



2009 Evaluation Form

Municipality: Town of Souris

Province: Prince Edward Island

Category: 1,001 to 3,000

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

Tidiness	105.75	/	125
Environmental Awareness	105.25	/	125
Community Involvement	104.25	/	125
Natural and Cultural Heritage Conservation	96.75	/	125
Tree/Urban Forest Management	93.5	/	125
Landscaped Areas	103	/	125
Floral Displays	107.75	/	125
Turf and Groundcovers	103.75	/	125

Total Marks : 820 / 1000

Percentage : 82.00

Bloom rating: 5 Blooms

Mention : Renovation of Main Street

Representative (s) of Community

Name: Joanne Reid Function : Mayor

Name: JoAnne Dunphy Function : CiB Co-chair

Name: _____ Function : _____

Judges

Name: Evelyn Alemanni Name Donna McIlmoyle

Evaluation date: July 26 and 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.

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GENERAL COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS



Congratulations to Souris on its fifth year of competition at the national level of the Communities in Bloom program and on earning 5 bloom status.

This town of ~1250 people is known for potato farming, lobster fishing, and fine local crafts. The town offers lovely churches, tidy neighborhoods, a commercial district, and a small inventory of heritage homes.

Souris residents are dedicated volunteers who give and give and give to many events and causes in town. Their efforts deserve financial and leadership backing from council.

We appreciate that you added your community profile book to the town website to promote your CiB involvement. You can also use the website and Facebook groups to enlist the help of volunteers and sponsors to leverage the town's investment in the program. Consider allowing residents to blog about their efforts in the 8 criteria. You can also list the judging itinerary on the website as an extra incentive for those whose homes are on the judging route so they can be prepared.

We appreciated the opportunity to review your bylaws, many of which were adopted more than a decade ago. We understand that the town is in the process of adopting new bylaws, which were not made available. We hope that they include a strong sign ordinance, as signage is an important part of the town's visual impact on visitors and residents alike. Likewise, we encourage you to adopt bylaws to protect heritage structures and your ancient trees.

We hope you'll consider also participating in our Winter Lights program to showcase Souris at its finest in the winter season. Thank you for being part of the family of Communities in Bloom towns and cities, dedicated to making Canada better than ever.

Suggestions are indicated in italics.

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	8.50
⊗ Community anti-litter awareness and support for community organizations in clean-up efforts		9	7.50
⊗ Effective bylaws / policies and their enforcement; effective programs in smaller communities; operational programs for notices, posters and graffiti prevention / removal, derelict removal		9	7.00
⊗ Maintenance of public roads and shoulders: weed – free sidewalks, curbs, streets and roads, regular hard surface / street sweeping program		9	7.50
⊗ Condition of buildings and urban furniture: benches, litter and recycling containers		8	6.75
Commercial / Industrial Sector			
⊗ Tidiness, order and cleanliness		7	6.00
⊗ Condition of buildings, grounds, sidewalks and parking lots		7	5.75
⊗ Condition of urban furniture: benches, litter and recycling containers		7	5.75
⊗ Support – financial and/or in-kind - for community clean-up programs		7	6.25
Service Clubs, Schools, Churches, Not-for-profit groups			
⊗ Support – financial and/or in-kind; involvement – organization, participation; impact on the community		13	11.50
⊗ Tidiness, condition of buildings and yards of churches, schools and any other buildings		11	9.75
Residential / Citizens			
⊗ Tidiness, order and cleanliness		10	8.25
⊗ Condition of buildings and yards		10	8.25
⊗ Involvement in block or individual street tidiness		8	7.00
Tidiness		125	105.75

Comments and suggestions – Tidiness

The Town of Souris presents as a tidy and well kept community. Your gateways are clean, neat and very attractive.

We would like to congratulate the Souris Co-op, the IGA store and Bernard Clinton for working together and removing all the debris from winter and applaud the Island Waste Management Corp for the free disposal. Many hands make light work and together you have raised the bar a little by stepping up and surpassing the provincial standard.

The Judges would suggest that the Council encourage similar projects and provide support and leadership in this cooperation. This would be helpful when addressing the issue of graffiti. Council could encourage the use of cans of partial paint to be made available and then used to cover any unsightly graffiti. This encourages civic pride, the use of available paint and saves the environment from disposal of hazardous waste.



