

Evaluation Form

2013

**Pembroke,
Ontario**





Community: City of Pembroke
Province: Ontario, Canada
Category: International Challenge - Medium

The evaluation is based on 8 criteria, divided into the 6 following sections, assessing 4

sectors of the community:

Tidiness	133	/	150.00
Environmental Action	129.5	/	150.00
Heritage Conservation	135	/	150.00
Urban Forestry	150.5	/	175.00
Landscape	177.5	/	200.00
Floral Displays	156	/	175.00
	Total		881.5 / 1000.00

Percentage : 88%

Bloom rating: 5 Blooms

Bloom rating:

Up to 55%: 1 bloom. 56% to 63%: 2 blooms. 64% to 72%: 3 blooms 73% to 81%: 4 blooms. >82%: 5 blooms.

Mention : Renaissance Square Project – Algonquin College

Representative (s) of Community

Name: Mary Ethier Function : Chair Pembroke in Bloom

Name: Councillor Dan Callaghan Function : City of Pembroke

Name: Susan Ellis Function : City of Pembroke, Manager Economic Development

Judges

Name: Alain Cappelle Name: Bob Ivison

Evaluation date: 22nd July 2013

IMPORTANT NOTES:

Evaluation is adjusted to the climate and environmental conditions of the community.

Some aspects of the evaluation might not be applicable: scoring will be prorated.

The score will vary from the previous year based on the facts that the evaluation form is subject to modifications each year and that the evaluation is based on the perception of the current judges.

SECTORS OF EVALUATION

Municipal:

- Municipal properties, parks and green spaces, streets, streetscapes
- Properties owned and run by municipality such as Museums, Historical sites

Business and Institutions:

Properties owned and managed by

- Business : commercial sector, shopping centres, commercial streets, industrial parks, manufacturing plants
- Institutions : schools, universities, churches, hospitals, service and community organization buildings (such as YMCA, Legion), private museums, government and crown corporations buildings (such as Canada Post)
- Tourism bureaus, Chamber of Commerce offices
- Farms : in rural communities, farms can be considered in this section

Residential:

- Citizens and Citizen groups acting within their own properties
- Residential property owners, rate payer groups

Community Involvement:

The principle of community involvement is so fundamental to the program that it is considered in each segment of the evaluation

- Individuals & Service and citizen groups – all contributing to various aspects of community improvement
- Organized clubs such as horticultural societies, garden clubs, community associations
- Service clubs such as Rotary, Lions, Optimist
- Participation (financial and/or in-kind or employee participation) by the Municipality, Businesses and Institutions.

GENERAL COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

Pembroke is an attractive city with a long standing connection with Communities in Bloom and in itself engenders civic pride and helps to make the city bloom.

The CiB program is embedded in all that the city does and the extensive local media coverage ensures that the public are kept up to date with all that is happening as well as the overall importance of Communities in Bloom and what that means to the community. All sectors of the city contribute, from individuals to community groups, from service clubs to business owners and not least the city staff.

The City is fully supportive of the program and contributes financially to its operating costs. The enthusiastic support by the Mayor, Ed Jacyno, and Council demonstrates outstanding commitment to improving the quality of life for Pembroke's community at large.

The Communities in Bloom Committee still manages to engage support from all quarters of the community in labour, cash and kind to deliver some fantastic examples of environmental, cultural and educational facilities. The beautification doesn't seem to end.

The knowledge and enthusiasm of the CiB committee is successfully harnessed and coupled with generous support from the general community it manages to produce excellent results.

Again it has to be said this year that the value of the effort that CiB, the residents and volunteers put towards the wellbeing of the community of Pembroke cannot be overstated; the effort is excellent and Pembroke as a whole should be very proud of what has been achieved.

Only days before the judges visit there had been severe storms that took out power lines which left the parts of the city without power for several days, including during the tour, and had uprooted trees and left debris through the neighbourhoods. The whole city pulled together and the result was that the state of the city for the judging tour was excellent. Great job!

The City's cultural heritage is well documented, understood and promoted. The murals program, museum, heritage buildings and community events all help to develop the fellowship of Pembroke.

The quality of the promotional material is excellent and the development of greater linkages to local tourist attractions could help to create a more holistic approach to encouraging of tourists to visit Pembroke. The Partnerships with the wider regional communities, including the Ottawa Valley Waste Recovery Centre is still strong and is growing.

Well done Pembroke.

