings (exterior maintenance), grounds, sidewalks and parking lots	15	12
Condition of urban furniture: benches, litter and recycling containers	5	4
Residential		
Tidiness, order and cleanliness	20	18
Condition of buildings, grounds and yards	15	14
Community Involvement		
Public participation in community, neighbourhood or individual street tidiness, clean-up programs, activities and annual maintenance (including promotion, organization, innovations involving youth and seniors, etc.)	10	9
Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation by the Municipality, Businesses and Institutions for community clean-up programs	10	9.5
Tidiness Total	150.00	131.5

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TIDINESS

Observations:

Well done again! Tidiness is an ongoing daily effort in our disposable society and obviously Sooke works hard at keeping it up.

The boulevard areas were generally well kept. There was not a lot of lot of noticeable untidy weeds or grasses. This is to be commended given that the “no watering” in the summer which tends to blend manicured areas with natural areas without definition.

There was some litter on the directional signage, at the Evergreen Centre Boulevard that the judges visited on the way to the final dinner. The mall parking lot was in good condition. Laura pointed out an interesting comparison between the health of trees that are irrigated in Sooke versus those that are not irrigated and showed signs of stress in the parking area of the shopping centre.

The shrink wrapped BC Hydro with the local photography of flowers was lovely. It is hoped that the photo credits are on the wrap.

The District of Sooke is to be commended for its Student art at the Village Transit Stop. Engaging youth in these initiatives promotes community pride at an early age.

The District of Sooke engages qualified and specialized contractors to carry out the scheduled maintenance and clean-up of municipal roads, trails and parks.

The District of Sooke has a number of Bylaws and Policies to govern tidiness for the District but not limited to, Unsightly Premises Bylaw and Policy; Graffiti Removal Agreement with BC Hydro, Sign Regulation Bylaw; Business Licence Bylaw and Bylaw Enforcement Policy.

The Sooke Community Profile book has outlined a number of initiatives implemented by Businesses and Institutions. Congratulations to all who participate in keeping a community clean and tidy. Special recognition goes to the Sooke Regional Chamber of Commerce who implemented the first business community clean up recognition awards. It is encouraging that 82 businesses were recognized for their efforts at Sooke Harbour House on July 22, 2014.

Recommendations:

Encourage specialized private contractor company/organizations to partner with the District of Sooke's CiB program and perhaps be more visible in the tour as these services are integral to services provided by municipal governments.

In the future, it may be beneficial to include a copy of one of the significant maintenance contract specifications for CiB judges to review.

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ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION		
Environmental action includes the efforts and achievement of the community with respect to: policies, by-laws, programs and best practices, waste reduction and diversion rate to landfill, composting sites, landfill sites, hazardous waste collections, water conservation, naturalization, and environmental stewardship activities under the guiding principles of sustainable development pertaining to green spaces.		
	Max	Actual
Municipal		
Sustainable development strategy: policies, programs, guidelines, long-term planning / vision; effective bylaws / policies and their enforcement; and public education programs and activities	20	19
Waste management programs: waste reduction to landfill and results (3-R : recycling, re-use, reduce), composting (backyard and municipal)), and including activities such as composting sites yard waste collections, shredding of Christmas trees, handling of hazardous waste including e-waste collection	15	9
Water conservation and use-reduction programs: efficient appliance incentives or promotion, efficient irrigation and use of non-potable water, water restriction policies, rainwater management	15	11
Energy conservation programs such as alternate forms of energy (ex. geothermal, biomass, wind, solar), and initiatives such as, shielding for night skies issues, efficient street lighting and energy audits.	10	9.5
Environmental initiatives, innovations and actions such as: Protection of sensitive habitats Development and expansion of sustainable mobility and active transportation network such as bike lanes and multi-used pathways. Phytotechnology practices such as green roofs, green walls, green lanes, living fences, buffer zones; re-use of sites; engineered wetlands, bio-swales and permeable surfaces Brownfield redevelopment, remediation, land reclamation. Air quality programs such as anti-idling, reduction of greenhouse gas emission.	10	8.5
Business & Institutions		
Participation in the environmental effort : such as waste management (recycle, reuse, reduce), water conservation, energy conservation, brownfield management, eco-park	10	9.5
Corporate environmental innovation / stewardship, initiatives, activities (Ex. Environmental clean-up activities)	10	9
Residential		
Participation in the 3-R (recycle, reuse, reduce) initiatives and composting	20	18
Adoption of water conservation practices & policies including rainwater collection	15	14
Community Involvement		
Public participation in public forums and policy development on environmental issues	5	4.5
Public participation in community, neighbourhood or individual street environmental activities and programs (including, promotion, organization and evidence of taking ownership), etc.)	10	9
Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation by the Municipality, Businesses and Institutions in public environmental activities and programs	10	9
Environmental Action Total	150.00	130

