2012 National Edition

On October 13th, the Edmonton Capital Region hosted the 18th Edition of the Communities in Bloom National Awards Ceremonies in Alberta, honouring municipalities across Canada, Europe, Singapore and Japan.

Communities in Bloom is a Canadian non-profit organization committed to fostering civic pride, environmental responsibility and beautification through community involvement and the challenge of a national program, with focus on the promotion of green spaces in community settings.

National Acting Chair Bob Lewis – on behalf of the National Committee, Judges, and Sponsors – sincerely thanks and congratulates all the communities for their involvement in the program. "Within the context of climate change and environmental concerns, they can all be proud of their efforts, which provide real and meaningful environmental solutions that benefit all of society."

National Award Winners

Up to 1,200:	Appleton, Newfoundland & Labrador	10,001 to 20,000:	Lambton Shores, Ontario
1,201 to 3,000:	Beausejour, Manitoba	20,001 to 50,000:	Fort Erie, Ontario
3,001 to 6,500:	Jasper, Alberta	Over 50,001:	Granby, Québec
6,501 to 10,000:	Castlegar, British Columbia	Canadian Forces Sustainable Communities:	CFB Borden, Ontario

Class of Champions

Strathcona County, Alberta in the Large population category, and *Boissevain, Manitoba* in the Small population category, were the winners in the Class of Champions, a category where past winners compete amongst themselves.

International Challenge

Killarney Town, Ireland in the Large population category, and *St. Martin's Parish, Guernsey, Channel Islands, British Isles* in the Small population category, were the winners in the International Challenge, a competition between winners of various national programs.

Outstanding Achievement Awards

Scotts Turf Builder *Turf and Groundcovers* Award:	Wood Buffalo, Alberta
Communities in Bloom *Sustainable Development* Award:	Harrison Hot Springs, British Columbia
Communities in Bloom Foundation *Youth Involvement* Award:	Gibbons, Alberta
Home Hardware *Community Involvement* Award:	Lambton Shores, Ontario
Communities in Bloom *Environmental Action* Award:	MARLANT, Halifax, Nova Scotia
Scotts *Community of Gardeners* Award:	Brandon, Manitoba
National Capital Commission *Floral Displays* Award:	Trail, British Columbia
CN *Urban Forestry* Award:	Edmonton, Alberta
Home Hardware Beauti-Tone *Heritage Conservation* Award:	Pembroke, Ontario
Canadian Nursery Landscape Association *Landscape* Award:	Stettler, Alberta
Communities in Bloom *Tidiness* Award:	Brooks, Alberta
Municipal World *WinterLife* Award:	Wood Buffalo, Alberta
The Butchart Gardens *Land Reclamation* Award:	Mission, British Columbia
Special Award for the *Green Community Program*:	South West District, Singapore

For further information and to obtain photographs, please contact: communication@cib-cef.com or call us at 514-694-8871

Thank you to our National Sponsors and Partners

Partners | *Partenaires*

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2012 National Edition

Communities in Bloom is a Canadian non-profit organization committed to fostering civic pride, environmental responsibility and beautification through community involvement and the challenge of a national program, with focus on the promotion and importance of green spaces in community settings.

"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 hundreds of 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 Action, Heritage Conservation, Urban Forestry, Landscape, Turf & Groundcovers, Floral Displays Community Involvement.

Benefits. The pride, sense of community and feeling of accomplishment generated through participation are visible in communities across 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.

National Symposium on Parks and Grounds. Held in conjunction with the annual national awards ceremonies, this event is 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. Workshops and awards ceremonies are also held in all provinces throughout the year.

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.

His Excellency, the Right Honourable David Johnston, C.C., C.M.M., C.O.M., C.D. Governor General of Canada is the Patron of Communities in Bloom.

Within the context of climate change and environmental concerns, all communities involved in the program can be proud of their efforts, which provide real and meaningful environmental solutions and benefit all of society.

