

Evaluation  
Form

2016



## 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.



Community: **ESTON**

Province: **Saskatchewan**

Category: **1002 - 2001**

The evaluation is based on 8 criteria, divided into the 6 following sections, assessing 4

sectors of the community:

<b>Tidiness</b>	130.00	/	150.00
<b>Environmental Action</b>	127.50	/	150.00
<b>Heritage Conservation</b>	129.50	/	150.00
<b>Urban Forestry</b>	146.50	/	175.00
<b>Landscape</b>	172.00	/	200.00
<b>Floral Displays</b>	160.00	/	175.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>865.50</b>	<b>/</b>	<b>1000.00</b>

Percentage: 87%

Bloom rating: 5 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: Community Profile Book and Centennial Park

**Representative (s) of Community**

Name: Al Heron Function: Mayor  
 Name: Val Mohan Function: CIB  
 Name: Mike Sauser Function: Parks

**Judges**

Name: Brenda Winny Name: Marion Kelly

Evaluation date: August 8, 2016

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.

## GENERAL COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

Between the two of us, we have been in Eston several times over the past sixteen years evaluating for the CiB competition and we are both constantly amazed at your ability to not only maintain previous projects to a high standard but to also develop creative, new ideas. Congratulations on your Five Blooms.

Thank you for your cheerful and friendly hospitality. Your love of community is very obvious in your attitudes and your actions.

The Town/CiB partnership is outstanding, accomplishing much during the past years. The Eston of today is not the Eston of sixteen years ago. You could give a Master Class in partnerships and progress using the principles of Communities in Bloom.

Your new and innovative ideas to economically spruce up Main Street for your Centennial are worthy of repeating to other communities facing the same issues for special community events – requiring added colour, cost effectiveness and visual interest.

Everyone who helps should feel a great deal of satisfaction at the appearance of their home town.

On behalf of Communities in Bloom, thanks everyone.

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.

	Max	Actual
<b>Municipal</b>		
Tidiness, order, cleanliness and first impressions	10	8
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	8
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	13
<b>Business and Institutions</b>		
Tidiness, order and cleanliness and first impressions	15	13
Condition of buildings (exterior maintenance), grounds, sidewalks and parking lots	15	13
Condition of urban furniture: benches, litter and recycling containers	5	5
<b>Residential</b>		
Tidiness, order and cleanliness	20	17
Condition of buildings, grounds and yards	15	13
<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	9
Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions for community clean-up programs	10	10
<b>Tidiness Total</b>	<b>150.00</b>	<b>130.00</b>

## TIDINESS

### Observations:

The improvement in the business section of Main Street was remarkable due to the attention paid to vacant buildings and windows. The change in appearance of a building by just painting window trims and doors is amazing. Your volunteer painters should be quite pleased with the overall impact of their work.

The pocket parks were litter and weed free, as were the sidewalks.

Yards owned by absentee owners continue to have nuisance value to the town and CiB group.

The Town Shop was a model of tidiness and cleanliness and must surely be more efficient.

Please congratulate the cemetery grounds keeper on doing an excellent job.

The entire town mowing crew also needs to be congratulated as everywhere looked trimmed and tidy.

The sign at the Landfill is now much easier to read due to its repair.

### Recommendations:

Continue exploring options to keep empty/rented/seldom used lots throughout the community under weed control.

Consider the repainting of window trims and doors as a reasonable task for a method of keeping up appearances on Main Street.

Whatever you have been doing to maintain the tidiness of Eston, keep it up. You are certainly on the right track.

## ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

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.

