



COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM ALBERTA SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT 2025



30 Years of Celebrating Communities in Alberta!

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WHO WE ARE

Communities in Bloom Alberta Society is a non-profit society dedicated to providing Alberta Communities of all sizes the resources, ideas and means of Growing Great Places Together!

OUR VISION

To inspire all communities to enhance the quality of life and our environment through people and plants to create community pride.

OUR MISSION

We are a volunteer and partnership-driven organization that uses a multi-tiered evaluation process to foster community strength, involvement and continuous improvement. This is accomplished by nurturing environmental sustainability, enhancements of green spaces, and heritage conservation, in cultural and natural environments encompassing municipal, residential, commercial, and institutional spaces.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sherry Cote

President & Board Chair

Cathy Kremer

Board Secretary

Emily Neis

Director

Bob Lewis

Director

Carolyn McAuley

Director

Heather Edwards

Director

Allan Slobodian

Treasurer

Sharon Miller

Executive Director/Program Coordinator



A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

It is a privilege to serve on the Board of Communities in Bloom Alberta as we assess opportunities to gather insights from our communities, recognize their achievements, and consider changes that may support growth within both the provincial and national programs.

During the COVID-19 pandemic and for several years thereafter, many communities were recovering and unable to host conferences. After an extended hiatus from holding Alberta Communities in Bloom provincial conferences, the Board of Directors were pleased to announce the resumption of an in-person gathering with the CIB Alberta Conference held in Bruderheim in September 2025. Feedback received after this conference was overwhelmingly positive, confirming that communities value annual meetings to exchange ideas and celebrate accomplishments. Our member communities demonstrated enthusiasm for the program by sharing suggestions and outlining challenges—together, we can achieve far more collectively. If you are interested in hosting the 2026 or 2027 Communities in Bloom conference and community celebration event, we encourage you to contact us. This is an excellent opportunity to highlight your community and region.

Many of our Board members have personally visited and evaluated numerous communities over the years. This year, Sharon Miller, our Executive Director, and I were invited to visit communities new to the program, providing information about CIB and engaging with Council members and volunteer groups. As a result, we have welcomed new registrants into the CIB Alberta program. Please contact us if you would like a presentation delivered to your organization or if you would like us to attend some of your regional collaborative meetings.

The CIB program is driven by volunteers, focusing on community beautification, environmental stewardship, and quality of life; all efforts contribute to “growing great places together” and create further opportunities for collaboration and development. Our communities continue to exemplify growth, and we are proud to be part of this initiative.

We anticipate another productive and creative year, witnessing how communities embrace the theme of “Therapeutic Gardening”, the theme established by CIB Nationals. Please share your projects and ideas with us—we would be delighted to share them with other communities.

Wishing you all the best in your 2026 Communities in Bloom community initiatives.

Sherry Côté
President and Board Chair
Communities in Bloom Alberta Society



UPDATE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This is our first Annual General Meeting. We incorporated the Society in May of 2024 after being under the umbrella of Alberta Parks & Recreation Association for many years. Our first full year as a Society ended on December 31st, 2025 – and what a year it was!

There have been many changes in our operations, philosophies and services. Just to highlight a few of the significant changes:

OPERATIONS

- **Provincial Coordinator:** Sharon Miller was hired as the Provincial Coordinator in 2024 and is also considered the Executive Director to the Board of Directors for CiB Alberta Society.
- **Website:** A new website was introduced in 2024. It is continually updated to share Resources, News, Community Information and Membership Information.
- **Social Media:** CiB Alberta is now on Facebook and Instagram and we are working on a YouTube channel to share videos from Communities in Alberta and across Canada.
- **Tradeshows:** we have been fortunate to participate with partners in two tradeshows this last year – Alberta Association of Agriculture Societies with Alberta Horticultural Association, and the Green Industry show with Trees Canada.
- **Funding for CiB Alberta:** Thanks to the ongoing support from FortisAlberta we have been able to continue our work promoting and celebrating communities in Alberta. Without FortisAlberta and our other sponsors we could not accomplish all we have!

PHILOSOPHIES

- **Competition:** From consultation with communities the Board determined we would move away from the *competitive* format, to one of membership. The reasoning behind this was to encourage the spirit of sharing and cooperation, rather than competitiveness. Participating at the National Level, for those communities that achieve a 5-bloom rating in Provincial evaluation, remains a competitive process.
- **Membership:** We now consider a community that registers as a *Member* of Communities in Bloom Alberta Society. We reduced the types of registration for simplification to Member – Non-Evaluated, and Member – Evaluated. Additionally, after our community consultations it was identified that communities are not prepared to be evaluated all the time – for many reasons – restructuring of volunteer base, funding concerns, needing time to complete projects, etc. Therefore, we have removed the requirement that a community must be evaluated every 3rd year. The evaluation process can be a lot of work but is also very rewarding and a fabulous resource for moving forward. Many communities view the evaluation as a benchmark from which they can measure their growth and successes over time.

