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# NEWS RELEASE

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## Abbotsford enters ‘Circle of Excellence’ in national Communities in Bloom program

**ABBOTSFORD – June 12, 2019:** After being awarded the ‘5 Bloom Community’ from the Canadian Communities in Bloom Program, the City of Abbotsford has now entered the ‘Circle of Excellence’ in the national program announced Mayor Henry Braun today.

This will be the third year that the City of Abbotsford has participated in the Communities in Bloom program, and the first year that Abbotsford will compete on the national scale.

The rating of ‘5 blooms’ was the prerequisite to entering the national version of the contest.

### **Background:**

In fall 2018 Abbotsford also received a special mention for the Co-op Community Viewing Platform at Willband Creek, a partnership with the Abbotsford-Mission Nature Club and the “Co-op Community Spaces Program. To build awareness about the CIB program and to gain community involvement for the competition, the City hosted a “Get Your Bloom On” and “Your Bloomin’ Wonderful” campaign in the spring. The Communities in Bloom Committee also created a “Get Your Bloom On” garden tour fundraiser, raising money for both the Abbotsford Community Services “Urban Garden”, and the school garden at Auguston Elementary School. Many Abbotsford businesses and residents participated in the local contests, and helped ensure that our community was in full bloom when the CIB judges came to town.

The British Columbia Communities in Bloom is a program that inspires communities to enhance and sustain the visual appeal of neighbourhoods, public spaces, parks and streetscapes through the imaginative use of regionally-appropriate plants and landscaping with attention to environmental stewardship and to preserve heritage and cultural assets. Communities in Bloom ratings are based on 8 criteria:

1. Heritage Conservation
2. Urban Forestry
3. Landscape
4. Turf & Groundcovers
5. Floral Displays
6. Tidiness
7. Environmental Action
8. Community Involvement

Communities in Bloom:

Communities in Bloom is a Canadian non-profit organization committed to fostering civic pride, environmental responsibility and beautification. Communities of all sizes and from every region of British Columbia participate in the BC Communities in Bloom program, and each year only a handful are invited to compete nationally.

In 2019, hundreds of Canadian communities will be participating in the 25th Edition of Communities in Bloom. The national and provincial editions of Communities in Bloom (CiB), along with municipalities from Belgium, Croatia, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, United Kingdom, Slovenia and the United States of America in the International Challenge will be part of the celebrations.

Established with the guidance of Britain in Bloom, Tidy Towns of Ireland and Villes et Villages Fleuris de France, Communities in Bloom was “created” in 1994 and the first edition held in 1995. Since then over 1,200 communities have participated in the CiB Program from throughout Canada and in the international challenge involving communities from Canada, the United States, Asia and Europe.

**Quotes:**

“The Communities in Bloom program is an excellent way of enhancing green spaces and encouraging environmental stewardship in our community. I’m particularly proud of our community as we move on to the National level, and on behalf of City Council, I would like to acknowledge and thank everyone involved – from businesses, volunteers and residents, you all help showcase our great city.”

*Henry Braun  
Mayor, City of Abbotsford*

“In September 2018 Abbotsford was recognized and awarded the prestigious CIB Provincial Award. This goal was achieved by the commitment of the Abbotsford CIB committee, by the dedication and passion of our municipal government, Mayor Braun and Council, which in turn inspired the joint cooperation of municipal staff, the business community, agriculture/farming community and the diverse residential community. Everyone worked tirelessly together along with the numerous, amazing community volunteers. Through the continued participation and commitment from the community, we are once again ready to be evaluated by the Judges this July in all sectors for the CIB National Awards. My sincere thanks and respect to all.”

*Michael Adkins  
Community Chair, Abbotsford Communities in Bloom*

**Associated Links:**

National Communities in Bloom website - <http://www.communitiesinbloom.ca/>

Abbotsford Communities in Bloom Facebook – <https://www.facebook.com/abbycommunitiesinbloom/>

List of National and International Finalists: <https://bit.ly/2XyMk1p>

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