MAPLE CREEK COMMUNITY PROFILE

2020

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Information in this document is subject to change without notice. Although all data is believed to be the most accurate and up-to-date, the reader is advised to verify all data before making any decisions based upon the information contained in this document.

Please note that every effort has been made to use the most current data available.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Population CiB Budget	
Sources of Funding	Fundraising, sponsorship, and grants
Municipal Budget for Parks	
Parks and Green Space Land	

2020 Steering Committee

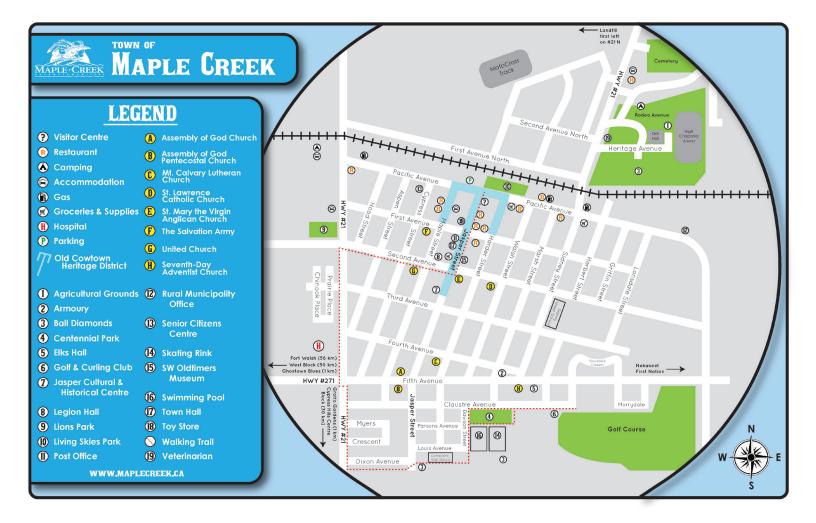
Gillian Moch	Admin	Community Development	Town of Maple Creek
Sally Chant	Chair	Community Garden	Horticulturalist
Nola Sanderson	Chair	Post Office Pocket Park	Horticulturalist
Ellaine Hawrylak	Member	Land of Living Skies Park	Town Councilor
Angela Litke	Member	Garden Tour & Yard of the Week	Chamber of Commerce
Darlene Hoffer	Member	Cenotaph Flower Beds	Horticulturalist
Shelly Kay	Member	Credit Union Pocket Park	Coordinator
Cara Teichroeb	Member		Town Councilor
Anne Weisgerber	Member		
Carol Bremner	Member		

Communities in Bloom Objectives

- To widely engage the community in the implementation of the Communities in Bloom (CiB) program.
- To provide educational opportunities for the public in a diversity of areas.
- To create volunteering opportunities in order to help implement programs and projects that have been initiated as part of Communities in Bloom.
- To continue to foster a sense of pride and ownership in the community.

Social Media

www.facebook.com/maplecreekinbloom



2.0 TIDINESS

2.1 Spring and Fall Clean-Up Weeks

The Town of Maple Creek Public Works Crew provides additional waste collection for branches, leaves, and grass clippings for residences and businesses. In January, the Public Works Crew picks up Christmas trees from back alleys to be used for mulch. Larger appliances can be picked up year-round, given they pay a fee for service at the Town Office.



Public Works takes additional yard waste during the Spring Clean-Up.

2.2 Bylaws for Tidiness

Since 2010, it is required by Bylaw for loads being hauled to the Landfill to be secured. This prevents waste from being lost and blown into the ditches along the entranceway to the community.

The Town of Maple Creek's seasonal Bylaw Officer monitors properties around town to make sure they are in accordance with the Town bylaws.



One seasonal bylaw ensures grass does not exceed 6 inches.

