



2009 Evaluation Form

Municipality: City of Kamloops
 Province: British Columbia
 Category: 55,001 to 150,000

The municipality is evaluated on the efforts of all sectors in the community in the following criteria

Tidiness	113	/	125
Environmental Awareness	107	/	125
Community Involvement	115	/	125
Natural and Cultural Heritage Conservation	104.5	/	125
Tree/Urban Forest Management	111.5	/	125
Landscaped Areas	109.5	/	125
Floral Displays	115.5	/	125
Turf and Groundcovers	111	/	125
	Total Marks :		887 / 1000

Percentage : 88.70

Bloom rating: 5 Blooms

Mention : McArthur Island Parks and Sports Facilities

Representative (s) of Community

Name: Jennifer McKinny Function : co Chair CIB Committee

Name: Gay Pooler Function : co Chair CIB Committee

Name: Dean Pierson Function : Committee Member

Judges

Name: Gerald Lajeunesse Name Jim Baird

Evaluation date: _____

IMPORTANT NOTES:

All criteria are adjusted to the climate and environmental conditions of the municipality.

Some aspects of a criterion might not be applicable: in such cases, scoring will be prorated.

The evaluation score may 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.

GENERAL COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

Kamloops has chosen to become the Tournament Capital of Canada and has backed this up with a determined effort to be best in class in a number of ways. The commitment by the whole community to the vision and the determination of this small community in the interior of BC to “make it happen” is truly outstanding.

An example is the McArthur Island recreation facilities. The area was once used for sewage lagoons and now has numerous high quality fields and built facilities for all levels of competition. As impressive as the facilities, is its location at the confluence of the North and South Thompson River. It is an outstanding facility, especially when combined with the state of the art Tournament Capital Centre, near the university. The maintenance of sport field turf only added to the impressiveness of these facilities.

The floral program and the urban forest programs in Kamloops were well conceived and executed. The results could be seen throughout the community with active participation by the City, businesses and residents. The participation by TRU in both the floral and urban forest programs was especially noteworthy. Landscaped features were integrated into many projects and facilities, including the water treatment plant. The overall high level care taken throughout the community was a pleasure for the judges to experience.

The all volunteer CIB Committee produced an outstanding Profile of the community which proved to be a much used resource for the judges. The tour was also well organized, and touched on all aspects of the community.

The overall impression of Kamloops was of a community that does many things very well. The tidy green valley amid the arid mountains, an urban forest, floral displays, a rich heritage and outstanding facilities truly make Kamloops best of class. Congratulations.

TIDINESS		
Tidiness of green spaces, medians, boulevards, sidewalks, streets, ditches, road shoulders, signage, vacant lots and buildings, with regard to garbage, weeds, maintenance and repair, dog droppings, notices/posters, graffiti and vandalism.		
	Max	Actual
Municipality / Public Properties		
☒ Tidiness, order, cleanliness and first impressions	10	9.00
☒ Community anti-litter awareness and support for community organizations in clean-up efforts	9	8.00
☒ Effective bylaws / policies and their enforcement; effective programs in smaller communities; operational programs for notices, posters and graffiti prevention / removal, derelict removal	9	8.00
☒ Maintenance of public roads and shoulders: weed – free sidewalks, curbs, streets and roads, regular hard surface / street sweeping program	9	8.00
☒ Condition of buildings and urban furniture: benches, litter and recycling containers	8	7.50
Commercial / Industrial Sector		
☒ Tidiness, order and cleanliness	7	6.50
☒ Condition of buildings, grounds, sidewalks and parking lots	7	6.50
☒ Condition of urban furniture: benches, litter and recycling containers	7	6.00
☒ Support – financial and/or in-kind - for community clean-up programs	7	6.50
Service Clubs, Schools, Churches, Not-for-profit groups		
☒ Support – financial and/or in-kind; involvement – organization, participation; impact on the	13	12.00
☒ Tidiness, condition of buildings and yards of churches, schools and any other buildings	11	10.00
Residential / Citizens		
☒ Tidiness, order and cleanliness	10	9.00
☒ Condition of buildings and yards	10	9.00
☒ Involvement in block or individual street tidiness	8	7.00
Tidiness	125	113.00