2012 National Edition

Category	Rating	Special Mention /Recognition
Over 50,001		
Ville de Granby, QC	5	**Miner Heritage Farm**
City of Sarnia, ON	5	Native Plant Rescue and One Tomato Project
R.M of Wood Buffalo, AB	5	Sports Fields
20,001 – 50,000		
Town of Fort Erie, ON	5	**Point Abino Lighthouse Restoration**
Town of Conception Bay South, NL	4	The Manuels River Experience
District of Mission, BC	5	Gorilla Gardeners
District of West Kelowna / Westbank First Nation, BC	5	Westbank First Nation Expanded Art Program
10,001 – 20,000		
Municipality of Lambton Shores, ON	5	**Native Tree Project**
Town of Beaumont, AB	5	CiB Pancake Kick-Off Breakfast
City of Brooks, AB	5	Community Involvement in the Floral Program
Town of Essex, ON	5	War of 1812 Peace Garden
Ville de Lachute, QC	5	Main Street Floral Arrangements
6,501 – 10,000		
City of Castlegar, BC	5	**Brilliant Bridge Restoration Project**
Town of Amherst, NS	4	Information Kiosks
Town of Hinton, AB	5	Signage Design
Town of Yarmouth, NS	5	The Art Gallery's Innovative Programs
3,001 – 6,500		
Municipality of Jasper, AB	5	**Environmental Stewardship**
Town of Bay Roberts, NL	4	Tangible and Intangible Cultural Heritage
District of Hope, BC	4	Wood Carvings
City of Humboldt, SK	5	Reclamation of Water Ridge Park
Town of Kindersley, SK *(non competitive)*	4	Walking Trail Strategic Plan
Town of St. Stephen, NB	4	Dover Hill Park
Town of Sussex, NB	5	Serenity Garden
Town of Vegreville, AB	4	Volunteer & Service Clubs Generous Involvement
1,201 – 3,000		
Town of Beausejour, MB	5	**Wally Chryplywy Nature Park**
Village of Ashcroft, BC	5	Xeriscape Landscaping in Aid of Water Conservation
Town of Bruderheim, AB	4	Evergreen 25 Year Management Plan
Dawson City, YT	5	Enhanced Green Space by Recreational Grounds and Schools
Village of Harrison Hot Springs, BC	5	Work of the Miami River Streamkeepers
Town of Trenton, NS	4	Heritage Room Museum
Up to 1,200		
Town of Appleton, NL	5	**The Riverfront Peace Park**
Village of Bittern Lake, AB	5	Floral Arrangements Supported by ACE Metal
Town of Kinistino, SK	5	"Adopt a Pot/Planter" Project
Village de Sainte-Pétronille, QC	5	A Stroll in the Heart of the Village
Sun Rivers Resort Community, BC	5	Partnership Between Sun Rivers & TK'emlups First Nation
Community of Tignish, PE	5	Tignish Veterans Memorial Garden
Hamlet of Valhalla, AB	4	Heritage Book for the 100th Birthday in 2013

* **Bold** indicates winner

2012 National Edition

Category	Rating	Special Mention /Recognition
Canadian Forces Sustainable Communities		
CFB Borden, ON	**4**	**Restoration of WWI Training Trenches**
4 Wing Cold Lake, AB	4	Completion of Front Entrance
19 Wing Comox, BC	4	Reconstruction of Front Entrance to the Base
CFB Kingston, ON	4	Wall of Honour
CFB Petawawa, ON *(non competitive)*	4	Ongoing Wellness Garden
CFB Shilo, MB	4	Military Family Resource Centre
CFB Suffield, AB	4	Student Banner Contest
MARLANT - Maritimes Forces Atlantic, Halifax, NS	4	Urban Forestry Plan
Class of Champions (Large Category)		
Strathcona County, AB	**5**	**Beaver Hills Initiative**
City of Barrie, ON	5	City of Barrie Strategic Plan
City of Charlottetown, PE	5	Murphy's Community Centre
City of Fort St. John, BC	5	North Peace Museum
City of Lethbridge, AB	5	Native Prairie Plants Garden at Galt Museum
City of Medicine Hat, AB	5	Floral Displays
Class of Champions (Small Category)		
Town of Boissevain, MB	**5**	**Community Dedication to Beautification**
Town of Aylmer, ON	5	Interconnected Parks
City of Dauphin, MB	5	Community of Gardeners
Town of Millet, AB	5	Volunteer Recognition by Town and Businesses
Town of Vermilion, AB	5	Town, Business, and College Partnerships
International Challenge (Large Category)		
Killarney Town, Ireland	**5**	**Volunteer Involvement**
City of Kamloops, BC	5	Turf Management and Extreme Quality of Sports Accommodation
City of Leduc, AB	5	Floral Displays
City of Pembroke, ON	5	Cultural Heritage
Ville de Rosemère, QC	5	Urban Forestry
South West District, Singapore	5	The Lakeside Grove Park Community Garden
International Challenge (Small Category)		
St. Martin's Parish, Guernsey, Channel Islands, British Isles	**5**	**Volunteer Involvement in Beautification**
Town of Assiniboia, SK	5	Creation of The Healing Garden
Aya Town, Japan	5	The Aya Way – Communication and Collaboration
Community of Fogo, NL	5	Community Driven Beautification
Village of Forestburg, AB	5	Signature Forest Landscape
Town of Gibbons, AB	5	Youth Involvement
Municipality of Killarney-Turtle Mountain, MB	5	Productive Community Garden
Town of Neepawa, MB	5	Re-established Community Garden
Village of Smržice, Czech Republic	5	Community and Business Supported Plantings
Town of Stettler, AB	5	Pedestrian Walking Paths
City of Trail, BC	5	Blossoming Community Partnerships

