

# YARMOUTH AS A COMMUNITY IN BLOOM

OUR STORY

# What is Communities in Bloom all About?

- Community Pride
- Making the most of what you have
- Community involvement
- More than gardens and flowers
- Provincial, national and international levels of involvement
- Engagement of citizens, businesses and municipalities
- Environmental stewardship – enhancing green spaces

“Growing Great Places  
Together”

# History of the Organization

- Britain in Bloom, Tidy Towns of Ireland and Villes et Villages Fleuris de France were a model
- Launched in Canada in 1995 with 29 participating municipalities honoured at the first awards ceremonies on Parliament Hill.
- Now hundreds of communities across Canada and an international challenge

# History of the Organization

- 2005 – the Communities in Bloom Foundation established
- 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

# How Does the Program Work

- Communities register to participate provincially or nationally
- Communities are evaluated by professionally trained judges
- Areas considered are Tidiness, Environmental Action, Heritage Conservation, Urban Forestry, Turf and Groundcovers, Floral Displays, Community Involvement
- Communities can score from 1-5 blooms

# Benefits

- Communities receive written feedback in each category except community involvement which is part of each category
- Increased community pride and awareness
- Valuable information exchange
- Provides a cost-effective consultant role
- Gives a measure of the quality of life on the community
- Provides great networking opportunities

# Our CIB Story

- In 2006, then councillor Esther Dares established the Communities in Bloom Committee as a Committee of Town Council
- Following Esther Dares, the committee has been chaired by Ken Langille, Sandy Dennis, Wade Cleveland, Heather Hatfield and Gil Dares.
- Yarmouth enrolled in the provincial category hoping to score 3 blooms
- We achieved 4 blooms our first year

# Our CIB Story

- 2007 Yarmouth achieved 5 blooms
- 2008 Yarmouth won our provincial category with 5 blooms.(One of our judges had been here 40 years previously)
- 2009 Yarmouth entered the national competition and received 4 blooms
- 2010 Yarmouth won the national award for heritage conservation

# Our CIB Story

- In 2011 Yarmouth was recognized for having the best residential garden in a small town in Canada
- In 2012, innovative programs at the Western Branch of the AGNS were noted.
- 2013 Winner of National Environmental Action Award
- 2014 National winner in our category

# Our CIB Story

- 2015 national winner Butchart Gardens Land Reclamation Award
- 2017 – recognition for Canada 150 banners and “This is Us” display at Art Gallery
- 2018 – National award for Urban Forestry
- 2019 – Yarmouth hosted the National Symposium of Parks and Grounds
- 2022 – Yarmouth won its category in the Circle of Champions and the National Urban Landscape Award
- 2024 – Yarmouth entered the International category
- 2025 – Yarmouth won the International category for small towns with highest marks in Canada.