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ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

Observations:

The position of Parks and Environmental Services Coordinator established in 2011 is reaping benefits. There is increased communication and cooperation noticeable in the new development areas of the community. The judges witnessed a number of stunning residential areas environmental features.

Wadam's Way, a new road nearing completion, is a great development with a keen eye for environmental stewardship. The road has attractive street trees, a bio swale to manage storm water and great pedestrian and cycle access.

Herron View recognizes the reduction of its carbon foot print by having a green roof.

The development at Stone Ridge exemplifies the use of innovative storm water management with a detention pond and an engineered wetland that is flourishing with aquatic plants.

The demonstration hatchery at Charters River is not only an educational tool but a fine example of environmental stewardship.

The ongoing management of two major Brownfield sites (Sooke Forest Products and Butler Bros log dump) shows that Sooke wants to leave a high environmental legacy for the future.

The waste water treatment is an out-standing example of a small community caring about how waste is managed.

Note: In the 2013 Evaluation for "Environmental initiatives, innovations and actions..." the judges awarded actual points of 18 versus Maximum of 10 which resulted in an additional 1 % percentage higher in total marks. This has been adjusted in 2014.

Recommendations:

Stream bank planting should be encouraged and continued wherever possible.

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION		
Heritage Conservation includes efforts to preserve natural heritage within the community with focus on the integration of landscape and streetscapes in built heritage: preservation of natural heritage pertaining to monuments, memorials, artifacts, museums and history, archives, traditions, customs, festivals and celebrations in relation to parks and green spaces in the community. The participation of groups such as Historical Societies and Conservation Groups are considered.		
	Max	Actual
Municipal		
- Heritage policies, by-laws and their enforcement and effective programs with focus on the relationships of the landscape to the built heritage	15	14
Natural and cultural heritage management plan and preservation initiatives: including cultural landscapes, use of native plants, heritage gardens, heritage trees, cemeteries, museums, heritage sites	15	14
Management and promotion of heritage (through communications, information and support programs, economic development / tourism) including natural and cultural heritage initiatives throughout the year including festivals and celebrations along with preservation of traditions and customs	20	18
Activities and programs (year-round) for education and use of natural heritage sites for and by the public	15	14
New programs and initiatives to promote local heritage	10	8.5
Business & Institutions		
Conservation, restoration and reuse of heritage buildings and landscapes	15	13
Promotion of local heritage, including heritage gardens, native plants, and heritage trees	15	13
Residential		
Conservation / restoration and reuse of sites, buildings and heritage landscapes	10	8.5
Conservation of cultural and heritage elements pertaining to their own private lands and structures	5	4
Community Involvement		
Public participation in community, neighbourhood or individual in cultural and natural heritage programs including year-round heritage community events/activities, festivals and celebrations along with preservation of traditions and customs	20	19
Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation by the Municipality, Businesses and Institutions (including Historical Societies) in community initiated, natural and cultural heritage activities and programs including cultural festivals & celebrations throughout the year and preservation of traditions and customs	10	9.5
Heritage Conservation Total	150.00	135.5

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION

Observations:

The District of Sooke OCP established the goal to ensure that significant heritage buildings in the Town Centre are protected and that new development is complementary. It is very evident that the District of Sooke has taken its heritage seriously. The Sooke Regional Museum is creating a community heritage registry of buildings structures, properties and related information, including archeological sites that have heritage value or character.

The District of Sooke needs to be congratulated for seeking the Sooke Region Museum comments and recommendations prior to approval of any development on land which there is an archaeological site. Further the District has entered into a MOU with T'Sou-ke First Nation to commit to develop an agreement regarding the protection of heritage sites and culture in the Sooke area in a coordinated fashion. Both initiatives will serve Sooke well into the future.

