Celebrating Canada's 150th

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Surrey, B.C.,
October 2, 2017

BC Communities show their Canadian Pride

Surrey - On Thursday September 28th, 18 communities from all over the province were recognized in the British Columbia Communities in Bloom (BC CiB) program. Many participants chose to feature their Canada 150 projects that were created to commemorate this significant national milestone.

Deserving of special recognition are the evaluated participants, who annually presented their entire community to visiting BC CiB judges. The evaluation process supplies a focus and deadline to improve their community year after year. Achieving 4 and 5-Blooms is an amazing accomplishment of collaboration from municipal, business, residents and service groups.

The 14th Annual BC Communities in Bloom Awards Banquet was held in Abbotsford and has marked another successful year. Congratulations to all our 'in Bloom' participants who are making their hometowns be the best they can be through the Communities in Bloom program of "People, Plants and Pride…Growing Together".

2017 PROVINCIAL RESULTS		Mention or Project Name
Hope, District of	5-Blooms	Chainsaw Wood Carvings
Abbotsford, City of	4-Blooms	The International Friendship Garden
Lumby, Village of	4-Blooms	Working Together to make Lumby Strong
Whitehorse, Yukon, City of	4-Blooms	Whitehorse Municipal Compost Site
Sicamous, District of	3-Blooms	New Roundabout
Salmo, Village of	Novice	Where all Roads Lead Video
Cache Creek, Village of	Friend	Withdrawn from Evaluated due to Wildfires
Chetwynd, District of	Friend	Gazebo on Carver's Row and New Trail Lights near Rodeo
Kent, District of	Friend	Canada 150 Vimy Park Beautification
Sooke, District of	Friend	In progress
Fort St. John	Friend	In progress
Clinton, Village of	Showcase	Clinton Pioneer Cemetery
Fruitvale, Village of	Showcase	Railway Park
Lake Country Garden Club	Showcase	Canada 150 Floral Design
Burnaby, City of	Member	In progress
Castlegar, City of	Member	Castlegar in Bloom for Canada's 150
Coquitlam, City of	Member	Canada 150 Project and Protect our Pollinator Project
Mission, City of	Member	Mission CiB's Canada 150 Bloom Program

CRITERIA AWARDS	SPONSORED BY	WINNER
HERITAGE CONSERVATION	Teck Resources Limited	LUMBY
ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION	Urban Systems	WHITEHORSE, YT
CANADA 150 (evaluated)	BC Communities in Bloom	ABBOTSFORD

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.

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COMMUNITY CHAMPION AWARD - BC Communities in Bloom Sponsored

Darlene Kalawsky, was awarded the BC CiB Community Champion Award in recognition for her ongoing work in Castlegar and for her work at the Provincial and National levels of the Communities in Bloom organization.

Darlene was instrumental in starting Castlegar Sculpture Walk, which now has the designation of Sculpture Capital of Canada. She devotes time to many initiatives including Library Board, Rotary, Canadian Peony Society, Heritage Community Food Bank, SPCA, Concerts in the Park, Adopt-a-Road, Nature Fest, Fall Fair, Garden Tour, Royal Canadian Legion. Darlene also serves on the board of numerous non-profit organizations.

Darlene started the beautification of Castlegar when she joined CIB approximately 14 years ago. Her motivation and drive has pushed Castlegar to become a major tourist attraction. Darlene's tireless and selfless efforts do not go unnoticed by citizens of Castlegar, tourists and especially by her devoted Castlegar CIB volunteers. Congratulations Darlene on this much-deserved accolade!

BC'S NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL 5-BLOOM FINALISTS

Ashcroft, Castlegar, Coquitlam, Kamloops, Mission, Sun Rivers Golf Resort Community, Trail.

Congratulations to all our participants who have, no doubt, been challenged by the CiB program.