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – TIDINESS

The municipality appears to have all sectors of the community working together and participating, resulting in a positive impression. Education and publicity programs add to the importance of clean-up programs and appear to be effective. The distribution of 40,000 brochures to residents reminding them of their responsibility for the adjacent lanes and boulevard strips adjacent to their property, was a noteworthy educational element.

The normal spring clean-up and road adoption programs are utilized, but clearly the community cares about being clean, and it shows. The judges witnessed no evidence of litter or poorly maintained areas during there tour.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS		
Sustainable development, policies and bylaws, waste reduction, landfill sites, hazardous waste collection, sewage disposal, transfer/recycle stations, recycling initiatives, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), water source, treatment and conservation, naturalization, environmental clean up activities and friendly transportation		
	Max	Actual
Municipality / Public Properties		
☼ Sustainable development strategy: bylaws / policies and their enforcement or effective programs in smaller communities; guidelines and long-term planning/vision	10	9.00
☼ Waste management programs such as recycling, re-use, composting, shredding of Christmas trees, hazardous waste including e-waste collection, waste water treatment , community outreach	10	9.00
☼ Water conservation and reduction programs: efficient appliance incentives or promotion, reduced reliance and efficient irrigation and use of non-potable water, water restriction policies ☼ Watershed management plans and alternative storm water management: retention ponds, pervious hardscapes, green roofs, shoreline erosion control programs	10	9.00
☼ Energy conservation programs such as: Alternate forms of energy: geothermal, biomass, wind, solar ☼ Conversion programs for efficient lighting and shielding for night skies issues ☼ Promotion of energy audits and energy efficient buildings and landscapes ☼ Greening of operations fleet: conversion to higher efficiency vehicles, use of alternative fuels ☼ Efficient use of vehicle fleet such as use of crew cabs, bicycles, any other energy-saving transportation ☼ Conversion of older maintenance equipment to more efficient and reduced emissions ☼ Transportation management strategies: promotion and incentives of public transit and car pooling ☼ Conversion of roads to integrate new bike lanes, expanded recreational pathways ☼ Air quality programs: monitoring, anti-idling advisory / bylaws, promotion for the reduced reliance/use of high air polluting small engine equipment	14	12.50
☼ Use of Integrated Pest Management / Plant Health Care principles: timing, policies / bylaws and/or effective procedures	6	5.00
☼ Initiatives such as: Innovation: through green buildings, green roofs; reuse of sites and buildings ☼ Green procurement policies (use of local products, material energy lifecycle considerations) ☼ Brownfield redevelopment, remediation	6	5.00
Commercial / Industrial Sector		
☼ Participation in the environmental effort	6	4.50
☼ Corporate environmental innovation / stewardship, initiatives, activities	6	4.50
☼ sustainable development strategies, safety and emergency preparedness	6	4.50
☼ Energy efficient buildings / landscapes	6	5.00
☼ Greening of operational fleet and equipment	6	4.50
Service Clubs, Schools, Churches, Not-for-profit groups		
☼ Support – financial and/or in-kind	7	6.00
☼ Involvement – organization, participation	7	6.00
☼ Impact of efforts on community	7	6.50
Residential / Citizens		
☼ Participation in the environmental effort	9	8.00
☼ Involvement / support / direction to municipality	9	8.00
Environmental Awareness	125	107.00

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COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS – ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

The municipality has implemented a number of environmental initiatives, including curb side recycling and a pay-for-volume solid waste disposal system. This is a major step forward which ensures that there is a direct relationship between the amount waste produced and cost paid by residents. The compost facility is so successful that the area had to be expanded.

