2024

Pelham





Community: Pelham **Province:** Ontario

Category: 10,000 to 20,000

The evaluation is based on 8 criteria, divided into the 6 following sections, assessing 4 sectors of the community:

Growing logether &MD une societe florissante	sectors of the commit	iiiity.			
Tidiness			120	/	150.00
Environmental Action			109	/	150.00
Heritage Conservation			114	/	150.00
Urban Forestry			116	/	175.00
Landscape			134	/	200.00
Floral Displays			121	/	175.00
		Total	714	/	1000.00
Percentage:	71.4				
Bloom rating:	3 Blooms				
2.00					
Bloom rating: Up to 55%: 1 blo	om. 56% to 63%: 2 blooms. 64%	to 72%: 3 blooms 73	% to 81%: 4 blo	oms.	>82%: 5 blooms.
Mention:	Landscape				
Representative (s) of Con	nmunity				
Name:	Marvin Junkin	Function :	Mayor		
			Director of Recreation Culture		
Name:	Vickie Vanravenswaay.	Function :	and Wellness		
Name:	Katie Kilbreath	Function :	.Seniors and Community Services Programmer		
rianie.	Natio Kiloroatii		3614166311	0810	
Judges					
Name:	Paul Ronan	Name:	Evecutive	Diro	stor ODA
Name:	-	Name:	Executive Director OPA		LIOF OPA
	Darrem Murawski		Self Emplo	yed	
Evaluation date:	Click here to enter a date.				

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 corporations 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, and Optimist
- Participation (financial and/or in-kind or employee participation) by the municipality, businesses and institutions.

GENERAL COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

Visiting the town of Pelham was a great pleasure. The Town is rich in heritage and community spirit. It was amazing to see so many people come out to the weekly market and band series. Touring around to the various businesses and meeting the local people and leaders was so welcoming and informative. There is so much more diversity and variety of businesses that a person would ever realize just driving by. The Town has a very knowledgeable group of people in charge. The policies and structure is there to grow Pelham into a 5 bloom city.

Your tour was very well organized and provided a very good overview of your community. One thing that was very impressive was the provision of a tablet containing all of your policies and planning documents in a digital format. This was very helpful and informative for the judges.

It is quite evident that you have a strong team and very positive political and council support. This will very important as your community matures into a 5 bloom showpiece. Much of your infrastructure is in place and with strategic focus in each category we have no doubt you will be able to raise the bar.

As always it will involve prioritization in certain high impact areas as well as areas of risk however reallocation of existing budgets as well as modest increases will be required in these areas.

A broadening of your school involvement as well as better engagement from businesses and residences will definitely provide the kind of impact required to move forward.

Ultimately you will want your whole community to know and understand what Community in Bloom is all about and be able to see evidence of such at gateways, on your streets and at your residences.

You may want to establish a Youth Embasador team who would assist with the planning, planting, weeding, recruiting new members and also to become advocates in promoting more youth engagement in Pelham activities in all categories.

The 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
Community anti-litter awareness programs	10	9
Effective bylaws, programs and policies and enforcement; litter control, graffiti prevention and eradication, graffiti removal kits to residents	10	9
Cleanliness of public green infrastructure: parks, streetscapes (sidewalks, planters, urban signage and furniture such as benches, liter and recycling containers etc.)	15	12
Visual appeal, and condition of municipal buildings and properties (including City Hall grounds)	15	12
Business & Institutions		
Tidiness, order and cleanliness and first impressions	15	12
Condition of buildings (exterior maintenance), grounds, sidewalks and parking lots	15	11
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.)		8
Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions for community clean-up programs	10	8
Tidiness Total	150.00	120

TIDINESS

Observations:

Pelham has very little to no graffiti and very minimal litter in the municipal areas. There were a few areas with overgrown weeds with, some being noxious and or invasive. Driving through the main street there were very few planters and a lack of CIB

Some smaller businesses did have weedy gardens and hard surfaced areas
There was a small percentage of residential properties with clutter and weed issues
Generally the community is quite tidy and a greater general awareness of the issues
above will make a noted improvement

Recommendations:

recognition signage.

The Town staff seem to have a good handle on keeping graffiti and litter in check. I would suggest that staff could take note of areas of concern during their daily routes and provide that info to the proper staff or the BIA"s. A little reminder visit or call would go a long way.

Public participation in weekly litter walks from school groups or service clubs may help staff to dedicate more resources to other areas.

Another good way to engage the whole community is to issue a mailing offering tips on how to control weeds, identify invasive plants as well as seeking sponsors who can adopt a section of trail, planting bed or roadside.

Having a light spirited challenge as to which group can collect the most litter and have it weighed or counted and offering a prize or shopping voucher for the winners. It could be a lunch, coffee and butter tart / muffin sponsored by one of your many great supportive businesses in the area. This becomes a win win for all involved.

