



2009 Evaluation Form

Municipality: Town of Grenfell
Province: Saskatchewan
Category: Up to 1,000

The municipality is evaluated on the efforts of all sectors in the community in the following criteria

Tidiness	111,5	/	125
Environmental Awareness	97,5	/	125
Community Involvement	110	/	125
Natural and Cultural Heritage Conservation	103	/	125
Tree/Urban Forest Management	102	/	125
Landscaped Areas	99	/	125
Floral Displays	106,5	/	125
Turf and Groundcovers	102	/	125
Total Marks :			831,5 / 1000

Percentage : 83,15

Bloom rating: 5 Blooms

Mention : Total Community Engagement

Representative (s) of Community

Name:	<u>Lynda McMain</u>	Function :	<u>CiB Secretary / Treasurer</u>
Name:	<u>Carol Speidelsbach</u>	Function :	<u>CiB Chairperson</u>
Name:	<u>Helen & Dick Peters</u>	Function :	<u>CiB Committee</u>
	<u>Val & Colin Traub</u>		

Judges

Name: <u>Diane Clasen</u>	Name: <u>Ted Zarudny</u>
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Evaluation date: Mon, July 27, 2009

IMPORTANT NOTES:

All criteria are adjusted to the climate and environmental conditions of the municipality.
 Some aspects of a criterion might not be applicable: in such cases, scoring will be prorated.
 The evaluation score may 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.

General comments and suggestions

Grenfell, once known as “Lilac Town”, is a lovely, quaint oasis nestled amongst golden fields of canola, sky blue waves of flax, rolling fields of wheat and barley, and joyful sunflowers; some of the most productive farmland in Saskatchewan. Reminiscent of the places we grew up in, or wish we had. The Town’s spacious main street is habitually tidy and is graced with voluptuous hanging baskets. Regina is a reasonable drive away to the west. Grenfell’s quaint appeal has attracted the CBC who will be filming an episode of “Little Mosque on the Prairie” there.

Grenfell, once the greatest distributor of grain in the area, is still thriving despite a substantial loss of grain distribution. The Town’s demographics are now one of an older community, whose younger citizens work selflessly providing for the aging population. Seniors are welcomed and included at community events, an integral part of the community.

The newly created Regional Economic Development Committee will offer an opportunity for synergistic planning for Grenfell and others in southeast Saskatchewan.

We sincerely thank you for your warm hospitality during our visit. Everyone we met was positive and enthusiastic about improving the quality of life in Grenfell through the ideals of the Communities in Bloom program. We encourage your continued dedication and involvement in CiB as you prepare for your “Lilac Town” Centennial in 2011 and as part of your vision for the future growth and development of Grenfell.

All the best!

Diane Clasen and Ted Zarudny

TIDINESS		
Tidiness of green spaces, medians, boulevards, sidewalks, streets, ditches, road shoulders, signage, vacant lots and buildings, with regard to garbage, weeds, maintenance and repair, dog droppings, notices/posters, graffiti and vandalism.		
	Max	Actual
Municipality / Public Properties		
☒ Tidiness, order, cleanliness and first impressions	10	9,00
☒ Community anti-litter awareness and support for community organizations in clean-up efforts	9	8,50
☒ Effective bylaws / policies and their enforcement; effective programs in smaller communities; operational programs for notices, posters and graffiti prevention / removal, derelict removal	9	8,00
☒ Maintenance of public roads and shoulders: weed – free sidewalks, curbs, streets and roads, regular hard surface / street sweeping program	9	8,00
☒ Condition of buildings and urban furniture: benches, litter and recycling containers	8	7,00
Commercial / Industrial Sector		
☒ Tidiness, order and cleanliness	7	6,00
☒ Condition of buildings, grounds, sidewalks and parking lots	7	6,00
☒ Condition of urban furniture: benches, litter and recycling containers	7	6,00
☒ Support – financial and/or in-kind - for community clean-up programs	7	6,00
Service Clubs, Schools, Churches, Not-for-profit groups		
☒ Support – financial and/or in-kind; involvement – organization, participation; impact on the	13	12,00
☒ Tidiness, condition of buildings and yards of churches, schools and any other buildings	11	10,00
Residential / Citizens		
☒ Tidiness, order and cleanliness	10	9,00
☒ Condition of buildings and yards	10	9,00
☒ Involvement in block or individual street tidiness	8	7,00
Tidiness	125	111,50

Comments and suggestions – Tidiness

Grenfell's downtown core was very clean with no litter or graffiti.