2.3 Earth Week Spring Clean-Up

The CiB Committee hosts an Earth Day Clean-Up Week to being residents together to tidy public areas of the community. Due to COVID-19, the 2020 Earth Week Spring Clean-Up looked a little different. CiB asked residents to focus on tidying their boulevards and back alleys. Helping neighbors was encouraged, as long as COVID-19 restrictions were followed.



2.4 5 for 5 Initiative

The '5 for 5' slogan stands for "Five minutes for Five days." It suggests that taking a few minutes every day to sweep sidewalks, pull weeds, wipe down windows and doorways, and pick up litter will add up to a big improvement. Each year, "5 for 5" buttons and a reminder letter are distributed to our local businesses.

This year, due to COVID-19 and the temporary closure of many local businesses, "5 for 5" did not happen. CiB plans to resume the program again in 2021.





2.5 Parks & Recreation Crew

The Parks and Recreation Crew keep the Town's parks green spaces looking beautiful whether it be by mowing grass, pruning trees, weed-whipping, watering flowers, or rototilling parks for planting.

They also maintain our downtown area making sure weeds on the sidewalks are pulled, downtown hanging baskets are watered, garbage receptacles are emptied, downtown furniture is in good condition, and painting curb lines.



Parks and Rec crew planting a boulevard tree at its new home.

2.6 Business of the Month

In 2015, the CiB committee introduced a new program to encourage businesses to tidy their property – Business of the Month!

This year, the committee arranged for the winners of 2019 to select the monthly winners. The winning business must demonstrate excellence in all CiB categories, particularly tidiness.

The winners receive a sticker for the window naming them 'Business of the Month.' They are also recognized in our local newspaper, on CiB social media, and the annual CiB Soirée along with our Yard of the Week winners, CiB Committee Members and other CiB volunteers.



Caroline's Drive-In was the first Business of the Month for the 2020 season!

2.7 Yard of the Week

In 2014, the CiB committee implemented 'Yard of the Week' in order to encourage the whole community to beautify their properties. Past winners are invited to select a yard as 'Yard of the Week' and the winner receives a sign designating their yard as 'Yard of the Week.' Winners also receive recognition in the weekly local newspaper, CiB social media, and the annual CiB Soirée.



#317 Walsh Street was chosen as the first Yard of the Week for the 2020 season for its unique features and neat appearance.

2.8 Other Tidiness Initiatives

- Doggy bag and garbage receptacles are located along the Town of Maple Creek Walking Trail.
- Garbage and recycling receptacles are available in the Town's parks and green spaces, as well as the heritage themed garbage containers in the Heritage District.
- The Town of Maple Creek has a cemetery caretaker who has proper training in tree pruning and looks after the maintenance of the cemetery.
- The Town of Maple Creek's Landfill has had some beautification as well. A threehole golf course has been built and birdhouses have been added to the fence posts as you drive up to the Landfill.



Heritage theme garbage receptacle in our downtown.



Garbage receptacle located along the Maple Creek Walking Trail.

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

3.1 Community Recycling Program

In the Fall of 2016, the Town of Maple Creek implemented a curbside recycling program of bi-weekly collection, significantly diverting waste from the Landfill.

The Eco Centre for recyclable oil has recently been relocated to Pacific Avenue.



Each household has a green Emterra single-stream recycle bin.

3.2 Bylaws for Environmental Action

Bylaw No. 2015–MC–04 prohibits any person from disposing recyclable materials at the Landfill and ensures proper collection and disposal of waste.

The Town of Maple Creek has a pet bylaw prohibiting pet owners from having more than two pets per household and ensures animals are not running around at large or causing harm to residents.



The introduction of single-stream recycling to Maple Creek has significantly diverted waste from the Landfill.

3.3 CiB Workshop Series

CiB hosts a series of workshops and lectures providing education and information about different elements of landscaping and outdoor maintenance practices.

Past workshops include Tree Pruning Workshop, Growing Great Grapes, Raised Bed Gardening, Mulching and Xeriscaping, Worm Composting, Bees and Butterflies, and more!

