

Evaluation  
Form

2017



# 2017 Evaluation Form

## Program Disclaimer

SPRA staff, volunteer judges and all personnel associated with Communities in Bloom (CiB) will not be held liable for any observations, suggestions, or recommendations made in this Evaluation Document or at any time during the delivery of the CiB program including any resulting activity or events related to participation in the CiB program.

# 2017 Evaluation Form



**Community** Eston

**Province:** Saskatchewan

**Category:** Competitive

|                              |              |          |                |
|------------------------------|--------------|----------|----------------|
| <b>Tidiness</b>              | 116          | /        | 150.00         |
| <b>Environmental Action</b>  | 114          | /        | 150.00         |
| <b>Heritage Conservation</b> | 121          | /        | 150.00         |
| <b>Urban Forestry</b>        | 121          | /        | 175.00         |
| <b>Landscape</b>             | 161          | /        | 200.00         |
| <b>Floral Displays</b>       | 153          | /        | 175.00         |
|                              | <b>Total</b> | <b>/</b> | <b>1000.00</b> |

**Percentage :** 79%

**Bloom rating:** 4 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:** Enthusiastic Communities in Bloom Committee - 18 Years and Going Strong!

### Representative (s) of Community

Name: Al Heron Function: Mayor

Name: Val Mohan Function: CIB

Name: Mike Sauser Function: Town Forman

### Judges

Name: Bonita Lundberg Name: Arlene Janzen

### Evaluation

**date:** August 4 /2017

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## IMPORTANT NOTES:

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

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 and 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, community organizations and citizen groups – all contributing to various aspects of community improvement, including municipal spaces maintained through the efforts of volunteers and community
- 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.

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## GENERAL COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

The Eston CiB committee has done an outstanding job of all the various landscaped areas throughout the community. You should be very proud of all the work you have done over the years. It is truly amazing. The commitment, energy and enthusiasm of this group is laudable and exemplary. We applaud all your planning, initiatives, implementation and true grit in getting projects completed. Eston is extremely fortunate to have such a dedicated group of volunteers.

Thank you for your generous hospitality and making us feel so very welcome. The CiB committee has been crucial to improving your community and quality of life and it shows. It would be truly awesome if that energy could be replicated in every community. It is amazing the level of energy there still is following a Centennial year in which so much was initiated and done.

Your emblem with the logo “Golden Fields and Harvest Moons” is appealing and you have done a good job of branding it. Continue to brainstorm ways of incorporating this emblem & logo.

It sounds like the 2016 Centennial Celebration in Eston was a resounding success. Congratulations!

We noticed that you have taken the suggestions/recommendations from previous reports to heart and implemented a number of them.

Thanks for including the annual events that happen in Eston in your profile book and a listing of your social/service groups.

How did the Town of Eston recognize and celebrate the CiB’s successes and efforts for 2016 or 2017? We noted that the awards presentations in 2015 coincided with the visit of the CiB judges. The CiB committee has previously had awards including a celebration to recognize residential and business efforts to beautify their properties. Consider keeping this as an annual celebration.

Below are some recommendations for improving your CiB profile book:

- 1) Ensure that dates agree - one section states that plans for the urban orchard were made in September 2013 but later on pictures and associated notes state that it was planted in September 2012. The CiB data form for 2017 shows 1,061 for population whereas the profile book has 1,031 as the population under General Information i.e. 2011 census.
- 2) Under each photo, please note the location and date of the photo including year. Ensure credit for the photo is provided if requested.
- 3) Review the profile book for sentences repeated immediately after each other.
- 4) Include statistics for activities for the current year that shows level of participation. For example-“For 2017, of the 50 businesses that are in the downtown section, 25 participated in the CiB program with sponsoring a hanging basket.” “For 2017 the CiB committee handed out 3 awards to residents in the annual yard judging competition: 1) for most improved yard; 2) best curb side appeal; 3) nicest yard from the back alley view.” Photos of the award winners is interesting as well. If permission is given by the resident/individual, have a list of the various winners over the years.

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- 5) If an activity did not occur in the current year, then please note as such.
- 6) The CiB committee has been working for 18 years, which is a phenomenal history. Include in your profile book the number of blooms from year one and your special mention. The listing of bylaws has not been updated since 2012.
- 7) Number the pages in the profile book. You have a table of contents with page numbers, but no page numbers on the actual pages.
- 8) Do you continue to sponsor growing contests- i.e. pumpkin? Tomato? Flower?
- 9) How are students encouraged to do volunteer work in the community?

