

Communities in Bloom

The Village of Harrison Hot Springs has been a member of Communities in Bloom since 2004. 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. An integral component of this very popular program is the friendly competition between communities, engaging citizens of all ages, service groups, businesses and associations in a public-spirited effort to succeed and be recognized.

Former Councillor Patsy Graham initiated the first committee at the invitation of the City of Langley who offered to mentor the Village into Communities in Bloom. Patsy served as the Chair through 2004 and 2005. In 2005 the City of Langley and the Village competed in the mentoring category and thanks to Langley's help we achieved 4 Blooms in our very first year.

In 2006 Councillor Dave Harris was appointed as Chair of the Communities in Bloom Committee as Patsy Graham did not run for re-election. Over the next two years, the Village's scores improved considerably and in 2007, scored 80.2% which was just short of the 82% required to be a five bloom community. In 2008 we achieved our five bloom goal and our scores have continued to improve ever since. In 2009 the Village of Harrison Hot Springs hosted the CiB Conference at the Harrison Hot Springs Resort and Spa. Many people from competing communities have said that our conference was the best ever. In 2010 we scored an incredible 88% and we were invited to compete nationally in 2011 in Quebec City.

In our first ever national competition we were again awarded five blooms and were proud to receive the National Achievement Award for Landscaping over 117 other communities. The Communities in Bloom Committee has passed a resolution to compete nationally in 2012 when the conference will be held in Edmonton, Alberta.

Anyone interested in joining the committee should contact the Village Office for information.