Starting with simple goals, a small group of volunteers and few resources, 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. 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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Download photos from the event from our Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/cibbc

BRITISH COLUMBIA COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM
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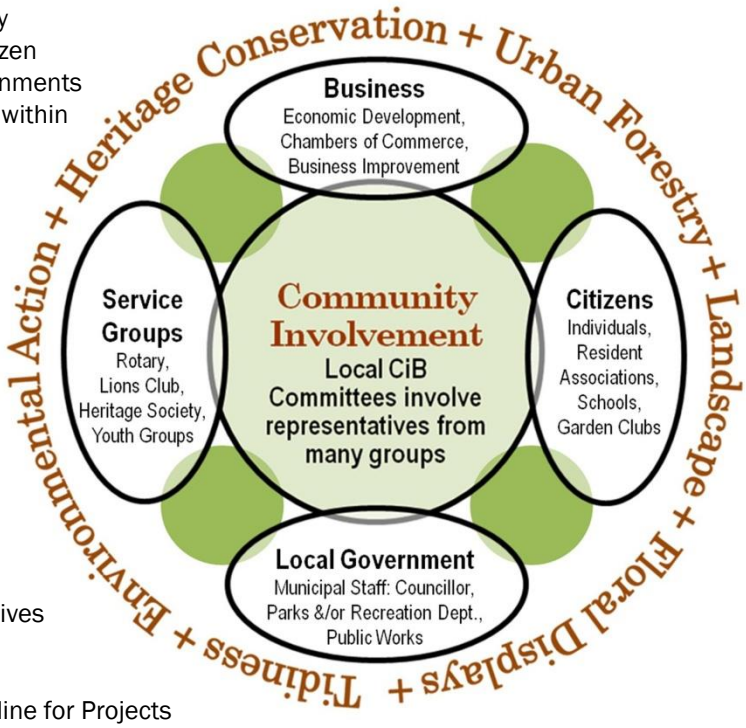
BACKGROUNDER

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 & Pride of Place
- Encourages Tidiness & Beautification in Residential & Business Areas
- Networks Various Organizations with a Common Goal
- 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 5-Bloom 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 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 SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

Gold Bloom	Gold Bloom	Supporters
URBAN systems	Teck	BC Landscape & Nursery Association and CanWest Horticulture Expo Bylands Nursery V.I.P Soaps Gardens British Columbia Invasive Species Council of BC BC Recreation & Parks Association

2017

City of Abbotsford Evaluation Form

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2017 Evaluation Form

Community: **City of Abbotsford**

Province: **British Columbia**

Category: **Population 139,000**

Tidiness		118.50	/	150.00
Environmental Action		118.00	/	150.00
Heritage Conservation		122.50	/	150.00
Urban Forestry		136.50	/	175.00
Landscape		147.00	/	200.00
Floral Displays		127.50	/	175.00
	Total	770.00	/	1000.00

Percentage: 77.0%

Bloom rating: **4 Blooms**

Bloom rating: Up to 55%: 1 bloom. 56% to 63%: 2 blooms. 64% to 72%: 3 blooms 73% to 81%: 4 blooms. >82%: 5 blooms.

National and International Edition, for evaluated communities only.
82 to 83.9%: 5 Blooms. 84 to 86.9%: 5 Blooms (Bronze). 87 to 89.9%: 5 Blooms (Silver). 90% and over: 5 Blooms (Gold).
- A community does not have to be entered in a competitive category, but will need to be evaluated.

Mention: The International Friendship Garden

Representative (s) of Community

Name:	Michael Adkins	Function:	Abbotsford CiB Chair
Name:	Guy Martin	Function:	Manager Park Operations
Name:	Chrissy Borseth & Sue Federspiel	Function:	Municipal Staff

Judges

Name:	Bruce Hobin	Name:	Catherine Kennedy

Evaluation date: July 19 - 20, 2017

2017 Evaluation Form

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 corporation buildings (such as Canada Post)
- **Tourism bureaus and 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, community organizations and citizen groups – all contributing to various aspects of community improvement, including municipal spaces maintained through the efforts of volunteers and community
- 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.

GENERAL COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

First impressions count, and Abbotsford made a solid first one with Mayor Braun, the many council members and staff providing excellent information about your community at the kick-off meeting. Stats and facts from the participants helped the judges get a picture of how and where the City plans to improve. Some of the facts we were impressed by: 65% of your resident's work in your community, 75% of your land mass is in the Agriculture Land Reserve. These two facts speak to the fact that urban development will be managed within these confines with the "Plan for 200K". We are happy that Communities in Bloom (CiB) can be a way to help fulfill some of these objectives.

