

CANADA 150  
SPECIAL EDITION

Evaluation Form

City of Charlottetown,  
Prince Edward Island

2017



# 2017 - Canada 150 Special Edition - Evaluation Form



Community: City of Charlottetown  
 Province: Prince Edward Island  
 Category: Canada 150

	<b>Actual</b>	/	<b>Max</b>
<b>Heritage Conservation</b>	85.00	/	100.00
<b>Canada 150 – Heritage Bonus Points (potential of 50)</b>	47.00	---	
<b>Floral Displays</b>	135.00	/	175.00
<b>Landscape and Urban Forestry</b>	465.00	/	525.00
<b>Environmental Action</b>	165.00	/	200.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>897.00</b>	<b>/</b>	<b>1000.00</b>

Percentage : **89.70%**

Canada 150 Maple Leaf rating: **5 Leaves - Silver**

**Maple Leaf rating:** Up to 55%: 1 Leaf. 56% to 63%: 2 Leaves. 64% to 72%: 3 Leaves. 73% to 81%: 4 Leaves. >82%: 5 Leaves.

For evaluated communities only in Canada 150 Special Edition.

82 to 83.9%: 5 Leaves. 84 to 86.9%: 5 Leaves (Bronze). 87 to 89.9%: 5 Leaves (Silver). 90% and over: 5 Leaves (Gold).

**Mention :** Water Quality and Conservation Initiatives

**Representative (s) of Community**

Name:	<u>Karen Lavers</u>	Function :	<u>EA Mayors Office</u>
Name:	<u>Wayne Long</u>	Function :	<u>Events Development Officer</u>
Name:	<u>Laurel Lea</u>	Function :	<u>Tourism Officer</u>

**Judges**

Name:	<u>Alain Cappelle</u>	Name:	<u>Cliff Lacey</u>
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**Evaluation**

**date:** July 23 & 24/2017

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## IMPORTANT NOTES:

Evaluation is adjusted to the climate, environmental conditions and overall resources of the community.

Some aspects of the evaluation might not be applicable: scoring will be prorated.

The score will vary from previous years based on the fact that the evaluation is focused on a snapshot of the entire community's achievements in 2017 and how the community celebrates Canada 150.

## 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, including municipal spaces maintained through the efforts of volunteers and community
- 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

As the “Birthplace of Confederation”, Charlottetown continues to provide a high level of excellence in the Communities in Bloom program during our 150<sup>th</sup> year of existence. Nearly every aspect of the evaluation process has been addressed with a level of quality and precision seldom found in other communities. Historical Conservation, Canada 150, Floral displays, Landscaped areas, Urban Forestry, and Environmental Awareness are all a part of the routine in this excellent community.

Although it is a Provincial program, the waste management system is impressive, when you consider the overall diversion of material from the land fill sits somewhere near 85%. The City’s participation in the Provincial waste management program is evident in all public spaces.

Continuation of the water metering program will aid in the reduction of water utilized in the community. It is impressive that water use has been reduced despite continued population growth in the community. The work done at Wrights Creek is an excellent example of a small group of committed volunteers making a huge impact in a community. Work done thus far, and plans for future initiatives, will help to greatly enhance this natural feature.

The community has been very active with Canada 150 programs; the Capital City Canada Day 150 event, the Tall ships Regatta and the STIHL Timbersports event. In addition the City has undertaken capital project which will provide a lasting legacy for the community, like the MosaiCanada fox, lighting the City Hall Bell Tower, The Bell’s of St. Dunstan and the Canada 150 Mosaic.

The community continues to have superb floral displays, involving local business and maintains a high standard of historical conservation. Recognition of the sponsors of the Adopt a Corner program is an excellent way to recognize local businesses that contribute to the overall beautification of the downtown.

There are some very large, very successful Community Gardens in Charlottetown that are very worthy of note. In particular the garden next to the farm centre is a fine example of the public’s desire to have fresh food for the table, readily grown nearby.

Charlottetown is a tidy town, with little evidence of graffiti or waste evident anywhere in the community.