We continue to partner with Maple Creek Public Library to present a variety of workshops throughout the year. As COVID-19 restrictions lift, more workshops will take place.



2019 Bees and Butterflies Workshop.

3.4 CiB Initiative

CiB has installed a Colorado Blue Spruce 'Living Fence' at the Armoury, a designated heritage building. Brick watering wells have been planted around the trees. Gravel has been added and work has progressed with the installation of raised flower beds.



CiB installed a Colorado Blue Spruce 'Living Fence' at the Maple Creek Armoury, a designated heritage building. Work has progresses with the addition of raised flower beds.

3.5 Municipal Mulch Program

In 2014, the program was moved to the Landfill where it is administered by the Landfill operators.

The tree trimmers provide the Landfill with mulch quarterly.

The Maple Creek Visitor Centre distributes green CiB tokens that residents can give to the Landfill operators in exchange for mulch.



Large mulch pile out at the Landfill.

3.6 Compost

A more recent initiative is composting of yard waste. Residents are able to take yard waste to the compost pile at the Landfill.

The Maple Creek Visitor Centre distributes green CiB tokens that residents can give to the Landfill operators in exchange for compost.



The Maple Creek Visitor Centre distributes green Landfill tokens.

3.7 Water Conservation

At the Community Arena, a catchment tank is used to collect and store rain water for watering of the Town of Maple Creek hanging flower baskets and planters located in the downtown parks and walking trails.

Bylaw No. 2014–MC–05 restricts outside watering during the hours of 9:00 am – 6:00 pm. Odd and even house numbers water on odd and even calendar days, respectively.

Water conserving planters are used in a variety of areas in town including our downtown hanging baskets, and along Pacific Avenue. These planters have reservoirs that bottom feed the plants.

The Spray Park grey water is stored and used for irrigation at Centennial Park.



Public Works watering one of our hanging flower baskets.

3.8 Land Reclamation

One on-going project is the Community Garden, located on a former abandoned lot in the Heritage District.

In 2017, the addition of two small raised beds were seen along the back fence. These beds were made with reclaimed wood. There are plans for composting bins along the back fence as well.



The large arch at the entrance to our Community Garden.

3.9 Rain Barrel Credit Program

The Town of Maple Creek offers a \$25.00 credit to the first 10 households who purchase a rain barrel in Maple Creek and install it on their property between May 1st and August 31st.

Residents are asked to bring a receipt and photo of their installed rain barrel to the Visitor Centre where staff post it on CiB social media as a thank you from the Town of Maple Creek and CiB for conserving water and caring about our community and environment.



This year, 8 of the 10 rain barrels sold in the first month of the program.

3.10 Public Works Vehicle Fleet Efficiency

The Town of Maple Creek is proactively replacing its older vehicles with newer, more efficient ones in an effort to save on both fuel costs and greenhouse gas emissions. Our garbage truck and street sweeper has been replaced in the last five years.

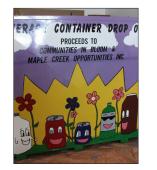


The street sweeper out and looking pretty with the Town's logo!

3.11 CiB Beverage Container Drop-Off Bin

Citizens who come to SARCAN after hours can still drop off their beverage containers, and support two worthwhile causes at once.

CiB has partnered with Maple Creek and District Opportunities Vocational Services to provide a collection bin on the SARCAN lot. Proceeds from returns are split between the two organizations. In 2019, a cheque in the amount of \$99.77 was presented at our annual Soirée.



This bin was painted by residents at the Healing Lodge.

3.12 Bags in Bloom Program

Bags in Bloom is a fundraising program for CiB that encourages shoppers to undertake environmentally friendly practices such as using reusable grocery bags to reduce the number of plastic bags going to the Landfill.

