

Evaluation Form

2011

Village of Harrison Hot Springs
British Columbia



2011 Evaluation Form



Community: Harrison Hot Springs

Province: British Columbia

Category: 1,501 – 3,000

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

Tidiness	127.50	/	150.00
Environmental Action	125.00	/	150.00
Heritage Conservation	126.75	/	150.00
Urban Forestry	144.25	/	175.00
Landscape (including Turf & Groundcovers)	169.50	/	200.00
Floral Displays	146.00	/	175.00
* Community Involvement is included in each of these sections			
	Total		839.00 / 1000.00

Percentage : 83.90%

Bloom rating: 5 Blooms

Bloom rating:

Up to 55%: 1 bloom. 56% to 63%: 2 blooms. 64% to 72%: 3 blooms 73% to 81%: 4 blooms. >82%: 5 blooms.

Mention : 'Restoration of Memorial Hall'

Representative (s) of Community

Name: Dave Harris Function : Councillor, Village of H.H.S.

Name: Allan Jackson Function : Councillor, Village of H.H.S.

Name: Jane Kivett Function : CiB Committee

Judges

Name: JoAnne Dunphy Name: Lorna McIlroy

Evaluation date: July 20, 2011

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 (YMCA, Legion), private museums, Canada Post
- Tourism bureaus, 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 deserves to be evaluated in each of the sections of evaluation. Community Involvement will continue to be a highlight of the awards ceremony

- Individuals & Service and citizen groups – all contributing to various aspects of community improvement
- Organized clubs such as horticultural societies, garden clubs, community associations
- Social clubs such as Rotary, Lions, Optimist
- Participation (financial and/or in-kind or employee participation) by the Municipality, Businesses and Institutions.

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GENERAL COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

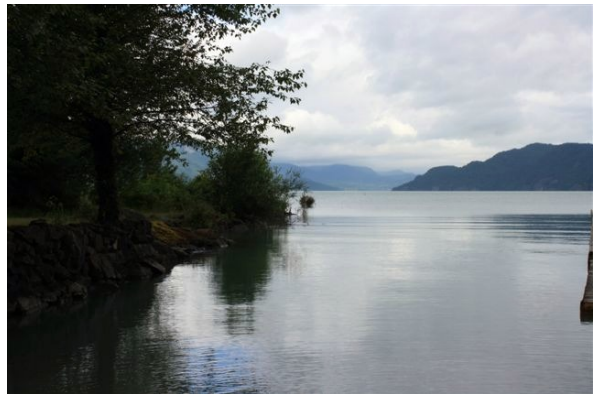


Harrison Hot Springs is a vacation destination and visitors cannot help but be 'Naturally Refreshed' with the natural wonder of the hot springs, mountain fresh air and sandy beach of Harrison Lake. Year round festivals (including the award-winning) Harrison Festival of the Arts, add

to this magic. Heritage and historical values are rich and treasured. The hot springs may have been 'discovered' during the Cariboo Gold Rush but have been used by First Nations people for many years.

As you have entered in the National competition, the expectations are higher so do not be surprised if your scores have dropped; there has been no regression (although the evaluation form has not changed much).

The judges appreciated your attractive and informative Community Profile Book. While evaluation scores are largely dependant on by projects completed in the current calendar year, it is beneficial to see past accomplishment and necessary to see future plans. Your profile book fulfilled this mandate exceptionally well. Thank you for wearing nametags. That was a small touch that can make a big difference when our visit is so short.



We sincerely thank you for your warm hospitality during our visit. Everyone we met was positive and enthusiastic about improving the quality of life in Harrison Hot Springs through the ideals of the Communities in Bloom program. We encourage your continued dedication and involvement in CiB as part of your vision for the future growth and development of Harrison Hot Springs.

JoAnne & Lorna

TIDINESS

Tidiness includes an overall tidiness effort made by the municipality, businesses, institutions, and residents of the community. 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 and signage, with regard to weeds, maintenance and repair, litter clean-up (including cigarette butts and gum), graffiti and vandalism.