Hearing from the Fire Chief, Chief Constable, Airport staff, as well as from directors and managers with the Engineering, Economic Development, Parks, Finance, Community Planning departments was very useful and has contributed to helping us develop a baseline score for your evaluation. We heard a few people comment during the tour…the Airport owns raspberry fields?! Planning for the City's future is going forward with attention to sustainability and protecting the natural and built environments. Overall, we think you have made a terrific start to your Communities in Bloom journey. Thank you for the additional support documents from these presentations. The judges base their evaluations on what we are shown (tour) and what we are told (Community Profile Book). This is the first year and much has been accomplished. We encourage you to use this report as a baseline for future CiB efforts.

Guy Martin and Mike Adkins did a fantastic job touring the judges around the community. The helicopter overview, with pilot Cathy Press of Chinook Helicopters, allowed the judges to appreciate the land diversity. We really liked the supplied handouts at the tour stops and having your volunteers or staff explain their areas. For future reference, having a Tour Map with sites indicated on the tour agenda would be useful as well as a 1-page itinerary with map on back.

When developing the Community Profile Book, please consider the following: provide a list of the CiB committee members; provide a map of the tour; follow the elements and order of the evaluation grid to maximize points and recognize other sectors of the community (businesses, residents, institutions) in addition to the City's efforts. As well, it might be beneficial to show a separate booklet of images and copies of newspaper cuttings that illustrate happenings during other times of the year.

Special Mention: The International Friendship Garden

The judges found this to be one of those hidden gems situated on George Ferguson Way by the Clearbrook Library. This Japanese-style garden, opened in 2009, was developed to commemorate Abbotsford's relationship with its sister city of Fukagawa, Japan. Also located in the garden is the Golden Tree, a monument erected in 2015 in memory of three Indo-Canadian women farmworkers who were tragically killed in a highway accident in 2007. The garden is a must see when visiting Abbotsford.

2017 Evaluation Form

TIDINESS

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 prevention/removal and vandalism deterrent programs.

	Max	Actual
Municipal		
Tidiness, order, cleanliness and first impressions	10	7.5
Community anti-litter awareness programs	10	8
Effective bylaws, programs and policies and enforcement; litter control, unsightly private property maintenance by-laws, graffiti prevention and eradication, graffiti removal kits to residents	10	7.5
Cleanliness of public green infrastructure: parks, streetscapes (sidewalks, planters, urban signage and furniture such as benches, litter and recycling containers etc.)	15	12
Visual appeal, and condition of municipal buildings and properties (including City Hall grounds),	15	13
Business & Institutions		
Tidiness, order and cleanliness and first impressions	15	12
Condition of buildings (exterior maintenance), grounds, sidewalks and parking lots	15	11.5
Condition of urban furniture: benches, litter and recycling containers	5	4
Residential		
Tidiness, order and cleanliness	20	16
Condition of buildings, grounds and yards	15	12
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	7.5
Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions for community clean-up programs	10	7.5
Tidiness Total	**150.00**	**118.50**

TIDINESS

Observations:

As the judges toured the community, whether it was urban or rural, residential or industrial, they found Abbotsford to be a very tidy and well-kept community. The community parks appeared to be well maintained with prominent trash receptacles. The city streets, especially around the city precinct were trash-free. The judges recognize that it is always a challenge to control and monitor trash, especially a municipality as large as Abbotsford. Judges are not so much worried about the day's garbage as what appears to be litter that has been accumulating for a period of time. The constant problem of discarded cigarette butts was evident, especially outside municipal facilities.

The judges noted that there was very little graffiti evident.

It was good to see the Trans Canada highway median and shoulders had been mowed. This keeps trash accumulation to a minimum.

The Profile book did an very good job providing information on the City of Abbotsford's Volunteer Programs: Adopt a Street, Adopt a Park, Community Clean-up Week and the One Time Beautification opportunities. It appears that the community does indeed take pride in keeping Abbotsford looking clean and tidy. Keep up the good work!

Recommendations:

Keeping a community neat and tidy is an ongoing challenge. The judges wish to make the following recommendations:

Consider creating more cigarette butt receptacles in public areas to reduce litter.

A community can never have enough collection receptacles for recycling. Consider placing these throughout the business and public areas in Abbotsford.

Have the CiB Committee work with the industrial park businesses and rural residents to maintain clean and trash-free private properties. They are often out of the public view but are still part of the Abbotsford community.

Garbage often accumulates in specific areas. The judges noted that a viewing site that overlooks the valley on Eagle Mountain has been a major collector of trash. Consider having the builder's in this area be responsible for clean-up.