When visiting other communities that are in the CiB program or past National/International winners, take the opportunity to go through the community as a CiB judge to see what could be replicated/adapted to your community. This includes going to their landfill sites, recycling programs, obtaining a copy of their community profile book, and having conversations with CiB members. Consider attending the National Symposium for networking and informational purposes.

Your ongoing success in Communities in Bloom has been excellent, and as your judges we hope to see your community excel for the next 18 in years in the program as well. We hope that this evaluation provides you with the ideas needed for your future involvement with both the provincial and the national Communities in Bloom programs.

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| <b>TIDINESS</b>   |               |               |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| <p>Tidiness includes an overall tidiness effort by the municipality, businesses, institutions and the residents throughout the community. Elements for evaluation are parks and green spaces, 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 prevention/removal and vandalism deterrent programs.</p> |               |               |
|   | <b>Max</b>    | <b>Actual</b> |
| <b>Municipal</b>  |               |               |
| Tidiness, order, cleanliness and first impressions  | 10            | 7             |
| Community anti-litter awareness programs  | 10            | 8             |
| Effective bylaws, programs and policies and enforcement; litter control, unsightly private property maintenance by-laws, graffiti prevention and eradication, graffiti removal kits to residents  | 10            | 7             |
| Cleanliness of public green infrastructure: parks, streetscapes (sidewalks, planters, urban signage and furniture such as benches, litter and recycling containers etc.)  | 15            | 13            |
| Visual appeal, and condition of municipal buildings and properties (including City Hall grounds),   | 15            | 12            |
| <b>Business &amp; Institutions</b>  |               |               |
| Tidiness, order and cleanliness and first impressions   | 15            | 10            |
| Condition of buildings (exterior maintenance), grounds, sidewalks and parking lots  | 15            | 11            |
| Condition of urban furniture: benches, litter and recycling containers  | 5             | 5             |
| <b>Residential</b>  |               |               |
| Tidiness, order and cleanliness   | 20            | 15            |
| Condition of buildings, grounds and yards   | 15            | 12            |
| <b>Community Involvement</b>  |               |               |
| 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            | 8             |
| Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions for community clean-up programs  | 10            | 8             |
| <b>Tidiness Total</b>   | <b>150.00</b> | <b>116.00</b> |

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## TIDINESS

### Observations:

First impressions when coming into the community along the highway is that the town appears very tidy. The ditches were mowed and the gateway signage (from 2014) continues to be very impressive. There are yards that continue to have a nuisance value. We were informed that 10 dilapidated houses were removed in the past year or two. That is a significant undertaking improving the whole community. Continue to be on top of this project. There are businesses in the industrial area that are contributing to the nuisance.

The streets are in tough shape, possibly due to water main breaks and/or servicing of lots. The profile book mentions that regular street sweeping was reinstated, but does not state how often and when it was reinstated.

The Eston cemetery grounds keeper is doing a phenomenal job on such a huge project. Please pass on our thanks and appreciation for an outstanding job.

Although there are spring and fall alley pickups for yard refuse, there were a number of back alleys that needed attention. It does not take long for a back alley to become overgrown.

It was great to hear that graffiti is not a problem in your community and that it is dealt with on a very prompt basis. We did not see any graffiti.

The community bulletin boards were neat.

All the parks, including the pocket parks and the sports grounds, were neat, tidy and well mowed. Thank you to everyone who contributed to make them look so inviting.

### Recommendations:

We understand that upgrading the streets is one of the top priorities for the Town Council, and will be appreciated by everyone. The corner curbs were repainted in 2016 and this will likely need to happen either on an annual or bi-annual basis. As noted in the 2015 report, the recommendation to continue to work on effective ways to level off some of the sidewalks that have cracked and heaved is still valid. Concrete planers/grinders can be rented and used to shave down the high spots on heaving sidewalks.

Include in the profile book your nuisance abatement bylaw (05-2005) and the amendments to it (including 10-2006). What is also interesting is the difference the implementation of this bylaw has made to your community. Consider including such info in the profile book. Also, please include pictures of the most recent spring cleanup and the last fall clean up with dates noted under the photos.



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When the Town crew goes in to clean up a dilapidated property/property in violation of the nuisance abatement bylaw, please ensure that it is sufficiently charged, since this time is being taken away from maintenance of the public properties.

The CiB committee has previously had awards including a celebration to recognize residential and business efforts to beautify their properties. Consider keeping this as an annual celebration. This has a significant effect as it engages the community and provides recognition for the achievements around town.

