

Evaluation Form

2015

Town of Vegreville
Alberta



2015 Evaluation Form

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Community: Town of Vegreville

Province: Alberta

Category: 4,501 to 9,000

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

Tidiness	128.00	/	150.00
Environmental Action	121.00	/	150.00
Heritage Conservation	122.50	/	150.00
Urban Forestry	141.00	/	175.00
Landscape	162.50	/	200.00
Floral Displays	145.00	/	175.00
	Total		820.00 / 1000.00

Percentage : 82.0%

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.

***New in 2015:**

There will be four (4) levels of 5 Blooms exclusive to the National and International Edition, for evaluated communities only.
82 to 83.9%: 5 Blooms. 84 to 86.9%: 5 Blooms (Bronze). 87 to 89.9%: 5 Blooms (Silver). 90% and over: 5 Blooms (Gold).

- A community does not have to be entered in a competitive category, but will need to be evaluated.
- With the introduction of this enhanced higher award standards, the marking of scores will be more critical.

Mention : 47th Street North Walking Trail Beautification

Representative (s) of Community

Name: Tony Tymchyshyn Function : Parks and Fleet Manager

Name: Ellen Johnstone Function : Chair, Vegreville in Bloom

Name: _____ Function : _____

Judges

Name: Brad Beatty Name: Lorraine Flanigan

Evaluation date: July 23, 2015

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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 (such as YMCA, Legion), private museums, government and crown corporations buildings (such as Canada Post)
- **Tourism bureaus and 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 is considered in each segment of the evaluation.

- Individuals, community organizations and citizen groups – all contributing to various aspects of community improvement
- Organized clubs such as horticultural societies, garden clubs, community associations
- Service 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

Vegreville displays its Ukrainian heritage in a big way. The world's largest Pysanka—a Ukrainian Easter egg—stands at the entrance to the town, proudly towering over Elk's/Kinsmen Park. This thriving community celebrates its culture and heritage through many celebrations and festivals, including this year's summer vEGGFest which honours the 40th anniversary of the Pysanka. Residents, businesses and municipal sites are encouraged to build on the "Paint the Town Red" theme by planting red annuals in their flowerbeds. During the judges' visit, the local branch of the CIBC took this one step further and, dressed in red, walked across a red-washed intersection with Beatles flair a là Abbey Road!

Vegreville has a strong Communities in Bloom Committee which is supported by Town Council, and the Chamber of Commerce is striving to revitalize the downtown area—the judges commend both organizations in their efforts to improve the community.

Although Vegreville boasts 1,600 volunteers, many service organizations such as the Lions Club, Elks and Ladies of the Royal Purple find their members aging and their numbers dwindling. As a result, the town's parks department staff have taken on the maintenance of the public green spaces established and once maintained by these organizations, such as Our Lady of the Highways. The judges strongly recommend that the town liaise with Lisa Topliko, Volunteer Services Coordinator, to recruit or identify volunteers to help pitch in with landscape and floral maintenance to support parks staff. Furthermore, under the town's upcoming Core Review, service levels should be examined and Council is urged to provide clear direction to the Parks and Fleet Department as to acceptable levels of service that are in line with staff numbers and capabilities.

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TIDINESS		
<p>Tidiness includes an overall tidiness effort by the municipality, businesses, institutions and the residents throughout the community. Elements for evaluation are parks and green spaces, medians, boulevards, sidewalks, streets; municipal, commercial, institutional and residential properties; ditches, road shoulders, vacant lots, signs and buildings; weed control, litter clean-up (including cigarette butts and gum), graffiti prevention/removal and vandalism deterrent programs.</p>		
	Max	Actual
Municipal		
Tidiness, order, cleanliness and first impressions	15	14
Community anti-litter awareness programs	5	3
Effective bylaws, programs and policies and enforcement; litter control, graffiti prevention and eradication, graffiti removal kits to residents	10	8
Cleanliness of public green infrastructure: parks, streetscapes (sidewalks, planters, etc.)	15	14
Condition of urban signage and furniture such as benches, litter and recycling containers	15	13
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
Condition of buildings, grounds and yards	15	13
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
Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions for community clean-up programs	10	7
Tidiness Total	150.00	128.00

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TIDINESS

Observations:

The judges were impressed with the town's overall tidiness. Light posts and benches are in good condition and litter is under control and in line with the town's Community Standards Bylaw, which governs property appearance, weed control and snow removal. The community gets involved with cleanup efforts, too: for example, the 4-H Club participated in a Highway Cleanup and employees of TELUS, in conjunction with Vegreville in Bloom Committee members, planted flowers at the Elk's Park earlier this year.