The citizens of Grenfell keep their yards very tidy with no refuse in any portion of their yards.

The Trailex Mobile Home Park was very attractive.

Commercial/Industrial sites are generally neat and tidy.

Downtown businesses take part in the cleaning of the Town by sweeping the sidewalks in front of their establishments.

Grenfell has a street sweeper which is put to good use keeping the streets clean.

Grenfell should be very proud of the neat and tidy appearance of the Town.

Suggestions/Opportunities:

The entrance off the Highway 1 at the Esso station is the primary entrance into Grenfell. This area is the "first impression" visitors have of the Town. It could be spruced up a bit. The removal of old signs and other debris, some grass mowing and trimming around the base of existing signs with a string trimmer, and possibly the addition of a shrub bed around the base of the "Grenfell" sign would go a long way toward doing this.

A few more garbage receptacles could be placed downtown, possibly in conjunction with recycling containers.

Areas in Town where smokers congregate would benefit from receptacles for cigarette butts. These could be provided by the local business owners or by the Town.

The area near the Tourist Information Centre, where old vehicles are stored, could be cleaned up and possibly fenced off.

The deck, picnic tables, and patio addition to the Tourist Information Centre is wonderful. A recycling container would be a nice addition. The Tourist Information Centre itself and its' flag poles are in need of painting. The information signs there about the Qu'Appelle Valley and particularly the sign explaining the use of grain elevators would benefit from refurbishment. The "Pet Pit Stop" would benefit from a new sign, a dog waste bag dispenser, and the painting of its' waste receptacle. This would ensure proper clean up of the area as well as present a good impression of the Town for visitors.

Comments and suggestions – Tidiness

Some downtown businesses could use a touch up of paint to brighten the area and make it even more appealing.

The Legion and Curling Club could use a little more maintenance; weeds and tall grass are growing around their buildings and in their parking lots.

The Cenotaph floral display is outstanding. The fence and flagpole are in need of paint. The Canada flag needs replacement.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS		
Sustainable development, policies and bylaws, waste reduction, landfill sites, hazardous waste collection, sewage disposal, transfer/recycle stations, recycling initiatives, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), water source, treatment and conservation, naturalization, environmental clean up activities and friendly transportation		
	Max	Actual
Municipality / Public Properties		
⊗ Sustainable development strategy: bylaws / policies and their enforcement or effective programs in smaller communities; guidelines and long-term planning/vision	10	8,00
⊗ Waste management programs such as recycling, re-use, composting, shredding of Christmas trees, hazardous waste including e-waste collection, waste water treatment , community outreach	10	8,00
⊗ Water conservation and reduction programs: efficient appliance incentives or promotion, reduced reliance and efficient irrigation and use of non-potable water, water restriction policies ⊗ Watershed management plans and alternative storm water management: retention ponds, pervious hardscapes, green roofs, shoreline erosion control programs	10	7,50
⊗ Energy conservation programs such as: Alternate forms of energy: geothermal, biomass, wind, solar ⊗ Conversion programs for efficient lighting and shielding for night skies issues ⊗ Promotion of energy audits and energy efficient buildings and landscapes ⊗ Greening of operations fleet: conversion to higher efficiency vehicles, use of alternative fuels ⊗ Efficient use of vehicle fleet such as use of crew cabs, bicycles, any other energy-saving transportation ⊗ Conversion of older maintenance equipment to more efficient and reduced emissions ⊗ Transportation management strategies: promotion and incentives of public transit and car pooling ⊗ Conversion of roads to integrate new bike lanes, expanded recreational pathways ⊗ Air quality programs: monitoring, anti-idling advisory / bylaws, promotion for the reduced reliance/use of high air polluting small engine equipment	14	10,00
⊗ Use of Integrated Pest Management / Plant Health Care principles: timing, policies / bylaws and/or effective procedures	6	5,00
⊗ Initiatives such as: Innovation: through green buildings, green roofs; reuse of sites and buildings ⊗ Green procurement policies (use of local products, material energy lifecycle considerations) ⊗ Brownfield redevelopment, remediation	6	4,00
Commercial / Industrial Sector		
⊗ Participation in the environmental effort	6	4,00
⊗ Corporate environmental innovation / stewardship, initiatives, activities	6	4,00
⊗ Sustainable development strategies, safety and emergency preparedness	6	5,00
⊗ Energy efficient buildings / landscapes	6	4,00
⊗ Greening of operational fleet and equipment	6	4,00
Service Clubs, Schools, Churches, Not-for-profit groups		
⊗ Support – financial and/or in-kind	7	6,00
⊗ Involvement – organization, participation	7	6,00
⊗ Impact of efforts on community	7	6,00
Residential / Citizens		
⊗ Participation in the environmental effort	9	8,00
⊗ Involvement / support / direction to municipality	9	8,00
Environmental Awareness	125	97,50