SERVICES

- **Grants & Sponsorships:** Using a variety of platforms for communications we provide information on Grants and Sponsorships members may be interested in.
- **The Resource Centre** is available on the CiB Alberta website which contains information documents and links to resources on a variety of topics: trees, weeds, pests, environmental and sustainability issues, and many other topics.
- **Webinars & Learning Opportunities:** through 2025 we have offered a few webinars – Flower Power Hanging Baskets with America in Bloom, Native Prairie Series with Saskatchewan CiB, and Edible Gardens presented by CiB Alberta.
- **Fall Celebration & Awards:** Thanks to the incredible work of Bruderheim Agricultural Society we were able to host our Fall Celebration and provide some valuable presentations on Nature Stewards, Getting Grants, and Heritage and Cultural Conservation to attendees. This was also an opportunity to celebrate our member communities and their incredible accomplishments. The feedback from our survey indicated that the time together is an opportunity to share and learn from each other.
- **Quiet Explorer:** this program is for community members that choose not to be evaluated. We ran a pilot of the program in 2025, at no additional cost to the non-evaluated members. The feedback was very positive, and we see this as a value-add to membership in Communities in Bloom Alberta. The Board has decided to continue the program into 2026, again, at no additional cost. This program is simple – as our judging team travels about Alberta they visit many communities. The Quiet Explorer project allows our judging team to look at non-evaluated communities, like a tourist might, and reflect on it. Every community has fabulous attributes – we want to see and recognize those!



SUMMARY OF MEMBER COMMUNITIES IN 2025

Community	Registered As	Community Highlight	Bloom Rating
Barrhead	Member – Evaluated	Edible Garden	5
Bon Accord	Member – Evaluated	Strong Community Partnerships	4
Calmar	Member – Evaluated	Entrance Signs	4
Coaldale	Member – Non-Evaluated	Birds of Prey Sanctuary	
Coronation	Member – Non-Evaluated		
Devon	Member – Non-Evaluated	Community Spirit Live Here	
Elk Point	Member – Evaluated	Volunteers	4
Faust (Novice)	Member – Evaluated	Launching Faust in Bloom	4
Jasper	Member – Non-Evaluated	Spirit of Community	
Mundare	Member – Non-Evaluated	Beautiful Town Office	
Provost	Member – Non-Evaluated	Floral Displays	
Sexsmith	Member – Non-Evaluated	Historic Main Street	
Strathmore	Member – Non-Evaluated	Garden of Eat’n	
Taber	Member – Evaluated	CiB Volunteer Committee	5
Thorsby	Member – Non-Evaluated	Thor!	
Wainwright	Member – Non-Evaluated	100 th Anniversary Clock Tower	
Whitecourt	Member – Non-Evaluated	Festival Park	



OUR FABULOUS SPONSORS



And the many wonderful folks and communities that contributed to our Silent Auction at the Fall Celebration & Awards, and those who donated to CiB Alberta!

OUR DEDICATED EVALUATION TEAM IN 2025!



Berta Briggs
Judging Since 2007



Marie Wenger
Judging Since 2007



Sherry Cote
Judging Since 2014



Maureen Sexsmith-West
Judging Since 2014



Bob Cote
Judging Since 2016



Cathy Kremer
Judging Since 2021



Cynthia Pohl
Judging Since 2025



Colleen Boham
Judging Since 2025



Marlene Aubrey
Judging Since 2023

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Communities in Bloom Alberta Society is a non-profit Society in Alberta. Revenues are generated through two primary sources – sponsorship and membership.

	2025
Revenues	
Cash Sponsorships	12,830
Gift-in-Kind Donations	3,615
Donations	3,213
Membership Registrations	3,375
Silent Auction Proceeds	2,380
Conference Registrations	1,190
Total Revenues	\$ 26,603
Expenses	
Operations – Evaluations	4,219
Operations – Administration	12,517
Member Benefits	4,041
Total Expenses	\$ 20,777

Surplus from the 2025 fiscal year is moved forward into 2026 to ensure ongoing operations and sustainability of the organization – as per CRA rules.



Thank You for Your Support!

Communities in Bloom

Supporting Communities since 1996

www.cibalberta.ca



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