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<b>HERITAGE CONSERVATION &amp; CANADA 150</b>		
<p>Heritage conservation includes efforts to preserve and celebrate cultural heritage within the community. Cultural heritage refers to the heritage that helps define the community including the legacy of tangible (built/hard assets) elements such as heritage buildings, monuments, memorials, cemeteries, artifacts, museums and intangible elements such as traditions, customs, festivals and celebrations. Canada 150, includes all community activities celebrating the 150 Anniversary of Canadian Confederation and/or celebrating the heritage of the community in Canada's Confederation. Elements for Canada 150 evaluation include legacy projects, special events, festivals and activities, special green projects (floral displays, tree planting) and special museum/heritage displays.</p>		
	<b>Max</b>	<b>Actual</b>
<b>Municipal</b>		
<b>Cultural heritage assets:</b> preservation of heritage buildings, cemeteries, artefacts, museums, monuments , heritage trees and gardens, including their integration with streetscapes and landscape	30	27
<b>Cultural heritage activities:</b> initiatives including festivals and celebrations along with preservation of traditions and customs	20	17
<b>Canada 150 projects:</b> legacy projects, events, activities and festivals and special green projects such as floral displays and tree planting <b>up to 25 bonus points</b>	-----	25
<b>Business &amp; Institutions</b>		
<b>Cultural heritage assets:</b> preservation and reuse of heritage buildings and artefacts including their integration with the built/hard, streetscapes and green landscapes	25	21
<b>Canada 150 projects:</b> legacy projects, events, activities and festivals and special green projects such as floral displays and tree planting <b>up to 10 bonus points</b>	----	9
<b>Residential</b>		
<b>Cultural heritage assets:</b> conservation/restoration and reuse of heritage buildings, artefacts on residential lands	10	8
<b>Canada 150 projects:</b> special green projects such as floral displays and tree planting <b>up to 5 bonus points</b>	----	4
<b>Community Involvement</b>		
<b>Public participation:</b> community, neighbourhood or individual cultural heritage programs including community events/activities, festivals and celebrations along with preservation of traditions and customs	15	12
<b>Participation in Canada 150 programs:</b> public participation in community, neighbourhood or individual events, activities, festivals and celebrations <b>up to 10 bonus points</b>	----	9
<b>Heritage Conservation Total</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>85.00</b>
<b>Canada 150 Bonus Points Total</b>	<b>50.00</b>	<b>47.00</b>

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## HERITAGE CONSERVATION - CANADA 150

### Observations:

The work done by the City in conjunction with Federal and Provincial levels of government to recognize the Canada 150 celebration, has been fantastic and it may not be complete. Major events on New Year Eve and on Canada Day were very successful. The Capital New Year event was very well attended and catered to young families with and early fireworks display, as well as the more common display at midnight, and included a diversity of ethnic and cultural groups. The Signatures Sound and Light Show and the Parks Canada story of Confederation continue to bring focus to the celebration of 150. The human flag was a great event that involved about 500 people on Canada Day.

Evidence of Canada's red and white colours are everywhere in Charlottetown. City Adopt-a-beds, baskets and barrels show off their red and white. The patriotism does not stop there. Flower beds in front of many homes carry the same red and white display. Downtown is also festooned with banners and the large 2017 number sign by the Delta Hotel has proven to be a hit with tourists.

Legacy projects like the resurrection of the Bell's of St. Dunstan Basilica, the lighting of the City Hall bell tower, the MosaiCanada Fox and the Victoria Park Cultural Pavilion, over time, will serve as reminders of the 150 event.

The Province House restoration is ongoing. Completion of the \$41 million program was regrettably not complete for Canada 150 celebrations. The City continues to have a high standard of heritage conservation. The 500 Lot Area initiatives along with the associated cost sharing initiatives for businesses and residents should ensure the preservation of these great historic buildings.

Preservation of the 1916 Federal Fire Truck is a great initiative.

Of particular note is the work done by the private sector to renovate and restore the Notre Dame Convent into the Sydney Boutique Inn and Suites. A magnificent project!

### Recommendations:

The City must continue to vigorously preserve the historic buildings in the community, as they are doing.

Ensuring the MosaiCanada Fox is a legacy in Victoria Park is essential.

