



ENHANCING  
**commUnity**  
LIVEABILITY

Tidiness Effort  
Environmental Action  
Heritage Conservation  
Urban Forestry  
Landscape Areas  
Floral Displays  
Community Involvement

**FOR IMMEDIATE  
RELEASE**

Surrey, B.C.,  
September 15, 2014

## Celebrating CommUNITY Success across B.C.

Trail - On Saturday September 13<sup>th</sup>, representatives from around the province celebrated their hometown's achievements at this year's British Columbia Communities in Bloom Awards Ceremony. The awards were presented to community representatives in the Evaluated and Non-evaluated categories.

This year's host, the City of Trail competes at the international level and lives and breathes the CiB program. Conference delegates were shown why Trail is considered a "steward city" by Communities in Bloom. There aren't many towns in B.C. that have had the challenges Trail has faced over the years and they wanted to share their knowledge and show other communities that: *"if it can be done in Trail, it can be done anywhere"*.

Our 11<sup>th</sup> annual event has marked another successful year. Congratulations to all our provincial Communities in Bloom participants!

5 BLOOMS		MENTION
Hope, District of	5	Volunteerism is the RULE in Hope!
Sooke, District of	5	Updated Community Profile Book
District of Maple Ridge	5	Municipal Floral Plantings
4 BLOOMS		
Barriere, District of	4	Heritage in Bloom and 100 Year Celebration
Salmon Arm, City of	4	Amazing Mosaic Tile Wall at the Ross Street Plaza
3 BLOOMS		
Lumby, Village of	3	Charles Bloom Secondary Forestry Program
Silverton, Village of	3	The new way-finding signage in town
NOVICE		Workshop with Judges & new committee members
Fort St. John, City of	Novice	Water conservation at the Pomeroy sports centre and at their water treatment plant
Nakusp, Village of	Novice	Wood First Award winning bridge at the Hot Springs
Whitehorse, City of (Yukon)	Novice	Respect for Natural Heritage
NON-EVALUATED		Continued on page 2...
Kent, District of		Winner's Circle
Lake Country, District of		Winner's Circle

**NON-EVALUATED**

Continued from page 1

Cache Creek, Village of	Friends
Chetwynd, District of	Friends plus two more Community Showcase projects
Fruitvale, Village of	Friends
Kelowna, City of	Friends
Mission, District of	Friends
West Kelowna, District of /Westbank First Nations	Friends

CRITERIA AWARDS	SPONSORED BY	WINNING COMMUNITY
TIDINESS	Teck Resources Limited	Salmon Arm
HERITAGE CONSERVATION	Province of BC (formerly PCC)	Barriere
LANDSCAPED AREAS	Urban Systems	Maple Ridge

Special glass vase Criteria Awards were presented by our Gold Bloom Sponsors whose financial support makes it possible for us to deliver the CiB program throughout the province.

**COMMUNITY CHAMPION AWARD - BC Communities in Bloom Sponsored**

Hope's Victor Smith and Bob Burrell were recognized for their volunteer contribution to their hometown and support of our Provincial Program.

**GOOD LUCK TO BC'S NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL FINALISTS**

National and International results will be announced September 20<sup>th</sup> at the National Awards and Symposium in Charlottetown, PEI., this years participants are:

Clinton, Village of	Castlegar (International)
Sun Rivers Resort Community	Trail (International)
Harrison Hot Springs, Village of	Vancouver (International)
Ashcroft, Village of	Kamloops, City of

At the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual BC Communities in Bloom Awards evening in Trail we presented Bloom Rating Certificates and Evaluation Reports to all our participants. The weekend is an excellent opportunity to exchange information and engage us in the common goal of making all our communities better places to live and visit.

For our Judges, evaluating is an opportunity to visit new communities and meet those residents that are excited to reveal the best qualities of their hometown. Variety is the key word to describe our participants: from communities on the edge of wilderness to ones bustling with tourists. Local CiB committees endeavour to show our judges what makes them unique given their geography, climate and history. After the evaluation day, the judges continue to work hard completing the reports to detail what has been done well and what might be improved upon. This report creates a bench mark of success that many participants use to assess how well they are meeting their liveability and Official Community Plan (OCP) goals.

Congratulations to all our first year Novice participants who have, no doubt, been challenged by the CiB program. Starting with simple goals, a small group of volunteers and few resources, we know they are at the ground floor of building something worthwhile for their community. For experienced CiB communities, reaching the 4 and 5-Bloom level is an accomplishment that recognizes all their hard work. Some 5 bloom communities will be invited to next year's national competition.

Volunteers are the backbone of this program and each community's team efforts are a testament to how well "People, Plants and Pride...Growing Together" works!

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## BACKGROUNDER

BC Communities in Bloom is a not for profit society administering the dynamic CiB program where citizen groups, organizations, businesses and local governments come together to ignite and unleash the potential within each community.

Because of this unique annual challenge, a new vibrancy and prosperity is reflected in the lasting legacies to our communities.

### REASONS COMMUNITIES PARTICIPATE:

- Stimulates Community Energy
- Encourages Tidiness & Beautification in Residential & Business Areas
- Networks Various Organizations for a Common Good
- Promotes Excellence in Environmental Initiatives
- Catalyst to Inventory Community's Assets
- Friendly Competition provides Focus & Deadline for Projects
- Evaluation Report is a Cost Effective Measurement of Success

### EVALUATION PROCESS & CRITERIA

During late July, on an agreed date, two judges assess the community on the accomplishments of four sectors: municipal, corporate, private and institutional within each of the essential criteria of Tidiness, Environmental Action, Heritage Conservation, Urban Forestry, Landscape (includes Turf & Groundcovers), Floral Displays and Community Involvement.

### RESULTS

All participating communities receive a rating of one to five 'Blooms' (unless entered as first year rookie). Selected communities receive an invitation to participate in the following year's national program.

In addition to their rating, each BC CiB participant receives a comprehensive report, prepared by qualified judges. This report reviews the particular features and projects in each of the criteria areas that the community has undertaken and presented, and offers constructive comments and suggestions for the following year.

Of course, all participants are winners as they celebrate pride in their hometown with a program that recognizes their potential as resilient liveable communities!



Thank you to our 2014 Gold Bloom Sponsors

and to



We gratefully acknowledge  
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The BC Land Summit Society

### BRITISH COLUMBIA COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM

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