

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, September 21, 2009

Communities in Bloom Provincial Edition Salutes Participants

EDMONTON, AB – Alberta Recreation and Parks Association (ARPA) acknowledged the participating communities in Alberta’s Provincial Edition of the Communities in Bloom Program at a provincial awards banquet held in Strathmore, Alberta on Saturday, September 19, 2009.

<i>Community</i>	<i>Blooms</i>	<i>Community</i>	<i>Blooms</i>	<i>Community</i>	<i>Blooms</i>
<u>Population 1-250</u>		<u>Population 751-2,000</u>		<u>Population 6,001-12,000</u>	
Bittern Lake	5*	Forestburg	5*	Whitecourt	5*
Delia	4	Bon Accord	4	Beaumont	5
Goose Lake	3	Bruderheim	4	Drumheller	4
Rolly View	3	Coronation	5	Sylvan Lake	4
Teepee Creek	4	Delburne	4	Taber	3
Valhalla	5	Mannville	3		
Woking	3	Spirit River	5	<u>Friends (Non-Competitive)</u>	
		Thorsby	4	Calling Lake/MD of Opportunity	
		Trochu	4	Grande Prairie	
				Provost	
				Redwater	
<u>Population 251-750</u>		<u>Population 2,001-6,000</u>		Samson Cree Nation	
New Sarepta	4*	Vegreville	5*	Sangudo	
Blue Ridge	3	Beaverlodge	4	Strathmore	
Fort Assiniboine	4	Cardston	3	Tofield	
Hay Lakes	4	Claresholm	4	Vilna	
Holden	4	Hanna	4		
Rycroft	4	Wainwright	5		
Warburg	4				

**Denotes Category Winner*

“We are pleased to salute these communities that have demonstrated a commitment to improving the quality of life of all Albertans,” stated Dr. Tim Burton, ARPA President. “Recreation and parks and programs like Communities in Bloom are vital to the development and sustainability of healthy individuals, communities, and environments. This is an important opportunity to acknowledge and showcase the participating communities and the dedicated volunteers who make this all possible.”

ARPA (Alberta Recreation and Parks Association) is a provincial, not-for-profit, charitable organization made up of volunteers committed to building healthy citizens and communities in Alberta through recreation and parks. Serving Albertans since 1952, ARPA members include community and public recreation agencies, educators, corporate, elected members, volunteers, and student members.

For more information on the Alberta Provincial Edition of Communities in Bloom, please refer to the attached backgrounder or visit www.cib.arpaonline.ca.

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Media inquiries may be directed to:

Dan Chambers
Provincial Coordinator
Communities in Bloom Alberta
Phone: (780) 458-5383
Fax: (780) 451-7915
Email: dchambers@arpaonline.ca

Mandi Wise
Communications Coordinator
Alberta Recreation and Parks Association
Phone: (780) 644-6976
Fax: (780) 451-7915
Email: mwise@arpaonline.ca

Communities in Bloom – Provincial Edition

People, Plants & Pride, Growing Together

Communities in Bloom is a volunteer based, non-profit Canadian organization committed to fostering civic pride, environmental responsibility and beautification through community participation and the challenge of participating in an internationally recognized Quality of Life program.

National beautification programs have flourished in countries throughout Europe including England, France, and Ireland for decades, and provided the inspiration for Communities in Bloom in Canada. It began in 1995 with 29 Canadian communities and has grown to more than 100 national participants and hundreds of municipalities registered in the provincial editions. The Alberta Recreation and Parks Association has coordinated Alberta's provincial edition for the past four years.

More Than a Beauty Contest

Communities in Bloom promotes involvement and action by citizens of all ages, the municipal government, local organizations, and businesses. The program strives to improve the tidiness, appearance, and visual appeal of Canada's neighbourhoods, parks, open spaces, and streets through the imaginative use of flowers, plants, and trees. A focus on environmental awareness and preservation of heritage and culture is also an integral part of its success, resulting in improved quality of life.

Every summer, volunteer judges travel across Canada to evaluate municipalities on eight key criteria:

- Floral Displays
- Turf & Groundcovers
- Landscaped Areas
- Natural & Cultural Heritage Conservation
- Tidiness
- Tree/Urban Forest Management
- Environmental Awareness
- Community Involvement

For additional program information, please visit the provincial website at www.cib.arpaonline.ca.

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