	Max	Actual
Municipal		
Tidiness, order, cleanliness and first impressions	15	13.50
Community anti-litter awareness programs	5	4.00
Effective bylaws & policies and enforcement; for litter control, graffiti prevention including notices & posters	10	8.50
Cleanliness of public green infrastructure: parks, streetscapes (sidewalks, planters, etc.)	15	13.00
Cleanliness of urban signage and furniture such as benches, litter and recycling containers	15	13.50
Business & Institutions		
Tidiness, order and cleanliness and first impressions.	15	12.00
Condition of buildings (exterior maintenance), grounds, sidewalks and parking lots	15	12.00
Condition of urban furniture: benches, litter and recycling containers	5	4.00
Residential		
Tidiness, order and cleanliness	20	18.00
Condition of buildings, grounds and yards	15	13.00
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.)	10	8.00
Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation by the Municipality, Businesses and Institutions for community clean-up programs	10	8.00
Tidiness Total	150.00	127.50

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TIDINESS

Observations:

Harrison Hot Springs presents a very clean and tidy appearance. This is due to effective bylaws (e.g. Unsightly Premises, Dog Licensing & Control, Signage) and their enforcement by three Bylaw Enforcement Officers. Virtually no graffiti and vandalism were noted. Tax incentives encourage businesses to improve storefronts and Harrison Lake Plaza is very attractive and appealing. The changes made through revitalization of the beachfront, have enhanced the neat, tidy appearance.

The new waste disposals promise to make a big difference to the waterfront area, providing a more pleasurable appearance. The present garbage receptacles are adequate but the new deep pit garbage containers include cigarette butt disposals and recycling containers.



The Adopt-a-Road program is active and includes the highway into Harrison Hot Springs.

Various signboards eliminate the random posting of notices.



Recommendations:

The judges noted some large nuisance weeds in village flower beds. We might suggest a regular patrol and weed-pulling exercise.

Continue to reward those individuals who regularly pick up litter in the community. In addition, find a way to reward or publicize those businesses that go the extra mile to promote tidiness in your beautiful village.

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION		
Environmental action includes efforts and achievement by the municipality, businesses, institutions, and residents of the community, with respect to: policies, by-laws and best practices, 3-R initiatives (reduce/reuse/recycle), waste reduction, landfill sites, hazardous waste collections, water conservation, naturalization, environmental stewardship activities, and environmentally friendly transportation, under the guiding principles of sustainable development.		
	Max	Actual
Municipal		
Sustainable development strategy: policies, guidelines, long-term planning / vision; effective bylaws / policies and their enforcement; and public education programs and activities.	20	17.00
Waste management programs such as 3-R (recycling, re-use, reduce), composting and including activities such as landfill site management, shredding of Christmas trees & handling of hazardous waste including e-waste collection	10	8.00
Water conservation and reduction programs: efficient appliance incentives or promotion, efficient irrigation and use of non-potable water, water restriction policies	10	8.00
Energy conservation programs such as alternate forms of energy (ex. geothermal, biomass, wind, solar), efficient street and signal lighting and shielding for night skies issues & promotion of energy audits	10	8.00
Environmental actions such as: Greening of operations fleet for park maintenance: such as conversion to higher efficiency vehicles, use of alternative fuels and air quality programs: monitoring, anti-idling advisory / bylaws, efficient use of vehicle fleet such as use of crew cabs, bicycles, any other energy-saving transportation. Development and expansion of bike lanes and recreational pathways. Initiatives and Innovation, such as: green roofs, green walls; re-use of sites; engineered wetlands and bio-walls. Brownfield redevelopment, remediation, land reclamation.	20	18.00
Business & Institutions		
Participation in the environmental effort : such as waste management (recycle, reuse, reduce), water conservation, energy conservation, brownfield management	10	8.25
Corporate environmental innovation / stewardship, initiatives, activities (Ex. Environmental clean-up activities)	10	8.00
Residential		
Participation in the 3-R (recycle, reuse, reduce) initiatives and composting	20	17.00
Adoption of water conservation practices & policies including rainwater collection.	15	12.25
Community Involvement		
Public participation in public forums and policy development on environmental issues	5	4.00
Public participation in community, neighbourhood or individual street environmental activities and programs (including, promotion, organization and evidence of taking ownership), etc.)	10	8.50
Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation by the Municipality, Businesses and Institutions in public environmental activities and programs	10	8.00
Environmental Action Total	150.00	125.00

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ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

Observations:

An Integrated Sustainability Plan is wisely looking ahead twenty years. Congratulations on being the first carbon-neutral Local Government in BC. (by purchasing carbon offsets) as well as being well on the way to becoming the second sustainable community in BC. This year marked the commencement of curbside collection of Solid Waste, Recyclables and Yard Waste in Harrison Hot Springs. We particularly applaud the Fraser Valley Regional District Recycling Directory which gives valuable recycling information. Safe drinking water remains a top priority. As well, the Wastewater Treatment Plant is undergoing an upgrade.