2017 Evaluation Form

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

Environmental action pertains to the impact of human activities on the environment and the subsequent efforts and achievements of the community with respect to: policies, by-laws, programs and best practices for waste reduction and landfill diversion, composting sites, landfill sites, hazardous waste collections, water conservation, energy conservation, 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	17
Waste reduction to landfill and results (3-R: reduce, reuse and recycle), municipal composting programs, including activities such as composting sites, yard waste collections, mulching of wood debris (Christmas trees, hedge trimmings, etc.), reclamation of cut trees, and handling of hazardous waste including e-waste collection and reuse of compost material	20	17
Water conservation and use-reduction programs such as promotions, efficient irrigation, use of non-potable water, water restriction policies	15	13
Energy conservation programs such as alternate forms of energy (ex. geothermal, biomass, wind, solar) and initiatives such as: efficient appliances initiatives, shielding for night skies issues, efficient street lighting	15	12.5
Environmental initiatives, innovations and actions such as: - Development and expansion of sustainable mobility and active transportation network such as bike lanes and multi-used pathways; - Horticultural practices such as green roofs, green walls, green lanes, living fences, buffer zones; re-use of sites; engineered wetlands, bio-swales, permeable surfaces and rain water management - Brownfield redevelopment, remediation, land reclamation - Air quality programs such as anti-idling, reduction of greenhouse gas emission (carbon reduction).	10	6.5
Business & Institutions		
Participation in the environmental effort: such as waste management (reduce, reuse and recycle), water conservation, energy conservation, brownfield management	10	7
Corporate environmental innovation/stewardship, initiatives, activities (ex. environmental clean-up activities)	10	7
Residential		
Participation in the 3-R (reduce, reuse and recycle) initiatives and composting	10	7
Adoption of water conservation practices such as rainwater collection and rain gardens	15	12
Community Involvement		
Public participation in public forums and policy development on environmental issues	5	4
Public participation in community, neighbourhood or individual street environmental activities and programs (including promotion, organization and evidence of taking ownership, etc.)	10	8
Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions in public environmental activities and programs	10	7
Environmental Action Total	**150.00**	**118.00**

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

Observations:

The City of Abbotsford has demonstrated a strong commitment to caring for the environment. The presentations made by City officials, the print materials provided in our package and the Community Profile Book all illustrated the diverse programs devoted to environmental issues. Although the volume of materials seemed a little overwhelming, they were very essential to help us evaluate this category.

Thank you for the package of information about your recycling program, curb side pickup and depot drop off as well as the water conservation documents including low flow toilet rebate, water sources and its treatment. We were also informed that water consumption has been reduced from 300 litres per capita to 85 litres per capita.

Abbotsford has water restrictions and encourages the practice of xeriscape landscaping to conserve potable water.

It was mentioned to the judges that Abbotsford is providing more e-charging stations for electric and hybrid vehicles and the purchase of alternative fuel/energy vehicles to reduce their carbon footprint.

Last year's judges mentioned the road sensors placed on Eagle Mountain to determine when freeze guard should be applied to keep these steep roads ice and snow-free. We also felt that this technological approach is to be commended.

The judges noted large areas of invasive weeds in ditches, boulevards and private properties. An example is the Knotweed on Ross Road near Fraser Highway. This can be a never-ending battle for any community but its removal/treatment is made more urgent because of the agriculture and nursery businesses in the area.

Matsqui Recreation Complex's rain swales and water collection was an excellent example of water collection and detention.

The Willband Creek Park is an excellent example of a natural water detention pond in a natural setting.

Fishtrap Creek Park which ties into your multi use Discovery Trail, is another of the parks we appreciated for its value to the environment and community.

Mill Lake Park is a community asset but the goose problem is evident both in denuding park grassy areas and pollution from their feces. We were told about the egg addling program that seems to be working. This is an effort that will take years to see results but seems to be a good compromise for all concerned.

Recommendations:

Consider touring the judges by the wastewater management and/or solid waste management sites.

Keep on top of the invasive plant species with identification and education programs for residents and businesses. We see there is a Consolidated Good Neighbour Bylaw, 2003 Bylaw No. 1256–200 but worry that this will not effectively remove this problem. http://bcinvasives.ca/ is a great resource for education and awareness programs.

