



NOTICE OF MEETING AND AGENDA COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM COMMITTEE

Friday, October 17, 2025, 9:00 AM
Village Office, 495 Hot Springs Road
Harrison Hot Springs, BC V0M 1K0

THIS MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED IN-PERSON

1. CALL TO ORDER
Meeting called to order by the Chair.
2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
Acknowledgement of Sts'ailes traditional territory
3. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS
4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES
(a) THAT the Communities in Bloom Committee Meeting Minutes of September 8, 2025 be adopted. Page 1
6. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION
(a) Kelowna CIB Awards Banquet Report from Teresa Omelus Page 5
(b) 2026 Annual Work Plan / Budget Page 13
Recommendation for consideration: THAT the 2026 Work Plan / Budget be approved and forwarded to Council for review.
(c) Next Meeting Date: TBD
7. ADJOURNMENT


Amanda Graham
Corporate Officer

VILLAGE OF HARRISON HOT SPRINGS
**Communities in Bloom Committee
Minutes**

DATE: Monday, September 8, 2025
TIME: 10:00 a.m.
PLACE: Council Chambers, Village Office
495 Hot Springs Road, Harrison Hot Springs, BC

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Allan Jackson, Chair
Susan Caley
Susan Galvao
Janice Moffat
Teresa Omelus

MEMBERS ABSENT: Margaret Shier
STAFF PRESENT: Chief Administrative Officer, Tyson Koch
Corporate Officer, Amanda Graham
Director of Operations, Jace Hodgson

1. CALL TO ORDER

Councillor Jackson called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Councillor Jackson acknowledged the traditional territory of Sts'ailes.

3. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

Teresa Omelus requested to add "Fall Clean Up" as an Item for Discussion.

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Teresa Omelus
Seconded by Janice Moffat

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

CARRIED
CIB-2025-09-01

5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by Susan Caley
Seconded by Susan Galvao

THAT the Communities in Bloom Committee Meeting Minutes of August 12, 2025 be adopted.

CARRIED
CIB-2025-09-02

6. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

(a) 2026 Annual Work Plan / Budget

The Committee discussed entering in the Bloom category next year to be judged on all six criteria.

Several ideas were discussed for the next year including:

- Earth Day in May participation
- Canada Day Parade Float
- Memorial Hall garden beautification
- Garden Tour thank you gifts for participants
- Fall ideas and porch pictures
- Pictures of the Village during the spring
- Workshops – how to winterize gardens, planter ideas, what to do with bulbs, pollinator gardens, wreath making
- Plant swap in the fall
- Lagoon garden bed re-planting
- Thank you sign on Hot Springs Road as you leave the Village

(b) Fall Clean-Up

The Committee discussed large item pickup and properties with several vehicles, or vehicles that are in states of disrepair. The Corporate Officer provided information regarding the Environmental Advisory Committee's hazardous waste collection day and bylaw enforcement.

(c) Next Meeting Date: Monday, September 8 at 10:00 a.m.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Teresa Omelus
Seconded by Janice Moffat

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 11:08 a.m.

CARRIED
CIB-2025-09-03

Councillor Allan Jackson, Chair
Communities in Bloom Committee

Amanda Graham
Corporate Officer

DRAFT

Report from Teresa Omelus, Communities in Bloom Committee

Harrison Hot Springs, BC, October 13, 2025.

On October 2, 2025, I was pleased and honoured to attend the Provincial Communities in Bloom 20th Anniversary Banquet and Awards Ceremony in Kelowna, BC. Approximately forty participants from all over the province attended, along with a former Communities in Bloom judge from Edmonton. My fellow committee member, Susan Galvao also attended.

The event took place at a charming and picturesque historic hotel by the lake, the El Dorado Resort, which was established in 1926 and could also be suitable for the shores of Harrison Lake.