It would be good to know how many residents & businesses participated in the “adopt a lot” program. Consider including an award(s) to best maintain, “adopt a lot”. Thank you for including the Community Appearance Policy (adopted April 13, 2011) in your profile book. It would be good to have a listing of winners for each year, including 2017.

From the Gopher, going west along the tracks, continue to work on improving that area as conditions tend to worsen towards the west area of the town. Brainstorm strategies to get businesses, especially in the industrial area, to make their properties more aesthetically pleasing and tidy. The grounds of both the RM and the Town of Eston workshops/stockpile areas should lead by example.

You have a great partnership between CiB and the Town Council and it makes a difference. Keep up the progress you have made with the removal of the dilapidated buildings.

If you could get the school division, the railway, and the industrial area on board, it would be so beneficial to your town. Small steps make for progress.

Encourage property owners to maintain their back alley area. Perhaps through a community contest? It could be a block contest.

The landfill site has 2 new spaces for their non compostable/non-recyclable waste. The landfill site/lagoon areas are not fenced, and garbage is covered with earth when the landfill site is open. Fencing may be needed to ensure waste stays within the site, especially on windy days. Ensure that only authorized individuals have access to the wastewater cells.

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| <b>ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION</b>   |               |               |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| <p>Environmental action pertains to the impact of human activities on the environment and the subsequent efforts and achievements of the community with respect to: policies, by-laws, programs and best practices for waste reduction and landfill diversion, composting sites, landfill sites, hazardous waste collections, water conservation, energy conservation, and environmental stewardship activities under the guiding principles of sustainable development pertaining to green spaces.</p>   |               |               |
|   | <b>Max</b>    | <b>Actual</b> |
| <b>Municipal</b>  |               |               |
| Sustainable development strategy: policies, programs, guidelines, long-term planning/vision; effective bylaws/policies and their enforcement; and public education programs and activities  | 20            | 16            |
| Waste reduction to landfill and results (3-R: reduce, reuse and recycle), municipal composting programs, including activities such as composting sites, yard waste collections, mulching of wood debris (Christmas trees, hedge trimmings, etc.), reclamation of cut trees, and handling of hazardous waste including e-waste collection and reuse of compost material  | 20            | 16            |
| Water conservation and use-reduction programs such as promotions, efficient irrigation, use of non-potable water, water restriction policies  | 15            | 12            |
| Energy conservation programs such as alternate forms of energy (ex. geothermal, biomass, wind, solar) and initiatives such as: efficient appliances initiatives, shielding for night skies issues, efficient street lighting  | 15            | 12            |
| Environmental initiatives, innovations and actions such as:<br>- Development and expansion of sustainable mobility and active transportation network such as bike lanes and multi-used pathways;<br>- Horticultural practices such as green roofs, green walls, green lanes, living fences, buffer zones; re-use of sites; engineered wetlands, bio-swales, permeable surfaces and rain water management<br>- Brownfield redevelopment, remediation, land reclamation<br>- Air quality programs such as anti-idling, reduction of greenhouse gas emission (carbon reduction). | 10            | 7             |
| <b>Business &amp; Institutions</b>  |               |               |
| Participation in the environmental effort: such as waste management (reduce, reuse and recycle), water conservation, energy conservation, brownfield management   | 10            | 7             |
| Corporate environmental innovation/stewardship, initiatives, activities (ex. environmental clean-up activities)   | 10            | 7             |
| <b>Residential</b>  |               |               |
| Participation in the 3-R (reduce, reuse and recycle) initiatives and composting   | 10            | 8             |
| Adoption of water conservation practices such as rainwater collection and rain gardens  | 15            | 9             |
| <b>Community Involvement</b>  |               |               |
| Public participation in public forums and policy development on environmental issues  | 5             | 3             |
| 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             |
| <b>Environmental Action Total</b>   | <b>150.00</b> | <b>114.00</b> |

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### ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

#### Observations:

The CiB committee purchased water retention hanging baskets in 2017, helping to reduce water evaporation and reduce the amount of watering required. In past years, the CiB has purchased barrels that help conserve water for their floral plantings.

It was noted that the solar panels for heating the swimming pool started paying off 2 years ago.

The SARCAN recycling centre is a busy centre accepting paper, cardboard, glass, tin, electronics and oil. This in turn reflects on the importance of recycling to the people of the area. It was also very tidy- thank you for the tour. We certainly noticed the anti-idling sign at the SARCAN Centre.

The RM has scrap tire and waste oil collection programs.

