



District of Maple Ridge News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Citizen Volunteers Revive Communities In Bloom Participation

Maple Ridge, BC: On July 17, judges from across British Columbia will arrive in Maple Ridge and fill out scorecards on how our community ranks for floral displays, urban forestry, landscape, heritage conservation, environmental action and tidiness as part of the 2014 Communities in Bloom Program.

“On behalf of Council I want to thank two citizen volunteers, Cyndy Johnson-McCormick and Charlotte Mitchell, who stepped forward to co-chair the local Communities in Bloom committee. Working with our Parks team, these two women have made all the preparations for the upcoming judging,” said Mayor Ernie Daykin. He continued, “I remember that we used to participate in this program back when I first was elected to Council, and it is wonderful to see us back in this competition. As I look around Maple Ridge there have been significant investments, both public and private, in creating beautiful landscaping in Maple Ridge. It will be interesting to compare the results in 2014 with those from 2007, when we last participated.”

Ms. Johnson-McCormick and Ms. Mitchell have been working hard to get the word out over the last couple of months, and have championed a number of events and projects to encourage citizens to beautify their front yards and green spaces.

“This has been a lot more work than Charlotte and I thought at first, but it has been very rewarding to meet so many people in our community who share a passion for gardening and have such great pride in their homes and this community,” said Cyndy Johnson-McCormick. “In just over a week the judges will be in Maple Ridge, so we hope folks will take an extra moment or two to make sure that their yards look extra special,” she added.

On Tuesday, July 8, they are hosting a scarecrow building event from 10:00 am until 11:30 am at the Intergenerational Garden 22527 121 Avenue, Maple Ridge for children & families who use the gardens. The theme is “Project Patriotism” flying the Canadian flag 365 days a year. Materials for the project are being donated by the Hospice Thrift Store.

Geoff Mallory, Manager of Parks & Open Spaces said, “This competition is more than a look at the plantings and maintenance of our parks and public spaces. The judges will also be looking at private gardens and landscaping around the community. It’s a great way to

promote civic pride in keeping our properties neat and tidy. In recent years the contest has recognized environmentally sustainable gardens and food gardens as an important part of green spaces in our community. When you combine the climate and growing conditions with the amazing gardeners in our community, I'm confident that the judges will be impressed with Maple Ridge."

For more information about the Communities in Bloom program visit www.bccommunitiesinbloom.ca. Locally, please contact Geoff Mallory at gmallory@mapleridge.ca (or phone 604-467-7365) or Cyndy Johnson-McCormick at mapleridgecommunitiesinbloom@gmail.com or by calling 604-512-0363.