Comments & Suggestions – Environmental Awareness

Grenfell is in the process of upgrading their water plant with help from a Building Canada grant. There will be a new well installed and when finished the water plant will be fully automated. Water information pamphlets are given to all residents and businesses. There is a metered water use system. Sewage and water charges are a flat fee for residents and consumption based for businesses. Many citizens use rain barrels to water their gardens.

The Town has a lagoon system in place for waste treatment. This naturalized area is home to geese and other wildlife.

There is a good recycling program in place for small household items. It is a user return program as opposed to a curbside pick-up. Used oil and oil filters can be returned in Town.

The transfer station located just south of town accepts appliances which must be free of Freon. Wood and yard waste is accepted as well as larger items such as white goods, furniture etc.

A “Bag and Tag” system is in place for waste pick-up. Each bag must have a tag attached for pick-up.

The Grenfell Wildlife Association maintains a naturalized duck compound and a fish pond. These areas are used for walking tours by school children.

The primary and high school have changed their lighting to be more energy efficient.

Suggestions/Opportunities:

The Transfer Station could set up a proper composting site. This would enable a nutrient rich soil to be built which could be available to residents and also used in Town owned flower beds.

A system where all appliances using Freon are drained of Freon and a tag of compliance provided before these items are accepted into the transfer station would ensure proper removal of Freon.

More visible recycling bins in public buildings would show the community that the Town is committed to recycling.

The golf course could naturalize some areas which would reduce maintenance and mowing while enhancing the golf course’s appearance. This would make the game a little more interesting. Ponds could be installed using some of the non-potable water from the finished end of the waste water lagoon.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT		
Citizens' involvement in various community projects, including horticulture and garden clubs, service groups, recreation and sports clubs, school children, teens, seniors, municipal workers and local businesses		
	Max	Actual
Municipality / Public Properties		
⊗ Volunteer recognition	8	7,00
⊗ Support – financial and/or in-kind for volunteer activities	8	7,00
⊗ Information and educational programs	8	7,00
⊗ Promotion of local businesses, products, tourism	8	7,00
⊗ Organization/facilitation of local events/festivals, fundraising, support – financial and/or in-kind	8	7,00
⊗ Innovation; involvement with youth / seniors and other initiatives towards broader social inclusion	7	6,00
Commercial / Industrial Sector		
⊗ Involvement in community projects, volunteer initiatives, community outreach programs	10	9,00
⊗ Sponsorship – financial and/or in kind – of the local CIB program	10	9,00
⊗ Innovation; involvement with youth / seniors and other initiatives towards broader social inclusion	10	8,50
Service Clubs, Schools, Churches, Not-for- profit groups		
⊗ Support – financial and/or in-kind	8	7,00
⊗ Involvement –organization, participation	8	7,00
⊗ Impact of efforts on community	8	7,00
Residential / Citizens		
⊗ Support - financial and/or in kind - of projects / programs	8	7,50
⊗ Participation in community programs	8	7,00
⊗ Provision of ideas / initiatives for projects/programs	8	7,00
Community Involvement	125	110,00

Comments & Suggestions – Community Involvement

The involvement of citizens and businesses in Grenfell is outstanding. Many community organizations hold fundraisers for their own projects as well as for other worthy causes within the community.