* **Bold** indicates winner

2012 National Edition

Category	Rating	Special Mention /Recognition
Special Attractions (non competitive)		
Battlefields Park, Québec, QC	5	Green Waste Management
Reford Gardens, Grand-Métis, QC	5	Landscape Design – International Garden Festival
SDC Vieux-Montréal, QC	5	Public Art
Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village, AB	5	Kurelek from the Community: Artwork from Private Collections
Château Ramezay - Musée et site historique de Montréal, QC *(non evaluated)*	*N/A*	*N/A*
Circle of Excellence – Evaluated (non competitive)		
Town of Athabasca, AB	5	Community Commitment to Recycling
City of Brandon, MB	5	Outstanding Private and Public Gardens
City of Calgary, AB	5	Parks Foundation Calgary
City of Edmonton, AB	5	Community and Business Revitalization Zones
Town of Qualicum Beach, BC	5	Heritage Conservation
City of Stratford, ON	5	Reconstruction of the Avon River Pergola

Circle of Excellence – Non Evaluated (non competitive)

Town of Antigonish, NS
City of Brampton, ON
City of Campbell River, BC
Municipality of Chatham-Kent, ON
Village of Denzil, SK
Town of Goderich, ON
Town of Hampton, NB
City of Kingston, ON
City of London, ON
Town of Minto, ON
Town of New Glasgow, NS
Town of Olds, AB
City of Oshawa, ON
Town of Pincher Creek, AB
Ville de Saint-Bruno-de-Montarville, QC
City of Summerside, PE
Town of Viking, AB
Town of Virden, MB
Ville de Westmount, QC

Thank you to our Volunteer National Judges

Evelyn Alemanni
Jim Baird
Maurice Baren
Darlene Blake
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Communities in Bloom / Collectivités en fleurs

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

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Evaluation Form

2012

Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, Alberta

Canada
Communities in Bloom
People, Plants and Pride... Growing Together
Collectivités en fleurs
Citoyens et espaces verts en harmonie... une société florissante

2012 Evaluation Form

Community: R. M. of Wood Buffalo

Province: Alberta

Category: Over 50,001

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

Tidiness	**135.00**	**/**	**150.00**
Environmental Action	**135.50**	**/**	**150.00**
Heritage Conservation	**128.00**	**/**	**150.00**
Urban Forestry	**157.50**	**/**	**175.00**
Landscape (including Turf & Groundcovers)	**174.00**	**/**	**200.00**
Floral Displays	**154.00**	**/**	**175.00**
*** Community Involvement is included in each of these sections**			
Total	**884.00**	**/**	**1000.00**

Percentage : **88.4%**

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 : Sports Fields

Representative (s) of Community

Name: Syed Rizvi Function : CiB Committee Chair

Name: Karen Puga Function : Beautification Senior Coordinator

Name: Seville Kwan Function : Beautification Coordinator

Judges

Name: Richard Daigneault Name: Jack Clasen

Evaluation date: August 13 & 14, 2012

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.

2012 Evaluation Form

GENERAL COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

Fort McMurray/Wood Buffalo is a municipality on the move. They are fortunate to have a booming business – the Athabasca oil sands - nearby which provides a huge tax advantage resulting is ample resources to be creative and innovative. The municipality uses the resources well to enhance the quality of life for everyone. The new Suncor Municipal Center is a world class facility including sports, classrooms, and the city library.

The reputation for the oil sands as "dirty oil" is an issue the city and oil companies are meeting head on. Presented with unique challenges, they respond by embracing creative opportunities to be leaders in emerging trends. Rather than be defensive about this issue, the two groups are working hand in hand to make Wood Buffalo a leader in environmental stewardship. Many initiatives are placing Wood Buffalo ahead of the rest of North America in waste reduction and even waste elimination.