# Yarmouth – A Long History of Gardeners



# View from Grand Hotel c. 1897



# Recognizing Built Heritage



# Engaging School Children





# Lost to the Sea Memorial





# CIB Education About Plant Selection



# Work With Your Growing Season



# Dress Up Entries











# Community Asset Donation Program







# Recognition of Mental Health



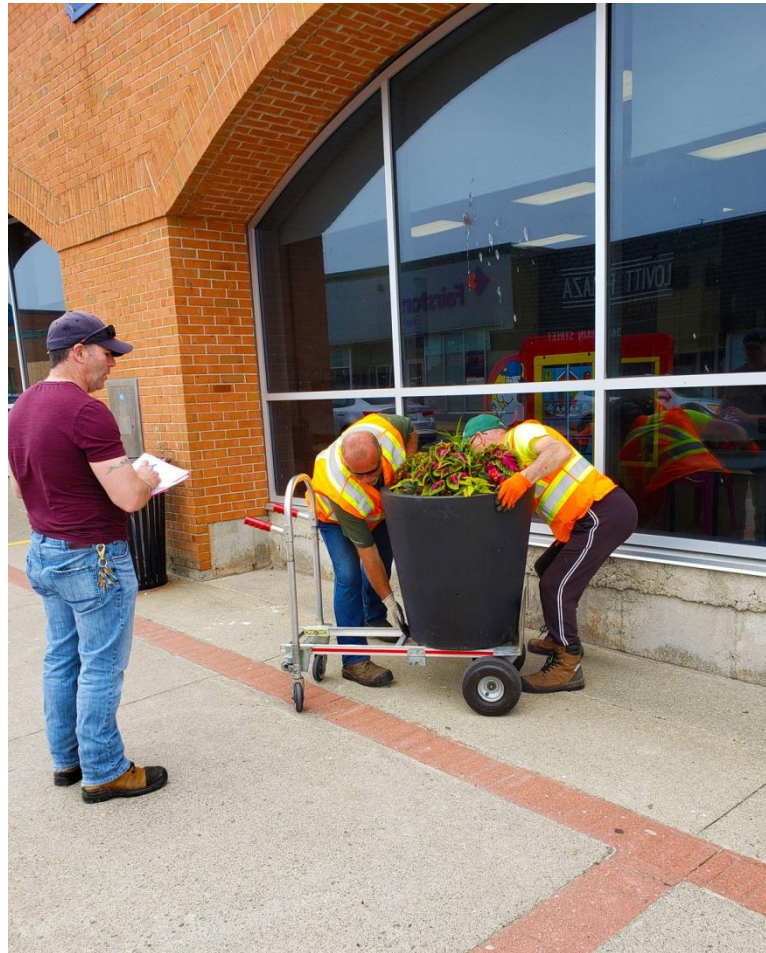
# Garden to Recognize those who suffer with Schizophrenia



# Recognizing African Heritage



# Planter Rentals



# A Successful Facade Program



# 3 Sisters



# Before



# After – Recycled Beams





# Spring Clean Up



# Celebrating Heritage Buildings





# KILLAM BROTHERS

90

KILLAM BROTHERS  
SHIPPING OFFICE  
Museum  
One of the Oldest Shipping  
Offices in Canada  
**FREE ADMISSION**  
Learn the Story Behind This  
Killam Ship And  
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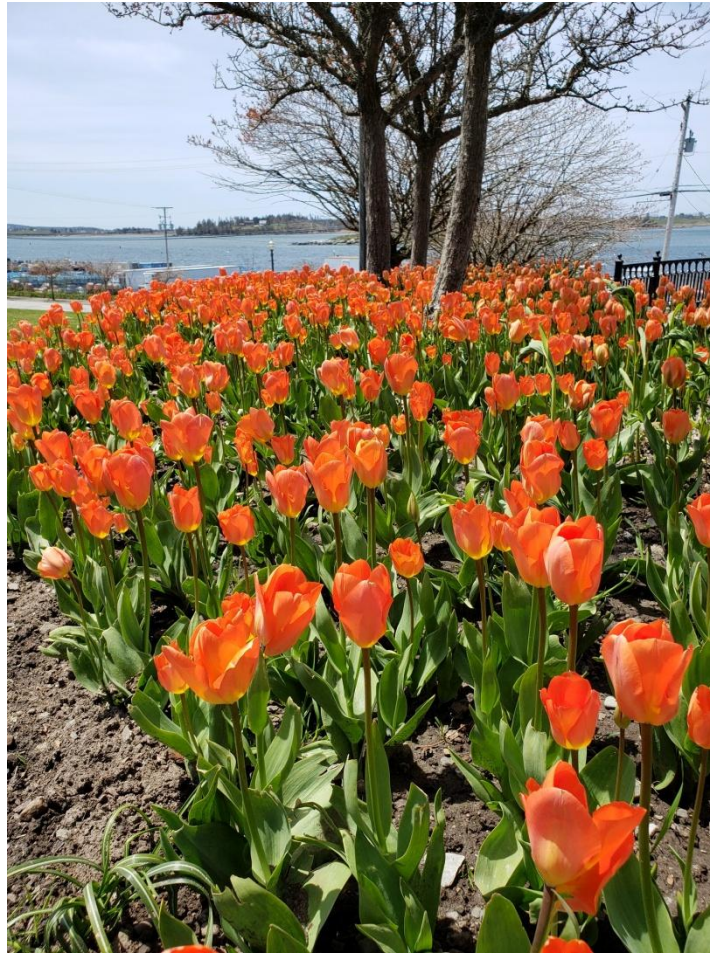
EXIT

Upstairs

Mystery  
at the  
Museum  
August 24 & 25



# Our Gift for Hosting – 5000 Tulips







# 2021 Theme – Hope is Growing



# Step It Up Yarmouth



# Recognizing Citizen Efforts



Awards – Add Landscape Design,  
Winner – Circle of Champions  
Winner – International Challenge



# Urban Landscape Award



# Urban Landscape Award



# 2023 - Pride of Yarmouth Daylily



# More than Just Blooms

- Making the most of what you have
- A measure of the quality of life in your community
- A written evaluation by judges with trained, outside eyes
- Information to guide an action plan while celebrating what you have achieved
- Access to information about best practices in similar communities

What does your municipality  
have to celebrate?