With the adoption of Bylaw No 598 establishing the 'west coast' theme for the District of Sooke town centre links its First Nations, forestry and agriculture roots to its nautical waterfront heritage on Sooke Harbour and Juan de Fuca Strait.

The District of Sooke entry signage and former lighthouse top of Triangle Island indicates that the community is tied to salt water ocean heritage.

The judges commented on the Provincial CiB conference hosted by the District of Sooke, whereby a speaker spoke on his collection of apple trees. To demonstrate its commitment to heritage trees, the District of Sooke is working with local members of the BC Fruit Testers Association to identify and catalogue fruit trees for protection. Sun Rivers gardens has apple trees and the recently constructed "apple shack" as a tribute to the roots of apples in the area.

The District of Sooke is active in getting significant heritage trees and Heritage Shield Sites on its website along with other heritage structures as a priority. This is commendable!

Millennium Park Heritage Cemetery is a quaint and unique pastoral cemetery on Maple Avenue. With the assistance of the Sooke Lions Club, the Sooke Community Association and other service organizations and tremendous effort by volunteers the park was upgraded and opened as a public park in 2001. It has since been recognized as a regional heritage site that was transferred to the District of Sooke in 2012.

Again, one of the outstanding visual features of the District of Sooke is the beautifully constructed "sepia" toned historical photograph signage located throughout the District.

The District of Sooke is applauded for utilizing local veteran's names on Brailsford Place Streets. Three streets have been named so far and more are planned. This is an excellent tribute to men and women who fought for the freedom of Canadians.

The Sooke Region Museum uniquely celebrates its natural heritage of wood, water and rocks in showcasing its history and public art.

Congratulations to the Sooke Regional Museum and the Mayor's Panel on Arts & Beautification in establishing the Thursday night market at the museum. This is a unique event too attract locals and visitors alike, to tour the museum's facilities and enjoy local food and art.

Recommendations:

Celebrate and promote creative and innovative heritage features, art galleries into the businesses of your community. Perhaps develop a special plaque program by CiB for recognizing these creative endeavors. I.e. Sooke Laundry and Carwash with coupled with small art gallery.

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URBAN FORESTRY		
Urban Forestry includes the efforts of the municipality, businesses, institutions and citizens with regards to written policies, by-laws, standards for tree management (selection, planting, and maintenance), long and short-term management plans, tree replacement policies, tree inventory, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), heritage, memorial and commemorative trees.		
	Max	Actual
Municipal		
Overall impact, benefit and first impression of the urban forest	10	8.5
Policies, regulations and tree by-laws, tree protection and planting on public and private lands	10	8
Urban forestry planning and design, including integration with overall landscape plan	10	7.5
Measures to preserve, protect, manage and expand overall tree inventory, including woodlots	15	13.5
Plan of action: procurement, species diversity (including native trees), selection of hardy species, recommended tree list	10	8.5
Integrated Pest Management (IPM) / Plant HealthCare (PHC): plan of action for invasive pest detection and control, information on current infestations and diseases	10	8
Public information program on good planting techniques and maintenance programs	10	7.5
Maintenance best practices and proven results	10	7
Qualified personnel and/or crew training	10	9
Business & Institutions		
Design and diversity including native and hardy species of trees in landscapes and for planting on properties	15	13.5
Maintenance programs and best practices: watering, pruning, IPM	10	7.5
Residential		
Design and diversity including native and hardy species of trees in landscapes and for planting on residential properties	15	12.5
Maintenance best practices	10	7.5
Community Involvement		
Public participation in tree planting and conservation programs such as Green Streets Canada, Arbour Day, Maple Leaf Day, and other tree planting and maintenance programs and activities on public lands (including promotion, organization etc.).	20	17
Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation or promotion by the Municipality, Businesses and Institutions for community tree planting and conservation programs on public lands.	10	8
Urban Forestry Total	175.00	143.5

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URBAN FORESTRY

Observations:

Sooke certainly cares about how their urban forest integrates with their natural forest surrounds

The GIS tree inventory is a great way to keep tabs on tree health. The Street Tree care 101 provided to the citizens will enhance the health and well-being of the street trees.