The arid natural environment of the area is a significant challenge that the municipality has accepted and worked through. The “state of the art” water treatment plant and associated pumps required in this mountainous region, were truly impressive. The municipality is enforcing strict water use regulations but is locked in a significant debate on mandatory water meters. The judges were also impressed by the staff resources allocated to educational aspects of water use, xeriscaping techniques and biological pest control.

The City is ensuring that new buildings are constructed using LEED principals, and that additions to their fleet include hybrids, as well as natural gas and propane power vehicles where possible. More information could be presented about the environmental activities of the private sector in their own operations.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT		
Citizens' involvement in various community projects, including horticulture and garden clubs, service groups, recreation and sports clubs, school children, teens, seniors, municipal workers and local businesses		
	Max	Actual
Municipality / Public Properties		
☉ Volunteer recognition	8	7.50
☉ Support – financial and/or in-kind for volunteer activities	8	8.00
☉ Information and educational programs	8	8.00
☉ Promotion of local businesses, products, tourism	8	7.50
☉ Organization/facilitation of local events/festivals, fundraising, support – financial and/or in-kind	8	7.50
☉ Innovation; involvement with youth / seniors and other initiatives towards broader social inclusion	7	6.00
Commercial / Industrial Sector		
☉ Involvement in community projects, volunteer initiatives, community outreach programs	10	9.00
☉ Sponsorship – financial and/or in kind – of the local CIB program	10	9.50
☉ Innovation; involvement with youth / seniors and other initiatives towards broader social inclusion	10	9.00
Service Clubs, Schools, Churches, Not-for- profit groups		
☉ Support – financial and/or in-kind	8	7.00
☉ Involvement – organization, participation	8	7.00
☉ Impact of efforts on community	8	7.50
Residential / Citizens		
☉ Support - financial and/or in kind - of projects / programs	8	7.00
☉ Participation in community programs	8	7.50
☉ Provision of ideas / initiatives for projects/programs	8	7.00
Community Involvement	125	115.00

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COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS – COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The professionalism of the City staff is augmented by numerous service agencies and local volunteers working together with a shared vision. Numerous examples were presented, but noteworthy was the Adopt-a-Road program which covers over 120 km of road with 90 groups volunteering. This willingness to pitch in has paid dividends for individual organizations and, more importantly, the City of Kamloops as a community.

The partnerships that have developed with Thompson River University (TRU) are significant as they have led to superior sporting facilities for the community and the university. The Tournament Capital Centre is a testament to what can be achieved when all sectors of the community work together. On a smaller scale, the City funds a 'Music in the Park' program in the summer months that has become so popular that the Rotary Club funded the construction of a new band shell to accommodate it.

The citizens are active in the over 153 garden plots (fenced and irrigated by the City) but run by volunteers. These produce fresh local food, but also donate produce to local food banks for those in need.

The Business sector is active as well with two Business Improvement Areas. The Customer Care ambassadors who patrol the central area are funded from a variety of sources and assist both local citizens and visitors alike. It is noteworthy that the CIB Committee is almost exclusively volunteer private citizens.

NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE CONSERVATION			
Heritage policies, bylaws and natural heritage management plans; preservation and restoration of buildings, homes, churches, monuments, artefacts, sites, parks, heritage gardens, trees; preservation of traditions and customs; festivals/celebrations; heritage foods and the arts; museums and history, archives, Architectural Advisory Committee			
		Max	Actual
Municipality / Public Properties			
⊗ Heritage policies / by-laws and their enforcement or effective programs in smaller communities		10	8.00
⊗ Natural and cultural heritage management plan and preservation initiatives: cultural landscapes, use of native plants, heritage gardens, trees		10	8.00
⊗ Preservation, restoration and reuse programs		8	6.50
⊗ Information and support programs		6	4.50
⊗ Promotion of heritage by Historical Society / Heritage Committee / Tourism Association		5	4.00
⊗ Interpretative and signage programs, walking tours, museums, festivals/celebrations		6	5.00
⊗ Cultural heritage programs: first nations, explorers, first and subsequent settlers and more recent immigrants		5	4.00
⊗ New programs and initiatives to promote local heritage		5	4.00
Commercial / Industrial Sector			
⊗ Conservation, restoration and reuse of sites/buildings		7	6.00
⊗ Building façade and improvement plan. (original colours, styles, materials, lighting)		7	6.00
⊗ Participation in municipal, provincial or federal programs		7	6.00
⊗ Innovation and participation in promotion of local heritage		7	6.00
Service Clubs, Schools, Churches, Not-for-profit groups			
⊗ Support – financial and/or in-kind		7	6.00
⊗ Involvement –organization, participation		7	6.00
⊗ Impact of efforts on community		7	6.50
Residential / Citizens			
⊗ Conservation / restoration and reuse of sites / buildings		7	6.00
⊗ Preservation of traditions, customs, food, music, dance and crafts		7	6.00
⊗ Participation in heritage community events/activities		7	6.00
Natural and Cultural Heritage Conservation		125	104.50

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COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – NATURAL & CULTURAL HERITAGE CONSERVATION

The City of Kamloops has a history of early settlement linked with transportation. This history is recognized in the striking Schubert Family Memorial, part of the Overlander's pioneers. Rail transportation has also been key to the history of Kamloops, so the City has fittingly worked with local rail enthusiasts who operate a functioning steam locomotive "Spirit of Kamloops" as a tourist attraction. The Railway station is a restaurant and is one of the key features on Waterfront Redevelopment

The City has over the years been actively purchasing significant heritage properties and working with local groups to reuse these important buildings. An excellent example is the restoration of St Andrew's Church and adjacent Gaglardi Square. This was a joint effort of the Heritage Society and the City with fund raising and restoration work being shared with volunteers and community groups. The society operates the facility which is well used by the community. The Judges look forward to a repeat performance at the Old Court House which is in the process of becoming an Arts Centre.

Continuing work is required to document and ultimately protect other buildings. The varied yet general program of recognition, registration and plaques provision all offer a heightened awareness of heritage conservation, but does not ensure buildings will not be demolished or inappropriately modified. In lieu of legislative protection, professional design advice or guidelines could be provided by the City. The tax incentive program, with appropriate standards, is a positive step that can be emulated by others.

The cultural life in Kamloops is alive and well with theatre, a symphony orchestra and the activities that occur at the Thompson River University. A variety of ethnic communities support a variety of festivals and events which also add to the vibrancy of the City

TREE / URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT		
Written policies, bylaws and regulation plans both long and short-term. Distribution of trees, inventory, variety, suitability, new plantings, main street programs, new survey developments, preservation of heritage trees, commemorative trees, woodlots, succession planting, Plant Health Care and Integrated Pest Management, qualified/trained individuals (volunteer or on staff)		
	Max	Actual
Municipality / Public Properties		
⊗ Policies, regulations and tree by-laws, tree protection and planting on public and private lands	10	9.00
⊗ Plan of action: procurement, species diversity, selection of hardy species with potential to contribute to the plan	10	9.00
⊗ Strategic Management, Operational and Emergency Plan in place, an inventory of trees, demonstration of good planting techniques and a maintenance program	8	7.00
⊗ Measures to preserve, protect, manage and expand woodlots	7	6.00
⊗ Qualified personnel and/or crew training	7	6.50
⊗ Integrated Pest Management / Plant Health Care, plan of action for invasive pest detection and control, information on current infestations and diseases	7	6.50
⊗ Participation and recognition in programs such as Green Streets Canada, Maple Leaf Day...	7	6.00
Commercial / Industrial Sector		
⊗ Concept, design and planting for commercial enterprises	7	6.00
⊗ Maintenance programs	7	6.00
⊗ Existing tree protection and preservation during construction: in by-law and/or in practice	8	7.00
⊗ Involvement and promotion of tree planting programs and conservation through groups such as Business Improvement Association	6	5.00
Service Clubs, Schools, Churches, Not - for - profit groups		
⊗ Support – financial and/or in-kind and involvement – organization, participation	10	9.50
⊗ Impact and maintenance	10	9.50
Residential / Citizens		
⊗ Selection of varieties – inclusion of native, hardy species	11	9.50
⊗ Maintenance	10	9.00
Tree / Urban Forest Management		
	125	111.50