The Judges understand the issue of excess garbage during peak tourist season; however, we would encourage the addition of extra receptacles or more frequent pick-ups. The beach area is an important site. A clean beach is the first impression you want to give visitors.

The parks are beautiful and we would again encourage you to add an addition receptacle next to the playground. This not only promotes tidiness but ensures a clean and safe environment for play.

The Judges recognize that the main street is still under construction and there is a wait period prior to investing in downtown beautification. We would encourage Council working with the CIB volunteers and the businesses in designing the streetscape. The right presentation can be a good investment for tourism dollars. Your town image is reflected in your main street.

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Be aggressive in your search for funding to move utilities underground. The utility poles and wires detract from the appearance of Main St. Investing in underground utilities would have a return on investment in the form of eliminating storm damage to wires and associated repairs. Certainly, reliable power is important to your quality of life.

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	7.50
☉ 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	9.00
☉ 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	8.00
☉ 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	12.75
☉ Use of Integrated Pest Management / Plant Health Care principles: timing, policies / bylaws and/or effective procedures		6	4.75
☉ 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	4.50
Commercial / Industrial Sector			
☉ Participation in the environmental effort		6	5.00
☉ Corporate environmental innovation / stewardship, initiatives, activities		6	5.00
☉ sustainable development strategies, safety and emergency preparedness		6	5.00
☉ Energy efficient buildings / landscapes		6	5.00
☉ Greening of operational fleet and equipment		6	5.00
Service Clubs, Schools, Churches, Not-for-profit groups			
☉ Support – financial and/or in-kind		7	5.75
☉ 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	105.25

Comments & Suggestions – Environmental Awareness

The judges appreciate the consistency of the provincial waste standards practice and we were exceptionally pleased to hear that at the waste disposal site citizens are allowed to search for used parts from discard appliances and other reusable items. The reuse part of a program is very important.

We would like to thank Sterling McDonald for his time and sharing his knowledge with the Judges regarding water and waste water practices of the Town. We would like to recognize him for the obvious pride he takes in his position. We did not ask about the testing of beach water but we would assume that there is a procedure for protecting public waters. We would encourage Council and the community to seek out ways to again surpass standards and make Souris a quality place to live, work and play.

The judges would like to suggest that partnerships be created to find ways to increase local composting, which has the potential of improving the quality of your soil. The addition of rain barrels could decrease water consumption. All initiatives such as these are cost effective and tend to reduce municipal overhead.

The Souris Harbour Authority Inc. is a wonderful complement to the Town of Souris and we would encourage their work to include requirements which will continue to protect both the water and land. We recognize the efforts to investigate wind power and encourage the investigation of all bio-fuel and other alternative energy projects. *The Authority should include green requirements for any new development.*

We would suggest Council include in any future street light projects the option of solar power and set a policy with the Authority for green building projects.

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	7.25
⊗ Support – financial and/or in-kind for volunteer activities		8	7.00
⊗ Information and educational programs		8	6.50
⊗ Promotion of local businesses, products, tourism		8	5.75
⊗ 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	5.50
Commercial / Industrial Sector			
⊗ Involvement in community projects, volunteer initiatives, community outreach programs		10	8.00
⊗ Sponsorship – financial and/or in kind – of the local CIB program		10	8.00
⊗ Innovation; involvement with youth / seniors and other initiatives towards broader social inclusion		10	8.00
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	6.75
⊗ Participation in community programs		8	6.75
⊗ Provision of ideas / initiatives for projects/programs		8	6.75
Community Involvement		125	104.25

Comments & Suggestions – Community Involvement

The Town of Souris is definitely blessed with many organized clubs/groups of volunteers. Their contributions to the community were evident wherever we travelled. Joanne Dunphy is a wonderful volunteer and her motivation and commitment should be recognized. We commend the community for hosting events to recognize the efforts of all the volunteers. *The judges would recommend that Council find a way of recording the many hours donated to the community by the volunteers and use the statistics for grant applications.*

The Judges were impressed by the number of volunteers on the fire department. We enjoyed our tour of the fire station and want to commend the firemen for their diligence to their position. We would also congratulate them on their fundraising efforts and the building of their smokehouse.

The Lion's Club is another active contributor to the community. We applaud their efforts to support the citizens with a community garden. The eyeglass program at the IGA is a win-win project for everyone. We congratulate you and encourage you to continue with the good work.