Thank you to Mayor Al Heron for providing 50 bags of compost from his own compost bins for community and private gardens- what a generous contribution! Next to the Town shop is a composting site for grass clippings and suitable yard waste. The CiB committee continues to sell mulch (purchased in bulk) to residents as a fundraiser for the CiB committee. Mulch is used by the CiB committee on its' various beds and it makes a huge difference.

Thank you for including in your profile book the bylaw regarding recycling to eliminate the disposal of recyclable materials to the landfill. A big thank you to Town Council for passing this bylaw. Hopefully this bylaw is being implemented by the landfill supervisor and that fines of \$100 are being imposed when the bylaw is violated.

It was great to see the number of older buildings on Main Street that have received new life with a new business.

The refurbished sign at the landfill (done in 2016) makes it much easier to read- Thank you.

It was great to know that for the past few years the swimming pool water, at the end of the season, has been pumped out by oil companies to use on their well sites. If this water is not needed or cannot be used on any public properties, then this is a great alternative.

The Town continues with the "No Water Wednesdays" program in summer months, which allows the Town to water parks. It is interesting to note that the Town did not feel that there was any further need for water rationing, although this spring and summer have been quite hot and dry.

Thank you to the local Squirts group painting several town manholes to raise local awareness in keeping waterways and storm sewers free of chemicals and pollutants. It would be good if this were an annual project, undertaken either by the Squirts or by a school classroom.

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We noticed that there are no community gardens, except the vegetable garden planted by children at the museum. There may not be a demand for community gardens given the number of vegetable gardens throughout the community.

### **Recommendations:**

Currently the Town is burning its tree pile at the landfill. There is a large demand for mulch in the community. If economically feasible, the Town could consider purchasing a good mulcher for mulching trees and shrubbery prunings that are not diseased. The mulch could then be used for all the trees and beds in the community. A mulcher could also be rented once a year and the built up pile could be mulched all at once. It is important to keep elm wood separate as elm should still be buried or burnt.

It would be great to get the compost site at the Town shop more active, recognizing that it likely will not be 100% organic due to fertilizers and chemicals used by residents. Mayor Al Heron would be more than capable on providing workshops on how to compost. Consider a partnership with a local hardware business to provide a rebate on compost bins, to encourage more use of compost bins, or as a prize.

The Town might consider installing anti-idling signs at school entrances and medical clinic/ long-term care entrances.

As per the 2014 report, encourage rain barrel use. Also the Town Council will want to ensure water rates are adequate to ensure there is a proper reserve for the water treatment plant, including its replacement.

We look forward to the trails master plan being implemented. This will be a great asset to the community.

It would be helpful to have more details in the profile book as to the type of IPM program currently in place.

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| <b>HERITAGE CONSERVATION</b>  |               |               |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| <p>Heritage conservation includes efforts to preserve natural and cultural heritage within the community. Preservation of natural heritage pertains to policies, plans and actions concerning all elements of biodiversity including flora and fauna ecosystems and associated geological structures and formations. Cultural conservation refers to the heritage that helps define the community including the legacy of tangible (built/hard assets) elements such as heritage buildings, monuments, memorials, cemeteries, artifacts, museums and intangible elements such as traditions, customs, festivals and celebrations. The participation of groups such as historical societies and conservation groups is considered.</p> |               |               |
|   | <b>Max</b>    | <b>Actual</b> |
| <b>Municipal</b>  |               |               |
| Natural heritage policies, by-laws and their enforcement and effective programs   | 10            | 7             |
| Natural heritage management plans and preservation initiatives: including eco systems, eco parks, protection of sensitive habitats, species at risk, support for at risk pollinators, grasslands, naturalization, wetlands, urban agriculture/farming, and wildlife   | 15            | 12            |
| Management and promotion of natural heritage (through communications, information and support programs, economic development/tourism) including activities and programs (year-round) for education and use of natural heritage sites for and by the public  | 15            | 12            |
| Cultural heritage polices, by-laws and plans and preservation initiatives for heritage buildings, cemeteries, artefacts, museums, monuments, heritage trees and gardens, including their integration with streetscapes and landscape  | 15            | 12            |
| Cultural heritage initiatives throughout the year including festivals and celebrations along with preservation of traditions and customs  | 10            | 9             |
| <b>Business &amp; Institutions</b>  |               |               |
| Conservation, restoration and integration of natural heritage, including eco parks, conservation areas, heritage gardens, trees and landscapes.   | 15            | 12            |
| Conservation, restoration and reuse of heritage buildings and artefacts including their integration with the built/hard, streetscapes and green landscapes  | 10            | 8             |
| <b>Residential 6</b>  |               |               |
| Conservation/restoration and reuse of heritage buildings, artefacts on residential lands  | 10            | 6             |
| <b>Community Involvement</b>  |               |               |
| Public participation in community, neighbourhood or individual natural heritage programs including developing policies and plans, site improvements and management, conservation and education initiatives  | 15            | 13            |
| Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions (including environmental groups) in community-initiated natural heritage activities and programs   | 15            | 12            |
| Public participation in community, neighbourhood or individual cultural heritage programs including year-round heritage community events/activities, festivals and celebrations along with 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 cultural heritage activities and programs.   | 10            | 9             |
| <b>Heritage Conservation Total</b>  | <b>150.00</b> | <b>121.00</b> |