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COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS : TREE / URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT

Kamloops is not satisfied with the existing tree canopy and has targeted doubling that number with the assistance of commercial and residential sectors that make up the community. With a sound yet flexible forestry management plan, the community has given itself a mechanism towards sustainability of its forest cover. As well, Kamloops has a realistic inventory of its urban forest, managed through a qualified arboriculture team and sizeable budget. Creative initiatives such as the Community Forest and the tree planting subsidy to residents provide opportunities for community members to be directly involved in enhancing their environment with trees.

Programs to address and manage tree infestations and a well-developed IPM approach or policy contribute to the overall urban forestry objectives for the community. Such commitments are manifested through the protection of tree canopy and root systems in construction zones and by protecting the heritage tree population. While visiting TRU, one quickly surmised their significant role in and contribution to Kamloops urban forest. It would be advantageous to garner greater commercial and industrial support and commitment to this particular endeavor.

LANDSCAPED AREAS		
This criteria supports all efforts to create an environment wherein plants form an essential element of the overall surroundings; design and suitability for location and use; native and introduced materials; balance of plants, materials and constructed elements; harmony (colour, texture, shape); tasteful integration of hard surfaces and art elements; standards of maintenance.		
	Max	Actual
Municipality / Public Properties		
⊗ First impressions of the community including gateway / entrance treatments	10	8.50
⊗ Development of policies, standards and best practices	7	6.50
⊗ Plan of action: distribution through the community	8	7.00
⊗ Urban and civic design standards for streetscape and other public places: flags, banners, public art, fountains, site furnishings, lighting design, walkways and paving materials, signage and	7	6.00
⊗ Specifications for planting (with suitable varieties) and maintenance	7	6.00
⊗ Sustainable designs: energy efficient, use of green materials, naturalization, xeriscaping	6	5.50
⊗ Site rejuvenation, rehabilitation and maintenance (life cycle management)	6	5.50
⊗ Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or training	7	6.00
Commercial / Industrial Sector		
⊗ Innovation in concept and design	6	5.00
⊗ Public involvement: support – financial and/or in-kind, participation	6	5.00
⊗ Sustainable designs: energy efficient, use of green materials, naturalization, xeriscaping	6	5.00
⊗ Contribution to urban and civic design and public greenspaces above and beyond requirements: such as public art, streetscape, site furniture, fountains	6	5.00
⊗ Adequate ongoing maintenance (life cycle management)	6	5.00
Service Clubs, Schools, Churches, Not-for-profit groups		
⊗ Support – financial and/or in-kind and involvement – organization, participation	8	7.50
⊗ Sustainable designs: energy efficient, use of green materials, naturalization, xeriscaping	8	7.50
Residential / Citizens		
⊗ Streetscape appeal of landscapes	8	7.00
⊗ Overall maintenance	7	6.00
⊗ Inclusion of sustainable plant materials	6	5.50
Landscaped Areas		
	125	109.50

COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS : LANDSCAPED AREAS

Good landscaping combine soft and hard landscape components appropriate to each site and setting, while applying sound design principles. Landscape contributions to the quality of life of any community can come from residential interventions, through commercial/ industrial developments and from the many municipal activities. Kamloops clearly demonstrates its understanding of good design incorporating form, composition and function in many of its realizations. Good examples are the recently completed Spirit Square and the site design and implementation for the Kamloops centre for Water Quality. The guiding Beautification Strategic Plan ensures buy-in from all resident sectors and is a very noteworthy initiative.