Municipal employees are top notch creative, organized and energetic, with excellent backgrounds and experience. The planning and execution of projects is outstanding.

The older downtown area was developed before the boom, so there is a contrast in the look and feel of the new versus the old Ft McMurray. The municipality has a vision for a revitalized downtown that will take many years, but the resulting walkable, lively downtown will be another positive feature for the region.

The Judges wish to thank everyone we met for their hospitality and the exciting tour of the beautiful region you call home. The efforts of the entire Communities in Bloom committee have made a positive difference in enhancing the quality of life. The future looks bright in Wood Buffalo and we wish you the best of fortunes.

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
Community anti-litter awareness programs	5	4
Effective bylaws & policies and enforcement; for litter control, graffiti prevention including notices & posters	10	9.5
Cleanliness of public green infrastructure: parks, streetscapes (sidewalks, planters, etc.)	15	14
Cleanliness of urban signage and furniture such as benches, litter and recycling containers	15	13.5
Business & Institutions		
Tidiness, order and cleanliness and first impressions.	15	13
Condition of buildings (exterior maintenance), grounds, sidewalks and parking lots	15	13
Condition of urban furniture: benches, litter and recycling containers	5	4
Residential		
Tidiness, order and cleanliness	20	18.5
Condition of buildings, grounds and yards	15	13.5
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	9.5
Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation by the Municipality, Businesses and Institutions for community clean-up programs	10	9.5
Tidiness Total	150.00	135.00

2012 Evaluation Form

TIDINESS

Observations:

There are numerous initiatives undertaken by the community that stands out. For example, there is an excellent graffiti control program using various means of communication with the public.

The spring clean-up is very well organized with many groups participating. The total number participating is 10,300 volunteers, a very impressive number. Equally impressive is the fact that each group gets a thank you card with a group photo included which reinforces the teamwork and the level of appreciation for their efforts. There is also an annual highway clean up each spring.

The Adopt-a-Trail/Roadway Clean Up campaign has a large number of participants promising to pick up litter four times per year between May and September.

The "Amazing Waste Race" involved 18 schools in its first year. It was very well received by teachers and students.

Park benches, playground equipment, picnic tables and waste receptacles are all in very good condition.

The Mayor's 20 Minute Block Challenge encourages businesses to clean up their areas. The luncheon for volunteers is a very creative idea.

Recommendations:

There is erosion at one of the splash parks which should be taken care of before the soil clogs the pipes and pumps. (See photo)

A facade improvement program could be implemented for downtown business owners who wish to spruce up their building facades. A low cost or even zero percent loans could be offered by the municipality.

A total redevelopment of downtown will take many years. In the meantime, is there a way to encourage building owners to fix up their upper stories to rent or sell as condos? Maybe part of a facade loan program could be re-directed to this effort?

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	19
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	9.5
Water conservation and reduction programs: efficient appliance incentives or promotion, efficient irrigation and use of non-potable water, water restriction policies	10	8
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	8.5
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	18.5
Business & Institutions		
Participation in the environmental effort : such as waste management (recycle, reuse, reduce), water conservation, energy conservation, brownfield management	10	8.5
Corporate environmental innovation / stewardship, initiatives, activities (Ex. Environmental clean-up activities)	10	9
Residential		
Participation in the 3-R (recycle, reuse, reduce) initiatives and composting	20	18.5
Adoption of water conservation practices & policies including rainwater collection.	15	13
Community Involvement		
Public participation in public forums and policy development on environmental issues	5	4.5
Public participation in community, neighbourhood or individual street environmental activities and programs (including, promotion, organization and evidence of taking ownership), etc.)	10	9
Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation by the Municipality, Businesses and Institutions in public environmental activities and programs	10	9.5
Environmental Action Total	150.00	135.50

2012 Evaluation Form

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

Observations:

Municipal leaders and the oil companies are moving aggressively to create a sustainable community. There is a Ft. McMurray Environmental Committee, Environment Week, River Watch, Green Schools program, Waste Reduction Week and tours of the Water Treatment Plant. A Water Conservation Program will be introduced in September, 2012. Biosolids are collected and composted.

The municipality won a bronze award in August 2012 from SWANA (the Solid Waste Assn of North America) for their marketing efforts in recycling.

The city is proactive in providing residents with needed brochures for conservation. An example is the 'Drips and Tips' brochure for water conservation for residents.