Create more awareness for xeriscape gardens to demonstrate the types of design and plant materials that do well in low water landscapes. As part of our driving tour we briefly saw a couple of eyebrow parks/curb bump outs that have excellent potential for this purpose.

2017 Evaluation Form

HERITAGE CONSERVATION

Heritage conservation includes efforts to preserve natural and cultural heritage within the community. Preservation of natural heritage pertains to policies, plans and actions concerning all elements of biodiversity including flora and fauna ecosystems and associated geological structures and formations. Cultural conservation refers to the heritage that helps define the community including the legacy of tangible (built/hard assets) elements such as heritage buildings, monuments, memorials, cemeteries, artifacts, museums and intangible elements such as traditions, customs, festivals and celebrations. The participation of groups such as historical societies and conservation groups is considered.

	Max	Actual
Municipal		
Natural heritage policies, by-laws and their enforcement and effective programs	10	7
Natural heritage management plans and preservation initiatives: including eco systems, eco parks, protection of sensitive habitats, species at risk, support for at risk pollinators, grasslands, naturalization, wetlands, urban agriculture/farming, and wildlife	15	13
Management and promotion of natural heritage (through communications, information and support programs, economic development/tourism) including activities and programs (year-round) for education and use of natural heritage sites for and by the public	15	13
Cultural heritage polices, by-laws and plans and preservation initiatives for heritage buildings, cemeteries, artefacts, museums, monuments, heritage trees and gardens, including their integration with streetscapes and landscape	15	12
Cultural heritage initiatives throughout the year including festivals and celebrations along with preservation of traditions and customs	10	8.5
Business & Institutions		
Conservation, restoration and integration of natural heritage, including eco parks, conservation areas, heritage gardens, trees and landscapes.	15	13
Conservation, restoration and reuse of heritage buildings and artefacts including their integration with the built/hard, streetscapes and green landscapes	10	7
Residential		
Conservation/restoration and reuse of heritage buildings, artefacts on residential lands	10	7
Community Involvement		
Public participation in community, neighbourhood or individual natural heritage programs including developing policies and plans, site improvements and management, conservation and education initiatives	15	13
Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions (including environmental groups) in community-initiated natural heritage activities and programs	15	13
Public participation in community, neighbourhood or individual cultural heritage programs including year-round heritage community events/activities, festivals and celebrations along with preservation of traditions and customs	10	8
Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions (including historical societies) in community initiated cultural heritage activities and programs.	10	8
Heritage Conservation Total	**150.00**	**122.50**

HERITAGE CONSERVATION

Observations:

Abbotsford has a very diverse cultural heritage. The tour provided the judges with a pretty good overview of what constitutes the history of the area.

Exhibition Park is a focal point of the community's agricultural history and features the annual AgriFair that showcases much of the local rural culture.

The tour took the judges to see the Trethewey House at Mill Lake Park. Unfortunately, time did not permit us to visit inside.

The judges enjoyed seeing and hearing about Clayburn Village and its history. It was described in the Profile Book but visiting in person was appreciated especially the stop at the Clayburn General Store. Keep this on the tour!

Abbotsford's Indo-Canadian heritage is reflected in the Gur Sikh Temple, the oldest Gurdwara in North America. Designated as a National Historic Site in 2002, this temple illustrates the early twentieth century Sikh culture in the area.

The tour took the judges through the historic downtown on Montrose Avenue. This area has buildings that reflect the early historic buildings of Abbotsford. This is a valuable contributor to the CiB program.

The judges were shown the Willband Creek Park; a wonderful natural setting that will become a major focal point for the community to visit once the Willband Creek Enhancement Project is completed. The judges also recognize the contribution the Abbotsford-Mission Nature Club and Abbotsford Christian Schools to this project.

Abbotsford's Discovery Trail is a valuable addition to the community. This all-season trail exposes users to natural habitats of ponds, marshes, forests, creeks and meadows. This is a great opportunity to observe and learn about the local ecosystem.

Recommendations:

There is much to see for the judges to evaluate this category. Besides what was covered in this year's tour, the CiB Committee may wish to consider the following:

A walk through the historic downtown by the judges would be helpful. It would allow us to get a closer experience with this part of Abbotsford.

Provide an opportunity for the judges to visit inside the Trethewey House or have a guided tour of the Gur Sikh Temple.

Be sure to include Bradner in next year's tour. This agricultural area plays an important part in Abbotsford's history.