The judges were impressed by the quality and quantity of public art, appropriately displayed in its public areas and encourage the city to demonstrate leadership in this area. Often it is the less traveled areas such as the industrial parks and laneways that define the character on a community and the Boulevard and Laneway brochure is yet another 'tool in the kitbag' for the municipality to inform the public of their responsibility towards the appearance of the municipal-wide landscape.

FLORAL DISPLAYS		
Arrangements of flowers and plants (annuals, perennials, bulbs, ornamental grasses), originality, distribution, location, diversity and balance, colour, harmony, quality and maintenance. These pertain to flowerbeds, carpet bedding, containers, baskets and window boxes.		
	Max	Actual
Municipality / Public Properties		
⊗ Diversity of displays: flowerbeds, raised beds, planters, hanging baskets, window boxes, carpet bedding, mosaics	12	11.50
⊗ Plan of action: programs, distribution through community. Concept and design including sustainable design	12	11.50
⊗ Diversity of plants: annuals, perennials, bulbs, grasses, woody plants, natural flora	12	11.50
⊗ Quality, maintenance, best practices	10	9.50
⊗ Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or training	7	7.00
Commercial / Industrial Sector		
⊗ Concept and design	9	8.00
⊗ Quality and maintenance	9	8.00
⊗ Contribution to overall floral program	9	8.00
Service Clubs, Schools, Churches, Not-for-profit groups		
⊗ Support – financial and/or in-kind and involvement – organization, participation	11	10.00
⊗ Concept, design, selection and maintenance on their own properties	11	10.00
Residential / Citizens		
⊗ Arrangement, diversity, colour	11	10.00
⊗ Quality and maintenance	12	10.50
Floral Displays	125	115.50

COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS : FLORAL DISPLAYS

Kamloops has an impressive floral program, including planters, baskets, formal floral beds, naturalized plantings and thematic displays. Such quality programs do not come overnight and Kamloops demonstrates that qualified personnel and appropriate resources equal success. There is a sense of 'maturity' and design knowledge in its horticultural practice not to forget the wisdom in retaining its greenhouse operations for the annual display production. Bravo!

The decision to convert to planters/ basket reservoir technology proved to be not only economically sound but, more importantly, an aesthetic success. All displays appear to be consistently crisp, attractive, tidy, colourful and visually pleasing. Although initiatives such as the marigold mile are striking and exciting visually, they are successful in part due to their isolation from the pedestrian traffic.

The use of tree wells in the busy downtown core may be a noble thought but they most always fail in performing due to the conflicts with the pedestrian traffic and associated functions. Thought should be given to 'containerizing' the tree wells if this practice is to continue, in order to give a better chance for the plants to perform as intended, while negating any detrimental effects on the trees. Perhaps a 150mm high edge framing the well would provide a greater opportunity for the flowers to thrive in this environment.

Once again, TRU is an asset to the community; their floral displays are wonderful. Continue to push for greater actual, active participation from the commercial/ industrial sectors.

TURF AND GROUNDCOVERS

Quality, naturalization, use of groundcovers and wild flowers, turf management (manicured to rough), use of artificial turf, maintenance (mowing height and frequency), Integrated Pest Management (IPM) / Plant Health Care, fertilization programs, irrigation and water restrictions. Areas include private homes, public buildings, municipal and private sports fields and athletic parks.