Two local greenhouses donated plants for the Grenfell Beautification Committee to plant on Town property.

Students from both primary and secondary schools, along with members of the Beautification Committee and Town employees, take part in the Pitch-In Day to clean all public areas.

The entire community is continually trying to raise funds for a Level IV Health Facility for seniors.

Some seniors, with assistance, actively contribute their help in planting gardens at the Grenfell and District Pioneer Home. Raised, wheel chair accessible beds have been installed in front of the Pioneer Home to allow residents to continue gardening.

The Beautification Committee is working hard to ensure that anyone visiting Grenfell will upon leaving, be able to tell others how beautiful the Town is. They have had many projects completed with the help of private citizens, such as the mural and the silhouettes on Desmond Street and the purchase of the hanging baskets downtown. The Committee has had a sun shelter and a small decorative stone patio built onto the Tourist Information Centre through a grant from Home Depot. The Committee is currently working on raising funds to have a Street Clock and decorative lights installed at the north end of Desmond Street. The restoration of a lilac hedge along a portion of Front Avenue is also in the works. The Beautification Committee also waters the hanging baskets and planters on a rotating schedule.

The Town provided a loader and operator free of charge to the Beautification Committee to install the hanging baskets.

The Agricultural Society holds a Fall Fair with vendors displaying and selling many varied items. They also have a competition for quilt making, preserving, and vegetable and flower growing.

The Town holds several events during the year including a Christmas celebration with a competition for the best decorated property and sleigh rides. July 1st, Canada Day, is celebrated along with other towns by holding a 100 Mile Mall, where craft tables are set up in towns that are along the highway.

The Art Club holds workshops and shows and also teach art in the schools.

Comments & Suggestions – Community Involvement

Residents Kim Crow and her husband run a Youth Centre on Friday nights and Saturdays that gives the Town's kids a place to get together, talk, play video games, and just enjoy themselves.

Community garden beds owned by seniors who can no longer work them, are planted and the produce is sold at the Farmers Market.

NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE CONSERVATION		
Heritage policies, bylaws and natural heritage management plans; preservation and restoration of buildings, homes, churches, monuments, artefacts, sites, parks, heritage gardens, trees; preservation of traditions and customs; festivals/celebrations; heritage foods and the arts; museums and history, archives, Architectural Advisory Committee		
	Max	Actual
Municipality / Public Properties		
⊗ Heritage policies / by-laws and their enforcement or effective programs in smaller communities	10	8,00
⊗ Natural and cultural heritage management plan and preservation initiatives: cultural landscapes, use of native plants, heritage gardens, trees	10	8,00
⊗ Preservation, restoration and reuse programs	8	7,00
⊗ Information and support programs	6	5,00
⊗ Promotion of heritage by Historical Society / Heritage Committee / Tourism Association	5	4,00
⊗ Interpretative and signage programs, walking tours, museums, festivals/celebrations	6	5,00
⊗ Cultural heritage programs: first nations, explorers, first and subsequent settlers and more recent immigrants	5	4,00
⊗ New programs and initiatives to promote local heritage	5	4,00
Commercial / Industrial Sector		
⊗ Conservation, restoration and reuse of sites/buildings	7	6,00
⊗ Building façade and improvement plan (original colours, styles, materials, lighting)	7	5,00
⊗ Participation in municipal, provincial or federal programs	7	5,00
⊗ Innovation and participation in promotion of local heritage	7	6,00
Service Clubs, Schools, Churches, Not-for-profit groups		
⊗ Support – financial and/or in-kind	7	6,00
⊗ Involvement –organization, participation	7	5,50
⊗ Impact of efforts on community	7	6,00
Residential / Citizens		
⊗ Conservation / restoration and reuse of sites / buildings	7	6,00
⊗ Preservation of traditions, customs, food, music, dance and crafts	7	6,00
⊗ Participation in heritage community events/activities	7	6,50
Natural and Cultural Heritage Conservation		
	125	103,00

Comments and Suggestions – Natural & Cultural Heritage Conservation

Grenfell was known as the “Lilac Town”. They are presently planting lilacs in town to commemorate their heritage. 2011 is Grenfell’s Centennial Year.

