



## Interested in judging for MB COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM ?

### The Program

The *Manitoba Communities in Bloom* program provides a comprehensive evaluation beneficial to community development. It encourages all sectors of the community to work together to develop best practices to achieve clean, green sustainable communities that celebrate their heritage and unique potential.

Our judges tour participating communities providing an evaluation beneficial to community development which focuses on beautification, environmental and heritage conservation efforts.

### The Rewards

Judging for MB CiB provides a unique opportunity to learn about a community in a way a tourist never could. With great pride, communities prepare a day long tour showcasing their community's achievements and challenges covering the six categories in the Communities in Bloom Evaluation Grid.

Judges have expressed a sense of satisfaction in assessing these criteria and the opportunity to offer an outsiders opinion commenting on community strengths and providing constructive suggestions for challenges. Meeting and interacting with community volunteers, business owners, civic staff are some of the added bonuses with this experience.

In a recent survey over 95% of communities indicated that CiB judge evaluation reports were practical and applicable which provided:

- "Direction where we need to go to improve our community overall"
- "Recommendations which enabled us to direct management, operations and staffing"
- "Information to create our strategic plan at the community level"

### The Commitment

- Qualifying judges are expected to attend a judging workshop (5 hours) to learn about the program and the judging process. This is held on a Saturday in April. Travel and accommodation expenses are covered.
- Community evaluations take place between mid-July and mid-August; this entails 2 – 3 judging days. First year judges are teamed with experienced judges (judging is in groups of two). Every effort is made to match judges with complementary strengths to ensure communities have the best possible judging experience.
- Judges are generally in the community for a day of evaluating and overnight there or in a nearby community. Meals, lodging and travel expenses are covered.
- The judging team uses a standardized evaluation form to complete their "scoring" and documentation of written comments and suggestions. This involves time in the community (3 hours) and at home (3 hours per community) for collaborating with partner and completing the evaluation grid in order to submit by the deadline date to the Manitoba Communities in Bloom office.
- Both judges on the team have equal standing, however the experienced judge assumes the role of coordinator to tend to the details of communicating with the community in advance and is responsible to ensure the evaluation is submitted by the deadline date.
- Judges play a key role at the Annual Conference and Awards Ceremony (held annually in September); their attendance is appreciated by the community representatives attending.

**We would love to hear from you! For more information:**

**Website:** [www.mbcommunitiesinbloom.ca](http://www.mbcommunitiesinbloom.ca)

**Email:** Program Coordinator [coordinator@mbcommunitiesinbloom.ca](mailto:coordinator@mbcommunitiesinbloom.ca)

**Phone:** 204.813.5279

***See other side for Judges Qualifications, Duties and Responsibilities***



## **MANITOBA COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM JUDGES QUALIFICATIONS, DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **Qualifications:**

- Basic employment experience and/or personal dedication to horticultural activities with an interest and/or experience in environmental practices, natural and cultural heritage, trees and urban forestry, landscaping, and/or floral displays
- Keen interest and/or experience in community involvement
- Excellent interpersonal and oral communication skills
- Knowledge of or interest in the Communities in Bloom program
- Good to excellent report writing skills
- Ability to use Microsoft Word software for completing the written evaluation and have access to a computer and email
- Willing and able to volunteer for two to seven (usually consecutive) days between Mid-July and mid-August
- Willing and able to travel throughout Manitoba by motor vehicle and possibly small aircraft (possession of a driver's license is desirable but not necessary)

### **Duties/responsibilities:**

- Provide impartial and consistent evaluation of municipalities
- Work together as a team with partner judge, respectful of opinions and take the necessary time to reach a decision
- Act in a diplomatic and tactful manner when dealing with municipal representatives
- Responsible for thoughtful and thorough completion of evaluations by providing constructive and encouraging feedback specific to each community
- Responsible for ensuring that the completed evaluations are submitted to MB Communities in Bloom office two weeks after the final tour
- Acts as an ambassador of the Communities in Bloom program
- Participate in annual Judges' Training Session and where possible the Annual Conference and Awards Ceremonies
- Responsible for evaluation result confidentiality