The beautifully decorated property has a lovely boardwalk and garden area, and as I love to explore, I discovered two beautiful metal statues of “Kelowna,” which I learned is the original Indigenous word of the Okanagan peoples for Grizzly Bear, and the namesake of the city. These provided me with further inspiration for future projects for Harrison, and I encouraged people to view these incredible pieces of art. It became a running joke about “the bears,” as I had to reassure them, they were not alive!

During the banquet, I was pleased to be beside the CIB participants from Hope, including Mayor Victor Smith and Teresa Williams. Information was freely shared, and an offer of friendship and mentorship was extended, and to our committee. It is my desire that we can accept this opportunity and enjoy further learning from a well-established and successful CIB crew. I look forward to seeing this happen in the form of a luncheon that Harrison hosts.

I believe that it would be wonderful to connect with the Master Gardener Association of BC, as another guest at our table, Rachel, was part of this group and was a lovely source of companionship and information during the banquet.

On the day of the Awards Banquet, we took an information packed and inspiring, scenic two-hour bus tour of the city, with a focus on parks, and sustainable gardening. Our host was Paula Glass from the City of Kelowna, with assistance from Jane and Sigrie.

Highlights included: Lower Mission mansions and estates; A stop at Sarson’s Beach Park (a quiet beach and park with playground, garden, swimming area, pollinator garden, and a new hand-carved Heron with fish art piece); A drive past Rotary Park, Lakeshore Drive, various equestrian facilities along the way, farm market stands, an original apple orchard, and other pleasant sights.

-A featured stop at the brand-new De Hart Park: De Hart Park was only 6 weeks old. This gorgeous accessible family park is a highlight of Kelowna's Cost Charge Program and may be an ideal model for Harrison to strive for. It has thousands of plantings, a grass area that can be quickly converted to a playing field, a basketball court, permanent patio seating areas, accessible walking paths, a state-of-the-art trash receptacle system for ease of maintenance, bat boxes to reduce mosquito populations, a pump track for bicycles, an incredible children's playground with recycled tire footing, a pickleball court, an enclosed off-leash dog area with mulch and pea gravel, a dog-watering station, and a fun water feature for kids that involved turning a wheel and bringing water down a "waterfall." The park has bee-boxes to assist with pollination. Bees will be introduced after the washroom project finishes this Fall.

De Hart Park has a fenced Community Gardens area and planted farm wagon donated to the city. The wagon was part of the farm that was previously located on the land that became the park. There is a waiting list for garden plots of approximately 3 years, and applicants pay a yearly rental fee.

Another feature of the tour was a stop at the 4,000 square foot Un-H2O Garden at the H2O Aquatic Centre. During the heat dome that BC a few summers ago, an electrical box (that controlled automatic sprinkling systems) suffered an unknown electrical shortage, and the plantings were left without water for extended periods before the problem was discovered. However, because of careful and thoughtful plantings that focused heavily on xeriscaping and Native species, Kelowna did not lose any of their plantings at this location.

The Okanagan Xeriscaping Association chose this location as one of their demonstration gardens with various themes including: Mediterranean Garden, Native Plant Garden, Ornamental Grass Garden, Pollinator Garden, Lawn Alternative Garden, Gravel Garden, and Woodland Grove.

Xeriscaping refers to gardening with plants that require little or no additional water from irrigation and has seven principles:

1. Plan and design before you plant.
2. Improve soil quality by adding organic matter.
3. Reduce turf areas to just what you need and use drought-tolerant grass mixes and lawn alternatives.
4. Irrigate efficiently and group plants with similar water needs.
5. Choose drought-tolerant and low-water plants.
6. Mulch with a layer of organic material on top of the soil.

7. Maintain your landscape. Following xeriscape principles will reduce maintenance tasks.

The goals of Xeriscaping are:

1: Conserve water 2: Eliminate chemical fertilizers and pesticides 3: Create drought-resilient landscapes 4: Create vibrant landscapes 5: Reduce maintenance time and costs and 6: Enhance property value

I informally asked and invited the Okanagan Xeriscaping Chair, Sigrie Kendrick, to visit Harrison Hot Springs to give a talk to residents. I was met with a pleasant surprise and immediate, "I'd love to!" The details need to be approved; however, this leaves a baseline for us to start with. I believe this speaker would be amazing to add to a landscaping/CIB "Fair" that we could host as one of our projects and ideal because of our own Fire-Smart initiatives.