TIDINESS

Tidiness includes an overall tidiness effort. Elements for evaluation are green spaces (parks, etc.), medians, boulevards, sidewalks, streets; municipal, commercial, institutional and residential properties; ditches, road shoulders, vacant lots signs and buildings; weed control, litter clean-up (including cigarette butts and gum), graffiti and vandalism programs.

	Max	Actual
Municipal		
Tidiness, order, cleanliness and first impressions	15	13
Community anti-litter awareness programs	5	4.5
Effective bylaws, programs and policies and enforcement; litter control, graffiti prevention and eradication, appropriate and attractive signage	10	9
Cleanliness of public green infrastructure: parks, streetscapes (sidewalks, planters, etc.)	15	13.5
Condition of urban signage and furniture such as benches, litter and recycling containers	15	14
Business & Institutions		
Tidiness, order and cleanliness and first impressions	15	13.5
Condition of buildings (exterior maintenance), grounds, sidewalks and parking lots	15	13
Condition of urban furniture: benches, litter and recycling containers	5	4.5
Residential		
Tidiness, order and cleanliness	20	17
Condition of buildings, grounds and yards	15	13
Community Involvement		
Public participation in community, neighbourhood or individual street tidiness, clean-up programs, activities and annual maintenance (including promotion, organization, innovations involving youth and seniors, etc.)	10	9
Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation by the Municipality, Businesses and Institutions for community clean-up programs	10	9
Tidiness Total	150.00	133

TIDINESS

Observations:

Despite the storms Pembroke was tidy, clean with a little evidence of storm debris still in streets and that left by storm water. Very understandable but nevertheless the city was still attractive, pleasant and looked well cared for.

The efforts of PBIA along with residential and commercial partners keep the main streets clean and tidy. The designation of the city as smoke free as part of the Health Canada initiative also helps reduce the amount of cigarette butts.

The green and public spaces are regularly swept and litter picked and the many initiatives to have volunteers engage in Community Clean-ups even getting the Governor General to participate. The linking with the Community Services program benefits the community too as well as the individuals involved.

The support of Algonquin College students and the Service Clubs in this endeavour is commendable.

There was no graffiti evident during the tour. The activity/presence of the Downtown Pembroke Assistants in the main street area is a great deterrent. The outstanding mural collection was in excellent condition with no signs of major damage or graffiti.

There are many volunteer, service organization, educational establishment, resident group and churches who provide endless opportunity to participate in clean-ups and tidying events.

Recommendations:

Continue with the excellent work!

We understand that further sites for new murals are being considered but in the short term perhaps 'temporary' sites can be identified particularly where graffiti does occur.

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION		
Environmental action includes efforts and achievement with respect to: policies, by-laws, programs and best practices, 3-R initiatives (reduce/reuse/recycle), waste reduction, composting sites, landfill sites, hazardous waste collections, water conservation, naturalization, and environmental stewardship activities under the guiding principles of sustainable development pertaining to green spaces.		
	Max	Actual
Municipal		
Sustainable development strategy: policies, programs, guidelines, long-term planning / vision; effective bylaws / policies and their enforcement; and public education programs and activities	20	18
Waste management programs such as 3-R (recycling, re-use, reduce), composting (backyard and municipal), landfill site management, and including activities such as composting sites yard waste collections, shredding of Christmas trees, handling of hazardous waste including e-waste collection	15	13
Water conservation and use-reduction programs: efficient appliance incentives or promotion, efficient irrigation and use of non-potable water, water restriction policies	15	13
Energy conservation programs such as alternate forms of energy (ex. geothermal, biomass, wind, solar), and initiatives such as, shielding for night skies issues, efficient street lighting and energy audits.	10	8
Environmental initiatives, innovations and actions such as: Development and expansion of bike lanes and recreational pathways. Green roofs, green walls; re-use of sites; engineered wetlands and bio-walls. Brownfield redevelopment, remediation, land reclamation. Air quality programs such as anti-idling.	10	8.5
Business & Institutions		
Participation in the environmental effort : such as waste management (recycle, reuse, reduce), water conservation, energy conservation, brownfield management	10	9
Corporate environmental innovation / stewardship, initiatives, activities (Ex. Environmental clean-up activities)	10	8
Residential		
Participation in the 3-R (recycle, reuse, reduce) initiatives and composting	20	18
Adoption of water conservation practices & policies including rainwater collection	15	13
Community Involvement		
Public participation in public forums and policy development on environmental issues	5	4
Public participation in community, neighbourhood or individual street environmental activities and programs (including, promotion, organization and evidence of taking ownership), etc.)	10	8
Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation by the Municipality, Businesses and Institutions in public environmental activities and programs	10	9
Environmental Action Total	150.00	129.5

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

Observations:

Pembroke is very environmentally conscious and has policies, bylaws and regulations in place with great emphasis on being sustainable including the Community Improvement Goal which has helped to develop the Green Policy Statement which has at the heart; new development shall not change the balance of the ecological system.