The CiB Committee should consider working with the farm community to determine if there might be any heritage farms that could be recognized for their long-time contribution to the area.

2017 Evaluation Form

URBAN FORESTRY

Urban forestry includes the efforts of the municipality, businesses, institutions and residents with regards to written policies, by-laws, standards for tree management (selection, planting, and maintenance), long and short-term management plans, tree replacement policies, pollinator friendly tree selection, tree inventory, and 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	15	12
Urban forestry plan and design, including integration with overall green infrastructure landscape plan, and measures to preserve, protect, manage and expand overall tree inventory, including woodlots.	20	17
Plan of action: procurement, species diversity (including native trees), selection of hardy and pollinator habitat tree species, recommended tree list and tree planting standards.	10	7.5
Integrated Pest Management (IPM) / Plant HealthCare (PHC): plan of action for invasive pest detection and control, information on current infestations and diseases	10	7.5
Public information programs: good planting techniques, best practices and maintenance programs	15	12
Maintenance best practices with proven results	10	8
Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or in place training programs	5	4.5
Business & Institutions		
Contribution to expanding overall tree inventory, with consideration of design and diversity including native and hardy species of trees, on properties owned by business and institutions.	15	11
Maintenance programs, best practices with proven results: watering, pruning, IPM	10	6
Residential		
Contribution to expanding overall tree inventory, with consideration of design and diversity including native and hardy species of trees on residential properties	15	11
Maintenance best practices with proven results	10	6.5
Community Involvement		
Public participation in tree planting and conservation programs such as Green Streets Canada, Arbor 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**	**136.50**

URBAN FORESTRY

Observations:

The tree canopy around the municipal precinct was quite mature and really added to the multifaceted complex that is home to City Hall, Provincial Courts, Police, Fire Hall, Cenotaph, Library, Art Gallery and the International Friendship Garden. In the civic plaza, replacing diseased trees with more variety is a good thing. The entire complex has a purpose and appears to be a place that staff and the public enjoy.

During our tour, it was discussed that there are tree protection bylaws and understand there is a Heritage Tree registry. With new 'infill development' some of the criteria may be changing to protect and encourage replacement trees.

Maclure Road is an attractive thoroughfare with a well treed and shrub boulevard.

Kudos for the work being done in Willband Creek Park; we were told this is also a storm water detention pond that is home to a diverse waterfowl population, migratory birds and other wildlife. This is an excellent partnership of Abbotsford Mission Nature Club volunteers, City staff (Natural Areas Team) and the help of the Abbotsford Christian School students (environmental education classes). Additional partners noted were the Fraser Valley Watershed Coalition and the Fraser Valley Conservancy. Funding from TD Friend of the Environment Foundation and Trees Canada have contributed to the purchase of many new trees and shrubs to help suppress non-natives plant species like Himalayan Blackberry and Reed Canary Grass. We saw a 'before' picture of the hard work these groups are doing to return the environment to a more habitat friendly environment for wildlife and humans to enjoy.

Recommendations:

We can see that the City of Abbotsford values their trees. Many new urban trees have been planted, and care for their long-term success, will be a challenge when sidewalks and roads are covering root zones. We hope as the new development areas proceed that your landscape architect and parks staff recommendations for tree vaults and cisterns for water collection can be worked into the budget.

In the community profile book, we look for specific information under each evaluation criteria headline; i.e. info about the arboriculture team and watering was in landscape category. Also, adding the tree bylaw information to the Urban Forestry section would be very helpful.

For a first-year evaluation, your marks in Urban Forestry are very good. If we have missed anything of major note, it will come in future reports as your CiB team streamlines information supplied to the judges.

2017 Evaluation Form

LANDSCAPE

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.