A good effort has been made to develop a program to ban single use shopping bags. Another new program is the worm composting that was started in seven classrooms.

The municipality makes a great effort to communicate and educate students about the environment. (See photo below).

Recommendations:

Now that curbside recycling has begun, the recycling rate has gone from 8% to 25%. It is good to see that 60% of the residents are recycling but at this point multi-family units are not recycling. It will be difficult to increase the participation rate above 60% or the total recycling rate above 40% without having recycling available for multi-family units.

Businesses should be encouraged to recycle. Begin with a cardboard recycling program and expand the program once businesses get used to recycling.

The Mayor and Council can use the 25% recycling rate as a challenge for the residents. The theme for 2013 could be "Go for 30", meaning a 30% rate.

The plans for the future 'Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Facility' are very good. Would it be possible to have a mobile unit that can go to specific areas of town once each spring?

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	12.5
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	13.5
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	13.5
Interpretative and signage programs, walking tours, festivals/celebrations (year round)	15	13.5
Activities and programs (year-round) for education and use of natural heritage sites for and by the public	15	12.5
New programs and initiatives to promote local heritage	10	9
Business & Institutions		
Conservation, restoration and reuse of heritage buildings and grounds	15	12.5
Promotion of local heritage, including heritage gardens, native plants, and heritage trees	15	12.5
Residential		
Conservation / restoration and reuse of sites / buildings	10	7.5
Conservation of cultural and heritage elements pertaining to their own private lands and structures.	5	3.5
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	9
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	8.5
Heritage Conservation Total	150.00	128.00

2012 Evaluation Form

HERITAGE CONSERVATION

Observations:

Heritage Park is an excellent facility with a gift shop, historic buildings and an extensive summer program for kids.

Marine Park will be a great addition once it is completed. The issue you will continue to deal with is vandalism. Hopefully a solution can be worked out so the facility will not have to be fenced in once it is open to the public. The master riverfront development plan appears to have a path near the river.

The "Country Fair" is a great event that encourages people to participate with submissions of crafts, cooking, visual arts, woodworking and a chili cook-off.

Recommendations:

Consider efforts to protect the land across the river from the Marine Park from development.

Collect stories from life long residents, whether by audio or video, to preserve a history that could be lost forever.

Part of heritage conservation is preserving today's history for future generations. One method to do this is to take photos of all young people taking classes at Heritage Park, labeling the photos with names and dates, thus creating archives for future generations.

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	9
Policies, regulations and tree by-laws, tree protection and planting on public and private lands	10	9
Urban forestry planning and design, including integration with overall landscape plan	10	9
Measures to preserve, protect, manage and expand overall tree inventory, including woodlots	10	9.5
Plan of action: procurement, species diversity (including native trees), selection of hardy species	10	9.5
Integrated Pest Management (IPM) / Plant HealthCare (PHC): plan of action for invasive pest detection and control, information on current infestations and diseases	10	9
Public information program on good planting techniques and maintenance programs	10	8.5
Qualified personnel and/or crew training	10	9
Business & Institutions		
Design, species diversity and planting of trees in landscapes	15	13.5
Maintenance programs and best practices: watering, pruning, IPM	10	9
Inclusion of diversified (including native), hardy species for planting on properties	10	8.5
Residential		
Design, species diversity and planting of trees in landscapes	15	13.5
Inclusion of diversified (including native), hardy species for planting on residential properties	10	9
Maintenance best practices	10	8
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	14
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	9.5
Urban Forestry Total	175.00	157.50

2012 Evaluation Form

URBAN FORESTRY

Observations:

The Tree Doctor program, which responds to tree related questions from residents by sending an arborist to the home for a free consultation, is a nice benefit for residents.

Many new trees were planted throughout the area. There were many new trees on McDonald Island and throughout the town.

The newer areas of the city have many trees planted in residential and business locations. In the older part of town, the lack of trees is noticeable. When downtown is redeveloped, include space for new trees to be added.

The tree inventory is quite good. Trees are numbered and can be located through GPS. There is also an established tree inspection and pruning rotation.

Recommendations:

It is understandable to use the plastic tube around trees that could be hit by lawnmowers or weed wackers, but the use of the tube below does not seem to be required.

The newly planted trees below at one of the schools could be the start of an arboretum at the school.

Planting non-native ash could become a problem if the Emerald Ash Borer reaches Wood Buffalo. It would most likely arrive in a wooden crate rather than be natural processes. It would make sense to avoid ash trees at this time.