The Buy Local campaigns have led to a growth in Community Share Agriculture that promotes locally grown fresh organic produce. The Pembroke Farmers Market, Rainbow Heritage Garden, Algonquin Tea Company and the Ottawa Valley Co-op all encourage the use of local, organic food that is sustainably grown.

As a partner in the Ottawa Valley Waste Recovery Centre, they benefit from the considerable environmental value of this facility. The degree of recovery and reuse is exceptional over 65%, which has resulted in them gaining Federation of Canadian Municipalities Sustainable Communities Award.

The Integrated Pest Management programs are effective in dealing with specific issues e.g. poison ivy in public spaces. Other pesticides are used only sparingly.

There are many initiatives and policies in place for the control and use of water and the introduction of the Water Restriction Bylaw this year reinforces the need to conserve fresh water.

The collaborative working with the Physical Activity Network has enabled designated cycle paths and shared roads to improve the uptake of cycling as a green transport method.

The 3 R's are understood by all and great efforts are being made by schools and businesses who also participate in Earth Day and Earth Hour when stores and restaurants switch to candle power.

Many local clubs including the Ottawa River Keeper and Pembroke and Area Field Naturalist Club promote environmental action and education within the local communities.

Recommendations:

Continue with the program of lamp column replacement with LED lighting as individual redevelopment scheme arise but further undertake a long term cost-benefit analysis for complete switching to a computerised illumination control system for the city.

Initiatives for improve cycle journeys are now working, look now to further enhancements to the quality of the infrastructure, safety lightning, bicycles parking, information boards. Cycle rental within the city limits linked to 'park and cycle' initiatives.

HERITAGE CONSERVATION

Heritage Conservation includes efforts to preserve heritage within their community. Priority in evaluation is given to natural heritage, as well as the integration of landscape and streetscapes as it pertains to the built heritage of a community. Also consists of preservation of cultural heritage which includes monuments, memorials, artefacts, museums and history, archives, traditions, customs, festivals and celebrations. The evaluation includes:

- natural heritage management plans: sites, parks, cemeteries, heritage gardens and trees, native plants;
- the relationship of the landscape to the built heritage;
- overall preservation of traditions and customs through year-round festivals and celebrations, events and parades.

As well, the participation of groups such as Historical societies, Conservation groups are considered.

	Max	Actual
Municipal		
Heritage policies, by-laws and their enforcement and effective programs	15	13
Natural and cultural heritage management plan and preservation initiatives: including cultural landscapes, use of native plants, heritage gardens, heritage trees, cemeteries, museums, heritage sites	15	14
Management and promotion of heritage (through communications, information and support programs, economic development / tourism) including natural and cultural heritage initiatives throughout the year, and preservation of traditions, and customs	15	14
Interpretative and signage programs, walking tours, festivals/celebrations (year round)	15	13
Activities and programs (year-round) for education and use of natural heritage sites for and by the public	15	14
New programs and initiatives to promote local heritage	10	9
Business & Institutions		
Conservation, restoration and reuse of heritage buildings and grounds	15	13
Promotion of local heritage, including heritage gardens, native plants, and heritage trees	15	14
Residential		
Conservation / restoration and reuse of sites / buildings	10	9
Conservation of cultural and heritage elements pertaining to their own private lands and structures.	5	4
Community Involvement		
Public participation in community, neighbourhood or individual in cultural and natural heritage programs including heritage community events/activities, including year round cultural festivals & celebrations and preservation of traditions and customs	10	9
Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation by the Municipality, Businesses and Institutions (including Historical Societies) in community initiated, natural and cultural heritage activities and programs including cultural festivals & celebrations throughout the year and preservation of traditions and customs.	10	9
Heritage Conservation Total	150.00	135

HERITAGE CONSERVATION

Observations:

The Green Policy Statement guides the City as to how the natural and build environments; old and new can work in harmony, thus providing a setting where culture can be conserved, celebrated and promoted.