The tour of the Harbourview Training Center was very impressive. The facility is well equipped and offers a very supportive environment for the clients. The lobster traps were a very unique project and should prove to be a wonderful memento for the visitors to Souris.

We enjoyed our tour of St. Mary's Hall and were pleased with all the renovations done to the building. The Knights of Columbus and all the members should be proud of the partnership with the workers that completed this pleasing restoration. The facility offers a great space for as variety of activities.

The judges would suggest the many groups of volunteers come together and have a roundtable discussion. This could improve communication and create awareness of timing of events and possible conflict of timing and fundraising activities.

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	7.50
naturall and cultural heritage management plan and preservation inittatives: cultural landscapes, use of native plants, heritage gardens, trees	10	7.00
⊗ Preservation, restoration and reuse programs	8	6.50
⊗ Information and support programs	6	4.00
⊗ Promotion of heritage by Historical Society / Heritage Committee / Tourism Association	5	4.25
⊗ Interpretative and signage programs, walking tours, museums, festivals/celebrations	6	4.50
⊗ 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	5.50
⊗ 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	5.00
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		
⊗ Conservation / restoration and reuse of sites / buildings	7	5.50
⊗ Preservation of traditions, customs, food, music, dance and crafts	7	5.50
⊗ Participation in heritage community events/activities	7	5.50
Natural and Cultural Heritage Conservation	125	96.75

Comments and Suggestions – Natural & Cultural Heritage Conservation

Souris has a proud heritage and is fortunate to have some evidence of their past. The Matthew McLean Building is a wonderful facility that showcases the history of main street Souris. This building is home to the new tourist centre, the wireless network and still is the home of the past general store. We understand this building is provincially designated and we would encourage the committee to seek further recognition through the Historic Sites and Monuments of Canada for the wheels located inside and outside the building. This innovative presentation serves the tourists and the residents well.

Souris has many historic buildings such as the Town Hall and the buildings that line the main street. *Council should move to designate these buildings as soon as possible. Your past can assist in defining your future. The designation of buildings and artifacts can be used to increase revenue from tourists and enable you to apply for grants such as cultural capitals for conservation and preservation.*

Souris also has many old stately trees which can be used to identify periods of time and the look of the area from time gone by. *The tree inventory will be a very beneficial tool for the presentation of your history.*

We would recommend to Council as they move forward with their downtown renewal that they consider such things as heritage lighting that is solar powered and trash receptacles that are representative of the era but designed for the environmental requirements of today.

We encourage you to preserve your heritage it will be an asset for the future.

The centennial of Souris' founding offers many opportunities to celebrate your heritage. *Consider publishing a commemorative history book with lots of photos. Put heritage plaques on buildings that are at least 100 years old. Find you 100 year old citizens and record videos of them telling stories of the past. Planning for a series of celebrations needs to start yesterday.*



Appreciated very much the opportunity to hear local musicians preserving the musical culture of the area.

Craft traditions including painting, knitting, sea glass jewelry and more are offered at the cooperative store run by volunteers.



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	7.00
⊗ Plan of action: procurement, species diversity, selection of hardy species with potential to contribute to the plan		10	7.00
⊗ Strategic Management, Operational and Emergency Plan in place, an inventory of trees, demonstration of good planting techniques and a maintenance program		8	6.50
⊗ Measures to preserve, protect, manage and expand woodlots		7	5.50
⊗ Qualified personnel and/or crew training		7	5.50
⊗ 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	4.75
⊗ Maintenance programs		7	4.50
⊗ Existing tree protection and preservation during construction: in by-law and/or in practice		8	5.50
⊗ Involvement and promotion of tree planting programs and conservation through groups such as Business Improvement Association		6	4.25
Service Clubs, Schools, Churches, Not - for - profit groups			
⊗ Support – financial and/or in-kind and involvement – organization, participation		10	7.50
⊗ Impact and maintenance		10	7.50
Residential / Citizens			
⊗ Selection of varieties – inclusion of native, hardy species		11	9.00
⊗ Maintenance		10	8.00
Tree / Urban Forest Management		125	93.50

Comments & Suggestions : Tree / Urban Forest Management

Souris is heavily treed and benefits from the presence of many trees that are more than 100 years old. The town is applauded for using the services of a professional arborist to assess tree condition and provide pruning services.