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<b>FLORAL DISPLAYS</b>		
<p>Floral displays evaluates efforts of the municipality, businesses, institutions and residents to design, execute, and maintain floral displays of high quality standards. Evaluation includes the design and arrangements of flowers and plants (annuals, perennials, bulbs, ornamental grasses, edible plants, water efficient and pollinator friendly plants) 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>		
	<b>Max</b>	<b>Actual</b>
<b>Municipal</b>		
<b>Plan of action:</b> integrated into overall landscape plan and distribution through community, concept and sustainable design	20	16
<b>Diversity of displays:</b> flowerbeds, raised beds, planters, hanging baskets, window boxes, carpet bedding, mosaics)	20	16
<b>Diversity of plants:</b> plant selection and sustainability including annuals, perennials, bulbs, grasses, woody plants, natural flora, pollinator friendly plants	10	6
<b>Maintenance Quality:</b> appropriate specifications and standards, best practices: watering, weeding, edging, dead heading, etc., with proven results	25	22
<b>Business &amp; Institutions</b>		
<b>Concept and design:</b> including arrangement, diversity, colour of display and plants and integrated with overall community floral program	20	16
<b>Maintenance Quality:</b> appropriate specifications and standards with proven results	15	12
<b>Residential</b>		
<b>Concept and design:</b> including arrangement, diversity, colour of display and plants and integrated with, overall community floral program	15	9
<b>Maintenance Quality:</b> demonstration of proven results	20	14
<b>Community Involvement</b>		
<b>Participation in Floral Program:</b> business, institutions and public participation in community projects, volunteer initiatives, outreach programs in floral displays	30	24
<b>Floral Displays Total</b>	<b>175.00</b>	<b>135.00</b>



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## FLORAL DISPLAYS

### **Observations:**

Charlottetown has some excellent flora initiatives. The Adopt-a-corner program, along with the adopt a basket and barrel provide some very visible and beautiful examples of the floral displays in the city, sponsored by businesses in the community. Ensuring signs are in place to recognize the businesses that are contributing to these floral display areas is very worthwhile. Roadway median and roundabout planting ensure vehicular travellers have an opportunity to enjoy the flora beauty of the community.

The Canada 150 flower bed on the bypass is particularly striking.

The concept of having seven signature gardens in the seven communities that make up Charlottetown is a good one. Having some of these beds planted with vegetables is a fun idea and helps educate the public to the possibility of growing their own food.

The move to plant more perennials rather than annual flowers is a good one. Also, ensuring these plants are less reliant on additional watering helps achieve a more environmentally responsible work plan.

The garden walking tours that visit public gardens and run in July and August are an excellent initiative.

Helping to celebrate Canada 150 with 40,000 tulips was a great initiative. The resulting carpet beds must have been spectacular!

### **Recommendations:**

Continue the highly successful “Adopt-a” programs, and expand where possible.

Continue to maintain strong ties with local business through Downtown Charlottetown Inc.

Use water holding gel in downtown baskets and planters to enable these showy displays to better cope with dry conditions.

Include more information and perhaps a tour of some entries in the “Make Our Hometown Beautiful Program” so the judges can see what the citizens of Charlottetown are doing to improve the look of the community. It would integrate well into the Communities in Bloom program.

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<b>LANDSCAPE and URBAN FORESTRY</b>		
<p>Landscape includes the effective management and maintenance of parks and green spaces and all properties. Elements for evaluation include: balance of plants, materials and constructed elements; appropriate integration of hard surfaces, art elements, urban furniture and built heritage; urban tree management; and overall tidiness of the community. Urban Forestry includes the efforts of the municipality, businesses, institutions and residents with regards to tree management (selection, planting, and maintenance), pollinator friendly tree selection, tree inventory, and Integrated Pest Management (IPM), heritage, memorial and commemorative trees.</p>		
	<b>Max</b>	<b>Actual</b>
<b>Municipal</b>		
<b>Gateway impressions</b> : first impressions of the community including entrance treatments, signage urban forest and overall tidiness, order and cleanliness	30	24
<b>Sustainable designs - soft landscape:</b> energy efficient, use of green materials (turf, shrubs, trees), naturalization, xeriscaping, suitable plant varieties (including pollinator friendly) and bank stabilisation all integrated and implemented throughout the community	40	35
<b>Sustainable designs - hard landscape:</b> 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 all integrated and implemented throughout the community	20	16
<b>Tree planting:</b> initiatives including species diversity (including native trees), selection of hardy and pollinator habitat tree species, tree planting standards, and tree inventory	25	22
<b>Maintenance Quality - hard landscape</b> (urban furniture, sidewalks, roadways, pathways, planters, signage, etc. maintained to appropriate standards & specifications including cleanliness and an effective anti-graffiti action plan	55	49
<b>Maintenance Quality - soft landscape:</b> turf, playing fields, trees and naturalized areas maintained to appropriate standards, specifications and best practices (turf management program, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Plant Health Care (PHC)	55	49
<b>Business &amp; Institutions</b>		
<b>Contribution to Green Spaces:</b> energy efficient, use of green materials, naturalization, xeriscaping, alternate groundcovers, urban agriculture, public art, streetscape, landscape site furniture, fountains , tree planting and innovation in concept and design all contributing to the overall community landscape plan	40	34
<b>Maintenance Quality:</b> adequate ongoing maintenance, tidiness, cleanliness and condition of all landscape elements including buildings, grounds , trees, parking lots, urban furniture (benches, litter containers, signs, etc.), ground and asset management, rehabilitation and replacement of all landscape elements	55	48
<b>Residential</b>		
<b>Streetscape appeal of landscapes:</b> design, sustainability, selection of material (native, local, innovative, edible and pollinator friendly plants) for turf, flowers, shrubs & trees	40	36
<b>Maintenance Quality:</b> maintenance of properties: tidiness, cleanliness, lawn care, trees and shrub and furniture with proven results	60	54
<b>Community Involvement</b>		
<b>Participation in landscape programs:</b> community programs such as: urban agriculture, community gardens, "yard of the week", arbor week, volunteer park maintenance, tree planting, clean-up programs and holiday illumination and decoration	80	76
<b>Volunteer Recognition:</b> by municipality and/or by volunteer groups for volunteer efforts in all aspects of the Communities in Bloom Program including activities in all evaluated criteria	25	22
<b>Landscape and Urban Forestry Total</b>	<b>525.00</b>	<b>465.00</b>