The Adare Museum is a beautiful period home that has been restored and furnished with pictures, furniture, clothes, dishes, dolls, and toys by the community. There is also an Annex next door with much information about past citizens and school and town photos from several generations. The military exhibit is one that equals any. Everything you can imagine in a small town is exhibited.

The Windsor Block, as well as the Adare Museum, has had by-laws enacted to declare them of heritage value.

There is a Heritage Walking Tour in Grenfell which consists of the Adare Museum, Windsor Block, and private residences.

The Canadian Legion holds a poster/essay/poetry contest every year to help teach young people what Remembrance Day is all about. They are also informed of the many young men of Grenfell who went to war for our country.

First Nations children are integrated into Grenfell’s school system in grade three. Prior to that, the grade two classes from both Grenfell and Goose Lake School at Sakimay visit each other and learn about their cultures.

Women from Grenfell along with women of the First Nations participate in a Women’s Day of Fellowship on the Sakimay Reserve in conjunction with International Women’s Day.

A reference book of historical facts about Grenfell was published in 1980. It was written by Annie I. Yule and titled “Grit and Growth the Story of Grenfell”.

Comments and Suggestions – Natural & Cultural Heritage Conservation

Suggestions/Opportunities:

Pat Kent is an irreplaceable source of historical information about Grenfell. Consider having high school students create a video of Pat giving a tour of the Adare Museum for posterity.

There is a wealth of information at the Museum. Consider hiring someone (perhaps a college student by way of a grant) to create a computer record of files and inventory. If there were a fire or tornado all of this valuable information could be lost.

Perhaps having buildings downtown restore original looking signage on the front of their establishments would assist in preserving your heritage as well as spruce up the downtown.

Grenfell may want to consider a building façade loan or grant program for businesses to improve their buildings façade.

Heritage plaques, with the address and original use of the site, could be installed on buildings. These would allow visitors as well as the younger residents to learn more about Grenfell.

Grenfell may want to consider passing a by-law that would prevent heritage buildings from being demolished. Restoration of these sites only enhances the appearance of the Town.

Bylaws could be created to ensure new buildings are built to a certain architectural standard; colours, styles, materials, lighting. Think of the historical period you would like represented in the downtown core.

Referring to Grenfell as the “Lilac Town” could be a good draw for Town promotion and advertising. Let people know of the many lilac hedges and trees around town and how beautiful and fragrant they are. A book/booklet about lilacs including recipes using the lilac flower could also be created for sale.

TREE / URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT			
Written policies, bylaws and regulation plans both long and short-term. Distribution of trees, inventory, variety, suitability, new plantings, main street programs, new survey developments, preservation of heritage trees, commemorative trees, woodlots, succession planting, Plant Health Care and Integrated Pest Management, qualified/trained individuals (volunteer or on staff)			
		Max	Actual
Municipality / Public Properties			
⊗ Policies, regulations and tree by-laws, tree protection and planting on public and private lands		10	8,00
⊗ Plan of action: procurement, species diversity, selection of hardy species with potential to contribute to the plan		10	8,00
⊗ Strategic Management, Operational and Emergency Plan in place, an inventory of trees, demonstration of good planting techniques and a maintenance program		8	6,00
⊗ Measures to preserve, protect, manage and expand woodlots		7	6,00
⊗ Qualified personnel and/or crew training		7	6,50
⊗ Integrated Pest Management / Plant Health Care, plan of action for invasive pest detection and control, information on current infestations and diseases		7	5,50
⊗ Participation and recognition in programs such as Green Streets Canada, Maple Leaf Day...		7	5,50
Commercial / Industrial Sector			
⊗ Concept, design and planting for commercial enterprises		7	5,50
⊗ Maintenance programs		7	5,50
⊗ Existing tree protection and preservation during construction: in by-law and/or in practice		8	6,00
⊗ Involvement and promotion of tree planting programs and conservation through groups such as Business Improvement Association		6	6,00
Service Clubs, Schools, Churches, Not - for - profit groups			
⊗ Support – financial and/or in-kind and involvement – organization, participation		10	8,00
⊗ Impact and maintenance		10	8,00
Residential / Citizens			
⊗ Selection of varieties – inclusion of native, hardy species		11	9,50
⊗ Maintenance		10	8,00
Tree / Urban Forest Management		125	102,00

Comments and Suggestions : Tree / Urban Forest Management

Grenfell has a Dutch Elm Disease and Ash Tree bug program. There are pamphlets available that let the residents know how to identify and treat the problems.

