

Subject: Communities in Bloom Competition Update

Recommendation:

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receive Report #2024-0069-
Communities in Bloom Competition Update, for information.**

Background:

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the established Communities in Bloom Working Group 2024-2026 and its members to date, as well as reviewing the planning thus far for competition-related work within the working group. This report will also provide an update on confirmed 2024 Judging Tour dates and financial considerations to date.

Communities in Bloom is a volunteer and partnership-driven organization that uses a multi-tiered competitive evaluation process to foster community strength, involvement, and continuous improvement. This is accomplished by nurturing environmental sustainability, enhancement of green spaces, and heritage conservation in cultural and natural environments encompassing municipal, residential, commercial, and institutional spaces.

Analysis:

The Communities in Bloom working group began meeting in January of 2024, once registration for the Communities in Bloom Ontario Judging Program was completed. The working group consists of both municipal employees and community members that provide a wonderful variety of perspectives and representation. Members are listed below:

- Lois LaCroix, Volunteer Member
- Heather Wilson, Volunteer Member
- Heather Hamilton, Volunteer Member
- Vilma Moretti, Volunteer Member
- Katie Kilbreath, Seniors and Community Services Programmer, Staff Representative

- Vickie vanRavenswaay, Director of Recreation, Culture and Wellness, Staff Member
- Halee Braun, Supervisor of Recreation Programs, Staff Member
- Dave Nichols, Supervisor of Beautification, Staff Member
- Ryan Cook, Manager Public Works, Staff Member
- Jason Marr, Director of Public Works, Staff Member
- Leah Letford, Communications and Public Relations Specialist, Staff Member
- David Cribbs, CAO, Staff Member

To date, the working group has been able to review previous competition results (2000-2004) for the Town of Pelham and use that information to compare to current evaluation criteria to best plan the itinerary for visiting judges and the route of the judging tour.

Confirmed dates have been approved for July 11th and July 12th, 2024, for the Judging Tour. Two judges will be visiting and evaluating Pelham during these dates, and accommodations for overnight stay have been made.

With the vast backgrounds and experience of members on the working group, current focus is on mapping out the route and including areas, buildings and stops that are essential in highlighting the key criteria that judges are evaluating. The six key criteria are:

- Community Appearance
- Environmental Action
- Heritage Conservation
- Tree Management
- Landscape
- Plant/Floral Display

Some examples to highlight above include Comfort Maple, Marlene Stewart Streit Park, Sulphur Springs, Flagpole (Fenwick), Old Pelham Town Hall, etc.

Financial Considerations:

Approved funds were built into the 2024 budget through Beautification and Recreation, Culture and Wellness to be utilized towards the Communities in Bloom working group initiatives.

Strategic Plan Relationship: Environmental and Climate Change Adaptation

By focusing on environmental and climate adaptation, the Town of Pelham will prioritize actions that will continue to protect and conserve the natural heritage and resources in Pelham. Priorities of the Town in this area will provide the foundation for a clean, safe and sustainable environment for present and future generations.

Consultation:

Martin Quinn, Communities in Bloom Ontario

Pelham Garden Club

Other Pertinent Reports/Attachments:

NIL

Prepared and Recommended by:

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Seniors and Community Services Programmer

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Prepared and Submitted by:

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