The Façade Improvement Program conserves the old and a new build such as the Algonquin College exhibits the use of best building technologies. The restoration of the Superior Court House is still a good example of how the old and the new can be brought together in a modern world.

The extensive program of events by the city, service groups and voluntary organisations provides every opportunity for the community to come together and celebrate, relax, listen, play and enjoy life in a multitude of surroundings be it a school, a church, a park or on the streets right throughout the year.

The historic walking tour of the Pembroke Heritage Murals is a prime example of heritage understanding, interpretation and education. Early history and heritage is also exhibited in the local parks through public art including the Pointer Boat and the Portage Sundial.

Sporting heritage plays an important part in Pembroke conservation programs and the tag of HockeyTown is not misplaced. Venues, hotels and shops all contribute to this important activity.

Music and dance is integral to the city's heritage and the depth that these two elements are engrained in the community is immeasurable. It is everywhere and is celebrated.

Industrial heritage is not forgotten with the Hydro Museum and the spiritual heritage is not lost in the Marguerite Centre and a guided History Tour through the local cemeteries will bring that history alive.

Recommendations:

We believe there is still scope for state of the art interpretive methods to be used to help residents and visitors, particularly the younger section e.g. QR coding of murals, trees and sculptures, buildings etc. to bring information direct to Smartphones and other personal devices.

Continue with the Heritage Mural program: extend the program for every other art form e.g. First Nation paintings, graffiti-style or even video-art. Look to 'temporary' murals in locations where graffiti is a problem.

URBAN FORESTRY		
Urban Forestry includes the efforts with regards to written policies, by-laws, standards for tree management (selection, planting, and maintenance), long and short-term management plans, tree replacement policies, tree inventory, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), heritage, memorial and commemorative trees.		
	Max	Actual
Municipal		
Overall impact, benefit and first impression of the urban forest	10	9
Policies, regulations and tree by-laws, tree protection and planting on public and private lands	10	9
Urban forestry planning and design, including integration with overall landscape plan	10	8.5
Measures to preserve, protect, manage and expand overall tree inventory, including woodlots	10	8
Plan of action: procurement, species diversity (including native trees), selection of hardy species, recommended tree list	10	8
Integrated Pest Management (IPM) / Plant HealthCare (PHC): plan of action for invasive pest detection and control, information on current infestations and diseases	10	9
Public information program on good planting techniques and maintenance programs	10	8
Qualified personnel and/or crew training	10	8
Business & Institutions		
Design, species diversity and planting of trees in landscapes	15	13
Maintenance programs and best practices: watering, pruning, IPM	10	9
Inclusion of diversified (including native), hardy species for planting on properties	10	9
Residential		
Design, species diversity and planting of trees in landscapes	15	13
Inclusion of diversified (including native), hardy species for planting on residential properties	10	9
Maintenance best practices	10	9
Community Involvement		
Public participation in tree planting and conservation programs such a Green Streets Canada, Arbour Day, Maple Leaf Day, and other tree planting and maintenance programs and activities on public lands (including promotion, organization etc.).	15	13
Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation or promotion by the Municipality, Businesses and Institutions for community tree planting and conservation programs on public lands.	10	8
Urban Forestry Total	175.00	150.5

URBAN FORESTRY

Observations:

As reported in last year's report Pembroke has a well-established treescape spread between private and public spaces. Therefore the partnership between all parties is essential. The City facilitates this well in conjunction with CiB, the local college and volunteer groups.

The Tree Byelaw preserves and protects the local trees and this coupled with the tree inventory enables the city to keep track of what the tree population is doing and where action is needed.

The Algonquin College Forestry Management programs help and support many initiatives undertaken by the city, CiB and the residents for the better care of their trees.

Residents play their part by tree planting and the CiB offers help and support in the selection of trees and planting techniques. In support of understanding trees there is the publication *The Trees of Pembroke* which is an identification guide to historic, special and unusual trees in Pembroke.

Many tree planting initiatives are undertaken especially with younger people, local service clubs and organisations. The efforts at Waterfront Park are notable.

The city has some excellent tree stands including the Commemorative Grove at Riverside Park and the Harvey Frazer Reserve. In total over 6000 have been planted since 2000.