The Town has enacted a by-law in regards to tree care and maintenance of boulevard trees. The Town will, if trees are damaged in a windstorm, clean up and dispose of the tree.

Saskatchewan Power will prune trees in the proper fashion when they start to interfere with hydro lines.

There is a small tree nursery in Grenfell, where trees are raised for planting in public areas. The Beautification Committee has donated trees to this nursery for planting in Town.

Suggestions/Opportunities:

During Arbour Day/Earth Week, the town in conjunction with local business can donate trees to both the primary and high school for ceremonial planting. At the primary school, members of Town staff or the Beautification Committee could have kindergarten and grade 1's attend and help with the planting. Explanations of the type of tree being planted and how it will affect the environment would be given. This would help ensure stewardship of the trees.

With a proper composting program by the Town, soil would be available to be added to all new tree plantings.

The canvassing of business may allow for purchase of whips as opposed to seedlings, for planting in the nursery. This would promote a quicker turn over and larger plant being available.

A mulching program for all existing and newly planted trees would ensure the trees are protected from damage by cutting machines and would help retain moisture during dry periods.

Trees are in need of pruning, particularly to remove dead branches. Many trees also have suckers growing from their bases which should be removed.

Where possible a six foot diameter mulched area should be around the base of a tree to enrich the soil, prevent mower damage, and to create a more neat and tidy appearance.

Check to see what resources are available from the regional forestry department.

LANDSCAPED AREAS		
This criteria supports all efforts to create an environment wherein plants form an essential element of the overall surroundings; design and suitability for location and use; native and introduced materials; balance of plants, materials and constructed elements; harmony (colour, texture, shape); tasteful integration of hard surfaces and art elements; standards of maintenance.		
	Max	Actual
Municipality / Public Properties		
⊗ First impressions of the community including gateway / entrance treatments	10	8,00
⊗ Development of policies, standards and best practices	7	5,00
⊗ Plan of action: distribution through the community	8	6,00
⊗ Urban and civic design standards for streetscape and other public places: flags, banners, public art, fountains, site furnishings, lighting design, walkways and paving materials, signage and	7	5,50
⊗ Specifications for planting (with suitable varieties) and maintenance	7	5,50
⊗ Sustainable designs: energy efficient, use of green materials, naturalization, xeriscaping	6	5,00
⊗ Site rejuvenation, rehabilitation and maintenance (life cycle management)	6	5,00
⊗ Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or training	7	5,00
Commercial / Industrial Sector		
⊗ Innovation in concept and design	6	4,50
⊗ Public involvement: support – financial and/or in-kind, participation	6	5,00
⊗ Sustainable designs: energy efficient, use of green materials, naturalization, xeriscaping	6	4,50
⊗ Contribution to urban and civic design and public greenspaces above and beyond requirements: such as public art, streetscape, site furniture, fountains	6	4,50
⊗ Adequate ongoing maintenance (life cycle management)	6	5,00
Service Clubs, Schools, Churches, Not-for-profit groups		
⊗ Support – financial and/or in-kind and involvement – organization, participation	8	7,00
⊗ Sustainable designs: energy efficient, use of green materials, naturalization, xeriscaping	8	6,00
Residential / Citizens		
⊗ Streetscape appeal of landscapes	8	7,00
⊗ Overall maintenance	7	6,00
⊗ Inclusion of sustainable plant materials	6	4,50
Landscaped Areas	125	99,00

Comments & Suggestions : Landscaped Areas

Grenfell's landscaping adds a beautiful touch to the Town's appearance.

There is a mixture of landscape accessories in some locations around Town. One household has configured a metal structure which is planted with annuals and looks like a petunia tree.

Other locations have incorporated various household items into the landscape.

Suggestions/Opportunities

The "G" gateway entrance signs could be planted with Japanese Lilacs (zone 2) embracing the signs (to commemorate Grenfell as the "Lilac Town") and a selection of flowering shrubs, perennials, and bulbs. This would present a grand first impression of a beautiful and proud community.