Recommendations:

Despite the Community Standards Bylaw, some of the downtown buildings and properties are owned by absentee landlords who have not kept up with these standards. The judges recommend that bylaw enforcement officers address this issue and take action against such absentee landlords. We also recommend that Council encourage or provide incentives to some of the commercial landowners in the downtown area to clean up and refurbish their properties (e.g. theatre needs painting and freshening up).

Although recycling is underway in the residential and commercial sectors, public areas lack recycling bins. To encourage, reinforce and promote recycling efforts, the judges recommend that recycling containers be installed in the downtown core and in public parks.

As noted above, public benches and bins are in good condition, but their design needs to be consistent. For example, the garbage bins in the Lion's Splash Park are painted blue, and could be confused with recycling bins.

As a minor note, the judges noticed that some street posts need repainting. e.g., on the corner nearest the post office at 50th and 5th. A maintenance schedule could be set up to identify and refurbish these public infrastructure elements.

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ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION		
<p>Environmental action includes the efforts and achievements of the community with respect to: policies, by-laws, programs and best practices, waste reduction and landfill diversion rate, composting sites, landfill sites, hazardous waste collections, water conservation, naturalization, and environmental stewardship activities under the guiding principles of sustainable development pertaining to green spaces.</p>		
	Max	Actual
Municipal		
Sustainable development strategy: policies, programs, guidelines, long-term planning / vision; effective bylaws / policies and their enforcement; and public education programs and activities	20	17
Waste management programs: waste reduction to landfill and results (3-R : reduce, reuse and recycle), composting (backyard and municipal), including activities such as composting sites yard waste collections, shredding of Christmas trees and handling of hazardous waste including e-waste collection	15	13
Water conservation and use-reduction programs: efficient appliance incentives or promotions, efficient irrigation, use of non-potable water, water restriction policies and rainwater management	15	13
Energy conservation programs such as alternate forms of energy (ex. geothermal, biomass, wind, solar), and initiatives such as, shielding for night skies issues, efficient street lighting and energy audits	10	8
Environmental initiatives, innovations and actions such as: Protection of sensitive habitats Development and expansion of sustainable mobility and active transportation network such as bike lanes and multi-used pathways Phytotechnology practices such as green roofs, green walls, green lanes, living fences, buffer zones; re-use of sites; engineered wetlands, bio-swales and permeable surfaces Brownfield redevelopment, remediation, land reclamation Air quality programs such as anti-idling, reduction of greenhouse gas emission	10	8
Business & Institutions		
Participation in the environmental effort : such as waste management (reduce, reuse and recycle), water conservation, energy conservation, brownfield management, eco-park	10	7
Corporate environmental innovation / stewardship, initiatives, activities (ex. environmental clean-up activities)	10	7
Residential		
Participation in the 3-R (reduce, reuse and recycle) initiatives and composting	20	17
Adoption of water conservation practices & policies including rainwater collection	15	14
Community Involvement		
Public participation in public forums and policy development on environmental issues	5	3
Public participation in community, neighbourhood or individual street environmental activities and programs (including promotion, organization and evidence of taking ownership), etc.)	10	7
Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions in public environmental activities and programs	10	7
Environmental Action Total	150.00	121.00

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ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

Observations:

The town of Vegreville has taken positive steps to reduce the volume of landfill transported to nearby Edmonton. A residential and commercial laneway recycling program seems to be working well, reducing landfill volumes and extending the life of the landfill site from a 25 year life span to 65 years, and with the recent implementation of yard waste composting, to about 80 years. To accommodate this program, the town has installed 200 recycling bins and 160 green composting bins. In an innovative move, the town sends its compost to Growing Power Hairy Hill, which converts it into electricity.

Other environmental efforts include the installation of a water recycling system at the Lion's Spray Park—a more costly option, but one that respects the environment by conserving and purifying water safe enough for children to play in. At the Vegreville Materials Recovery Facility (VMRF), energy-efficient T-8 lights have been installed. In addition to recycling cardboard, plastic bags and plastic containers, the facility has recently acquired a machine to dispose of fluorescent lights. Local businesses also participate in environmentally friendly initiatives. As a thank you to the town for participating as a Beta site for fibre optics, Telus relit the popular holiday flame with LED lights.

Water conservation is of paramount importance in a region often plagued by drought. It's estimated that about 75% of residents use rain barrels, which are available through Home Hardware, Canadian Tire and the local Peavy Mart. And in an effort to enhance Rainbow Park at the old town reservoir, aerators will be installed in the ponds, improving habitat for fish—and making this walking area an even more a popular fishing spot.