	Max	Actual
Municipal		
First impressions of the community including gateway/entrance treatments	10	7
Sustainable designs (seasonally adjusted year round): energy efficient, use of green materials, naturalization, xeriscaping, suitable plant varieties (including pollinator friendly) , traffic calming, bank stabilisation	10	7
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	7
Landscape Plan: integrated and implemented throughout the municipality	10	6.5
Turf management programs, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Plant Health Care (PHC), alternative solutions to diseases and infestations when appropriate, increased naturalization and adapted maintenance programs	10	8.5
Landscape maintenance policies, standards, best practices and programs	10	8.5
Landscape maintained to appropriate standards, specifications and best practices.	5	4
Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or in place training programs	10	8
Demonstrated year-round opportunities and programs for education and use of parks and green spaces (urban agriculture, community gardens, parks and recreation programs)	10	8
Business & Institutions		
Sustainable designs (seasonally adjusted year-round): energy efficient, use of green materials, naturalization, xeriscaping, alternate groundcovers, urban agriculture	10	6
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	10
Adequate ongoing life cycle management (ongoing maintenance, ground & asset management, rehabilitation & replacement) of all landscape elements	10	6
Residential		
Streetscape appeal of landscapes (year-round, seasonal, themed)	15	11
Maintenance of properties: lawn care, trees and shrub maintenance (with proven results)	15	11
Selection of plant material (native, local, innovative, edible and pollinator friendly plants)	10	6.5
Community Involvement		
Public participation in community programs such as: urban agriculture, community gardens, "yard of the week", volunteer park maintenance, holiday illumination & decoration (promotion, organization, etc.)	20	16
Recognition (by municipality and/or by volunteer groups) of volunteer efforts in all aspects of the Communities in Bloom Program including activities in all evaluated criteria	20	16
Landscape Total	**200.00**	**147.00**

LANDSCAPE

Observations:

The City of Abbotsford has an abundance of green spaces, agricultural farmland, forested hills/mountains, natural and man-made naturalized areas in addition to the many playgrounds, parks, and trail systems. The residents of Abbotsford are very fortunate that the City manages these assets so well. Ongoing work through the Park, Recreation and Culture Master Plan will foster partnerships and community collaboration for the future. Thank you for the opportunity to see your community from the air, it gave us an excellent view of your environmental diversification with regards to the landscape. The landscaping in the traffic circles was very impressive from the air!

The judges were toured around Exhibition Park that contains an amazing collection of buildings and sports fields that support or showcase a multitude of events. Thanks to Rod who gave us a tour through the Ag-Rec, Show Barn and Agrifair Arena in addition to an explanation of the diverse events that are hosted daily in the park. Wow, the work the team does to change the venues between users boggles the mind!

The next stop at Exhibition Park was to talk with Jay who manages the turf sports fields. He and his team use soil science to create healthy turf that see many hours of use. The play turf areas we observed were in excellent shape despite their heavy use.

CiB judges are happy to know that lawn water conservation is taken seriously; a prolonged dry spell has affected residential and passive municipal lawns but we know with fall rains they will green up very quickly. At the Matsqui Recreation Centre where there are large artificial turf playing fields, we were shown the bioswales to manage rainfall, and though not especially beautiful, they serve a very important environmental function.

Your Trail Guide document is excellent; there are a wide variety of recreation options for the resident.

We only saw a fraction of the many parks the City of Abbotsford maintains but we were told of others like the Inspiration Park that was created to thank the community for banding together to stop a power plant that was going to affect the area's quality of life.

Recommendations:

Abbotsford would benefit from more rain gardens or bioswales as development permits.

Show examples of your entry signage in the profile book. CiB values gateways as an important first impression to your community.

Where flower planters are not feasible, consider roadside banners. We understand that winter lighting displays are being expanded. Street beautification is important and we suggest a photo-binder to show offseason examples as a complement to your profile book.

Listing the park inventory, and the Parks, Recreation and Culture information can be put under the landscape criteria. Information about dog off-leash areas, Turf Maintenance and the Public Art Capital Reserve Fund Bylaw can also be mentioned in this section.

2017 Evaluation Form

FLORAL DISPLAYS

Floral displays evaluate efforts of the municipality, businesses, institutions and residents 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, edible plants, water efficient and pollinator friendly plants) in the context of originality, distribution, location, diversity and balance, colour, and harmony This pertains to flowerbeds, carpet bedding, containers, baskets and window boxes.