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### LANDSCAPE and URBAN FORESTRY

#### Observations:

The City has a variety of green spaces and hard surfaced areas that provide a great variety of opportunities for residents and guests. Victoria Park stands out as a green space, while the hard surfacing along Great George Street and adjacent side streets provide a hardened area for high levels of foot traffic to pass without damage to the walking surface.

Walking through the 500 Lots, the urban forest influences the overall appeal of the area, while small flower gardens adjacent to the sidewalk (sometimes new, sometimes old) provide a lovely setting for the historic buildings in the area.

Excellent work is being done to assess the type, age and condition of the urban forest, and management plans include the monitoring for DED, as well as a gradual transition to a more diverse and balanced mix of tree species. Plans for the “Where the Wild Things are in the City” sound like a great plan. Using CN EcoConnexions funds to replace urban trees lost from the inventory is a very worthwhile project.

The City is devoting resources to several very useful initiatives. Dutch Elm Disease management, the Canopy Cover Survey, The Woodland Tree Inventory and the Street Tree inventory will all provide very useful information for managing the City’s urban forest.

The Legacy Community Gardens at the Farm Centre and the community garden operated by the City are both excellent examples of community initiatives enabling the public to provide healthy food crops for their tables.

Introducing the public to trees with edible fruits is an excellent idea.

The use of public art in several well trafficked locations provides interesting viewing.

The impressive volunteer work to raise funds to establish and maintain the Joseph A. Ghiz Memorial Park was noted.

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### Recommendations

Hard surfacing the area adjacent to the “2017” sign by the Delta Hotel should be completed.

Use tree inventory data to set up a Heritage Tree Walk as a partner to the Garden Walk. The tour leader would discuss the trees along the route, pointing out the varieties of tree specimens as the tour takes place. This tour could include a visits to fruit trees as well, to further educate the public on the types of fruit trees available in the City’s climatic zone.

There are areas in the City where access would be difficult for persons with disabilities. Correcting these deficiencies should be a priority. This information should displayed on trail maps.

Encourage the public to harvest the fruit trees in the “edible arboretum”. Help to establish gleaning crews to pick fruit on private property to share with the homeowner, the pickers and the food bank.

The judges observed the coloured lines on some of the sidewalks in the downtown core. This system seemed not very user friendly. Perhaps emphasizing the self guided walking opportunity on all City maps would improve use of this trail guiding system.

Informative garden initiatives like the organic gardens, might have a greater impact if they were located in areas of the City with higher pedestrian traffic.