Anytime a shopper brings their reusable grocery bag to the Co-op Food Store, the Co-op donates 5 cents to Communities in Bloom.

Due to COVID-19, the amount of reusable grocery bags brought to the Co-op Food Store has been reduced. CiB, however, still encourages residents to use their reusable bags providing they follow proper COVID-19 guidelines for packing while at the Food Store.



Co-op donates 5 cents to CiB for every reusable bag.

4.0 HERITAGE CONSERVATION

4.1 Maple Creek Heritage District

The Maple Creek Heritage District was designated by the Town of Maple Creek in 2009. At the time, it was one of the only two recognized heritage districts in Saskatchewan, and the only one in a rural community.

The area encompassed by the Maple Creek Heritage District is identified on the Town of Maple Creek map at the front of this booklet.

Commercial heritage buildings within the Maple Creek Heritage District are eligible for the Town of Maple Creek Heritage Conservation Incentive Program — which provides tax credits to heritage property owners who undertake conservation work on their buildings. Maple Creek was the first community in Saskatchewan outside of Saskatoon and Regina to offer a program of this nature, and the only community of its size on the prairies, to offer a tax incentive for heritage conservation.



4.2 Maple Creek Heritage Advisory Committee

The Town of Maple Creek has had a MHAC since 2008. The MHAC advises Mayor and Council on all matters related to heritage conservation within the Town of Maple Creek.

The committee is comprised of representatives from the Town of Maple Creek, the Rural Municipality of Maple Creek, the Maple Creek Chamber of Commerce, the Jasper Cultural and Historical Centre, the S.W. Saskatchewan Oldtimers' Museum, heritage property owners, local historians, building contractors, tourism operators, and educators.



One of Maple Creek's unique signs at a downtown cross walk.

4.3 Historic Walking Tours

CiB has partnered with the Visitor Centre and the S.W. Saskatchewan Oldtimers' Museum for the promotion of our heritage district. The Visitor Centre offers a self-guided historic walking tour in combination with the use of the TripVia app.

4.4 Heritage and Main Street Program Awards

- Prince of Wales Prize 2019
- Saskatchewan Economic Development Association Economic Development Initiative of the Year – Maple Creek Main Street Program – 2016
- Maple Creek Community Awards of Excellence Maple Creek Main Street Program – 2016
- Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan Heritage Architecture Excellence Award – Maple Creek Main Street Program – 2015
- Canadian Institute of Planners Award of Merit for Rural/Small Town Planning – Maple Creek Heritage District Implementation Plan – 2014
- Saskatchewan Municipal Awards of Excellence Heritage Conservation Excellence – 2012

4.5 Museums

Maple Creek has two heritage museums. The S.W. Saskatchewan Oldtimers' Museum focuses on preserving and presenting artifacts from the 1880s to the 1930s, while the Jasper Cultural and Historical Centre focuses on elements of the 1930s onward.

The Oldtimers' Museum has expanded their facility with a new log building, complete with landscaping that includes sections of native and early settlerintroduced plants.



Early settler-introduced plants include grasses, shrubs, medicinal, and other useful spices.

4.6 Heritage-Themed Events

- Maple Creek Multicultural Mosaic
- Maple Creek Light Horse Show
- 4–H Competitions
- Nekaneet First Nations Pow Wow
- Battle of the Little Big Puck
- Maple Creek Mustering (Cowboy Poetry)
- S.W. Saskatchewan Oldtimers' Association Round–Up Banquet
 and Dance
- Cowtown Christmas
- Creek Classics Show 'n' Shine
- Taste of Maple Creek
- Farmers Market (Fridays; May to October)

**All 2020 events have been canceled due to COVID-19, however, dates in 2021 are in the process of being arranged.



4.7 2019 Heritage Building Work

- Broken Spoke Fine Art Gallery: Parapet repairs, major masonry repairs, the installation of period reproduction wood windows, side walk umbrella stands & smoothie bar
- **1935 Log Museum:** Installation of cedar shingles, exterior landscaping
- **Luxito & Co:** Engineering report, building stabilization work, and exterior upgrades

4.8 Being the Old Cowtown

There is a great deal of effort that has gone into promoting Maple Creek as the "Old Cowtown." The Town of Maple Creek has made this the focus and theme of its downtown urban furniture and infrastructure. One key element was using the colour black as a uniting feature, the inspiration for which was taken from the distinctive black cornice along the top of the Post Office, a prominent building in the downtown Heritage District.