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## HERITAGE CONSERVATION

### Observations:

Jamieson Park is a great eco-park with a walking trail and pond with aerating fountain, nicely maintained and inviting.

The Royal Canadian Legion is very active in Eston and have a virtual wall to which veterans' names have been in-scribed. It is great to hear of the research and presentations done by students regarding local veterans and the various world wars. We must remember.

The plaques on a lot of the buildings in the downtown section, giving the history of their purposes and timeframes, is wonderful and adds to community spirit and pride.

It was great to know that copies of the local newspaper are available on microfilm from 1917 to the present- what a great resource!

The Eston Cemetery is wonderfully maintained, including a columbarium and a beautiful arbor with a protected area for the directory that is available 24/7. Thank you so very much for continuing to have Canadian flags beside each veteran's grave.

It sounds like the Centennial (2016) was a wonderful time with lots of activities throughout the year. The history of Eston was on display via enlarged photos on windows of storefronts throughout the downtown area. It would have been good to have these photos retained for archival purposes and have some still on display in the business windows.

What a joy to tour the Prairie West Museum with its' well appointed artifacts and very hospitable tour guide. It is so appreciated when a select number of artifacts are chosen to be displayed in a limited amount of space and trying not to look cluttered. The quilt displays were outstanding and we appreciated the tributes to various local people who have contributed significantly to your community (the Gallery of Glory).

The Hanson Memorial Heritage garden at the museum is nicely trimmed and maintained. The vegetable garden planted by children was well maintained and a great opportunity for teaching children.

Eston has the privilege of having 4 recognized historical buildings: 1) Evans House- currently the Eston Museum; 2) Lovedale School- also located on the Museum grounds; 3) Town office and 4) former RM office building. All of them are well maintained. Consider including pictures of these 4 buildings in your profile book noting name, location and date of picture immediately underneath the photo.

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### Recommendations:

Continue to develop your natural heritage including policies/bylaws. This could include further work with Ducks Unlimited for preservation of the natural habitat at Jamieson Park. Are there any trees or plants in the community that have a historical significance?

The wildlife garden at the museum needs some attention.

Consider developing a memorial bench program. This could be a fundraiser for either the Town or the Communities in Bloom.

It is interesting to note that two volumes of Grass to Grains have been published, detailing the history of all local families, churches, service groups, etc. It is not known when they were last updated and whether the information should be put on-line to make it more accessible. This is valuable information.

We hope there was some type of formal documentation for the Eston Centennial- a memoir that was put together and possibly available (for purchase or free) on-line.

It would be good to have pictures of cultural activities that happen in fall, winter and spring in the profile book (eg. "Brighten the Winter" light campaign).

