



# How to Participate in Communities in Bloom

[www.cibontario.ca](http://www.cibontario.ca)

*People, Plants and Pride...Growing Together*

## THE PROGRAM

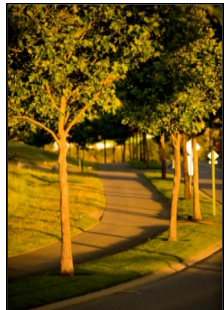
**Communities in Bloom** is a Canadian non-profit organization committed to fostering civic pride, environmental responsibility and beautification through community participation and the challenge of a national program, with focus on enhancing green spaces in communities. National beautification programs have flourished in Europe – including Great Britain, France and Ireland – for decades, and were the inspiration for Communities in Bloom.

The program began in 1995 with 29 Canadian communities and has grown to improve the quality of life in hundreds of participating communities in the provincial, national and international editions.

**All communities are invited to participate in the provincial or national editions, within their population category.**

Trained volunteer judges travel across Canada during the summer to evaluate communities and the overall contributions of municipality, businesses & institutions and residents, including volunteer efforts in regards to the following criteria:

**Tidiness.** Includes an overall tidiness effort. Elements for evaluation are green spaces (parks, etc.), medians, boulevards, sidewalks, streets; municipal, commercial, institutional and residential properties; ditches, road shoulders, vacant lots and buildings; weed control, litter clean-up (including cigarette butts and gum), graffiti and vandalism programs.



< Sun Rivers  
Resort Community,  
BC - Tidiness  
Award Winner,  
presented by  
Natura

**Environmental Action.** Includes efforts and achievement with respect to: policies, by-laws, programs and best practices, 3-R initiatives (reduce/reuse/recycle), waste reduction, composting sites, hazardous waste collections, water conservation, naturalization, and environmental stewardship activities under the guiding principles of sustainable development pertaining to green spaces.



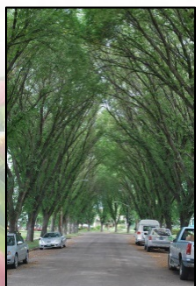
Yarmouth, NS - Environmental Action Award  
Winner, presented by the Canadian Nursery  
and Landscape Association

**Heritage Conservation.** The criteria includes efforts to preserve heritage within their community. Priority in evaluation is given to natural heritage, as well as the integration of landscape and streetscapes as it pertains to the built heritage of a community. Also consists of preservation of cultural heritage which includes monuments, memorials, artefacts, museums and history, archives, traditions, customs, festivals and celebrations.



Jasper, AB - Heritage Conservation Award  
Winner, presented by Beauti-Tone

**Urban Forestry and Trails.** Includes the efforts 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.



< Brandon, MB -  
Urban Forestry  
Award Winner,  
presented by CN

**Landscape.** This section of the evaluation supports all efforts to create an environment showcasing the overall surroundings. The overall plan and design must be 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.



< Southwest  
Middlesex,  
ON -  
Landscape  
Award

**Floral Displays.** Evaluates efforts to design, plan, execute, and maintain floral displays. 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.



< Boisbervain,  
MB -  
Floral Displays  
Award Winner



Established in 2005, the Communities in Bloom Foundation is dedicated to funding, developing and disseminating education and awareness to a wide audience on the value, improvement, importance and sustainable development of green spaces and natural environment in Canadian society.

For more information or to make a donation, please contact:

Communities in Bloom Foundation  
(514) 694-8871  
bloom.fleurs@sympatico.ca

Or visit: [www.CanadaHelps.org](http://www.CanadaHelps.org)



Qualicum Beach, BC - Community Involvement Award Winner, presented by Home Hardware



< Charlottetown, PE - WinterLife Award Winner, presented by Municipal World



Wood Buffalo, AB - Youth Involvement Award Winner, presented by the Communities in Bloom Foundation



Goderich, ON - Community of Gardeners Award Winner, presented by Scotts®

## PROVINCIAL EDITIONS & PARTNERS – CONTACT INFORMATION

To get involved or learn more about the program in your province or territories, please contact:



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### YUKON



### NORTHWEST TERRITORIES



### NUNAVUT

Please contact the Program Coordinator at 514-694-8871 – bloom@cib-cef.com

## PROGRAM STRUCTURE

***Communities in Bloom is designed to be a continuous community improvement program. It is divided into three phases: Provincial, National and International.***

### Provincial Editions

Communities participate with other communities in their population category within their province. Provincial judges evaluate the communities on the criteria previously listed and award a certificate with a rating of 1 to 5 blooms (5 being the highest ranking) at a provincial awards ceremony in the fall. Any community is allowed to participate in Friends a non-competitive category either to learn about the program or, if they are past participants, to maintain their initiatives, program and committees.

The provincial editions also include a non-competitive Mentoring category, where an experienced community guides a new community through the process of their first participation. Each provincial organization also offers special programs and categories specific to provincial context and objectives.

### National Edition

***Who is invited to participate in the national edition?***

#### Population

- The top two communities from each province in each population category (excluding the winners of the category) from the previous year's national edition are invited back to the national competition
- Communities from the previous year's provincial editions as recommended by the respective provincial organization. Up to two communities can be recommended from each population category in each province.

#### Circle of Excellence

A non-competitive category, with or without an evaluation where past National winners are invited.

#### Class of Champions

A category where Canadian communities who have won in the Population category compete amongst themselves.

#### Grand Champions

A category where past winners of the Population, International Challenge and Class of Champions compete amongst themselves.

#### Special Attractions

A category that features green attractions such as parks, living history museums, public gardens, etc.

#### International

A competitive category between national and international winners.