Special signage for the Heritage District includes a number of murals depicting elements of Western life, along with the heritage silhouettes that appear on waste receptacles, archways, advertising signs, and town publications are intended to welcome visitors to enter the Old Cowtown and experience the history that lives here. Maple Creek won the distinction of "Canada's Greatest Western Town" in 2014, beating out over 30 other communities in an on-line competition.



An uniting element in our downtown core is the usage of the colour black with inspiration taken from the distinctive black cornice along the top of the Post Office.

4.9 Aboriginal Heritage

An important part of the history of this region is the First Nations people who have lived here for millennium. There have been a number of local initiatives to conserve and celebrate that history and culture in and around Maple Creek.

One such example is the creation of the Cypress hills Métis Cultural and Resource Centre, operating out of the C.M. Glascock building in partnership with the S.W. Saskatchewan Oldtimers' Museum. Another example being the Nekaneet Pow Wow Regalia Project — which brought Elders, arisans, and families together to create new Pow Wow regalia for the next generations of dancers to use, and thereby participate. Nekaneet Band Members graciously allow the S.W. Saskatchewan Oldtimers' Museum to display on-loan Pow Wow regalia no longer in use.

In 2016, the Town of Maple Creek renamed a street "Nekaneet Drive" to commemorate the longstanding relationship between the Town of Maple Creek and Nekaneet First Nations.



Nekaneet Band Members drumming during the 2019 Heritage Festival.



Nekaneet Drive runs from Pacific Avenue to Sydney Street and East towards the water tower.

5.0 URBAN FORESTRY

- **11** The Town of Maple Creek has a substantial urban forest consisting of street trees. This urban forest provides a number of benefits to the Town besides the visual amenity. The street trees provide the Town with shelter from winds and act as a natural energy conservation method by reducing passive solar heating during the summer months."
 - The Town of Maple Creek Official Community Plan

5.1 Boulevard Tree Replacement Program

This year, the Town of Maple Creek provided five new trees for residents to plant on their boulevards. Local citizens are provided with instructions on the planting, care, and maintenance of the tree they install, and are encouraged to take ownership of the tree's well-being.

A selection of species is offered to encourage biodiversity, not only to protect the tree canopy from wide-spread disease or insect infestation, but to provide food and shelter to a wider range of species, making our ecosystem stronger.



The Tree Inventory Project tells us how many and what species of trees are in the public areas, as well as their condition.

5.2 Insect & Disease Monitoring

As part of the regular care and maintenance of Maple Creek's urban forest includes contracting biologists to inspect and monitor the town's trees for evidence of Dutch Elm Disease or Spruce Bud Worm, both of which can have terrible consequences if left unchecked.

The potential for these conditions to spread prohibits the chipping of any elm wood, or any diseased or infected wood, through the Municipal Mulching Program, in an effort to contain and control such potential issues.



Local youth hugging one of our historic trees.

5.3 Tree Inventory Project

This summer, CiB began working to develop a Tree Inventory program. We know that our trees are an important part of our heritage, and our community. However, trees age, and unfortunately, right now, we are removing more trees than we are planting. An inventory will tell us how many and what species of trees are in the public areas, as well as their condition.

To date, we have developed a spreadsheet on which to record the data, that is user-friendly with plans to invest in a phone app for easy identification of species. The Committee wants to be able to involve the public in this long-term project.

