

Communities in Bloom

Olds People, Plants & Pride, growing together!

This year Olds Communities in Bloom in conjunction with the Town of Olds is registered in the "Circle of Excellence" program within the national edition (thus receiving all benefits as such), but Olds will not be evaluated by a jury. Olds will still be expected to continue local Communities in Bloom initiatives in order to maintain our bloom rating. Olds will be required to be evaluated at least once every three years, i.e. a community that remains non-evaluated for two years in a row must be evaluated the third year. Your local committee will be continuing on with all existing programs. Watch for new initiatives such as:

- ✿ ESY gardening
- ✿ More shrub beds along Highway 27 west
- ✿ Heritage signs completion
- ✿ Main Street Program - we will be supporting Uptowne Olds in its effort to beautify our Uptowne initiatives. Michael Dougherty, Heritage Manager & Museum Manager, is our newest committee member; he will be our liaison with Uptowne Olds.
- ✿ Girl Guide celebrations - this year the Girl Guides celebrate 100 years of guiding. We will celebrate with them by planting the main flower bed in the Herb Samis Welcoming Garden with the Guide symbol in Guide colours.

Kick-off Party

Join us for our annual Kick-Off Party and Barrel Planting Contest at Town Office on **Monday 14 June** from 11.30 am to 1.00 pm. Council members will plant half-barrels in a friendly competition and maintain them through the summer. The barrels will be numbered (for anonymity), and you can vote on your favourite barrel by 15 August. Cheer on our gardeners and enjoy a FREE lunch!

Flower Language

This year our colours are RAINBOW, so have fun with a mix of colourful plants! Here's a list of annuals and perennials that are quite drought-tolerant once established, plus a few other popular plants.

ANNUALS - African Daisy, Castor Bean, Celosia, Clarkia, Cosmos, Dracena, Gazania, Heliotrope, Ice Plant, Lantana, Marigold, Portulaca,

RAINBOW is our 2010 colour scheme!



Salvia, Scaevola, Statice, Strawflower, Tagetes, Verbena

PERENNIALS - Baby's Breath, Blanket Flower, Blue Fescue, Coneflower, Cornflower, Daylily, Fleecflower, Gas Plant, Globe Thistle, Hens & Chicks, Liatris, Potentilla, Russian Sage, Sea Holly, Snow-in-Summer, Soapwort, Spurge, Stonecrop, Yarrow

Other colourful popular ANNUALS - Alyssum, Bachelors Buttons, Begonia, Calendula, Coleus, Dalhberg Daisy, Geranium, Impatiens, Kale, Lavatera, Lobelia, Nasturtium, Nicotiana, Pansy, Petunia, Snapdragon, Sweet Pea, Zinnia

Other colourful popular PERENNIALS - Astilbe, Bellflower, Bleeding Heart, Catmint, Delphinium, Dianthus, Foxglove, Hops, Hosta, Iris, Jacob's Ladder, Lady's Mantle, Lily, Monkshood, Peony, Phlox, Poppy, Rudbeckia

Trees for Ever

There will be no Spring planting of trees this year in the Trees for Ever program - planting will take place in the Fall instead. Trees have a better survival rate when planted in the fall, and Town of Olds staff have more time to devote the required amount of care essential for the trees' survival. You can participate in the Trees for Ever program by purchasing a tree for yourself or for a family member or to commemorate an event. Your tree will be planted in a playground or park within Olds. To purchase trees, you can place your order by contacting Lorraine at Town Office at 403.507.4811. Order forms are available at Town Office and we will also have them available at the Kick-Off Party on 14 June.

Rain Barrels for Sale!

Purchase a brand-new barrel at Town Office for \$63.00 each (GST incl), and take your receipt to the Public Works Shop on 51 Street for pickup. Limit of 2 barrels per customer! While they last!