Adding rocks, sculptures, and raised beds around town would add variety and enhance the Town's appearance.

The location of the mural on Desmond Street could have a few Japanese Lilacs added. The flowers and their scent would be very appealing at this location. The trees themselves would add a little shade and soften the area considerably. The addition of a pond-less waterfall feature would have a calming and serene effect for people sitting and enjoying this location. Softening this square in this way could make it a more desirable destination to visit.

Businesses that have larger lots could landscape with flowering shrubs and trees. This would enhance the overall appearance of the Town.

Consider including trees and shrubs in locations downtown when reviewing infrastructure needs.

FLORAL DISPLAYS		
Arrangements of flowers and plants (annuals, perennials, bulbs, ornamental grasses), originality, distribution, location, diversity and balance, colour, harmony, quality and maintenance. These pertain to flowerbeds, carpet bedding, containers, baskets and window boxes.		
	Max	Actual
Municipality / Public Properties		
☼ Diversity of displays: flowerbeds, raised beds, planters, hanging baskets, window boxes, carpet bedding, mosaics	12	10,00
☼ Plan of action: programs, distribution through community. Concept and design including sustainable design	12	10,00
☼ Diversity of plants: annuals, perennials, bulbs, grasses, woody plants, natural flora	12	10,00
☼ Quality, maintenance, best practices	10	9,00
☼ Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or training	7	5,50
Commercial / Industrial Sector		
☼ Concept and design	9	7,50
☼ Quality and maintenance	9	7,50
☼ Contribution to overall floral program	9	7,50
Service Clubs, Schools, Churches, Not-for-profit groups		
☼ Support – financial and/or in-kind and involvement – organization, participation	11	9,50
☼ Concept, design, selection and maintenance on their own properties	11	9,50
Residential / Citizens		
☼ Arrangement, diversity, colour	11	9,50
☼ Quality and maintenance	12	11,00
Floral Displays		
	125	106,50

Comments & Suggestions : Floral Displays

Grenfell's flowerbeds and hanging baskets are bright and well cared for.

Many residents have beautiful flower gardens as well as ample vegetable gardens with an array of annuals, perennials and roses included.

Businesses have added to the floral display with colourful flowerbeds.

The Town Cenotaph has a beautiful mix of annuals, perennials, and shrubs.

All of the floral displays and flower beds; whether attended by the Town, businesses, or volunteers; are very well maintained.

Children created lovely floral displays for downtown in re-used wood pallet boxes.

Suggestions and Opportunities:

A larger use of perennials, ornamental grasses, and decorative objects would enhance the beauty and versatility of floral displays.

A more diverse plant selection in the downtown hanging baskets, something along the lines of the plant selection in the hanging baskets in 2008, would provide more colour and create more interest in the downtown.

Downtown businesses might be enticed into adding more planters in front of their stores to help beautify the downtown. Some type of recognition for the best floral display by a business could encourage their participation.

The Town may think of possibly adding benches with planters attached to them in strategic locations to both give people a place to sit and to add the colour of the plantings to the downtown.

Window boxes downtown, particularly in front of restaurants or on restaurant windows (perhaps including herbs and/or vegetables) and/or on, or in front of, the Post Office would be a great way to brighten up the Town in high visibility locations that everyone visits.

TURF AND GROUNDCOVERS		
Quality, naturalization, use of groundcovers and wild flowers, turf management (manicured to rough), use of artificial turf, maintenance (mowing height and frequency), Integrated Pest Management (IPM) / Plant Health Care, fertilization programs, irrigation and water restrictions. Areas include private homes, public buildings, municipal and private sports fields and athletic parks.		
	Max	Actual
Municipality / Public Properties		
⊗ First impressions; plan of action, distribution of turf and ground cover areas	14	12,00
⊗ Diversity / species, types of plantings / drought tolerance	8	6,50
⊗ Turf Management / Integrated Pest Management / Plant Health Care, alternative solutions to diseases and infestations when appropriate	8	6,50
⊗ Review of maintenance plans to consider increased naturalization, alternate mowing frequency for reduced and more efficient operations	8	6,50
⊗ Information programs for water requirements, mowing frequency and height, rain gardens	8	6,00
⊗ Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or training	7	5,50
Commercial / Industrial Sector		
⊗ Concept and design, use of alternative ground covers	8	6,00
⊗ Quality and maintenance on these properties	8	6,00
⊗ Site naturalization	8	6,00
Service clubs, Schools, Churches, Not-for-profit groups		
⊗ Support – financial and/or in-kind and involvement – organization, participation	12	10,50
⊗ Quality and maintenance on these properties	11	10,00
Residential / Citizens		
⊗ Concept and design, use of alternative ground covers	8	6,50
⊗ Quality and maintenance	9	8,00
⊗ Participation in lawn watering conservation programs	8	6,00
Turf and Groundcovers	125	102,00