As forestry and logging has been the centre of Pembroke's history the Economic Development Partners Group support initiatives for better forest management and a healthy forest sector and lend support to many programs. The heritage in this area is not forgotten; as logging has been central to Pembroke's history this is recognized in the 3D loggers mural and the Shaw Woods Centre and the establishment of their Forest Outdoor Education Centre.

The City forestry staff and their contractors are enthusiastic and knowledgeable and are an asset to the Service.

Recommendations:

The recent storm devastation illustrates quite clearly the need for an Urban Forestry Plan for the City. This integrated with other City plans for future developments and enhancements as the Renaissance Square and Riverside Park extensions into the Downtown Core. A coordinated green infrastructure plan will assist with maintaining the character of the city avoid piecemeal/ad hoc schemes which could damage that heritage forever.

LANDSCAPE

This section of the evaluation supports all efforts to create an environment showcasing the overall surroundings. The overall plan and design must be suitable for the intended use and location on a year-round basis. Elements for evaluation include: native and introduced materials; balance of plants, materials and constructed elements; appropriate integration of hard surfaces and art elements, use of turf and groundcovers. Landscape design should harmonize the interests of all sectors of the community. Standards of execution and maintenance should demonstrate best practices, including quality of naturalization, use of groundcovers and wildflowers, turf management and maintenance.

	Max	Actual
Municipal		
Landscape Plan: integrated and implemented throughout the municipality	10	9
Turf management programs, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Plant Health Care (PHC), alternative solutions to diseases and infestations when appropriate, increased naturalization, adapted maintenance programs and water management	10	9
First impressions of the community including gateway / entrance treatments	10	9
Landscape maintenance policies, standards, best practices and programs	10	9
Sustainable designs (seasonally adjusted year round): energy efficient, use of green materials, naturalization, xeriscaping, suitable plant varieties	10	8.5
Urban and civic design standards for streetscape and public places: flags, banners, public art, fountains, site furnishings, seasonal design and décor, walkways and paving materials	10	9
Landscape maintained to appropriate standards and specifications	10	9
Demonstrated year-round opportunities and programs for education and use of parks and green spaces (parks and recreation programs, city festivals and events)	10	9
Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or training	5	4
Business & Institutions		
Sustainable designs (seasonally adjusted year round): energy efficient, use of green materials, naturalization, xeriscaping, alternate groundcovers	10	7.5
Contribution to urban and civic design and public green spaces above requirements: such as public art, streetscape, site furniture, fountains & innovation in concept & design	15	13.5
Adequate ongoing life cycle management (ongoing maintenance, ground & asset management, rehabilitation & replacement) of all landscape elements	10	9
Residential		
Streetscape appeal of landscapes (year-round, seasonal, themed)	15	13
Maintenance of properties: lawn care, tree and shrub maintenance	15	13
Selection of plant material (native, local, innovative, including edible gardening)	10	9
Community Involvement		
Public participation in community programs such as: "yard of the week", volunteer park maintenance, holiday illumination & decoration (including promotion, organization etc.).	15	14
Recognition (by municipality and/or by volunteer groups) of volunteer efforts in all aspects of the Communities in Bloom Program including tidiness, environmental action, urban forestry, landscape, floral and natural & Cultural Heritage activities .	15	14
Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation by the Municipality, Businesses and Institutions for community landscape programs and activities	10	9
Landscape Total	200.00	177.5

LANDSCAPE

Observations:

Pembroke has nearly 200 acres of parks and green spaces including the Waterfront, Riverside Park, Rotary Park and Pansy Patch Park for the public enjoyment and recreation.

All turf was in good condition despite the heavy rains experienced prior to the judging tour. The maintenance regimes were modified to encourage better drainage and water dispersal. The quality of turf surfaces have been praised by visiting teams as the best in Eastern Ontario.

The extent of the storm damage to trees in Pansy Patch Park prior to the judges visit had meant that the park was closed to the public. A good lesson to be learnt about public safety in public areas.

The development of the Renaissance Square project has delivered a park and has transformed the downtown area, the waterfront and the college itself. It has provided a well-coordinated and pleasant environment. This has been made possible through a real partnership between city, business, and community and public contributions and is a tremendous achievement.

Community gardens are a valued and important feature of the urban landscape and the example at Nun's Hill is one that can be replicated throughout the city.

The many civic buildings, colleges, churches, cemeteries, schools and hospital still all play a vital role in contributing to a green and pleasant landscape.