Trees, besides offering the usual benefits of shade, wildlife habitat, storm water remediation, soil retention and more, they increase property value. Additional details can be read at <http://www.ccurbangreen.org/Benefits.html>. With these facts in mind, *the town should consider appointing a tree board. A tree inventory would prove a valuable resource in many ways, including planning and budgeting for tree maintenance and replacement. Regular review of town trees should be undertaken and would help ensure reduction of possible liability issues. This would be a good scout project. Preventive pruning of trees pays dividends in reduced damage and cleanup after storms.*

To commemorate your centennial in 2010, consider identifying your heritage trees, particularly those that are at least 100 years old. These are the oldest, largest, and landmark trees. Develop a tree protection ordinance to prevent their destruction and to protect them during construction. In addition, consider developing standards for tree maintenance to prevent unsightly and dangerous stumps from being left after trees are cut down.

Consider having a "biggest tree" contest for children to win a prize by identifying the largest tree in town. This helps them learn about trees, various species, and tree longevity.

The commercial area has many large trees. In the industrial area around the harbour, consider working with the large industries to screen their properties with dense plantings of the pine trees that grow so quickly in your area.

At the Lions Club garden, trees have been densely planted. Some of them need to be removed in order to preserve the health of the other trees.

On Canada Day, the town provided 400 tree seedlings to residents to be planted in their own yards. *Consider offering planting and care instructions along with the seedlings, or work with the Provincial Department of Energy, Environment and Forestry to have them present classes on tree care and pruning.*

Add a list of recommended trees to the town's web site.

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The provincial government provides a grant of \$500 annually for the town to add trees. *Enlist the help of an arborist and a tree spade so that large trees can be transplanted to areas where they will add value and have greater impact.*

Encourage property owners to remove dead trees, as they can be a hazardous liability.



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.

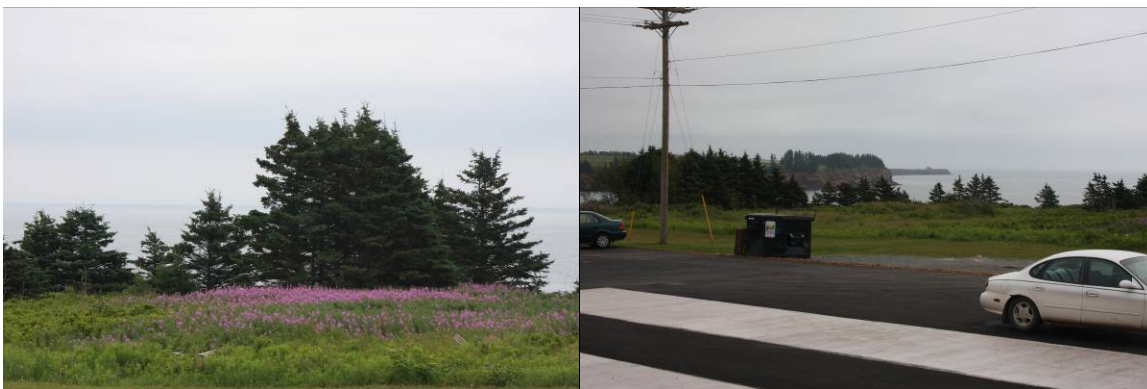
	Max	Actual
Municipality / Public Properties		
⊗ First impressions of the community including gateway / entrance treatments	10	9.00
⊗ Development of policies, standards and best practices	7	5.50
⊗ Plan of action: distribution through the community	8	7.00
⊗ Urban and civic design standards for streetscape and other public places: flags, banners, public art, fountains, site furnishings, lighting design, walkways and paving materials, signage and accessibility	7	6.25
⊗ Specifications for planting (with suitable varieties) and maintenance	7	6.00
⊗ Sustainable designs: energy efficient, use of green materials, naturalization, xeriscaping	6	5.25
⊗ Site rejuvenation, rehabilitation and maintenance (life cycle management)	6	4.75
⊗ Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or training	7	4.00
Commercial / Industrial Sector		
⊗ Innovation in concept and design	6	5.00
⊗ Public involvement: support – financial and/or in-kind, participation	6	4.50
⊗ Sustainable designs: energy efficient, use of green materials, naturalization, xeriscaping	6	4.75
⊗ Contribution to urban and civic design and public greenspaces above and beyond requirements: such as public art, streetscape, site furniture, fountains	6	4.25
⊗ Adequate ongoing maintenance (life cycle management)	6	4.75
Service Clubs, Schools, Churches, Not-for-profit groups		
⊗ Support – financial and/or in-kind and involvement – organization, participation	8	6.75
⊗ Sustainable designs: energy efficient, use of green materials, naturalization, xeriscaping	8	6.75
Residential / Citizens		
⊗ Streetscape appeal of landscapes	8	6.75
⊗ Overall maintenance	7	6.25
⊗ Inclusion of sustainable plant materials	6	5.50
Landscaped Areas	125	103.00