	Max	Actual
<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	18
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	17
Water conservation and use-reduction programs such as or promotions, efficient irrigation, use of non-potable water, water restriction policies	15	13
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: - Development and expansion of sustainable mobility and active transportation network such as bike lanes and multi-used pathways; 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 - Brownfield redevelopment, remediation, land reclamation - Air quality programs such as anti-idling, reduction of greenhouse gas emission (carbon reduction)	10	8
<b>Business and Institutions</b>		
Participation in the environmental effort : such as waste management (reduce, reuse and recycle), water conservation, energy conservation, brownfield management	10	8
Corporate environmental innovation/stewardship, initiatives, activities (ex. environmental clean-up activities)	10	8.5
<b>Residential</b>		
Participation in the 3-R (reduce, reuse and recycle) initiatives and composting	10	8.5
Adoption of water conservation practices such as rainwater collection and rain gardens	15	13
<b>Community Involvement</b>		
Public participation in public forums and policy development on environmental issues	5	4
Public participation in community, neighbourhood or individual street environmental activities and programs (including promotion, organization and evidence of taking ownership, etc.)	10	9
Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions in public environmental activities and programs	10	8.5



## **ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION**

### **Observations:**

The Landfill has been compacted and covered to extend the life of the landfill by 100 years. There are 2 men working at the landfill. We noted the stockpiles of concrete to be crushed at a later date.

The orchard is being trenched for irrigation.

New lights have been installed at the rink, reducing power usage and thus the power bill.

Oil companies pumping out the swimming pool water at the end of the season and then reusing the water at well sites is a great example of working with corporations outside the community.

Please thank Victor at Sarcan for keeping the facility very neat and clean. Sarcan now has a weigh scale for a more accurate measurement and payment.

### **Recommendations:**

Eston was into curbside recycling long before many other communities and has the method down pat. Keep up the good work.

Continue exploring ideas, methods and technologies to improve the environment and increase the bottom line of the town's budget.

## HERITAGE CONSERVATION

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 are considered.

	Max	Actual
<b>Municipal</b>		
Natural heritage policies, by-laws and their enforcement and effective programs	10	8
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	13
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	13
Cultural heritage policies, 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	13
Cultural heritage initiatives throughout the year including festivals and celebrations along with preservation of traditions and customs	10	8.5
<b>Business and Institutions</b>		
Conservation, restoration and integration of natural heritage, including eco parks, conservation areas, heritage gardens, trees and landscapes.	15	13
Conservation, restoration and, reuse of heritage buildings and artefacts including their integration with the built/hard, streetscapes and green landscapes	10	9
<b>Residential</b>		
Conservation/restoration and reuse of heritage buildings, artefacts on residential lands.	10	7
<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	13
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	10
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>129.50</b>

## HERITAGE CONSERVATION

### Observations:

Planning and staging a Centennial Celebration that doubled the town's population for a weekend was a major accomplishment of community co-operation and involvement. You have given several generations a common memory to share for many, many years.

We have noted the improvement of the cemetery over the years. The flags at the graves of veterans makes a visible statement as to whom they were and their contributions to the history of Eston and Canada. The landscape around the Legion building has improved by leaps and bounds. The simple addition of red and white flowers around the cenotaph makes a great difference.

'Wonderful Wednesdays' are a creative way to celebrate what is unique and distinctive about Eston.

'Brighten the Winter' light campaign must have brightened up the winter nights in January and February.

The history plaques on the downtown buildings were a great addition to the streetscape.

### Recommendations:

Might Wonderful Wednesdays continue and contain some emphasis and focus on the Eston multiculturalism of today?

Continuing the integration of the students with the on-going history of Eston is always a good plan. Anytime generations can work together is a positive affirmation of the success of maintaining heritage in a community.

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.

	Max	Actual
<b>Municipal</b>		
Overall impact, benefit and first impression of the urban forest	10	8.5
Policies, regulations and tree by-laws, tree protection and planting on public and private lands	15	12
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	17
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	9
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: good planting techniques, best practices and maintenance programs	15	13
Maintenance best practices with proven results	10	7
Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or in place training programs	5	4
<b>Business and 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	12
Maintenance programs, best practices with proven results: watering, pruning, IPM	10	9
<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	13
Maintenance best practices with proven results	10	8
<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	18
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	9
<b>Urban Forestry Total</b>	<b>175.00</b>	<b>146.50</b>

## URBAN FORESTRY

### Observations:

The orchard is beginning to look like an orchard! The irrigation will certainly help by supplying steady moisture to promote yearly growth.

