

W I N T E R 2 0 1 1

CiB Alberta

# Blooms & Bits

A Newsletter for People, Plants & Pride, and Growing Together

## 2011 Evaluation Form Changes

Following the lead of the National CiB Program, in 2011 CiB Alberta will be implementing a simplified, more user-friendly Evaluation Form.

Factors related to “Turf and Groundcover” will be integrated within the Landscape element and Community Involvement (a fundamental principle of CiB) will now be evaluated in EACH of the following major judging elements:

Tidiness; Environmental Action; Heritage Conservation; Urban Forestry; Landscape; and, Floral Displays.

We welcome these refinements as they not only streamline the evaluation process but also ensure that the process continues to reflect the core guiding principles of the CiB Program.



**Mark the Upcoming Dates for CiB Alberta!**

### 2011 CiB Alberta Registration Deadline

**March 31, 2011**

Submit completed 2011 [Registration Form](#) to [cib@arpaonline.ca](mailto:cib@arpaonline.ca) or by fax at 780-451-7915 or to: CiB Alberta, 11759 Groat Road, Edmonton, AB T5M 3K6.

### 2011 CiB Alberta Provincial Awards

**September 17, 2011**

To be held in Forestburg, AB. Stay tuned for more details.

### 2011 Judging Timeframe

**July 11 to August 13, 2011**

Each community will be notified of their specific judging date as well as the names and bios of each of the judges by mid-June, 2011.

## Community Profile Book

**A required component of the Communities in Bloom evaluation; a great tool for judges; and, useful and informative for your community!**

By Joanna Fraser

It's time to start gathering information for your Community Profile Book (CPB). This is an important document that judges use as a reference when in the community and later when completing their evaluation. Review the [2011 Evaluation Form](#) carefully and make sure that your CPB describes the community efforts and achievements under each of the major judging elements. Be detailed and use a consistent font throughout, and have someone outside CiB review it before printing.

**Supplementary information** in a CPB binder can include newspaper clippings, notices and photographs arranged under headings. This is an excellent way for the judges to find out more about your community! For more information on creating a CPB, click [here](#).

## Alberta Horticultural Association

### A CiB Alberta Friend and Partner

CiB Alberta has found a friend and partner in the Alberta Horticultural Association (AHA). The AHA promotes horticulture as a hobby and recreational activity, provides learning opportunities for individuals and affiliate clubs and hosts an annual conference. Contact AHA to see what they have to offer your CiB Committee. Check out an [affiliate membership](#) for your CiB committee.

Contact Arnold F. Pittao, Sec. (780) 875-7123 or by email at [apittao@telusplanet.net](mailto:apittao@telusplanet.net). View AHA on the net at <http://www.icangarden.com/clubs/AHA/>.





## Sangudo Hamlet Beautification

By Lorraine Taylor

"The judges are coming!" was our call to action last summer in our hamlet of Sangudo, Alberta.

Two years ago members set up a Hamlet Beautification Committee. There were plenty of ideas for projects we might take on. Participating in the CiB program was the extra push needed to get the work done. What could be a better motivator than the arrival of the CiB judges?

Using the CiB framework helped us set a plan and focus on the tasks. Working towards the CiB evaluation gave committee members credibility when asking businesses, Lac Ste. Anne County Council, and residents to do their part in the beautification. The local newspaper ran a series of articles on the eight evaluation topics.

While putting together the profile book and mapping out what to show the judges we were

surprised by how much our small community has to offer. There were judging-day jitters as we worked to make a good impression. In both 2009 and 2010 the judges were so gracious. They applauded each small accomplishment, asked the right questions, and showed genuine interest in all the details.

One of the great benefits of the CiB program is the evaluation. What a boost to have a thoughtful review of our community through the eyes of a visitor. All of the comments were constructive, followed up with practical suggestions. We have no shortage of ideas for projects in the coming years!

*(The hamlet of Sangudo has a population of 364 and is located 100 km northwest of Edmonton.)*



## PITCH-IN CANADA WEEK: April 18-24, 2011

Join Operation: Clean Sweep

- Plan a project - environmental, educational - or both!
- Restore a local natural habitat
- Plant trees
- Set up a composting and recycling program

Go to [www.pitch-in.ca](http://www.pitch-in.ca) to register by March 15<sup>th</sup>!





E. "Brendan" Casement

## Meet A CiB Judge...

Brendan Casement (also fondly known as "Mr. CiB" in Alberta) was born and received his schooling in the Isle of Man. He obtained his B.Sc. in Agriculture from King's College, University of Durham (now University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne), England and a Master of Science in Horticulture from the University of Alberta.

He started his career in horticulture at the Alberta Horticultural Research Centre in Brooks, Alberta as the Environmental Horticulturist in 1971, where he conducted research and extension on trees, shrubs and flowers. In 1987 he transferred to the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre, Edmonton where he managed the Shelterbelt Program until it was privatized in 1997, when he retired.

Brendan has given many talks on trees and shrubs, annual and perennial flowers, landscaping and pruning throughout Alberta, and judged horticultural shows, home garden competitions and farmsteads. He was a charter member of the Friends of the Devonian Botanic Garden of the University of Alberta and upon his retirement joined the Board of Trustees, and helps the Education Department of the Garden with lectures and tours of the Garden and the U. of A. campus. Brendan has been a judge for Communities in Bloom since 1997, and has judged well over 100 different communities in Alberta, Canada, Britain and Ireland.

## 5 Steps to Launching CiB in Your Community

1. **Network and Form A Committee.** Drum up support by forming a committee that could include members from Community Leaders, Garden Clubs, business and service groups, and the local media.
2. **Get Registered.** The Final Registration Deadline is March 31, 2011.
3. **Take Stock.** Inventory your EXISTING assets that are reflective of, and consistent with, the CiB Evaluation Criteria and Form.
4. **Set Goals.** Build on existing assets or create new projects. Determine a budget & funding sources.
5. **Promote Yourself.** Create public awareness in your community through local media and other means. Forward this newsletter to others in your community!

The CiB Alberta Website is full of resources, links and contacts - Click [HERE](#) to view!

### PROVINCIAL PARTNER



Dan Chambers - Prov. Coordinator



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