The incidence of Gary Oak trees within the District seem rare compared to other southern Vancouver Island communities. It seems the District is working hard to preserve these magnificent trees.

It is great to see the District and community partnered with World Youth to plant 500 trees at Deerlepe Park.

The ongoing partnership with the Fruit Testers will have very beneficial results in the preservation of heritage fruit trees.

Recommendations:

Stream bank planting should be encouraged and continued wherever possible.

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LANDSCAPE		
<p>Landscape includes planning, design, construction and maintenance of parks and green spaces suitable for the intended use and location on a year-round basis. Elements for evaluation include: native and introduced materials; balance of plants, materials and constructed elements; appropriate integration of hard surfaces and art elements, use of turf and groundcovers. Landscape design should harmonize the interests of all sectors of the community. Standards of execution and maintenance should demonstrate best practices, including quality of naturalization, use of groundcovers and wildflowers along with turf management.</p>		
	Max	Actual
Municipal		
Landscape Plan: integrated and implemented throughout the municipality	10	9
Turf management programs, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Plant Health Care (PHC), alternative solutions to diseases and infestations when appropriate, increased naturalization, adapted maintenance programs	10	8
First impressions of the community including gateway / entrance treatments	10	8.5
Landscape maintenance policies, standards, best practices and programs	10	8
Sustainable designs (seasonally adjusted year round): energy efficient, use of green materials, naturalization, xeriscaping, suitable plant varieties, traffic mitigation, bank stabilisation	10	8
Urban and civic design standards for streetscape and public places: flags, banners, public art, fountains, site furnishings, signage, seasonal design and décor, walkways and paving materials	10	8.5
Landscape maintained to appropriate standards and specifications	10	7
Demonstrated year-round opportunities and programs for education and use of parks and green spaces (parks and recreation programs, city festivals and events)	10	8
Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or training	5	3.5
Business & Institutions		
Sustainable designs (seasonally adjusted year round): energy efficient, use of green materials, naturalization, xeriscaping, alternate groundcovers, urban agriculture	10	8.5
Contribution to urban and civic design and public green spaces above requirements: such as public art, streetscape, site furniture, fountains & innovation in concept & design	15	9
Adequate ongoing life cycle management (ongoing maintenance, ground & asset management, rehabilitation & replacement) of all landscape elements	10	9
Residential		
Streetscape appeal of landscapes (year-round, seasonal, themed)	15	14
Maintenance of properties: lawn care and shrub maintenance	15	13
Selection of plant material (native, local, innovative, including edible gardening)	10	8
Community Involvement		
Public participation in community programs such as: community gardens, "yard of the week", volunteer park maintenance, holiday illumination & decoration (promotion, organization etc.).	15	14
Recognition (by municipality and/or by volunteer groups) of volunteer efforts in all aspects of the Communities in Bloom Program including tidiness, environmental action, urban forestry, landscape, floral and natural & Cultural Heritage activities .	15	14
Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation by the Municipality, Businesses and Institutions for community landscape programs and activities	10	8.5
Landscape Total	200.00	166.5

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LANDSCAPE

Observations:

Everywhere you look in Sooke the residents, businesses and community is incorporating food gardens and native plantings into the landscape. We noticed this at Sooke Harbor House, Ayre Manor, the schools and of course the community Gardens

The idea of placing an "art feature" on the retaining wall at Wadams Way is an outstanding idea.

It is certainly unique to have the user and service groups maintain the turf areas to their individual standards.

Driving about the District of Sooke it is easy to see that the residents take a great deal of pride in their landscape. It was also very gratifying to see the variety of landscape incorporated into the natural environment.

The info kiosk at the mall is an interesting feature in the downtown core that provides a wealth of information about the area.

Recommendations:

I did not ask, is there a "back flow prevention program"? If not this could be part of your requirements over time.

It is encouraged that as time and budget permits to include more street furniture.