The numbers of Garden Tours are growing as is CiB's own garden competition. By encouraging more and more residents to be involved in beautifying their city and building on the environmental awareness campaign the quality and biodiversity value of the landscape is improving.

The recognition given to residents through the Awards Ceremony is extremely well received and the fact that every property is viewed and that individual effort is recognised with a 'door knocker' notice is tremendous.

Service Clubs and the PBIA all play a part in providing, maintaining and improving landscaped areas throughout the downtown and residential areas.

Recommendations:

Reiterating the point once more of the need to establish a Green Infrastructure Plan for Pembroke incorporating management plans for all the green spaces and development plans for potentially new sites including the CP Rail lands.

FLORAL DISPLAYS

"Floral Displays" evaluates efforts to design, plan, execute, and maintain floral displays of high quality standards. Evaluation includes the design and arrangements of flowers and plants (annuals, perennials, bulbs, ornamental grasses) in the context of originality, distribution, location, diversity and balance, colour, and harmony. This pertains to flowerbeds, carpet bedding, containers, baskets and window boxes.

	Max	Actual
Municipal		
Integration into overall landscape plan and distribution through community. Concept and design including sustainable design	15	13.5
Diversity of displays: flowerbeds, raised beds, planters, hanging baskets, window boxes, carpet bedding, mosaics	20	17.5
Diversity of plants: annuals, perennials, bulbs, grasses, woody plants, natural flora	10	9
Quality, maintenance to appropriate specifications and standards, best practices: watering, weeding, edging, dead heading, etc.	20	18
Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or training	10	9
Business & Institutions		
Concept and design (including arrangement, diversity, colour of display and plants) on grounds	15	13
Quality of planting and maintenance: watering, weeding, edging, dead heading, etc.	10	9
Contribution to, and integration with, overall community floral program	15	13.5
Residential		
Concept and design (including arrangement, diversity, colour of display and plants) on residential properties	15	13
Quality of planting and maintenance	15	13
Community Involvement		
Public participation in community projects, volunteer initiatives, outreach programs in floral displays (including promotion, organization, etc.).	15	13.5
Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation by the Municipality, Businesses and Institutions in community floral displays activities	15	14
Floral Displays Total	175.00	156

FLORAL DISPLAYS

Observations:

Again this year Pembroke's beautification program results are quite stunning. The overall effect of the baskets, tubs, banners and flower beds across bridges, along main street and public buildings is very impressive even after the recent storms.

The Beautiful Bridges, Baskets and Banners program is funded directly by CiB and maintains a consistent message throughout the city.

The Summer 'Bloomers' funded by the City help with park and garden maintenance, watering and the cleanliness of the city and are an added bonus to the campaign.

Businesses and institutions support the program wholeheartedly and sponsor the Beautiful Boulevards campaign and many businesses have improved their own premises to the delight of customers and passers-by.

Every residential property takes part in the Best Front garden competition and has that chance to win a coveted award for best garden or for businesses to gain the Golden Spade Award for Business. Awards are made at the Annual Awards Ceremony and the ceremony recognises and celebrates their achievements. The local media support the program with wonderful coverage.

What is very impressive is the extent to which the community actually participates in the program. From front gardens, garden centres, colleges, businesses, shops and restaurants, schools, churches, care homes, service clubs, youth organisations, transport companies to the horticultural society – everyone is involved. What an incredible achievement CiB has made possible.

People take up gardening for all sorts of reasons and it is incredible the effect that it has on the individual no matter how small or insignificant the garden maybe to the casual passer-by; to the person tending and caring for the garden it maybe a lifeline and an inspiration. The judges were reminded of this in a very touching way in the final moments of the visit to Pembroke – after all the euphoria of a great judging tour thank you for bringing us back down to earth in a very poignant way.

Congratulations Pembroke.

Recommendations:

Develop further the links with local growers and nurseries to expand the opportunities for floral displays e.g. alternative display boxes, bulk discount buying and sponsorship opportunities.

Look to link schools with community gardens to encouraging the younger element to participate in growing and taste the benefits of local produce.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR INVOLVEMENT

“Within the context of climate change and environmental concerns, communities involved in the Communities in Bloom program can be proud of their efforts, which provide real and meaningful environmental solutions and benefit all of society.”

COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM IS MADE POSSIBLE BY

The commitment of local, provincial and national volunteers

The support of elected officials and of staff in municipalities

The dedication of our judges, staff and organizations

The contributions of our sponsors and partners