5.4 Tree Pruning & Tree Pruning Education

The Town of Maple Creek has undertaken a comprehensive tree pruning program that contracts a professional tree pruning service, an arbourist or other trained and experienced crews, to maintain the canopy on a rotating system. This schedule allows every tree in town to be addressed at least once every four years.

The Parks and Recreation crew handles minor or emergency pruning needs throughout the year, supplemented by training courses offered by the Town.

For the last few years, workshops have been held to train residents on proper pruning techniques as part of the spring CiB Workshops.



Maple Creek's urban forest is breathtakingly beautiful, no matter the season!

5.5 Heritage Trees & Shrubs

The CiB Committee looks at urban forestry as, in part, a heritage conservation initiative, and therefore is working to reintroduce trees and green space into areas of the community where they had existed historically.

The Land of the Living Skies Park, located along Pacific Avenue in the very location a formal park created by the Canadian Pacific Railway used to be.

The Post Office Pocket Park green space is being reintroduced where a lovely grassy yard once was.

The S.W. Sask. Oldtimers' Museum landscape plans include elements of the original lawn, as well as historically collected and cultivated plants.

There have been surveys of the community's trees in an attempt to find the oldest living tree in Maple Creek. This is being done primarily by trunk diameter, as records of original plantings are scarce.



The Credit Union Pocket Park is a cute little seating area.



The CiB Tree Pruning Workshop had a great turnout!

6.0 LANDSCAPE

6.1 Xeriscaping

For a community located in Palliser's Triangle, often afflicted by drought conditions, xeriscaping has been a logical and popular choice for Maple Creek's residents and the municipality itself when it comes to landscaping green spaces.

In 2019, CiB Workshops offered courses on xeriscaping. The courses were very popular. Xeriscaping techniques are showcased at Land of Living Skies Park.

6.2 Community Garden

The Community Garden consists of 10-raised beds, all available for sign-up to residents for only \$25.00 a season. The Community Garden saw the recent addition of a native bee hive and compost bin.

The Post Office Pocket Park had concrete poured under the pergola. This was an exciting development, as it opened up another shaded green space in the downtown core for anyone to use and enjoy. In 2021, a laser-cut, decorative metal windbreak will be added to the pergola.



The Community Garden consists of 10 raised beds.

6.3 Community Walking Trail

The Maple Creek Trail stretches 3km around the southern and western perimeters of town and through the downtown, linking all of the public parks and green spaces.

The trail follows the natural contours of the landscape to allow users to feel as though they are part of their surroundings, and passes through naturalized areas featuring wildflowers and native shrubs.



The Community Walking trail passes through naturalized areas.

6.4 Maintenance Standards and Personnel

The Town's Parks crew is well trained and is maintaining and improving Maple Creek's public spaces. New standards for green space management and care benefit all who use and visit the land and facilities.

This includes moving, irrigating, fertilizing, mulching, tree planting, pruning, reseeding grass, and weed control.

7.0 FLORAL DISPLAYS

7.1 Adopt-A-Barrel Program

An initiative that is over a decade running, is our Adopt-A-Barrel program. Businesses and institutions sponsor whiskey barrel planters with floral arrangements that are displayed in front of their stores. This year, because of the financial affects of COVID-19, CiB provided businesses with complimentary whiskey barrels resulting in the best turn out of the program to date.

Businesses take responsibility for watering and maintaining their barrel over the summer. CiB volunteers decorate the barrels during winter with natural greenery and ribbons.

Planters compliment both the Town's hanging baskets in Summer and its illuminated Christmas decorations in Winter.

Not only does this beautify the downtown core of Maple Creek, no matter the season, it also offers business owners and managers an easy and simple way of supporting Communities in Bloom.



Communities in Bloom members are preparing greenery and ribbons for in our winter whiskey barrel planters.

7.2 High School Planting Bees

High school students help Communities in Bloom plant the whiskey barrel planters.