The Town is getting closer to being able to maintain its urban forest in-house by training personnel in pruning techniques, IPM, and purchasing a bucket truck to ensure safe pruning.

The diversity of tree species is adding colour and texture to the landscape.

### Recommendations:

Continue the good work of being pro-active about pruning and dead tree removal.

Keeping up the beauty and health of your impressive tree canopy should be high on the Town's maintenance list.

## LANDSCAPE

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.

	Max	Actual
<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	8
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	9
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	8
Landscape maintenance policies, standards, best practices and programs	10	8
Landscape maintained to appropriate standards, specifications and best practices	5	4
Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or in place training programs	10	8
Demonstrated year-round opportunities and programs for education and use of parks and green spaces (urban agriculture, community gardens, parks and recreation programs)	10	9
<b>Business and Institutions</b>		
Sustainable designs (seasonally adjusted year round): energy efficient, use of green materials, naturalization, xeriscaping, alternate groundcovers, urban agriculture	10	8
Contribution to urban and civic design and public green spaces above requirements: such as public art, streetscape, site furniture, fountains and innovation in concept and design	15	13
Adequate ongoing life cycle management (ongoing maintenance, ground and asset management, rehabilitation and replacement ) of all landscape elements	10	9
<b>Residential</b>		
Streetscape appeal of landscapes (year-round, seasonal, themed)	15	14
Maintenance of properties: lawn care, trees and shrub maintenance (w/ proven results)	15	13
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 and decoration (promotion, organization, etc.)	20	17
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	19

## FLORAL DISPLAYS

### Observations:

As you can tell from your score, you are near perfection! The pocket gardens on Main Street and the various flower beds around town contribute to the overall appearance of Eston as a community. A town that can keep multiple flower beds maintained is a town that can do many and all facets of community life functioning at top levels.

The school flower pots looked to be in very good condition. Whoever looks after them needs a big thank you.

The dead-heading done at regular intervals by volunteers keeps flowering plants in top condition.

The planned addition of the red and white tulips will extend the colour for a longer period of time.

### Recommendations:

Again, what can we say? More is always good.



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



**Observations:**

The pocket gardens, the planters and baskets create one of the prettiest Main Streets we have seen.

The work involved in creating and accomplishing the Centennial Garden was impressive and the results will grace the street for years to come.

The Gopher and area certainly brighten up the end of Main.

The Rail Company has improved their building along the tracks.

Henry Hamilton Park has been evolving over many years. The addition of the gazebo and playground equipment has created a wonderful play area for children.

The removal of the unsightly building behind the Arena, the replacement of the fence around the pool, the addition of hanging planters and new flower beds (at the Arena and the entrance to the camp ground) as well as the new batting cage have created a sports grounds to be envied.

The ball diamonds are mowed and are without weed ridges. Thank the Town Staff for all their hard work mowing and weed whipping.

The new turf at the school football field looks worthy of a professional team!

**Recommendations:**

It is very difficult to make recommendations to a community that can conjure new ideas out of the air!

The only thing we could think of was to work at the weed growth between the pavement and curbs throughout the town.

Once the rail company is through their work on the rails, hopefully they will consider mowing up to the rail line.

Keep up the good work knowing and remembering the difference the partnership between CiB and the Town Council has made in the quality of life in Eston. We imagine you received many well-deserved compliments about the changes in Eston during the Centennial Celebration.

**FLORAL DISPLAYS**

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.

	Max	Actual
<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	18
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	8
<b>Business and Institutions</b>		
Concept and design (including arrangement, diversity, colour of display and plants) on grounds	15	14
Contribution to, and integration with, overall community floral program	10	10
Quality of planting and maintenance: watering, weeding, edging, dead heading, etc.	10	10
<b>Residential</b>		
Concept and design (including arrangement, diversity, colour of display and plants) on residential properties Pollinator gardens and/or inclusion of pollinator plants in gardens	20	18
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	13
Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions for community floral displays activities	15	14
<b>Floral Displays Total</b>	<b>175.00</b>	<b>160.00</b>