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	14
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	14
Water conservation and use-reduction programs: efficient appliance incentives or promotions, efficient irrigation, use of non-potable water, water restriction policies and rainwater management	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
 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
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	6
Residential		
Participation in the 3-R (reduce, reuse and recycle) initiatives and composting	10	7
Adoption of water conservation practices & policies including rainwater collection	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.)		7
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	109

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

Observations:

The Town of Pelham has a very lush tree canopy. It is also part of the Niagara Region. With that a good portion of waste removal and recycling falls under the upper tiers responsibility.

A program is in place to replace lights with led lighting as lights reach the end of life.

There are dedicated areas for retention ponds and water diversion to swamps and recharge areas.

Staff and residents were observed washing sidewalks and infrastructure on various occasions

There is a movement to more electric and battery powered equipment which is a positive choice

Recycling programs are in place including sports fields and facilities

Various stormwater retention ponds are being well designed and maintained to control flooding and erosion

Major efforts are being made by Public Works and Roads to control water flow and avoid washouts in various areas

Some efforts are being made to control invasive species within the community

Recommendations:

Town facilities could have areas for residents to bring composting materials, possibly through community garden areas.

Staff and residents could use guidance on best use practices for washing sidewalks and infrastructure in an effort to mitigate excessive water use

Incentives would help older sections of Town tp install French drains and rain water management tools such as permeable hardscape

Where space allows, bike lanes could help residents use bikes more often

The flat roof on the Town municipal building would be a good place for a roof top garden or living roof

Having a dedicated Garden Allotment area where residents can rent a small space to grow vegetables would help bring the community together as well as provide an activity for those who do not have that option at their own place

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 are 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	12
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	12
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	11
Cultural heritage initiatives throughout the year including festivals and celebrations along with preservation of traditions and customs	10	8
Business & Institutions		
Conservation, restoration and integration of natural heritage, including eco parks, conservation areas, heritage gardens, trees and landscapes.	15	12
Promotion of local heritage, including heritage gardens, native plants, and heritage trees	10	6
Residential		
Conservation / restoration and reuse of heritage buildings, artefacts on residential lands.	10	8
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	12
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	12
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	7
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	7
Heritage Conservation Total	150.00	114

HERITAGE CONSERVATION

Observations:

Pelham has no heritage committee. There is an abundance of history in the buildings and cemeteries and residential buildings

Conservation policies focus on building and resource conservation

There is certainly a rich history to be captured and celebrated in Pelham given its rich rural and agricultural element as well as early residential and business structures

Recommendations:

Continue to define policies, bylaws and standards that help to strengthen the heritage of Pelham

Council and staff's work to preserve heritage through policy should be continued. Heritage groups tend to be over reaching and not good for residents who own property however with a balanced approach where all heritage components are celebrated, this effort can become a valuable promotional tool for the community

The inclusion of heritage gardens and the identification and preservation of more heritage trees could promote tourism

By publishing a DID YOU KNOW pamphlet on the history of Pelham in both digital and hardcopy form would help not only promote Pelham's rich history but help educate all the newcomers to the area, especially with the new oncoming 1000 plus residents through the development process

Offering a student an opportunity to go out and interview some of your longtime residents, farmers and business owners and produce a digital assembly of those interviews for people to access is another good way to capture some amazing historical facts about your community while providing a great experience for a college or university media student as well. There may be a grant that could also cover that cost.

URBAN FORESTRY & TRAILS

Urban Forestry and Trails includes the efforts of the municipality, businesses, institutions and residents with regards to written policies, by-laws, standards for tree and trail management (selection, design, signage, 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. Trail types, signage, risk management policies, accessibility, surfacing and promotion

	Max	Actual
Municipal		
Overall impact, benefit and first impression of the urban forest and trail	10	6
Policies, regulations and tree by-laws, tree protection and planting on public and private lands		12
Urban forestry and trail plan and design, including integration with overall green infrastructure landscape plan, and measures to preserve, protect, manage and expand overall tree inventory, including woodlots and trails	20	15
Plan of action: procurement, species diversity (including native trees), selection of hardy and pollinator habitat tree species, recommended tree list and tree planting standards. Trail linkages, land acquisition, landowner agreements, stakeholder engagement	10	7
Integrated Pest Management (IPM) / Plant HealthCare (PHC): plan of action for invasive pest detection and control, information on current infestations and diseases . Trail vegetative encroachment control and risk management	10	5
Public information programs: good planting techniques, best practices and maintenance programs including Trail promotion, signage, guides, trail use protocols	15	8
Maintenance best practices with proven results	10	5
Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or in place training programs	5	4
Business & Institutions		
Contribution to expanding overall trail and tree inventory, with consideration of design and diversity including native and hardy species of trees, on properties owned by business and institutions.	15	10
Maintenance programs, best practices with proven results: watering, pruning, IPM, surfacing, signage, trailhead markers, hazard removals, inspections	10	4
Residential		
Contribution to expanding overall trail and 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	7
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.) Trail adoption, clean up days, maintenance and public safety awareness for users, eg snowmobilers, hikers, ATV, horses, etc	20	15
Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation or promotion by the municipality, businesses and institutions for community trail maintenance and stewardship, tree planting and conservation programs on public lands	10	7
Urban Forestry Total	175.00	116

Observations:

The Town has a large diverse forest cover

There is a strong trail network and commitment to expand it

Tree plantings and replacements are part of the forestry plan

There were numerous overhead hazards observed on trails and public areas

The trees have many dead branches and dead trees that need attention to avoid potential risk

Trails are becoming overgrown with vegetation and lack trimming

Although there are some trailhead signs not all trails are signed or degree of difficulty identified

Recommendations:

A stronger and more proactive tree maintenance program focused on removal of hazardous dead trees and limbs from public areas

More frequent trimming schedules using the offset mower proactively to trim the scruff trees and vegetation from the trail edges

Exploring the possibility of properly trained and insured community groups or organizations playing a part in tree maintenance and keeping the firewood or having that firewood made available to residents

Better trail head signage noting length of trail, type of surface and degree of difficulty, including acceptable use, for example jogging, cycling, etc.

A sign displaying a number to call to report a fallen tree or limb or to report trial abuse or hazard would be helpful

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	6
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	6
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	6
Landscape Plan: integrated and implemented throughout the municipality	10	6
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	6
Landscape maintenance policies, standards, best practices and programs	10	6
Landscape maintained to appropriate standards, specifications and best practices	5	3
Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or in place training programs	10	7
Demonstrated year-round opportunities and programs for education and use of parks and green spaces (urban agriculture, community gardens, parks and recreation programs)	10	7
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	12
Maintenance of properties: lawn care and shrub maintenance (with proven results)	15	12
Selection of plant material (native, local, innovative, edible and pollinator friendly plants)	10	6
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	15
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	14
Landscape Total	200.00	134

LANDSCAPE

Observations:

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Upon arriving in Pelham, coming in from Vineland, the signage and maintenance around the signage could have been maintained more frequently.

Business involvement with BIA's and town beautification was lacking in the downtown area

There was very little signage or evidence of CIB participation throughout as not many knew what CIB was all about as it was not reflected in the beds or plantings other that a few locations.

Coming into town from Toronto and 406 there was no real Gateway that let me know I have arrived in the beautiful Municipality of Pelham.

Although there were small gateway in the other 3 main communities that make up Pelham the could be more focus on making them more inviting and really welcoming visitors, tourists and residents to those 3 unique and vibrant communities

Recommendations:

Maintenance of Town landscapes can be a time-consuming part of operations. When it is possible, the use of slow growing grass varieties available from western Canada would help with the maintenance requirement and allow staff to focus on other areas.

Town boulevards and areas without high foot traffic would be a great place to start in the new development areas.

With a focus on gateway plantings a strong statement can be achieved with some creative horticulture design and species choices. Tall grasses, perennials and possible a themed artifact or something unique to that area would be a great improvement.

Enhanced gateway signage incorporating the communities in bloom logo would also help promote your participation in the CIB program as well as help educate passers -by on your commitment to civic beautification

Street pole hanging baskets and an investment in self-watering planters would really create a wow factor in your downtown sections and storefront planters would really

compliment the pole planters and Businesses could help maintain and sponsor them once installed and planted.

Schools and students could also dedicate a feature planting which could be eligible for their Ward Floral Contest should you decide to adopt that program

Considering a 3ward garden contest which would have both Rural and in town participants who would compete would definitely foster a positive and healthy community participation. This would automatically enhance the overall landascape within all 3 communities. You could also have a separate category for businesses in all 3 wards and have it come together in a yearly celebration.

FLORAL DISPLAYS

Floral displays evaluates 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	10
Diversity of displays: flowerbeds, raised beds, planters, hanging baskets, window boxes, carpet bedding, mosaics	20	14
Diversity of plants: annuals, perennials, bulbs, grasses, woody plants, natural flora, pollinator friendly plants	10	6
Quality, maintenance to appropriate specifications and standards, best practices: watering, weeding, edging, dead heading, etc.	20	14
Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or training	10	6
Business & Institutions		
Concept and design (including arrangement, diversity, colour of display and plants) on grounds	15	11
Contribution to, and integration with, overall community floral program	10	6
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	16
Quality of planting and maintenance with proven results	15	10
Community Involvement		
Public participation in community projects, volunteer initiatives, outreach programs in floral displays (including promotion, organization, etc.)	15	10
Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions for community floral displays activities	15	12
Floral Displays Total	175.00	121

FLORAL DISPLAYS

Observations:

Many city floral gardens were devoted to Canada day with red and white flowers

City gardens did have some weed growth, the weather conditions have been very wet for July

There was a lack of hanging baskets and planters along the main city streets

There were certainly some very nice floral displays at places like the flag pole and Rec Centre however there are many more strategically placed floral displays that would give your community much more of a wow factor.

Recommendations:

More resource availability to plant and distribute city planters throughout the core

BIA:s and local businesses taking on a role in the maintenance of planters

Garden groups providing seedlings and plant material for boxes and gardens

Enhancing gateway plantings at main entry points to each ward

Purchasing self-watering planters for cost effectiveness and long lasting durability

Use of tall grasses and perennials may reduce maintenance

Developing some pollinator gardens, rain gardens and selected boulevard planting done by schools, churches and residents will raise the beautification profile considerably



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.