May 2010

Capturing Water for the Garden

Thanks to the interest that people have in the environment, there is information related to water use and conservation available on various websites. Information specific to Canada and Alberta is plentiful. Useful tips are listed on:

One Simple Act

www.onesimpleact.alberta.ca/solutions/water-use.asp

Go Blue – Get Involved

www.goblue.org/en/get_involved/get-involved.html

Alberta Environment and the Canadian Land Stewardship Centre are also useful resources.

Tips cover a range of topics including simple ways to conserve water, how to water lawns and gardens, and what to plant. How to capture water does not receive as much attention. Tips from people who have lived through times of drought and without modern plumbing are available from family members, friends and neighbours. Reduce, reuse and recycle is a concept that is applicable to water, too. Try keeping a small pail handy near a sink to catch the excess water you use when rinsing dishes, washing vegetables and running tap water until it is hot. You will be surprised at how much water you can collect and use for both indoor and outdoor watering. The old-fashioned way of capturing rain water through use of rain barrels is used increasingly throughout the community. Barrels can be a controlled source of water with the addition of spigots and soaker hoses. This in conjunction with the use of mulch will keep vegetation moist with the bonus of having weed control. As you become more aware of your use of water, you will think of ways to be creative at capturing and using all sources of water.

Hanging Baskets

The Town of Olds currently uses large self-watering hanging baskets made from recycled plastic. These baskets have easily-accessible water fill tubes which fill a reservoir capable of holding 10.24 litres of water! This amount can theoretically feed the plants for up to three days under normal growing conditions. Having these self-watering hanging baskets greatly reduces costs associated with daily watering. The plants are still monitored daily for health.

Did You Know...?

All property owners including business and private residential are responsible for all weed control and tree and shrub maintenance. Special care and attention must be given to rear laneways in regards to weed control and tree and shrub maintenance. Branches should not interfere with passage of vehicles. Trees and shrubs should not discourage easy public use of sidewalks. All trees and shrubs immediately adjacent to sidewalks and laneways must be pruned to allow safe use by the public. Vacant lots should not be ignored. Let's take pride in our areas

of responsibility. Help CIB assist the town of Olds to become the envy of our neighbours.

The E.S.Y. Project

Creating a Xeriscape / Environmentally Sustainable Yard (ESY) involves selecting the site, appropriate plant material, preparing the soil, and monitoring and maintaining the area after installation. It is very important to note that ALL plants require sufficient moisture for a few years to establish a good root system. After the root system is established, only then will the site become "low maintenance." Here is a short list of assorted plant material which could be used in an ESY: Carragana, Pine, Artemesia, Juniper, Willow, Yarrow, Dogwood, Spirea, Columbine, Aspen, Potentilla, Coneflower, Thyme.

What's Best for Your Tree?

After a warm, dry winter there is a shortage of moisture for the trees this year. And by all accounts it is going to be a scorcher of a summer! Wondering what you can do to make your tree healthier? The number one best thing to do is to get rid of the lawn under your tree and put in mulch, at least to the drip line (the drip line is where your branches extend to). Draw a line down to the ground, which usually ends in a nice circular shape. It is best not to dig up the sod as the tree's delicate feeder roots can be damaged in the process. A nice easy way to mulch is to put down a layer of cardboard (not the waxy kind), and make sure to remove all tape first. Then cover the cardboard with a mixed wood chip mulch. Water it down well so that it all binds together and stays in place. Be careful not to put a thick layer of mulch around the stem of the tree as this will make a nice, cosy home for insects and diseases to do their nasty business on the bark. Keep the mulch thicker towards the outside of the drip line about six to ten centimetres. You can get mulch from several places in the area, such as Sunpine in Sundre, For Trees in Didsbury or Little Shaver in Olds. Treat your trees right - give them mulch!



Caught You...!

Businesses and industries displaying the "Caught You... Doing a Good Job" certificate have been recognized by their colleagues and community as having done a good job in beautifying their places of business. The "Nominate Your Neighbour" program is an opportunity to honour those residents who exhibit hard work and talent in making their homes and yards more attractive and tidy. If you see or know any business or home that you think should be recognized, contact Lorraine at Town Office, 403.507.4811.