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<b>ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION</b>		
<p>Environmental action pertains to the impact of human activities on the environment and the subsequent efforts and achievements of the community with respect to: programs and best practices for waste reduction and landfill diversion, composting sites, landfill sites, hazardous waste collections, water conservation, energy conservation and natural heritage conservation: all elements of biodiversity including flora and fauna, ecosystems and associated geological structures and formations.</p>		
	<b>Max</b>	<b>Actual</b>
<b>Municipal</b>		
<b>Waste reduction:</b> landfill and results (3-R : reduce, reuse and recycle), municipal composting programs, including activities such as composting sites, yard waste collections, mulching of wood debris, reuse of compost material and handling of hazardous waste including e-waste collection	40	36
<b>Water conservation:</b> use-reduction programs such as or promotions, efficient irrigation, use of non-potable water, water restriction	20	16
<b>Energy conservation:</b> programs such as alternate forms of energy (ex. geothermal, biomass, wind, solar), and initiatives such as: efficient appliances initiatives, shielding for night skies issues, and efficient street lighting	20	17
<b>Natural heritage initiatives:</b> preservation, management and promotion of natural heritage including eco systems, eco parks, protection of sensitive habitats, species at risk, support for at risk pollinators, grasslands, naturalization, wetlands, urban agriculture/farming, and wildlife	40	34
<b>Environmental initiatives:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- sustainable mobility and active transportation network such as bike lanes and multi-used pathways;</li> <li>- horticultural practices such as green roofs, green walls, green lanes, living fences, buffer zones; re-use of sites; engineered wetlands, bio-swales, permeable surfaces and rain water management</li> <li>- brownfield redevelopment, remediation, land reclamation</li> </ul>	15	12
<b>Business &amp; Institutions</b>		
<b>Participation in the environmental effort:</b> waste management (reduce, reuse and recycle), water conservation, energy conservation, brownfield management	20	16
<b>Natural Heritage Conservation :</b> restoration and integration of natural heritage including eco parks, conservation areas, heritage gardens, trees and landscapes	10	6
<b>Residential</b>		
<b>Participation in Environmental initiatives:</b> 3-R (reduce, reuse and recycle), composting and water conservation	15	12
<b>Community Involvement</b>		
<b>Participation in natural heritage programs:</b> community, neighbourhood or individual including site development, improvements and management, conservation and education initiatives	20	16
<b>Environmental Action Total</b>	<b>200.00</b>	<b>165.00</b>

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### ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

#### Observations:

The Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) is a ground breaking template that addresses the need to look at all City initiatives with regard to their impact on long term sustainability. The plan establishes value statements, goals and actions in regards to water, energy, transportation, food, a healthy economy, infrastructure, people and places, arts, culture, heritage, active living and nature. This comprehensive document will serve as an excellent guide for future initiatives in the community and is a compliment to the City's work in the Communities in Bloom Program.

Waste handling and management is done at the provincial level, however, the city is an active partner in the nation leading initiative. Full marks for being the best in the country.

Initiatives to reduce water use are coming along, with only 400 households left to do onto home metering. Development of a second water source for the community is a wise decision. The sale of rain barrels, "Fix-a-Leak Week", shower exchange programs and public awareness campaigns all help to reduce water use.

Completing the sewer separation program and improving sewage treatment by adding a secondary treatment cell is very positive and rewarding for the shell fish industry in the bay, reducing harvesting problems from 50 per year to 3 per year.

The work done by the Wright's Creek Watershed group deserves special mention as they are tapping in to existing grant systems to improve water quality in the stream as well as public access to and awareness of the watershed. The effort to net smelt and move them to the waters above the weir should be commended.

Excellent initiative to buy 10 used busses from Calgary and have the goal of equipping them with bike carriers and GPS.

The bike repair station in Joe Ghiz park is an excellent initiative and very worthy of mention here.

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### Recommendations:

Continue monitoring efforts in the area watersheds with a goal to improving water quality that is discharged into the bay. Continue to monitor water quality in the bay.

Continue the drive to meter all residential and commercial water customers to reduce the amount of water extracted from city well fields.

Continue to promote the use of low flush toilets and urinals, low flow shower fittings.

Investigate the potential to develop water detention ponds and bio swales in order to collect suspended solids, manage peak run off flows and improve the quality of water discharged into the bay. Help the Wright's Creek Watershed group find the financial means to construct fish ladders around the outfall from the weir. Fish ladders constructed at the Wright's Creek will allow the passage of smelt and any other species that may be native to the watershed.

Manage City vehicle fleets to minimize the use of carbon fuels by opting to use hybrid vehicles, multi passenger vehicles and (where feasible) electric vehicles or human powered vehicles.

Provide incentives for active transportation like theft proof parking for bicycles, safe bicycles routes in and around the City and bicycle carriers on all buses. Develop a cycling map for the City.

Provide electric vehicle charging stations in public parking areas and ensure locations are well noted on maps of the City.

Knowing there is no gravel on PEI, the judges suggest investigating the use of pavement that incorporates sea shells from oysters and clams as part of the aggregate medium used in the asphalt mix.

Consider reducing mowing cycles, or suspending mowing completely in areas where longer grasses can be allowed to grow. This will reduce carbon emissions and foster greater species diversity for pollinators and song birds.



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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