Recommendations:

Laneway recycling is working well, and the judges would encourage the town to expand this program to curbside pickup for the many residents who do not have laneway access and must transport these items to the VMRF. As noted above, yard waste recycling is being used to create electricity at the Growing Power Hairy Hill facility. However, woody plant material such as shrub and tree clippings cannot be shipped out because the town does not have access to a chipper that can chip the wood finely enough. While the Parks Department investigates a chipper that can grind woody material finely enough, it would be beneficial to acquire a conventional chipper to mulch these materials, which is needed in many of the parks and public gardens within the community. Any excess could also be provided to residents.

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION		
<p>Heritage conservation includes efforts to preserve natural heritage within the community with focus on the integration of landscape and streetscapes in built heritage: preservation of natural heritage pertaining to monuments, memorials, artifacts, museums and history, archives, traditions, customs, festivals and celebrations in relation to parks and green spaces in the community. The participation of groups such as historical societies and conservation groups are considered.</p>		
	Max	Actual
Municipal		
Heritage policies, by-laws and their enforcement and effective programs with focus on the relationships of the landscape to the built heritage	15	11
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
Management and promotion of heritage (through communications, information and support programs, economic development / tourism) including natural and cultural heritage initiatives throughout the year including festivals and celebrations along with preservation of traditions and customs	20	18
Activities and programs (year-round) for education and use of natural heritage sites for and by the public	15	12
New programs and initiatives to promote local heritage	10	7
Business & Institutions		
Conservation, restoration and reuse of heritage buildings and landscapes	15	13
Promotion of local heritage, including heritage gardens, native plants, and heritage trees	15	13
Residential		
Conservation / restoration and reuse of sites, buildings and heritage landscapes	10	7
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 year-round heritage community events/activities, festivals and celebrations along with preservation of traditions and customs	20	18
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 and customs	10	7
Heritage Conservation Total	150.00	122.50

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION

Observations:

The town celebrates its heritage and culture through a number of festivals held throughout the year, including the 2015 vEGGFest, the Pysanka Festival, parades, a country fair and an annual Father's Day Show & Shine and Demolition Derby. Proceeds from VeggFest, which is organized by are going towards refurbishing the Pysanka

Murals telling of the history and life in Vegreville appear at numerous locations, including Rendezvous Park. On the north wall of the Alberta Treasury Branch in the downtown core, a mural depicting Vegreville history and culture was created by artist Lewis Lavoie, an artist from nearby St. Albert. Fifteen hundred students contributed to the mosaic mural, each painting a tile depicting Vegreville.

The exhibits in the Vegreville Regional Museum depict town life from the 1890s. The well-tended permanent displays showcase everything from vintage hats to meat grinders, and temporary exhibits often tie in with current events, such as the history of the making of the Pysanka, in honour of its 40th anniversary. The museum offers school tours, and has developed a Treasure Hunt—a fun way to involve children in the town's history. Based on recommendations from CiB judges last year, the Museum has developed a landscape plan to improve the outdoor green space, and plans are underway to implement the design in stages.

Heritage preservation also extends to plant material: the 'Patmore' green ash, which was developed in Vegreville, has been designated at the town's official tree.

Recommendations:

Pride is contagious—there is a notable “cascading effect” of residents who are renovating older homes, inspiring others to do the same. However, developing a formal heritage policy, including an inventory of heritage properties, could protect, conserve and provide guidance on how significant buildings and monuments can be modified going forward.

The CiB Vegreville in Bloom Committee has identified the need to restore the town's Heritage Garden, which is planted with a variety of pass-along and native plants that have become overgrown with invasive weeds and cereal crops. The judges recommend renovating this garden by keeping the *Ratibita*, bee balm and columbines, and then removing all other species from the bed. The bare earth can then be solarized over a period of at least six months to kill any weed seeds that remain in the soil. For advice on solarization, see www.rodalorganiclife.com/garden/soil-solarization. When replanting the garden, note that heirloom or pass-along plants aren't always compatible with native species, so success with the replanting depends on choosing the right plant companions for the conditions in this bed.