It is hoped that this will foster community pride in the students and an interest in the environment around them, in planting or gardening, and in the goals and ideas CiB promotes.



Volunteers help plant our whiskey barrels for the 2020 season.

7.3 Diversity of Planters and Plants

Planter types and plants throughout the community vary according to scale and location in order to maximize efficiency, conserve water, and still offer stunning flowers for all to enjoy.

The Town Hall and Cenotaph are in-ground beds, largely filled with perennial plants supplemented with annuals.

The hanging baskets in the Heritage District are water conserving, and filled with hardy wave petunias.

Land of the Living Skies Park boasts highly water-efficient "Desert" planters, filled with a variety of shade and sun-loving annuals, depending on their proximity to trees.

7.4 Flower of the Year

This year the Committee decided that the flower of the year would be the portulaca. The flower is announced at the Annual Soirée in January.

Portulaca can been seen in some of the Town's whiskey barrel planters.



7.5 Garden Tour

The Annual Garden Tour is always filled with a variety of different floral displays.

This summer, CiB is planning to host a Garden Tour with emphasis on vegetable gardens. This idea was inspired by the increased interest in gardening this season due to COVID-19. Physical distancing restrictions will be followed at all times during the 2020 Garden Tour.



Due to COVID-19, there has been a noticeable increase of interest for gardening.

7.6 Communities in Bloom Annual Photo Contest

In 2014, the CiB Committee had calendars made consisting of beautiful floral displays and landscapes from around town and sold them as a fundraiser during the Cowboy Poetry Western Art and Gear Show.

As the calendars sold out we decided in 2015 to do another calendar for 2016 which brought up the idea for a Communities in Bloom Photo Contest! From March until the end of July 2015, residents could enter photos to the contest depicting one of the six categories with the winning photos to be featured in the 2016 calendar.

We received over 100 photos for the 2019 contest. Residents voted for their favorites during the month of August 2019 at the Maple Creek Heritage Festival. Winners are recognized at the annual CiB Soirée.



The winning photo from the CiB 2017 Photography Contest.

8.0 COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

8.1 Volunteers – We don't pay them but they are priceless!

The volunteers who work with Communities in Bloom in Maple Creek are many and diverse people. Some are members of our Steering Committee, and the work they do is both vital and greatly appreciated. Others are local businesses and institutions who support the goals and initiatives of CiB through financial support, in-kind support, or just through the actions of their day-to-day business operations. Finally, there are individuals and families who live and work here in Maple Creek, and who do their part in making their properties, we well as the whole town, more beautiful for everyone.

8.2 Communities in Bloom Soirée

This annual event is filled with snacks, prizes, guest speakers, displays, and more. It is here that the Flower of the Year is revealed for the coming year.

Everyone in the community is invited including volunteers, businesses and institutions, and residents. Guests have a chance to sign up to volunteer and see what Communities in Bloom is planning and what projects they are working on.

In 2020, the Soirée was themed, "Birds and the Bees, and Boulevards too!"

8.3 The Newspaper & Social Media

Every time there is a big CiB related event, our social media platforms are buzzing, both before and after. Usually, there are reminders that the event is upcoming, is on, and is over, as well as thank yous to the many volunteers and participants who make these things possible. Sometimes, there are photographs shared as well, so others can see who was involved in making these great events happen.

More traditionally, the Maple Creek Advanced Times and News and The Gull Lake Advance are local papers. These are a major source of support for CiB, as well as one of the ways we say "thank you" to our many helpers. CiB initiatives are often featured in articles in the papers, as well as through advertising promotions. Those involved in our projects are often named and pictured in the midst of their work for CiB, which we think is an excellent way of acknowledging and thanking them for their generosity.



Beautiful decorations and floral arrangements for the 2020 CiB Soirée, "Birds and the Bees, and Boulevards too!"

9.0 HIGHLIGHTS