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| <b>URBAN FORESTRY</b>  |               |               |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| <p>Urban forestry includes the efforts of the municipality, businesses, institutions and residents with regards to written policies, by-laws, standards for tree management (selection, planting, and maintenance), long and short-term management plans, tree replacement policies, pollinator friendly tree selection, tree inventory, and Integrated Pest Management (IPM), heritage, memorial and commemorative trees.</p> |               |               |
|  | <b>Max</b>    | <b>Actual</b> |
| <b>Municipal</b>   |               |               |
| Overall impact, benefit and first impression of the urban forest   | 10            | 7             |
| Policies, regulations and tree by-laws, tree protection and planting on public and private lands   | 15            | 9             |
| Urban forestry plan and design, including integration with overall green infrastructure landscape plan, and measures to preserve, protect, manage and expand overall tree inventory, including woodlots.   | 20            | 15            |
| Plan of action: procurement, species diversity (including native trees), selection of hardy and pollinator habitat tree species, recommended tree list and tree planting standards.  | 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            | 7             |
| Public information programs:<br>good planting techniques, best practices and maintenance programs  | 15            | 10            |
| Maintenance best practices with proven results   | 10            | 6             |
| Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or in place training programs   | 5             | 3             |
| <b>Business &amp; Institutions</b>   |               |               |
| Contribution to expanding overall tree inventory, with consideration of design and diversity including native and hardy species of trees, on properties owned by business and institutions.  | 15            | 11            |
| Maintenance programs, best practices with proven results: watering, pruning, IPM   | 10            | 7             |
| <b>Residential</b>   |               |               |
| Contribution to expanding overall tree inventory, with consideration of design and diversity including native and hardy species of trees on residential properties   | 15            | 11            |
| Maintenance best practices with proven results   | 10            | 7             |
| <b>Community Involvement</b>   |               |               |
| Public participation in tree planting and conservation programs such as Green Streets Canada, Arbor Day, Maple Leaf Day, and other tree planting and maintenance programs and activities on public lands (including promotion, organization etc.)  | 20            | 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            | 7             |
| <b>Urban Forestry Total</b>  | <b>175.00</b> | <b>121</b>    |



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## URBAN FORESTRY

### Observations:

The Tree Planting Policy (approved March, 2010) relates to tree planting on public properties. There is a recommended tree list with site suitability information. There is currently no policy in place for new developments, including business and industrial areas, as to trees that should be planted within a certain timeframe. The Town Council may wish to include this in future development negotiations since it will certainly add to the community's aesthetics and overall canopy.

There were some beautifully pruned trees, but there are a number of diseased/poorly maintained trees in your urban forest on both public and private properties. There were some dead branches that had just been left in piles in several areas. Dutch Elm disease is still in the province.

You have a good variety of trees, and hardy species for your area. The Rugged Charm Maple Tree that was planted at the gateway to the campground to start off the Canada 150 Celebrations is lovely. Consider incorporating this tree in a number of other areas of the community.

### Recommendations:

The campground would benefit from more trees, such as ash, columnar Colorado spruce, amur maple, columnar poplar, using the columnar species to separate the lots in the campground.

The last pruning workshop was in 2014. Consider updating your pruning classes with all the staff that are responsible for the trees in the community. Develop a tree inventory that will help staff identify the type of tree, based upon the location in the community, and possibly a brochure or mobile app to help identify diseases. When having a pruning workshop, have it at a time where people can practise their pruning skills on trees with the instructor's oversight.

There is a significant amount of pruning that needs to take place, preferably as soon as possible since there are trees that could be considered an insurance liability. Ensure to check all the trees in your parks. Trees on vacant lots or with absentee landlords need to be dealt with as well. If there is disease, it will spread and you could lose your urban forest. This is a large project and should receive priority. It will be well worth it in the future.

Retain the diversity of species and add some new varieties that are hardy for your area.

Protect your orchard when moving those trees, ensuring it is done properly. The trees in the orchard appear stunted in growth, given that they were planted 5 years ago. Apparently, the irrigation drip lines were only installed in 2016/2017 and have not been hooked up yet. The irrigation lines need to be hooked up as soon as possible and a regular watering of the trees should be done, ensuring there is a good watering in of the trees in fall. Consider including fertilizer sticks for these trees in the spring.

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It is unfortunate that the urban orchard was planted, only for parts of it to be moved a few years later. While we understand the benefit of new construction and business, it is important to protect our park spaces from development.

When planning for planting of new trees, include a plan for their watering. Put mulch around each of the trees on an annual basis to ensure water retention and reduction of weeds. A plan for tree maintenance is just as important as planting the trees. The recommendation from the 2014 report was to ensure mulch was placed around the trees in the orchard. Continue to ensure that mulch is around your trees throughout your community.

The memorial tree sign at the urban orchard should be redone, especially when the trees are moved. It is not known whether there is a specific tree that was purchased by the donor and what the policies are regarding the memorial tree purchase and maintenance. There were to be markers placed by trees to recognize the donor, but it is not known if that is still to be done. It would be good to continue with the Memorial tree program but to have it throughout the community, ensuring there is a complete policy including donor recognition and maintenance of memorial trees. Memorial trees can add significantly to the community but come with responsibility.

Suggest to the school division that the trees around the school need more care. Keeping the urban forest healthy, pruned and cared for should be a priority.