Comments & Suggestions : Landscaped Areas

Souris natural landscape is breathtaking. The hills, bluffs, dunes, flower-filled meadows, harbours, rivers, trees, beaches, meadows, and forests. Nature has already given you everything you could wish for. *To that end, a priority must be the protection and preservation of the natural beauty for future generations to enjoy. Because of the expansive coastal vistas, the viewshed needs to be considered when developing zoning plans.*



Because the expansive coastal vista are one of your most significant assets, viewshed protection needs to be considered when developing zoning plans and reviewing development proposals.



The same view in both pictures, it just depends on how you look at it. Consider the viewshed before building anything.

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Congratulations to Souris for receiving a provincial rural community beautification award. Municipal landscapes are nicely maintained. The judges particularly acknowledge the selfless work of JoAnne Dunphy for planting perennials from her own garden and her long hours in caring for them in many of the public areas to be enjoyed by all. The beautiful design, careful plant selection, and healthy plants that she donated form a foundation that will be a legacy on which to build in future years. The wise choice of hardy perennials reduces maintenance and the expense of annuals.

Rugosa roses thrive in Souris, they are beautiful low maintenance shrubs; easily divided and spread rapidly to form floral hedges. Consider theming many of the public places with these roses, particularly along the harbour and along the fences that border the industrial buildings such as Ocean Choice at the harbor.



A memorial garden at the hospital is a touching tribute maintained by volunteers. *Consider incorporating a healing garden. The health benefits of plants and landscapes have been studied and are well documented. Consider working with volunteers to create a healing garden at the hospital. Resources to consider are:*

www.greenplantsforgreenbuildings.org/pdf/HealthSettingsUlrich_copy.pdf

<http://ezinearticles.com/?Gardening-and-Health-Benefits&id=949232>

www.planterra.com/research/research_3.php.



Some of the businesses do a nice job of landscaping and serve as an inspiration to others. Notable landscapes can be seen at the Matthew-McLean House (tourist information centre), CIBC bank, credit union, and Souris Petro station. We recognize that Main St. was under construction this year making it impossible and impractical for some businesses to do the type of beautification they normally would do.

It was delightful to see peace gardens at the Tourist Information Centre and in a personal memorial garden.

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We congratulate the Lions' Club on the construction of a community garden where people can grow vegetables. The garden is also used by clients of the Harbourview House. *Consider the Plant-a-row, Grow-a-row scheme (www.plantarow.org) and donate fresh produce to the local food pantry. Also, the utility of the garden would be enhanced with a tool shed where people could securely leave their tools and a compost pile for disposing of garden waste. Trash cans would be a welcome addition at the site.*



Consider having the clients of Harbourview House create and maintain an exceptional landscape around their property. It would be excellent training and would allow them to enjoy fresh air and sunshine at the same time. They could also have an herb garden and sell fresh and dried herbs to restaurants.

Residential gardens exhibit an interesting mix of trees, shrubs and perennials. They are generous in sharing divisions of their plants.



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	10.50
☼ Plan of action: programs, distribution through community. Concept and design including sustainable design	12	10.50
☼ Diversity of plants: annuals, perennials, bulbs, grasses, woody plants, natural flora	12	10.75
☼ Quality, maintenance, best practices	10	8.75
☼ Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or training	7	5.00
Commercial / Industrial Sector		
☼ Concept and design	9	8.00
☼ Quality and maintenance	9	8.00
☼ Contribution to overall floral program	9	7.75
Service Clubs, Schools, Churches, Not-for-profit groups		
☼ Support – financial and/or in-kind and involvement – organization, participation	11	9.00
☼ Concept, design, selection and maintenance on their own properties	11	9.00
Residential / Citizens		
☼ Arrangement, diversity, colour	11	9.75
☼ Quality and maintenance	12	10.75
Floral Displays	125	107.75

Comments & Suggestions : Floral Displays

A floral carpet of marigolds and alyssum that spells "Souris" is a delightful welcome to town. Another gateway sign is underplanted with annuals. These colourful gateways are important, as 80,000 tourists pass through Souris each year on their way to the Madeleine Islands. This equates to 160,000 passes through the town: beautiful gateways and engaging streets will encourage visitors to spend time and money in Souris. *An important addition to the gateway signs is a Communities in Bloom sign announcing your five bloom status. This tells visitors immediately that Souris is a town worth visiting.*

This year, 12 flower barrels were installed by local businesses, with the idea that they could be moved during road construction.



