

Communities in Bloom Judging Results

2007 – Olds is an Environmental Leader

This year Olds was a finalist in the International – Medium Population Category and received Five Blooms. We also received a special mention for our Strategic Planning for Environmental Sustainability.

Our flower colours for 2007 were red, blue and yellow. We have found that the community really enjoys this aspect of competition and everyone has a lot of fun with the colour scheme!

The Communities in Bloom Task Force, which is made up of a maximum of 11 members of the public, supports the entry of the Town of Olds in the annual provincial Communities in Bloom competition. The CIB Task Force undertakes the coordination of community response to the Communities in Bloom competition, including education of the public; encouraging participation by the community, businesses, organizations and individuals; and advising Town Council on present and proposed community initiatives, proposed annual promotion campaigns, and the results of the annual competition. Meetings are held at the discretion of the Task Force Chair. The Task Force has no authority to expend or commit funds on behalf of the Town of Olds. Support for the activities of the Task Force is provided by the Town of Olds Community Services department.

2006 – Good Show!

Congratulations, Olds on once again "wowing" the judges in this year's Communities in Bloom competition. Although we were a runner-up to this year's winner in our population category in International competition - Boissevain, Manitoba - we still achieved a high score and positive comments from the judges.

For information on complete results for 2006, see the News Release at the Communities in Bloom website, www.communitiesinbloom.ca.

2005 – We're Number One!

At the National Awards Ceremony on 24 September 2005, Olds was announced as the Best Town in Canada in the 5,001 - 10,000 population category, receiving Five Blooms (out of a possible five). Other communities in the running with us for the top honour were Aylmer ON, Goderich ON, Rocky Mtn House AB, Merritt BC, Chetwynd BC, Weyburn SK, Saskville NB, and Amherst NS. In 2005, over 100 Canadian municipalities participated in National Competition, with 20 entered in International competition.



Communities in Bloom's representatives Stuart Ray (Town's director of community services), Debbie Bennett (Chair), Donna Coonfer (committee member) and Edie Connolley (committee member) are beaming because Olds has won the national award for the Communities in Bloom competition. Volunteerism, clean streets and an innovative bottle depot are why people of Olds should be proud.

Photo by Murray Elliott, Olds Albertan

"The judges were most impressed with the involvement at all levels in the community. The pride, sense of community and feeling of accomplishment were most pleasant to note. The whole community excelled in all criteria: tidiness effort, urban forestry, landscaped areas, floral displays, turf and groundcover areas, environmental awareness, heritage preservation and community development." (quote from Communities in Bloom News Release, 26 Sept 2005)

Judges were also especially impressed with the town's new Bottle Recycling Facility, owned and operated by Accredited Supports to the Community, calling it a "clean, cheerful facility ... the atmosphere in the Depot was

pleasant and calm; a model for operation of such a facility, and is very well-supported by the community."

For complete information on the 2005 judging results, visit the Communities in Bloom website at www.communitiesinbloom.ca.

Red & White was our colour scheme for 2005. Initiatives included the Heritage Bird House Contest, Hanging Flower Baskets, Highway 27 Shrub Beds, Councillor Barrels Planting Challenge, and the Trees for Tots Program. The Adopt-a-Barrel program was discontinued in 2005.

Thank you to those of you who participated in the Heritage Bird House contest! All entries were displayed at the Olds Museum during Centennial Homecoming Week, from 10 to 16 July, 2005. Congratulations to James Thomson of Olds, who won the Grand Prize of \$100! His beautiful, detailed rendition of a heritage grain elevator will be much cherished.

2004 – Another Five Blooms

"Shades of Pink" was our colour scheme in 2004. Initiatives included the Adopt-a-Barrel, Hanging Flower Baskets, Councillor Barrels, a Photography Contest, and the Trees for Tots Program.

Olds was judged by the National Communities in Bloom judges at the end of July, and the community was proud to receive 5 blooms for its efforts. Once again, Olds received Special Mention for "Community Involvement". Our overall score was 82.8%.

2003 – Great Job, Olds!

Judging Day for Olds took place on 8 and 9 August 2003. The Communities in Bloom Task Force wishes to congratulate EVERYONE in town for making this year's judging a complete success. Our community was tidy, clean and full of beautiful flowers. People were busy volunteering for the Mountain View County Fair & Rodeo, which really showcased the level of commitment from the hundreds of volunteers in our great community. One of the Judges said that in her home town of 660,000, their County Fair was not nearly as large an event with as many venues as the Mountain View County Fair.

At the Awards ceremony held on Sunday 28 September in Stratford, Ontario, Olds was awarded Four Blooms (out of a possible five) in the population category 5001-10,000, which contained eight contenders. This year's winner in our population category was Ladysmith, BC. Olds received a special mention in the area of Community Involvement. Our score was 79.9%.

Other Alberta winners in the National competition included the City of Wetaskiwin, which took first place in the population category 10,001-20,000. Westlock and Legal both won National awards in the "Canadian Classic - medium size" category. In International competition ("large" category), Halifax, NS came out on top. Edmonton received Five Blooms in this category as well.

In the Alberta Provincial competition, Lacombe was awarded first place (Five Blooms) in the 5001-10,000 population category.

Our own Communities in Bloom Task Force was so impressed with local efforts this year that they decided to recognize local businesses and individuals that have made an extra effort.

Most Improved Industrial Site

Westward Products

Honourable Mention: Premier Horticulture

Tidiest Apartment Complex

Legacy Village

Honourable Mentions: Westview Apartments, Whitewater Way, Rosewood Towers

Most Improved Commercial Alley

Olds Value Drug Mart

Most Improved Residential Alley

Alley behind duplexes on Silverthorn Road from Shannon Drive to 54 Street

Alleys between 54 Avenue and Shannon Drive south to 44 Street

Most Improved Commercial Site

Mountainview Denture Clinic

Honourable Mentions: Fas Gas, Olds Value Drug Mart

2002 – Olds Wins First Place!

Olds has participated in the provincial Communities in Bloom competition since 1998. In 2002, we were awarded Four Blooms, the highest score awarded to a community! Olds topped 11 other similarly-sized communities to win first place with a score of 82%.

"I'm absolutely thrilled, and so proud of the efforts of the 2002 Committee and all our citizens in the achievement of this honour," said Stuart Ray, Director of Community Services for the Town of Olds. "We were delighted with last year's award of Three Blooms. This year we focused on those areas identified as needing improvement, and the effort and extra initiative have paid off wonderfully!"

Communities participating in the annual Communities in Bloom competition are evaluated in eight areas: Tidiness, Environmental Awareness, Community Involvement, Natural & Architectural Heritage Conservation, Urban Forestry, Landscaped Areas, Floral Displays, and Turf & Ground Cover Areas.

Olds achieved a particularly high score in the area of Community Involvement. Activities such as the Children's Colouring Contest and the Adopt-a-Barrel program were fun and beautiful ways for citizens to get involved. The judges also gave Olds a high score for Natural & Architectural Heritage Conservation, commenting that "Olds is rich in heritage buildings ... and is in the forefront for environmental conservation." The judges were very impressed with the written and visual materials with which they were presented during their visit to Olds on Judging Day, 24 July 2002.

Winning the 2002 provincial competition allowed us to compete nationally in 2003.