

Let CiB Ontario help to make it easy to **SHOWCASE YOUR COMMUNITY** and recognize your volunteers! In addition to our Communities in Bloom Ontario fully judged program, we are pleased to offer the Green for Life Community Award of Excellence along with the Community Showcase – Membership and “Judged for a Day” programs.

## 1) Full CiB Ontario Program – 15 years of being reported as a community builder.

This program is for those who aspire to excel in the CiB Ontario program and advance to the National and International CiB Program. Registrations for Communities in Bloom Ontario are categorized according to community population in order to ensure fairness with respect to available people and other resources.

During July and August of each year, on an agreed date, two Communities in Bloom Ontario judges evaluate each participating community on the accomplishments of the whole team – municipal, private, corporate and institutional. Judges are looking for results on eight specific criteria:

‡ Tidiness ‡ Environmental Awareness ‡ Community Involvement, ‡ Natural and Cultural Heritage Conservation ‡ Tree/Urban Forest Management ‡ Landscaped Areas ‡ Floral Displays ‡ Turf & Groundcovers



In addition to their bloom rating, each Communities in Bloom Ontario participant receives a comprehensive 20 page report prepared by the highly qualified judges. This report reviews the particular features and projects that the community has undertaken and presented, and offers constructive hints and recommendations for the following year, in each of the eight criteria areas. Of course, all participants are winners with respect to their ability to attract tourism, corporate relocations, new development and investment; and general economic activity based on being more attractive, liveable communities!

**Your Community will be showcased at the Provincial Awards ceremony to be held in Sarnia, Ontario on September 24 - 26, 2010. Participants will receive a framed bloom rating certificate and may be eligible to receive a special recognition award.**

## 2) Community Showcase -Membership & “Judged for a Day” Categories

This program is ideal for communities who would like a membership to enjoy all the benefits of the Communities in Bloom (CiB-O) program in one of two ways:

**In a Membership Capacity:** to help in your efforts to “maintain” CiB Ontario standards with ongoing membership, continued support or networking through CiB Ontario to keep up to date on current trends or practices, or

**In a Judged Capacity:** a CiBO representative will visit your community for a day and provide your community with comments, ideas and suggestions. This is a great way to obtain fresh insights and valuable feedback about the impression that your community makes.



### 3) Community Award of Excellence Program

This program is suited to showcase specific projects or geographical segments within a community with Provincial/National recognition and exposure in the Communities in Bloom Ontario program. Every entry will receive a *Certificate of Recognition* along with Provincial & National website exposure. Any business, group, society, organization or community may enter (no limit). In partnership with Landscape Ontario each project will be evaluated by a jury of professionals based on Community Spirit, Innovative Ideas & Environmental Sustainability and will automatically be entered into a competition to be eligible to win the *CiB Ontario Community Award of Excellence* sponsored by



#### Who can participate

Any corporation, business, group, society, organization or community. Some examples include: BIA's, Chambers of Commerce, Horticultural Societies, 4H Clubs, Seniors Groups, Youth Groups, Rotary, Kinsmen, Lions, Individual Businesses, Industries and more.

#### Evaluation Criteria

In partnership with Landscape Ontario each project will be evaluated by a jury of professionals based on Community Spirit, Innovative Ideas & Environmental Sustainability and will automatically be entered into a competition to be eligible to win the CiB Ontario Award of Excellence.

#### How to participate – EASY!

Participants submit digital photographs (max. 5) and complete and submit a project description form for the project that they are showcasing by June 30th, 2010.

### Benefits of participating to YOUR community:

- Ignites Community Energy and Networks Various Organizations for the betterment of the whole community.
- Encourages Tidiness & Beautification in Residential & Business Areas.
- Showcases and Promotes Community Spirit, Innovative Ideas & Environmental Sustainability.
- Exposure of outstanding projects on the Landscape Ontario, CiB Provincial and National websites and/or newsletters.
- Participating in this program may assist the group in acquiring municipal funding and/or grants for their projects.
- Your Community will receive an invitation to the Communities in Bloom Provincial Awards Ceremony.
- You will have use of the Communities in Bloom logo and will be listed as a member of CiB on both the provincial and national websites.
- Allows the community to “maintain” Communities in Bloom Ontario standards with ongoing membership, continued support and networking through CiB-O to keep up to date on current trends and practices.
- Participating may assist the group in establishing committees and in obtaining special project grants.
- CiB Evaluation Report is a Cost Effective Measurement of Success.
- Low cost, program which helps to recognize your valuable volunteers.

#### **For further information contact:**

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**Working together to help make Ontario Communities Beautiful**