The Island Pride Garden Centre offers many of the wonderful perennials that thrive in the area. Their cutting garden is a glorious sight.



To celebrate local crafts, particularly quilting, consider planting a quilt garden – literally a quilt made of short, flowering annuals. A similar project was created in Indiana and has resulted in unexpectedly large increases in tourism – each person who visits the quilt gardens spends an average of \$150 per day. More information on this program is at <http://www.amishcountry.org/quiltgardens/>.

Home Hardware and other companies have donated tulips bulbs for spring plantings. *In the future, select the varieties carefully to incorporate early, middle, and late season bloomers so extend the bloom period. Incorporate daffodils and narcissus selected specifically for this part of the country so that they'll naturalize. Consider planting the harbor front at Breakwater Street with daffodils and narcissus.*

Souris' parks have attractive perennial beds where weeding can be time-consuming. *Remember to use lots of mulch in planting beds. Consider adding 4 to 6 sheets of*

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newspaper under the mulch to restrain weeds or mix the mulch with pre-emergent before putting it down to prevent weed growth before it starts.

You can encourage more residents to plant gardens by praising their efforts by using door hangers that say "We noticed". You can enlist the local mail carrier, delivery drivers, or even the pizza delivery person to hand these out at their own discretion. A little praise and encouragement can pay big dividends. Consider giving beautification awards for businesses and residences.

After construction on Main St. is finished, consider working with your local nursery to develop a unified planting theme for the downtown area. With all the merchants working together, you will achieve a more powerful visual impact while spending the same amount of money.

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	12.25
⊗ Diversity / species, types of plantings / drought tolerance	8	6.75
⊗ 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	6.75
⊗ Information programs for water requirements, mowing frequency and height, rain gardens	8	4.75
⊗ Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or training.	7	6.25
Commercial / Industrial Sector		
⊗ Concept and design, use of alternative ground covers	8	6.25
⊗ Quality and maintenance on these properties	8	6.75
⊗ 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	9.75
Residential / Citizens		
⊗ Concept and design, use of alternative ground covers	8	6.75
⊗ Quality and maintenance	9	7.75
⊗ Participation in lawn watering conservation programs	8	6.75
Turf and Groundcovers	125	103.75

Comments & Suggestions : Turf & Groundcovers

The town of Souris wisely outsources its turf maintenance to the turf pro at the local golf course. This is a wise decision in that it eliminates the need to purchase and maintain equipment and assures that the person doing the mowing has been trained appropriately. Because of this, all the municipal properties were neatly mowed. The sports fields, in particular, are being well-groomed for the Canada Games.

White clover is used in some of the turf; this offers the benefits of less mowing. White clover also fixes nitrogen in the soil. For more information about the benefits of using clover in lawns, see <http://www.lesslawn.com/articles/article1061.html>.

Abundant rainfall here keeps the lawns looking healthy.

The Provincial government has regulations regarding IPM and pesticide use.

When mowing, remember to set the mowing height to 3". This will allow the turf to shade itself so it will need less water and require less frequent mowing.

Mowing at the school needs attention to detail. Simply paying attention to the direction of the mower's discharge will keep clippings off walkways and driveways, reducing cleanup time. Also consider using a grass catcher or mulching blade.

Industrial buildings at the harbor are surrounded with large mowed areas which serve no real purpose. *Consider reducing the amount of space mowed by establishing a wildflower meadow.* Wildflowers are abundant in the area, and a light scattering of seeds followed by no mowing might be sufficient. Some areas of the ferry landing had lots of weeds growing in the gutter. These can easily be removed with a pressure washer.

Residential turf was generally well maintained with a few exceptions. The town's bylaw officer works with residents to assure compliance with the weed abatement ordinance.



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.”