We drove by Rotary Park and stopped at a brand new (and still unnamed) lakeshore park with an amazing accessible kayak launch, Native species plantings, and an area that will expand in the future as a connecting walkway to neighbouring lakeside areas and parks. I immediately suggested a similar kayak launch at the Harrison OCP Open House recently and was pleased to learn that an accessible kayak launch is already in the works.

We also visited the City Parks Yard area with a newly completed wooden bird-watching tower and platform in an adjacent marsh property owned by the city. The area also had convertible soccer fields and other recreational facilities and hosted a very popular "come and get compost," with free soil leftover from recent projects. Kelowna is in the process of moving some of its city works and parks projects such as greenhouses further near the airport to allow for the expansion of their bedding plants and planter displays. They currently have approximately 350 planter displays and plan to expand this number to between 500-600. They will be especially focusing on protecting their Canna Lilies over the winter. These gorgeous plants need to be at 7 degrees Celsius underneath the benches of the greenhouses and free from moisture while they rest.

The Kelowna climate provides skiing in the winter and hot, dry summers for outdoor and water-related activities. The area is experiencing severe drought conditions and is now in a desert. As a result, Kelowna has become highly focused on fire mitigation risks and reducing the need for water in its landscaping and floral displays. It is focusing on avoiding plants such as cedar trees and hydrangeas; both of which are heavily prone to taking water away from other vegetation, as well as providing rapidly burning fuel for fires when they are dry. Cedar hedging near residential homes provides increased fire risk and increases the risk of fuel transfer from embers to neighbouring homes.

I also learned of the Flower Power Garden Tour that is held in Kelowna each year, and in speaking with Rachel and Sigrie, believe that our CIB Committee in Harrison can learn from this and start charging admission to this event and expand it as part of our fundraising initiatives. Details will be determined, but this event is extremely popular in Kelowna.

I believe that Harrison can learn from Kelowna's initiatives in moving forward. Just one look at their city website with all the Capital projects on the go is impressive. The city of Kelowna has many construction projects on the go, including housing, high-rises, civil projects, and the expansion of their International Airport which will see its new terminal opening in approximately three months, and a new luxury hotel adjacent to the airport with a later completion date in 2026.

The CIB Awards banquet was a wonderful learning and networking opportunity that I took full advantage of. Harrison Hot Springs was well-received by all and we were strongly encouraged to continue participating in future CIB initiatives.

As a result of the work of many individuals, The Village of Harrison Hot Springs was the winner of several awards. Congratulations! Let us do it again next year!

I would like to thank the Mayor, Council and Staff for providing me with this incredible opportunity and look forward to implementing my learning for the beauty and benefit of the Village of Harrison Hot Springs for many years to come.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Teresa Omelus".

Teresa Omelus

During my free time, I was pleased to explore a few areas of the City including Orchard Park Shopping Centre for a quick stop, Mama Rosa's Italian Restaurant for dinner (highly recommend!), two beautiful Catholic Churches with incredible stained glass, the Kelowna Airport, the Kelowna Centre for Excellence, and several other Aviation-related facilities. I also dipped my toes in the Lake, which although the air was twenty-one, I estimate the water temperature was about ten.

I also drove through neighbouring areas on my way to and from Kelowna that also had their own beautiful floral displays, historical ties, and vineyard-inspired décor. I passed incredible gardens in private homes, commercial properties, and too many parks to count. I was impressed and inspired by the creative uses of wine barrels in the Resort for holding restaurant menus and glassware, and incredible floral and plant displays outside along the marina boardwalk.

As a point of note, I was especially pleased to stumble upon Pandosy Mission. This Historical Property is less than five minutes from the Resort and is free to tour, although one can give a donation. I highly suggest it for history fans, and for those that simply wish to gain a deeper appreciation of the First-Nations ties and how Father Pandosy contributed significantly to the area.