	Max	Actual
Municipality / Public Properties		
⊗ First impressions: plan of action, distribution of turf and ground cover areas	14	12.50
⊗ Diversity / species, types of plantings / drought tolerance	8	6.50
⊗ Turf Management / Integrated Pest Management / Plant Health Care, alternative solutions to diseases and infestations when appropriate	8	7.00
⊗ Review of maintenance plans to consider increased naturalization, alternate mowing frequency for reduced and more efficient operations	8	7.00
⊗ Information programs for water requirements, mowing frequency and height, rain gardens	8	7.50
⊗ Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or training.	7	7.00
Commercial / Industrial Sector		
⊗ Concept and design, use of alternative ground covers	8	7.00
⊗ Quality and maintenance on these properties	8	7.00
⊗ Site naturalization	8	6.50
Service clubs, Schools, Churches, Not-for-profit groups		
⊗ Support – financial and/or in-kind and involvement – organization, participation	12	11.00
⊗ Quality and maintenance on these properties	11	10.00
Residential / Citizens		
⊗ Concept and design, use of alternative ground covers	8	7.00
⊗ Quality and maintenance	9	8.00
⊗ Participation in lawn watering conservation programs	8	7.00
Turf and Groundcovers	125	111.00

COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS : TURF & GROUNDCOVERS

Qualified staff makes a difference and Kamloops proves this across all sectors. The investment in sports fields is remarkable yet seemingly very sustainable based on what the judges saw. The maintenance costs although significant seem reasonable based on the infrastructure and assets being addressed. In contracts, the city's naturalization program appears to be ever increasing with obvious benefits, both economic and aesthetic. The strict IPM approach, water management and maintenance regimen has produced some very impressive statistics that attests to the City of Kamloops' leadership in this area, as the self-proclaimed Tournament Capital of Canada.



PROGRAM INFORMATION

Communities in Bloom is a Canadian non-profit organization committed to fostering civic pride, environmental responsibility, beautification and to improving quality of life through community participation and the challenge of a national program with focus on the protection and conservation of green spaces.

“People, plants and pride... growing together” is our slogan, and it captures the essence of the program.

History. Established with the guidance of Britain in Bloom, Tidy Towns of Ireland and *Villes et Villages Fleuris de France*, Communities in Bloom held its first edition in 1995 and 29 participating municipalities were honoured at the first awards ceremonies on Parliament Hill. The program now includes more than 500 communities across the country and an international challenge involving communities from the United States, Japan and several European countries allows participants to compete internationally.

Program. The program consists of communities receiving information and being evaluated either provincially or nationally by a volunteer jury of trained professionals on the accomplishments of their entire community (municipal, private, corporate and institutional sectors, citizens) on eight key criteria: Tidiness, Environmental Awareness, Community Involvement, Natural and Cultural Heritage Conservation, Urban Forestry, Landscaped Areas, Floral Displays, and Turf & Groundcovers.

Benefits. The pride, sense of community and feeling of accomplishment generated through participation are visible in communities all over Canada. These benefits make Communities in Bloom a program where everyone wins. Participants can benefit financially from the program through community tourism initiatives, business opportunities for the entire community, and other related projects. A valuable information exchange network allows communities to share accomplishments, best practices and projects.

All participants are showcased on the Communities in Bloom website through the “Explore our Communities” section, with a description page and a link to their respective community website. The *Communities in Bloom Magazine*, published twice a year, also features participants and program results, as well as articles and educational content. Communities in Bloom develops, with its partners and sponsors, initiatives and promotional opportunities such as the Gardens at the CN Tower and the VIA Rail Garden Route.

Provincial and National Awards – National Symposium on Parks and Grounds. These events are a unique opportunity for elected officials, parks and grounds professionals and community volunteers to learn and share about current issues, trends and challenges not only in horticulture and gardening but in community tourism and projects, environmental awareness, and much more. Awards ceremonies, along with workshops and symposiums, are held in most provinces throughout the year.

A winter edition – **WinterLights Celebrations** – created in 2001, features community efforts in the following criteria: Winter Pleasures, Festive Celebrations, Visual Presentation, Goodwill Program and Tourism / Promotion. The WinterLights Celebrations Symposium and Awards Ceremonies are held in February.

The Communities in Bloom Foundation, established to support the educational aspect of its activities, 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. The foundation also awards bursaries to students in horticulture / environment programs.

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 contribution of our sponsors and partners

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.”