Create an inventory of  
assets.

# So What DO We Have to Celebrate in Yarmouth?

- Hosting Nova Scotia Music Week
- Play On – Canadian Street Hockey National Tournament
- Special Olympics Winter Games
- Over 55 Games
- Mariners Story – from zeroes to heroes
- Shark scramble

# Walking Trail with Multiflora Roses



# So What DO We Have to Celebrate in Yarmouth?

- Seafest – summer festival
- Local Arts and Culture Hub in former AGNS Gallery
- YARC – story – home grown theatre
- Yarmouth Co Museum – winner of American Society for State and Local History award
- Laurence Sweeny Museum
- Yarmouth Sport Heritage Centre

We are in the first Dark Sky Preserve in North America designated by the Starlight Foundation



# Mountain Cemetery – Designed by Horace Cleveland



# Part of the UNESCO Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve



# So What DO We Have to Celebrate in Yarmouth?

- Community Chorale
- Yarmouth Orchestra
- Garden Club
- Writers club
- Photo club
- Art society

# Mysterious Afghanistan Poppies at the Cenotaph



# So What DO We Have to Celebrate in Yarmouth?

- Youth groups (4-H, guides, scouts) and what they do for the community.
- YACRO and its achievements (Shanty Cafe, small options homes, Store Next Door. etc.)
- Kay Nickerson Center (wordworking products - garden furniture, pallets, etc.)
- Yarmouth Life Skills (shredding, etc.)
- All Hands On Deck Community (has become an informal network of volunteers)

# So What DO We Have to Celebrate in Yarmouth?

- Yarmouth Garden Club programs
- Locally hosted conferences and events
- Adopt a Block (Cadets adoption of Water Street)

# Some Municipal Initiatives

- The Green Team – summer students hired to do cleaning, litter pick up and park care.
- Tree Inventory
- Stop light - Street light LED installation with associated savings.
- Waste separation and reduction strategies.
- The waste app
- Dog Park

# Some Community Initiatives

- Tree and soil workshop.
- Local community garden – community members can sign up for a plot; water sourced from nearby church; fenced for deer; some produce made available to support the local food bank.
- Mariner's Centre as a community hub
- Kids community garden – led by a volunteer children plant a community garden and sell produce at the farmer's Market.
- Planter workshops
- Lost to the Sea Monument: a legacy project: [www.losttothesea.com](http://www.losttothesea.com)
- Doug Melanson Park in Milton
- Yarmouth Splash Park at the Mariner's Centre
- Rebirth of Mariners on Main
- Current Mariners Expansion with an aquatic centre

# Keys to Success

- The Committee is a committee of Council
- Build a committee budget into annual planning
- Compile a list of community assets
- Document successes – before and after projects
- Use judges feedback in planning strategies for community improvements

# What can YOU do?

- Take and share photos
- Adopt a Block: they all look better when tidy
- Instead of complaining get involved
- Think about an Asset Donation program as a charity
- Offer to volunteer

# What can YOU do?

- Continue to be involved: volunteer
- Take pride and learn about your community
- When you see a need: respond with action
- Adopt a Garden: not necessarily your own
- Make/fill a Planter

Get Involved !

“The quality of life in a community is what the citizens who live there make it.”

“If you wait for someone to do something for you, you may wait a long time and you may not get the result you desire. If you do something for yourself, you can take pride in the result, and you have quality control within your grasp.”

# Funding - Good News

RBC has partnered with Communities in Bloom to assist with a funding grant for new communities.

# Questions?



*Winter Aconite, (Eranthis hyemalis) Yarmouth, N.S. February 15, 2018*

# Thank You !