Father Pandosy was a French Catholic Priest that was the first European to settle in the area. He began a deep friendship with the Indigenous People and died in the arms of his good friend, the Chief. He planted the first apple trees in the area that would later be the start of the orchards that the Okanagan is known for. He is credited with getting the first wine-making ventures off the ground because of his making Sacramental wines. They were "passable," according to the Kelowna Centre of Excellence which mentioned him in one of their displays. (I highly recommend visiting this venue as well, especially if you are an aviation fan like me!) One of the streets in Kelowna was named after him, and KLO Road is named after Kelowna Land and Orchard, which I believe also has ties to Father Pandosy's apple-trees. I could not access Father Pandosy's tiny church, as it is on private property across the street, but you can see the original chapel, barn, and other interesting structures at the mission itself.

Fun fact: Helicopters provide a valuable contribution to the fruit-growing community in the Okanagan, especially cherry growers. After rainfall, the water pools on the top surface of the cherries. This causes the sugars in the fruit to rise to the surface and create swelling and splitting, which creates an unsaleable crop if not addressed. Helicopters hover over the fruit, as this creates both a downdraft and adjacent force of horizontal air that helps force the water off the berries and thus preserve the fruit. Think of it as a large-scale power hand-dryer.

The Aerospace Industries are a significant source of employment in Kelowna, along with tourism and agriculture, and wineries. The film industry is also notable, and Kelowna is now the preferred location for Hallmark movies.





2026 Communities in Bloom Committee Work Plan & Budget					
Project	Description	Timeframe	Est. Staff Time	Budget	Funding Source
CIB Evaluation	Participate in the Bloom full category	January - July 2026	14 hours meetings 20 hours prep	Entrance Fee - \$600	Municipal Taxation
	Welcome Event	Jul-26	8 hours	Meals, Decorations - \$800	Municipal Taxation
	Meals, transportation	Jul-26	8 hours	Tour Day Expenses - \$1000	Municipal Taxation
	Host two judges for two nights	Jul-26	1 hour	Judges' Accommodations - \$1200	Municipal Taxation
	Banquet tickets, hotel rooms, mileage for 2 CIB members	Oct-26	1 hour	Awards Banquet - \$2500	Municipal Taxation
				Total: \$6,100	Municipal Taxation
Project	Description	Timeframe	Est. Staff Time	Budget	Funding Source
Garden of the Week	Evaluate local gardens weekly, provide lawn signs and Miracle Gro products, post winners weekly	June - August 2026	5 hours	None, but dependent on grant funding	Grant Funded
				Total: N/A	
Project	Description	Timeframe	Est. Staff Time	Budget	Funding Source
Garden Tour	Residents sign up to showcase their gardens to the public on a specific date and time	Summer 2026	5 hours	Signs & print materials - \$200	Municipal Taxation
	Thank you gifts for participants	Summer 2026	1 hour	\$100	Municipal Taxation
				Total: \$300	Municipal Taxation

Project	Description	Timeframe	Est. Staff Time	Budget	Funding Source
Canada Day Parade Float	Decorate and enter a float	Jul-26	5 hours	Decorations - \$100	Municipal Taxation
				Total: \$100	Municipal Taxation
Project	Description	Timeframe	Est. Staff Time	Budget	Funding Source
Earth Day in May Workshop	Engage a local expert to conduct a workshop during the Earth Day in May event about pollinator gardens, planter ideas and/or edible gardens, small space	May-26	5 hours	Facilitator - \$1000	Municipal Taxation offset by registration fee
				Total: \$1000	Municipal Taxation
Project	Description	Timeframe	Est. Staff Time	Budget	Funding Source
Lagoon Garden Bed Community Planting Day	Community planting day based on 2026 CIB Theme	Jun-26	15 hours	Flowers - \$1500	Municipal Taxation
				Total: \$1500	Municipal Taxation
Total Municipal Funds Requested: \$9,000					