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	9.25
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	9.25
First impressions of the community including gateway / entrance treatments	10	8
Landscape maintenance policies, standards, best practices and programs	10	9
Sustainable designs (seasonally adjusted year round): energy efficient, use of green materials, naturalization, xeriscaping, suitable plant varieties	10	8
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	7.5
Landscape maintained to appropriate standards and specifications	10	9
Demonstrated year-round opportunities and programs for education and use of parks and green spaces (parks and recreation programs, city festivals and events)	10	8.5
Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or training	5	4.25
Business & Institutions		
Sustainable designs (seasonally adjusted year round): energy efficient, use of green materials, naturalization, xeriscaping, alternate groundcovers	10	8.5
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	8.25
Adequate ongoing life cycle management (ongoing maintenance, ground & asset management, rehabilitation & replacement) of all landscape elements	10	8
Residential		
Streetscape appeal of landscapes (year-round, seasonal, themed)	15	13.5
Maintenance of properties: lawn care, tree and shrub maintenance	15	13.5
Selection of plant material (native, local, innovative, including edible gardening)	15	12.5
Community Involvement		
Public participation in community programs such as: "yard of the week", volunteer park maintenance, holiday illumination & decoration (including promotion, organization etc.).	15	14
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	14
Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation by the Municipality, Businesses and Institutions for community landscape programs and activities	10	9
Landscape Total	200.00	174.00

2012 Evaluation Form

LANDSCAPE

Observations:

The "Nominate Your Neighbor" program is well received. The program is well designed and publicized.

The "Adopt a Park" program is advertised below.

The Thank You cards sent to all volunteer groups is a great idea, especially with the inclusion of the photo of the team from the organization.

The "Placemaking" program is beginning to have a positive impact. The old downtown area needs color and greenery and the placemaking site adds life to downtown. (See photo below)

Recommendations:

Explore the use of more grasses, such as fountain grass, in the larger beds for a change in texture and movement.

Dwarf cannas could be added to the planters in the medians and the "Bengal Tiger" canna could be added to some of the larger planted areas.

Consider developing cycling lanes to encourage cycling and sustainable mobility.

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
Diversity of displays: flowerbeds, raised beds, planters, hanging baskets, window boxes, carpet bedding, mosaics	15	13.5
Diversity of plants: annuals, perennials, bulbs, grasses, woody plants, natural flora	10	8.5
Quality, maintenance to appropriate specifications and standards, best practices: watering, weeding, edging, dead heading, etc.	20	18.5
Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or training	10	9
Business & Institutions		
Concept and design (including arrangement, diversity, colour of display and plants) on grounds	15	13
Quality of planting and maintenance: watering, weeding, edging, dead heading, etc.	10	8
Contribution to, and integration with, overall community floral program	10	8.5
Residential		
Concept and design (including arrangement, diversity, colour of display and plants) on residential properties	15	12
Quality of planting and maintenance	15	13
Community Involvement		
Public participation in community projects, volunteer initiatives, outreach programs in floral displays (including promotion, organization, etc.).	10	9
Volunteer recognition (by municipality and/or by volunteer groups) of volunteer efforts in floral displays	15	14
Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation by the Municipality, Businesses and Institutions in community floral displays activities.	15	14
Floral Displays Total	175.00	154.00

2012 Evaluation Form

FLORAL DISPLAYS

Observations:

The beautification department established a 2012 Flower of the Year – Salpiglossis "painted tongue" and gave seed packets to residents along with a description and planting instructions.

The 400 hanging baskets, along with many median planters, plus the numerous bedding areas provide wonderful color and life to the city in summer. The quality and quantity of the plantings is sure to dazzle residents and visitors.

The maintenance of all the floral displays was excellent. The design was very well done in all locations, especially in the newer areas

Even Heritage Park had colorful floral displays.

Recommendations:

The planters in the downtown section were exclusively petunias. It would add an extra dimension if the planters had some height with the inclusion of dwarf cannas (Picasso variety) or calocasia (calidora variety) plus an additional color or texture from the use of sweet potato vine or vinca.

In very large planting beds the use of the 'bengal tiger' canna adds height plus a lighter green/yellow color to the display.

Consider the use of the more basic perennials, such as black eyed Susan, to add less work for the employees, allowing them to create more displays in other areas.

The downtown businesses have no floral displays. Could a small section of the downtown area be used as a test site to see if floral planters could be added?

As the redevelopment of the downtown area proceeds, be sure to include planters in the design to add greenery and color.

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