	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	15
Diversity of plants: annuals, perennials, bulbs, grasses, woody plants, natural flora, pollinator friendly plants	10	7
Quality, maintenance to appropriate specifications and standards, best practices: watering, weeding, edging, dead heading, etc.	20	16
Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or in place training programs	10	8
Business & Institutions		
Concept and design (including arrangement, diversity, colour of display and plants) on grounds	15	9
Contribution to, and integration with, overall community floral program	10	7.5
Quality of planting and maintenance: watering, weeding, edging, dead heading, etc.	10	6
Residential		
Concept and design (including arrangement, diversity, colour of display and plants) on residential properties Pollinator gardens and/or inclusion of pollinator plants in gardens	20	14
Quality of planting and maintenance with proven results.	15	12
Community Involvement		
Public participation in community projects, volunteer initiatives, outreach programs in floral displays (including promotion, organization, etc.)	15	11
Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions for community floral displays activities	15	11
Floral Displays Total	**175.00**	**127.50**

FLORAL DISPLAYS

Observations:

Congratulations on your "Bloom'n Wonderful" and "Get your Bloom On" campaigns to engage business and residents. This is a great initiative and it will only get better as awareness develops. It is these two sectors that will help bring your CiB activities to the next level. The addition of 17 new planters in the Downtown is a great start too.

It must have been a delight to see the Canada 150 tulips blooming in addition to the Abbotsford Tulip Festival this past spring. Deserving of heritage recognition is the 89 years of the Bradner Flower Festival that also has the distinction of being the Daffodil Capital of Canada.

Municipal plantings were strategically placed and nicely done. The gardens at Trethewy House were lovely (thanks Dawn) and it was a great setting for our lunch and to showcase your partnerships with some very hardworking volunteer groups. Thanks to Herman Venema, Jack Vandyke and Dave Hopaluk from the Abbotsford Mission Nature Club, Dale Taylor from the Abbotsford Ravine Park Salmon Enhancement Society, Terry and Cooper from the Abbotsford Arts Council, and the Fraser Valley Antique Farm Machinery group (apologies if we missed anyone). These volunteer groups contribute to your community and are worthy of recognition.

Agri-tourism (Circle Farm Tour), farm-gate sales, farm to plate, craft breweries were mentioned many times. It is obvious that the urban and rural areas are capitalizing on the public's desire for local food and products. It appears the Communities in Bloom initiatives of tidiness and community beautification will help support the efforts of your Tourism Abbotsford.

Recommendations:

Continue with your promotion campaigns to create local interest for your Communities in Bloom work. It is when the CiB program starts resonating in neighbourhoods that the program really benefits the community. Past winners never forget the recognition for a good-looking front yard.

Consider having a recognition event for outstanding residential yards or businesses that have gone the extra mile, or profile them in your local paper. Include a 'winning' resident's garden on the evaluation tour.

Engage businesses with suitable areas to either sponsor the cost, or help maintain the boulevard planters.

Following along the idea of the public art on Gladys Avenue showcasing the Fraser Valley Antique Farm Machinery; engage your local farms in CiB with a 'Farm Entryways' competition.

Challenge your local growers or nurseries to a container competition and place containers at an event for the public to vote on (make it a fundraiser for a charity).

2017 Evaluation Form

Celebrating Canada's 150th

Special Criteria Award Commemorating Canada's 150

(FOR EVALUATED PARTICIPANTS ONLY)

HERITAGE CONSERVATION & CANADA 150

Canada 150, includes all community activities celebrating the 150 Anniversary of Canadian Confederation and/or celebrating the heritage of the community in Canada's Confederation.

Elements for Canada 150 evaluation include legacy projects, special events, festivals and activities, special green projects (floral displays, tree planting) and special museum/heritage displays.

	Max	Actual
Municipal		
Canada 150 projects: legacy projects, events, activities and festivals and special green projects such as floral displays and tree planting	50	45
Business & Institutions		
Canada 150 projects: legacy projects, events, activities and festivals and special green projects such as floral displays and tree planting	25	20
Residential		
Canada 150 projects: special green projects such as floral displays and tree planting	25	20
Community Involvement		
Participation in Canada 150 programs: public participation in community, neighbourhood or individual events, activities, festivals and celebrations	50	40
Canada 150 Bonus Points Total	**150**	**125.00**

(Note: this score will only be used for the special Criteria Award and will not appear in the final total)

Comments:

Legacy's for the community:

- House post carving the Artist in residence program at the Kariton Art Gallery sponsored by the Abbotsford Arts Council
- Canada 150 Tulip displays
- 3 commemorative Canada 150 benches
- Red, White & You event with Symphony under the Stars in August
- Canada 150 Mosaic using 356 tiles painted by the community and on display in the Matsqui Centennial Auditorium stairwell

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2017 Evaluation Form

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

Celebrating Canada's 150th

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

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