

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, September 19, 2011

Communities in Bloom Provincial Edition Salutes Participants

EDMONTON, AB – The 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 Forestburg, Alberta on Saturday, September 17, 2011. This year's participants included:

<i>Community</i>	<i>Blooms</i>	<i>Community</i>	<i>Blooms</i>	<i>Community</i>
Population 1 – 500		Population 2,001 – 6,000		Friends: Non-Evaluated (Non Competitive)
Holden	4*	Wainwright	5*	Carseland
Delia	4	Clairmont	4	Chestermere
Fort Assiniboine	4	Hanna	4	Coronation
Teepee Creek	3	Provost	5	Fairview
Veteran	3			Hay Lakes
Woking	4			Lac La Biche County
		Population 6,001 – 15,000		Magrath
		Coaldale	5*	Milo
		Drayton Valley	5	Strome
		Strathmore	4	Thorsby
		Taber	4	Warburg
				Whitecourt
Population 501 – 2,000		Friends: Evaluated (Non Competitive)		
Bruderheim	5*	Bittern Lake	5	
Bon Accord	4	Cardston	4	
Calling Lake/MD of Opportunity	4	Mannville	3	
Consort	3	Redwater	5	
New Sarepta	4	Samson Cree Nation	3	
Smoky Lake	3	Vegreville	5	
Spirit River	4	Wabasca-Desmarais	2	

* Denotes Category Winner

"We are pleased to celebrate with all of the communities participating in this year's Communities in Bloom Alberta program. Through involvement in Communities in Bloom, these communities have demonstrated their commitment to improving the quality of life for their citizens," stated Terry Welsh, ARPA President. "This annual Awards event gives us the opportunity to showcase and salute not only the communities throughout the province that participate in the program, but also the many dedicated volunteers that make Communities in Bloom Alberta such a great success."

2011 was also the second year for Encana Corporation as the official Provincial Presenting Partner for the Communities in Bloom Alberta program. "Encana is proud to support the work of communities and organizations that care for our environment. We know that the Communities in Bloom program not only promotes neighbourhood beautification, it cultivates leadership and collaboration, fosters active outdoor living and enhances community pride. We extend hearty congratulations to everyone involved with Communities in Bloom this year, and especially to Alberta's 2011 winning communities for their inspiring commitment to local environmental stewardship." Patricia Etris, Director of Community Involvement for Encana.

ARPA 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 Alberta's Provincial Edition of Communities in Bloom, please refer to the attached backgrounder or visit www.cib.arpaonline.ca.

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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 have 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 (ARPA) has coordinated Alberta's provincial edition for the past five 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 action and heritage conservation is also an integral part of its success, resulting in improved quality of life.

Every summer, volunteer judges travel across Alberta to evaluate municipalities on six key criteria:

- Tidiness
- Environmental Action
- Heritage Conservation
- Urban Forestry
- Landscape
- Floral Displays

The principle of community involvement is so fundamental to the program that it is evaluated in each of the above criteria.

Alberta's Provincial Edition of the Communities in Bloom program is coordinated by the Alberta Recreation & Parks Association, and proudly supported by Encana Corporation.

Encana is a leading North American natural gas producer focused on growing its strong portfolio of resource plays in key basins from northeast British Columbia to east Texas and Louisiana, and building demand for natural gas. The way our people do business reflects our commitment to responsible development, safety, sound environmental practices and community engagement. Success is defined by strong financial performance and contributing to the sustainability of the communities where we operate. Learn more about natural gas and Encana at www.encana.com.

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

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