## 2017 Evaluation Form

| <b>LANDSCAPE</b>  |               |               |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| <p>Landscape includes planning, design, construction and maintenance of parks and green spaces 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 along with turf management.</p> |               |               |
|   | <b>Max</b>    | <b>Actual</b> |
| <b>Municipal</b>  |               |               |
| First impressions of the community including gateway/entrance treatments  | 10            | 8             |
| Sustainable designs (seasonally adjusted year round): energy efficient, use of green materials, naturalization, xeriscaping, suitable plant varieties (including pollinator friendly) , traffic calming, bank stabilisation   | 10            | 9             |
| Urban and civic design standards for streetscape and public places: flags, banners, public art, fountains, site furnishings, signage, seasonal design and décor, walkways and paving materials  | 10            | 8             |
| 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 and adapted maintenance programs   | 10            | 9             |
| Landscape maintenance policies, standards, best practices and programs  | 10            | 9             |
| Landscape maintained to appropriate standards, specifications and best practices.   | 5             | 5             |
| Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or in place training programs  | 10            | 9             |
| Demonstrated year-round opportunities and programs for education and use of parks and green spaces (urban agriculture, community gardens, parks and recreation programs)  | 10            | 8             |
| <b>Business &amp; Institutions</b>  |               |               |
| Sustainable designs (seasonally adjusted year round): energy efficient, use of green materials, naturalization, xeriscaping, alternate groundcovers, urban agriculture  | 10            | 7             |
| 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            | 12            |
| Adequate ongoing life cycle management (ongoing maintenance, ground & asset management, rehabilitation & replacement ) of all landscape elements  | 10            | 7             |
| <b>Residential</b>  |               |               |
| Streetscape appeal of landscapes (year-round, seasonal, themed)   | 15            | 12            |
| Maintenance of properties: lawn care, trees and shrub maintenance (with proven results)   | 15            | 11            |
| Selection of plant material (native, local, innovative, edible and pollinator friendly plants)  | 10            | 8             |
| <b>Community Involvement</b>  |               |               |
| Public participation in community programs such as urban agriculture, community gardens, "yard of the week", volunteer park maintenance, holiday illumination & decoration (promotion, organization, etc.)  | 20            | 15            |
| Recognition (by municipality and/or by volunteer groups) of volunteer efforts in all aspects of the Communities in Bloom Program including activities in all evaluated criteria   | 20            | 15            |
| <b>Landscape Total</b>  | <b>200.00</b> | <b>161</b>    |

# 2017 Evaluation Form

## LANDSCAPE

### Observations:

Congratulations to the Wheatland Plus 50 Club for purchasing the empty lot next to their building, building a new deck and creating a parking lot - it all looks great! The newly established perennial bed adds so much to the landscape around the building- truly lovely!

The landscaping at the Legion was well done including the containers of plants, red and white. The landscaped areas at all the various parks, including the pocket parks and the Complex, were lovely with a high level of maintenance by the CiB committee.

In 2016, you not only painted the window and door trims on some of your older downtown buildings, but also installed student art in the windows. Glad you kept the art in the windows. Something to see on your street that is not just an old dark empty window is a great idea!

Your use of the grasses near the gopher is a great idea, noted as a recommendation in the 2015 evaluation report. They are very appealing and prairie like. What is needed is some colour to help the gopher stand out, since it currently is beige on beige with the beige rocks, beige gopher and beige fence. Consider a darker colour (dark brown?) on the fence to help the gopher pop-out.

Your town staff has done a great job of mowing and has taken great care of the sports ground. Knowing it is a new crew, that is kudos for the crew. Well done!

Your entrance signs (new as of 2014 with a great new logo) were well taken care of, mowed and trimmed.

The CiB committee purchased Hanging Desert planters for Main street to help with water retention and reducing the frequency of watering. They appear to be working well! Hanging baskets always add so much to the beauty of a community. The brick building flower bed along Main Street was AWESOME!

Centennial Park is beautiful with the clock and the lovely raised beds and so very well done. If possible, consider incorporating a water feature.

It would have been nice to see some photos of the Canada 150 tulips that you planted in your perennial beds in the profile book.

Your banners, purchased in 2017, seem to have faded more than one would expect, and we know you have taken action.

Henry Hamilton Park has grown in leaps and bounds over the years and is very well kept. The gazebo is an attraction. We will need to go for a walk at night to check out the new solar lighting installed at the top of the gazebo and also the solar lighting in the planters near the gopher.

## 2017 Evaluation Form

The addition of flower window boxes hanging along the fence at the swimming pool certainly added to the overall aesthetics, along with the planters scattered over the various areas at the Community Complex and sportsgrounds.