'Speed Watch' is a traffic monitoring program that has recommended creative solutions to slow traffic down for safety.



Several groups partner to restore riparian areas, remove noxious and invasive weeds (e.g. Japanese Knotweed and Blackberries) while protecting all living things in the area.

The Marine Sani Station with a vacuum system at the Boat Launch area is well used and dumping in the lake is strictly forbidden.

The Community Garden provides a valuable service and sets a wonderful environmental example.

Recommendations:

With your sizeable tourist industry and resulting multitude of restaurants, we would encourage you to actively pursue a program for the collection and composting of food waste. This could be combined with the pickup of residential kitchen waste.

It is difficult to promote water conservation with a beautiful big lake in the foreground but drinking water remains an issue and water conservation would be aided with the continued installation of water meters in new building construction.

Zealously protect your riparian areas with increased naturalization and native plantings. Reduce invasive species through education and hand pulling.

The Blue Flag program would be a good fit for your community. We look forward to hearing of your candidacy as a Blue Flag Beach Community.

HERITAGE CONSERVATION

Heritage Conservation includes efforts made by the municipality, businesses and institutions, and residents 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, heritage foods and the arts and festivals and celebrations. The evaluation includes:

- natural heritage management plans: sites, parks, cemeteries, heritage gardens and trees, native plants;
- the relationship of the landscape to the built heritage;
- overall preservation of traditions and customs through year-round festivals and celebrations, events and parades, heritage foods and the arts.

As well, the participation of groups such as the Historical Society is considered.

	Max	Actual
Municipal		
Heritage policies, by-laws and their enforcement and effective programs	15	13.00
Natural and cultural heritage management plan and preservation initiatives: including cultural landscapes, use of native plants, heritage gardens, heritage trees, cemeteries, museums, heritage sites	15	12.00
Management and promotion of heritage (through communications, information and support programs, economic development / tourism) including natural and cultural heritage initiatives throughout the year, and preservation of traditions, and customs	15	12.00
Interpretative and signage programs, walking tours, festivals/celebrations (year round)	15	13.00
Activities and programs (year-round) for education and use of natural heritage sites for and by the public	15	13.50
New programs and initiatives to promote local heritage	10	8.50
Business & Institutions		
Conservation, restoration and reuse of heritage buildings and grounds	15	12.75
Promotion of local heritage, including heritage gardens, native plants, and heritage trees	15	13.50
Residential		
Conservation / restoration and reuse of sites / buildings	10	8.25
Conservation of cultural and heritage elements pertaining to their own private lands and structures.	5	4.00
Community Involvement		
Public participation in community, neighbourhood or individual in cultural and natural heritage programs including heritage community events/activities, including year round cultural festivals & celebrations and preservation of traditions, customs, food, music, dance and crafts (including promotion, organization etc.).	10	8.25
Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation by the Municipality, Businesses and Institutions (including Historical Societies) in community initiated, natural and cultural heritage activities and programs including cultural festivals & celebrations throughout the year and preservation of traditions, customs, food, music, dance and crafts.	10	8.00
Heritage Conservation Total	150.00	126.75

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION

Observations:

The judges observed good integration of the First Nations community in plans and activities. This is formalized with the Memorandum of Understanding with the Sts'ailes Indian Band. The Harrison Resort & Spa is a partner in this as the hot springs have been a gathering and healing place for first Nations for over a thousand years. With this partnership, a revitalization of the hot springs source is planned. The July Arts Festival celebrates arts and music from all over the world, including First Nations.

The Heritage Advisory Committee oversees protection of the village's heritage buildings. The Memorial Hall is a heritage building that was renovated and preserved with a grant from 'Towns for Tomorrow'. Now that the restoration is complete, it will be a wonderful venue to showcase local art and historical photographs. The former Ranger Station is another heritage building that hopefully will be preserved. A partnership with Agassiz enables local artifacts to be housed in the nearby Agassiz-Harrison Station Museum.

We commend you for naming present and future bridges after local pioneers. Just make sure that everyone does their homework so that suitable choices be made.

Recommendations:

For the benefit of tourists as well as residents, we would suggest that you add more signage to your historic buildings and heritage trees as time and resources allow.