## PROGRAM BENEFITS

Communities have recognized numerous benefits from participating in the program:

- Increased civic pride and community involvement
- Environmental stewardship through the enhancement of green spaces
- Mobilization of citizens, groups, organizations, businesses and the municipality
- Best practices and Information exchange
- Valuable information and feedback from the judges
- Economic development and increased property values
- Marketing and promotional opportunities
- Positive benefits for the tourism, hospitality and retail industries
- Improved quality of life
- Participation from all ages and walks of life of the community

## OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Awards are also part of the provincial and national editions and recognize exemplary achievement in each criteria, plus other special initiatives.

## PROCESS FOR PARTICIPATION Registrations

Helpful Information on the program and the evaluation form are available by contacting the Provincial Office by visiting: <https://cibontario.ca> Registration can be done through the Provincial Office.

## Your Local Committee

The committee is usually composed of local citizens, including one member of council and members of associations, businesses and organizations interested in horticulture, heritage and improving community life.

The committee's objectives are:

- To involve the community by means of local contests, which increase awareness about the program, its benefits and opportunities.
- To act as a liaison with the municipal authorities and Communities in Bloom.

## Bloom Ratings

Communities are rated from 1 to 5 blooms

Up to 55 points:	1 bloom
56-63 points:	2 blooms
64-72 points:	3 blooms
73-81 points:	4 blooms
82 points and more:	5 blooms

*Minton, ON -  
Land  
Reclamation  
Award Winner,  
presented by  
The Butchart  
Gardens*



## Budget

While participation in the program does not require considerable financial resources, obtaining funds to promote the program, involve the community, honour participants and volunteers, attend the award ceremonies, etc. is recommended. It is suggested for the community to prepare an estimated budget and to find sources of funding, such as fundraising programs, community events, etc. Communities in Bloom can provide fundraising ideas and examples from other communities.

## Promotional Merchandise

For information and order forms, please visit [www.communitiesinbloom.ca](http://www.communitiesinbloom.ca) or contact:

Merchandise Coordinator  
Communities in Bloom  
Tel 514-694-8871 • Fax 514-694-3725  
[bloom@cib-cef.com](mailto:bloom@cib-cef.com)





## PROGRAM COMMITMENT

**The participating communities have a responsibility to:**

- Involve the entire community to participate (with the support of municipal council)
- Prepare for the judging during the summer
- Provide lodging for 2 nights for 2 judges.
- Attend the Provincial awards ceremonies.
- Pay a registration fee, based on population categories and level of competition.

## THE JUDGES' VISIT – USEFUL TIPS

- Prepare information that addresses all criteria in the evaluation form.
- Make good use of the time spent by the judges in your community, to benefit from their expertise.
- The judges' itinerary should include all of the criteria.
- Provide the judges with the opportunity to interact with key individuals and network in your community.
- Let them see that you are proud of your achievements.

## AWARDS CEREMONIES

The Provincial Awards Ceremonies are held in the fall and include presentations and awards to all participants along with the judges' feedback.

The National Awards Ceremonies, hosted in a different city each year, is held in the fall, in conjunction with the National Symposium on Parks and Grounds. All National Finalists are encouraged to attend. The communities are showcased by means of community exhibits and promotional material.

## PROMOTIONS

**www.communitiesinbloom.ca:** CiB's website gives visibility to our participants in the NewsComm and Explore our Communities section of our website. The website also includes a resource centre featuring information from sponsors and communities along with electronic copies of our magazines.

**Social Networks:** CiB participants are welcomed to send us updates, news and photos to post on our Facebook and Twitter pages:  
([www.facebook.com/communitiesinbloom](http://www.facebook.com/communitiesinbloom)) &  
([www.twitter.com/cibcef](http://www.twitter.com/cibcef))

**Information Exchange Network:** Information and documents gathered by the judges and made available on the Leisure Information Network (LIN) website. ([www.lin.ca/communities-in-bloom](http://www.lin.ca/communities-in-bloom))

**Magazine:** Published twice-yearly, also showcases participants with photos, results and articles. The magazine is also presented electronically on the website (in the resource centre).

## SPECIAL PROJECTS

**Home Hardware Charity Calendar:** A fundraiser for the SickKids Foundation featuring participating communities. ([www.sickkidsfoundation.com](http://www.sickkidsfoundation.com))

**Scotts Miracle-Gro Garden Contest:** The contest celebrates outstanding residential gardens (flower garden, edible garden and youth-run edible garden).

**Scotts Best Garden Program:** A program that recognizes the hard work and dedication of citizens to create and maintain their gardens. (<https://www.facebook.com/ScottsCanada>)

**Scotts Miracle-Gro GRO1000 Grassroots Gardens:** A commitment to install 1,000 gardens and green spaces in the United States, in Canada and in Europe by 2018.  
([www.grogood.com/GiveBackToGro/GRO1000/Canada](http://www.grogood.com/GiveBackToGro/GRO1000/Canada))

**CN EcoConnexions – From the Ground Up:** A program that aims to promote the greening of municipal properties across Canada.  
([www.cnfromthegroundup.ca](http://www.cnfromthegroundup.ca))

**Agrium Community Green Spaces Program:** A program that aims to establish, create or enhance local green space in a community on municipal properties such as parks, green spaces, and community grounds.

**Nutrients for Life:** Educational material and learning gardens for schools to provide education on soil nutrients. ([www.nutrientsforlife.ca](http://www.nutrientsforlife.ca))



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## National Sponsors



**Canada' Garden Route:** Presented by VIA Rail, Canada's Garden Route is the most comprehensive listing of Canadian gardens and garden experiences

**Gardens of Remembrance Program:** The program aims to engage communities throughout Canada to honour Veterans by means of remembrance gardens along with local activities.