The Eston CiB committee has done an outstanding job of all the various landscaped areas throughout the community. Having signs indicating type of plant is a welcome addition. You should be very proud of all the work you have done over the years. It is truly amazing. The commitment, energy and enthusiasm of this group is laudable and exemplary.

### **Recommendations:**

For the vacant buildings that are in the downtown section, would it be possible to have some rotating art from the schools or a local artist, and/or enlarged historical black and white photos, such as the ones that were created for the Centennial. They could be put up in the summer when people come to their hometown. You could also incorporate crafts and it could be come an event - "Come see what we have changed in the windows"- be it on a monthly, bi monthly or quarterly basis. A lot of usable material would likely surface with a few inquiries.

The Medical Clinic could use some color impact or plants with height with possibly a tree or two.

Your most challenging area is your Industrial area and it would be good if they came on board with CIB. It may need some tough love or some tough tactics to get the unsightly places cleaned up. Offer a partnership with plants or tubs and their maintenance, if their area were cleaned. It also could be an opportunity for fundraising for the CIB of planting and maintaining barrels in front of the various businesses for a fee - a potential win-win proposition. This would also then allow for a theme for the planters throughout the community.

You could restart your most improved yard program, but do it in the Industrial Area as well. Consider a Memorial Bench program at the pool, Henry Hamilton Park, Campground, Complex, and other areas where people might like to take a moment to sit.

## 2017 Evaluation Form

| <b>FLORAL DISPLAYS</b>  |               |               |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| <p>Floral displays evaluates efforts of the municipality, businesses, institutions and residents 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, edible plants, water efficient and pollinator friendly plants) in the context of originality, distribution, location, diversity and balance, colour, and harmony This pertains to flowerbeds, carpet bedding, containers, baskets and window boxes.</p> |               |               |
|   | <b>Max</b>    | <b>Actual</b> |
| <b>Municipal</b>  |               |               |
| Integration into overall landscape plan and distribution through community. Concept and design including sustainable design   | 15            | 14            |
| Diversity of displays: flowerbeds, raised beds, planters, hanging baskets, window boxes, carpet bedding, mosaics  | 20            | 17            |
| Diversity of plants: annuals, perennials, bulbs, grasses, woody plants, natural flora, pollinator friendly plants   | 10            | 9             |
| Quality, maintenance to appropriate specifications and standards, best practices: watering, weeding, edging, dead heading, etc.   | 20            | 19            |
| Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or in place training programs  | 10            | 10            |
| <b>Business &amp; Institutions</b>  |               |               |
| Concept and design (including arrangement, diversity, colour of display and plants) on grounds  | 15            | 12            |
| Contribution to, and integration with, overall community floral program   | 10            | 7             |
| Quality of planting and maintenance: watering, weeding, edging, dead heading, etc.  | 10            | 8             |
| <b>Residential</b>  |               |               |
| Concept and design (including arrangement, diversity, colour of display and plants) on residential properties<br>Pollinator gardens and/or inclusion of pollinator plants in gardens  | 20            | 15            |
| Quality of planting and maintenance with proven results.  | 15            | 13            |
| <b>Community Involvement</b>  |               |               |
| Public participation in community projects, volunteer initiatives, outreach programs in floral displays (including promotion, organization, etc.)   | 15            | 14            |
| Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions for community floral displays activities   | 15            | 15            |
| <b>Floral Displays Total</b>  | <b>175.00</b> | <b>153</b>    |

## 2017 Evaluation Form

### FLORAL DISPLAYS

#### **Observations:**

Eston has great floral displays. The growth of Centennial garden has been wonderful to see. You are an amazing CiB group with great collaboration with the Town and the Town crew. Thank you to Eston Town Council for supporting your efforts. The community benefits so much from all your volunteer work. You have this unending supply of ideas and the help to go with it, and it has made Eston a beautiful town in the prairies.

Your parks and pocket gardens are an outstanding display of well kept gardens based on well designed plans.

Your baskets have been better, but then so has the weather. Thank you for your perseverance and optimism.

#### **Recommendations:**

Consider adding some colour around the gopher; height is also important in making a colour impact.

Development of further partnerships with all businesses, especially along the highway area and in the industrial section will have a significant impact on the floral section of the evaluation sheet for you. Find a way to get them involved with even a clean-up of their area and then a floral display or appropriate landscaping.

We were not sure if there was a contest for floral displays for residents or businesses for 2017.

## 2017 Evaluation Form



### 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