Although the Agassiz-Harrison Station Museum is located outside the village, perhaps a small satellite museum could be located within Harrison Hot Springs. It could have small thematic displays that change frequently, encouraging residents and visitors to visit the large Station Museum.



URBAN FORESTRY		
Urban Forestry includes the efforts made by the municipality, businesses and institutions, and residents 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.		
	Max	Actual
Municipal		
Overall impact, benefit and first impression of the urban forest	10	8.50
Policies, regulations and tree by-laws, tree protection and planting on public and private lands	10	8.50
Urban forestry planning and design, including integration with overall landscape plan	10	8.50
Measures to preserve, protect, manage and expand overall tree inventory, including woodlots	10	8.00
Plan of action: procurement, species diversity (including native trees), selection of hardy species	10	8.50
Integrated Pest Management (IPM) / Plant HealthCare (PHC): plan of action for invasive pest detection and control, information on current infestations and diseases	10	8.00
Public information program on good planting techniques and maintenance programs	10	7.50
Qualified personnel and/or crew training	10	8.00
Business & Institutions		
Design, species diversity and planting of trees in landscapes	15	12.50
Maintenance programs and best practices: watering, pruning, IPM	10	8.00
Inclusion of diversified (including native), hardy species for planting on properties	10	8.25
Residential		
Design, species diversity and planting of trees in landscapes	15	13.00
Inclusion of diversified (including native), hardy species for planting on residential properties	10	8.25
Maintenance best practices	10	8.25
Community Involvement		
Public participation in tree planting and conservation programs such a Green Streets Canada, Arbour Day, Maple Leaf Day, and other tree planting and maintenance programs and activities on public lands (including promotion, organization etc.).	15	12.50
Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation or promotion by the Municipality, Businesses and Institutions for community tree planting and conservation programs on public lands.	10	8.00
Urban Forestry Total	175.00	144.25

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URBAN FORESTRY

Observations:

On Mask Trail, the trees will make you smile with a total of 46 faces. It's a magical place with restful sounds, wonderful scenery and refreshing scents. Harrison Hot Springs is in an enviable position with a Planting Zone that has made it possible to plant Ginkgo Biloba trees near the beach front. New Red Sunset Maples were planted in Rendall Park. An old tree trunk (with appropriate signage) has been left standing for the woodpeckers. This year, over 700 trees, shrubs and perennials were planted. The Harrison Resort and Spa has an impressive collection of trees, including the humble Box Elder or Manitoba Maple.



Recommendations:

We suggest that you make the development of a tree inventory a top priority as Harrison Hot Springs has a most impressive urban forest in terms of quantity as well as variety of species. Using GIS technology is not an onerous task and its benefits will be tremendous. It will be the basis for a forest management plan.



Some village trees had sucker growth that should be removed.

The bylaws are in place concerning tree topping and tree removal; (Tree Protection bylaw # 917). We would urge you to enforce them.

LANDSCAPE (Parks & Grounds, Green Spaces, Streetscapes - including Turf & Groundcovers)

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. Landscape design should harmonize the interests of municipal, commercial and residential sectors of the community. Standards of execution and maintenance should demonstrate best practices, including quality of naturalization, use of groundcovers and wildflowers, turf management and maintenance. The evaluation will consider how the spaces create a sense of place within the community, actively utilized year-round.

	Max	Actual
Municipal		
Landscape Plan: integrated and implemented throughout the municipality	10	8.50
Turf management programs, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Plant Health Care (PHC), alternative solutions to diseases and infestations when appropriate, increased naturalization, alternate mowing frequency and water management	10	8.25
First impressions of the community including gateway / entrance treatments	10	8.75
Landscape maintenance policies, standards, best practices and programs	10	8.50
Sustainable designs (seasonally adjusted year round): energy efficient, use of green materials, naturalization, xeriscaping, suitable plant varieties	10	8.50
Urban and civic design standards for streetscape and public places: flags, banners, public art, fountains, site furnishings, seasonal design and décor, walkways and paving materials	10	8.25
Landscape maintained to appropriate standards and specifications	10	8.25
Demonstrated year-round opportunities and programs for education and use of parks and green spaces (parks and recreation programs, city festivals and events)	10	8.25
Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or training	5	4.00
Business & Institutions		
Sustainable designs (seasonally adjusted year round): energy efficient, use of green materials, naturalization, xeriscaping, alternate groundcovers	10	8.00
Contribution to urban and civic design and public green spaces above requirements: such as public art, streetscape, site furniture, fountains & innovation in concept & design	10	8.50
Adequate ongoing life cycle management (ongoing maintenance, ground & asset management, rehabilitation & replacement) of all landscape elements	10	8.50
Residential		
Streetscape appeal of landscapes (year-round, seasonal, themed)	15	13.00
Maintenance of properties: lawn care, tree and shrub maintenance	15	13.50
Selection of plant material (native, local, innovative, including edible gardening)	15	13.00
Community Involvement		
Public participation in community programs such as: "yard of the week", volunteer park maintenance, holiday illumination & decoration (including promotion, organization etc.).	15	13.00
Recognition (by municipality and/or by volunteer groups) of volunteer efforts in all aspects of the Communities in Bloom Program including tidiness, environmental action, urban forestry, landscape, floral and natural & Cultural Heritage activities .	15	12.50
Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation by the Municipality, Businesses and Institutions for community landscape programs and activities	10	8.25
Landscape Total	200.00	169.50