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URBAN FORESTRY		
<p>Urban Forestry includes the efforts of the municipality, businesses, institutions and citizens 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.</p>		
	Max	Actual
Municipal		
Overall impact, benefit and first impression of the urban forest	10	8
Policies, regulations and tree by-laws, tree protection and planting on public and private lands	10	8
Urban forestry planning and design, including integration with overall landscape plan	10	8
Measures to preserve, protect, manage and expand overall tree inventory, including woodlots	15	13
Plan of action: procurement, species diversity (including native trees), selection of hardy species and recommended tree list	10	7
Integrated Pest Management (IPM) / Plant HealthCare (PHC): plan of action for invasive pest detection and control, information on current infestations and diseases	10	8
Public information program on good planting techniques and maintenance programs	10	8
Maintenance best practices and proven results	10	7
Qualified personnel and/or crew training	10	7
Business & Institutions		
Design and diversity including native and hardy species of trees in landscapes and for planting on properties	15	13
Maintenance programs and best practices: watering, pruning, IPM	10	8
Residential		
Design and diversity including native and hardy species of trees in landscapes and for planting on residential properties	15	13
Maintenance best practices	10	8
Community Involvement		
Public participation in tree planting and conservation programs such as Green Streets Canada, Arbor Day, Maple Leaf Day, and other tree planting and maintenance programs and activities on public lands (including promotion, organization etc.)	20	17
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
Urban Forestry Total	175.00	141.00

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URBAN FORESTRY

Observations:

The town of Vegreville is doing a great job of increasing the tree canopy with many new plantings, for example on the 47th St North Walking Trail Project, which was undertaken in conjunction with a grant under the CN EcoConnexions program. In addition, donations of small spruce and pine trees from farmers' shelterbelts have been added to parks, helping to increase the diversity of the tree canopy. Through information published in the "Community Scoop" newsletter, the town is also doing a great job of educating the public about black knot control, which has afflicted the many Schubert cherry trees growing on residential properties.

Many mature trees shade 50th street, which is under construction for the replacement of essential infrastructure upgrades, including sewage and water mains. Such extensive construction often results in damage to the urban canopy, but the town has made a concerted effort to save as many as possible, and as a result, have preserved 79 of the 89 elm and ash trees.

An Urban Forestry Inventory was developed in 2006, and is being updated in 2016.

Recommendations:

Many positive steps have been made to preserve and expand the urban canopy; however, the judges recommend diversifying the species of new planting so as not to rely so heavily on potentially disease-prone trees such as elm, ash and Schubert cherry. Furthermore, the judges strongly advise the town to create a capital reserve fund to manage resources in the event of the arrival of Emerald Ash Borer and Dutch Elm Disease.

New plantings that are currently being watered manually could be more efficiently irrigated by installing TreeGator bags. These have proved to be very effective in many public parks and landscapes.

Currently, the town is spraying to control tent caterpillars; the judges suggest investigating a more environmentally friendly method of banding trees in June to trap migrating caterpillars (for more information see City of Regina factsheet at www.regina.ca/residents/tree-yard/control-pests/control-pests-common/pests-tent-caterpillar)

Some trees in the downtown core have dead branches which should be pruned out: e.g., the *Carragana* on a side street near Town Hall.

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LANDSCAPE		
<p>Landscape includes planning, design, construction and maintenance of parks and green spaces 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 all sectors of the community. Standards of execution and maintenance should demonstrate best practices, including quality of naturalization, use of groundcovers and wildflowers along with turf management.</p>		
	Max	Actual
Municipal		
Landscape Plan: integrated and implemented throughout the municipality	10	8
Turf management programs, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Plant Health Care (PHC), alternative solutions to diseases and infestations when appropriate, increased naturalization and adapted maintenance programs	10	7.5
First impressions of the community including gateway / entrance treatments	10	8
Landscape maintenance policies, standards, best practices and programs	10	7.5
Sustainable designs (seasonally adjusted year round): energy efficient, use of green materials, naturalization, xeriscaping, suitable plant varieties, traffic mitigation, bank stabilisation	10	7
Urban and civic design standards for streetscape and public places: flags, banners, public art, fountains, site furnishings, signage, seasonal design and décor, walkways and paving materials	10	8
Landscape maintained to appropriate standards and specifications	10	8
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
Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or training	5	3.5
Business & Institutions		
Sustainable designs (seasonally adjusted year round): energy efficient, use of green materials, naturalization, xeriscaping, alternate groundcovers, urban agriculture	10	8
Contribution to urban and civic design and public green spaces above requirements: such as public art, streetscape, site furniture, fountains & innovation in concept & design	15	13
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 and shrub maintenance	15	13.5
Selection of plant material (native, local, innovative, including edible gardening)	10	8
Community Involvement		
Public participation in community programs such as: community gardens, "yard of the week", volunteer park maintenance, holiday illumination & decoration (promotion, organization, etc.)	15	13
Recognition (by municipality and/or by volunteer groups) of volunteer efforts in all aspects of the Communities in Bloom Program including activities in all evaluated criteria	15	13
Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions - for community landscape programs and activities	10	7
Landscape Total	200.00	162.50