Comments & Suggestions : Turf & Groundcovers

In general the turf around Grenfell is very well maintained.

Grenfell does an admirable job tending to Town property as well as the rail lands within Town limits.

Home owners have well manicured lawns, with the exception of a few vacant houses.

Most businesses have their grass cut and trimmed.

Suggestions/Opportunities:

Additional drought tolerant ground covers and grasses could be used throughout the community in place of turf. This would save maintenance and mowing costs.

Low growing and drought tolerant grass is now available for lawns and could be used by both homeowners and businesses.

The sports fields could use a little more trimming.

Grenfell could be holding seminars and/or sending pamphlets to residents concerning the use of ground covers, proper watering of lawns, mowing heights, and the proper use of fertilizers. This could greatly reduce the carbon footprint of Grenfell.



PROGRAM INFORMATION

Communities in Bloom is a Canadian non-profit organization committed to fostering civic pride, environmental responsibility, beautification and to improving quality of life through community participation and the challenge of a national program with focus on the protection and conservation of green spaces.

“People, plants and pride... growing together” is our slogan, and it captures the essence of the program.

History. Established with the guidance of Britain in Bloom, Tidy Towns of Ireland and *Villes et Villages Fleuris de France*, Communities in Bloom held its first edition in 1995 and 29 participating municipalities were honoured at the first awards ceremonies on Parliament Hill. The program now includes more than 500 communities across the country and an international challenge involving communities from the United States, Japan and several European countries allows participants to compete internationally.

Program. The program consists of communities receiving information and being evaluated either provincially or nationally by a volunteer jury of trained professionals on the accomplishments of their entire community (municipal, private, corporate and institutional sectors, citizens) on eight key criteria: Tidiness, Environmental Awareness, Community Involvement, Natural and Cultural Heritage Conservation, Urban Forestry, Landscaped Areas, Floral Displays, and Turf & Groundcovers.

Benefits. The pride, sense of community and feeling of accomplishment generated through participation are visible in communities all over Canada. These benefits make Communities in Bloom a program where everyone wins. Participants can benefit financially from the program through community tourism initiatives, business opportunities for the entire community, and other related projects. A valuable information exchange network allows communities to share accomplishments, best practices and projects.

All participants are showcased on the Communities in Bloom website through the “Explore our Communities” section, with a description page and a link to their respective community website. The *Communities in Bloom Magazine*, published twice a year, also features participants and program results, as well as articles and educational content. Communities in Bloom develops, with its partners and sponsors, initiatives and promotional opportunities such as the Gardens at the CN Tower and the VIA Rail Garden Route.

Provincial and National Awards – National Symposium on Parks and Grounds. These events are a unique opportunity for elected officials, parks and grounds professionals and community volunteers to learn and share about current issues, trends and challenges not only in horticulture and gardening but in community tourism and projects, environmental awareness, and much more. Awards ceremonies, along with workshops and symposiums, are held in most provinces throughout the year.

A winter edition – **WinterLights Celebrations** – created in 2001, features community efforts in the following criteria: Winter Pleasures, Festive Celebrations, Visual Presentation, Goodwill Program and Tourism / Promotion. The WinterLights Celebrations Symposium and Awards Ceremonies are held in February.

The Communities in Bloom Foundation, established to support the educational aspect of its activities, is dedicated to funding, developing and disseminating education and awareness to a wide audience on the value, improvement, importance and sustainable development of green spaces and natural environment in Canadian society. The foundation also awards bursaries to students in horticulture / environment programs.

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 contribution of our sponsors and partners

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.”