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LANDSCAPE

Observations:

The development and maintenance of your wonderful landscape will be greatly facilitated with the development of a Parks and Trails Master Plan. We commend you on using no pesticides or herbicides and making good use of natural mulches. Landscaping of Harrison Lake Plaza allows unobstructed views of mountains and the lake. A proposed boardwalk to the Ranger Station Art Gallery will be a valuable addition. Traffic calming devices have been trialled; a successful one being the island on McCombs Drive. A memorial bench program adds to the landscape with quality benches. Top dressing with compost was successful on village turf. A winter flag design contest will brighten the landscape this coming winter when the winning entries are printed and displayed. CiB and a Grade four class planted potato boxes at the community garden to donate to the food bank. Local wood carvings are displayed throughout the village.



Recommendations:

Some concern was expressed about the exposed tree roots on Mask Trail. We would not suggest any invasive action other than adding wood mulch to the area, for safety's sake.

Consider adding some vegetables to the floral display beds. It is a growing trend and can look very attractive all season long. Some suggestions might be Kales, Bright Light Swiss chard, Parsley and Sages.



We suggest that you try one of the corn gluten products on your turf areas. It is a good choice environmentally speaking and it suppresses the growth of weed seeds while adding a bit of nutrients to the turf.

FLORAL DISPLAYS

"Floral Displays" evaluates the efforts made by the municipality, businesses and institutions, and residential sectors of the community 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) 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	13.00
Diversity of displays: flowerbeds, raised beds, planters, hanging baskets, window boxes, carpet bedding, mosaics	15	13.00
Diversity of plants: annuals, perennials, bulbs, grasses, woody plants, natural flora	10	8.00
Quality, maintenance to appropriate specifications and standards, best practices: watering, weeding, edging, dead heading, etc.	20	16.50
Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or training	10	8.50
Business & Institutions		
Concept and design (including arrangement, diversity, colour of display and plants) on grounds	15	13.00
Quality of planting and maintenance: watering, weeding, edging, dead heading, etc.	10	8.00
Contribution to, and integration with, overall community floral program	10	8.00
Residential		
Concept and design (including arrangement, diversity, colour of display and plants) on residential properties	15	13.00
Quality of planting and maintenance	15	12.75
Community Involvement		
Public participation in community projects, volunteer initiatives, outreach programs in floral displays (including promotion, organization, etc.).	10	7.75
Volunteer recognition (by municipality and/or by volunteer groups) of volunteer efforts in floral displays	15	12.00
Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation by the Municipality, Businesses and Institutions in community floral displays activities.	15	12.50
Floral Displays Total	175.00	146.00

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FLORAL DISPLAYS

Observations:

The sensational planting at the entrance sign is a very successful CiB project. Garden of the Week recognition encourages residents and businesses and institutions; winners are showcased in the local newspaper. The Garden and Lifestyle Tour & Tea was a very successful CiB project this year.

The Village of Harrison Hot Springs plans for year-round displays and makes good use of perennials and wild flowers.



Recommendations:



You might consider the possibility of a colour theme for each year's floral displays. The colours could be used throughout the village. Some residents might like to join in as well.

Have you considered choosing a flower; annual, perennial, ornamental grass or shrub, to be the official village flower? It could be chosen within a contest or voting format that would involve the whole community.

Try to control the spread of invasive species. An active education program will aid in public recognition and removal of these plants.



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 contribution of our sponsors and partners