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LANDSCAPE

Observations:

Overall, landscape elements maintained by the municipality, as well as by merchants and businesses, are attractive and neat and tidy. The residential landscapes demonstrate the great pride owners take in maintaining their properties. A door tag program conducted by the Vegreville Communities in Bloom committee recognizes homeowners who have improved their yards, and has proved to be a popular way to instill civic pride. Seeds supplied by Bees Matter program were distributed along with the door tags

Banners on Main Street are changed out seasonally, and the summer banners displayed along downtown's Main Street were selected from a competition involving local artists. As mentioned under Heritage Preservation, the town's many murals add a unique and attractive heritage element to the landscape.

The Dog Off-Leash Area (DOLA), created in 2013 by the Parks & Fleet Department and the Vegreville Communities in Bloom Committee, continues to be an attractive and popular area with picnic tables and garbage bins set up for the use of dog-owners; a new addition is a fun fire hydrant painted by a Parks Department staffer.

The Riverside Cemetery is neatly mown, but it's a labour-intensive job, requiring a full complement of 10 seasonal staffers over a three-day period.

In the Elks Kinsmen Park, trails have been paved to accommodate nearby hospital patients who wish to stroll through the park. More picnic tables have also been added, and the town is actively seeking consistency in park benches and bins as old ones need replacing.

Recommendations:

To reduce the need to purchase mulch, the judges recommend investing in a chipper that grinds woody yard waste into mulch that can be used in public landscapes.

As noted in our general comments, more volunteers are needed to help Parks staff maintain green spaces formerly tended by service club members. These include the Rotary Peace Park and Our Lady of the Highway plantings, which are in need of some TLC.

To recruit both permanent and seasonal Parks staff, the judges recommend liaising with local universities, such as the University of Alberta's Agricultural, Food & Nutritional Science School to help recruit qualified horticultural staff to help maintain the town's many green spaces.

To further instill civic pride, in addition to the door tag program, the Vegreville in Bloom Committee could consider participation in the Miracle-Gro Best Garden Contest, which has proved popular in many communities.

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FLORAL DISPLAYS		
<p>Floral displays evaluates efforts of the municipality, businesses, institutions and citizens 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.</p>		
	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	20	16
Diversity of plants: annuals, perennials, bulbs, grasses, woody plants, natural flora	10	7
Quality, maintenance to appropriate specifications and standards, best practices: watering, weeding, edging, dead heading, etc.	20	17
Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or training	10	7
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	15	13
Residential		
Concept and design (including arrangement, diversity, colour of display and plants) on residential properties	15	13.5
Quality of planting and maintenance	15	13.5
Community Involvement		
Public participation in community projects, volunteer initiatives, outreach programs in floral displays (including promotion, organization, etc.)	15	12
Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions for community floral displays activities	15	12
Floral Displays Total	175.00	145.00

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FLORAL DISPLAYS

Observations:

The container plantings in the downtown core look vigorous and well-maintained. Of note are the red geraniums used in many of the planters, which are a good choice in a region with long, cool springs and short summers. Geraniums can be placed outdoors earlier in the season and taken in late in the fall, extending the show much longer than petunias, for example.

Many businesses have participated in programs to enhance the floral display: for example, Home Hardware has distributed packets of forget-me-not seeds for Remembrance Day and one of the banks has handed out seed pots to customers to help them beautify their properties.

Institutions are also interested in making the most of their properties. At the local primary school, students painted colourful flower boxes planted with annuals. At the senior's residence, the landscape was designed to incorporate a drystone riverbed and lots of shrubs and low maintenance plantings.

Recommendations:

Although downtown planters are well-maintained, the town's gateway plantings could benefit by the addition of more annuals to create more of an impression; the beds here also need to be weeded and mulched—a great Adopt-A-Bed project!

Many shrubs and trees in public parks could use a trim, especially at the library and in the Agricultural Society Rendezvous Park downtown where trees and shrubs obscure the mural.

The Chamber of Commerce could also urge businesses to foster a cohesive approach to the overall floral program in downtown core, creating displays that change with the season, with mums and asters for fall and vibrant dogwood branches for holiday containers.

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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 contributions of our sponsors and partners.