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FLORAL DISPLAYS		
<p>Floral Displays evaluates efforts of the municipality, businesses, institutions and citizens to design, plan, execute, and maintain floral displays of high quality standards. Evaluation includes the design and arrangements of flowers and plants (annuals, perennials, bulbs, ornamental grasses) in the context of originality, distribution, location, diversity and balance, colour, and harmony. This pertains to flowerbeds, carpet bedding, containers, baskets and window boxes.</p>		
	Max	Actual
Municipal		
Integration into overall landscape plan and distribution through community. Concept and design including sustainable design	15	11
Diversity of displays: flowerbeds, raised beds, planters, hanging baskets, window boxes, carpet bedding, mosaics	20	17
Diversity of plants: annuals, perennials, bulbs, grasses, woody plants, natural flora	10	8
Quality, maintenance to appropriate specifications and standards, best practices: watering, weeding, edging, dead heading, etc.	20	16
Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or training	10	8
Business & Institutions		
Concept and design (including arrangement, diversity, colour of display and plants) on grounds	15	13.5
Quality of planting and maintenance: watering, weeding, edging, dead heading, etc.	10	8
Contribution to, and integration with, overall community floral program	15	13
Residential		
Concept and design (including arrangement, diversity, colour of display and plants) on residential properties	15	13.5
Quality of planting and maintenance	15	13.5
Community Involvement		
Public participation in community projects, volunteer initiatives, outreach programs in floral displays (including promotion, organization, etc.).	15	13
Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation by the Municipality, Businesses and Institutions in community floral displays activities	15	13.5
Floral Displays Total	175.00	148.5

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FLORAL DISPLAYS

Observations:

Although mentioned a number of times, the Town Centre Plan will assist the District of Sooke to continue the development of the “west coast” theme into its floral displays and landscaping.

The floral display at the municipal office incorporating historical concrete pipe is an exceptional feature along with the provocative water fountain. Another exceptional display is the entrance to Ed Macgregor Park. It has matured over the past couple of years and will be a focal point for the District for many years to come.

Sooke’s CiB business community partnerships continue to expand. Particularly noticeable was the business planter program which had 6 new participants.

Ayre Place is an outstanding example of raised beds to provide seniors with the opportunity to “play in the dirt”. It also an example of small container gardening that can provide an explosion of color utilizing annuals that are inexpensive yet not contradict Sooke’s water conservation initiatives.

The Welcome to Sooke boulevard area is a beautiful ‘welcoming’ signature piece that indicates that Sooke has pride in its natural heritage, is vibrant and rich with diversity showcasing its rocks, wood and water - west coast theme.

The little pockets of “Best Garden” pots located everywhere in Sooke are really well done. They are obviously treasured by the people/organizations that put them together and are equally as proud to showcase the “Best Garden” signage. To the CiB Committee – excellent work!

Red geraniums in hanging baskets at the Legion that may guide onlookers to reflect “In Flanders fields the (red) poppies blow, between the crosses, row on row...

The floral garden display at the entrance to the Prestige Hotel is an outstanding example of floral displays for the business community. There were a number of examples where planters, garden furniture/art, bicycle racks, cedar bench with floral features outside of businesses were evident.

The judges saw numerous residential floral displays in upscale Heron View Estates, Miracle Grow Best Garden (residential), Rhondonite Drive, Stoneridge Estates, Brailsford Place and others.

Congratulations on declaring “Mimulus sookensis” known as the “Shy Monkey Flower (UBC Herbarium)” as the flower of the District of Sooke.

Recommendations:

It is commendable that the District of Sooke has put a covenant on the Garry Oak and cordoned it off for protection on the Mariners Village Development. There may be an opportunity for the District to add a people sitting area by the tree, and add a large floral display area with interpretative signage that may be maintained by volunteers living at Mariner’s Village. Those residents who purchase in Mariner’s Village have a propensity to recognize the LEED standard of building they have purchased and may welcome a volunteer opportunity to maintain a floral area with a sitting area integrating the protection of the Garry Oak.

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR INVOLVEMENT

“Within the context of climate change and environmental concerns, communities involved in the Communities in Bloom program can be proud of their efforts, which provide real and meaningful environmental solutions and benefit all of society.”

COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM IS MADE POSSIBLE BY

The commitment of local, provincial and national volunteers

The support of elected officials and of staff in municipalities

The dedication of our judges, staff and organizations

The contributions of our sponsors and partners



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BC Communities in Bloom offers a program that provides a framework for enhancing community liveability.