

BOSMA, BOB

□ PEOPLE *Intell Dec 14/98 p. 8*

## Canadian floral flag was Bob Bosma's pride and joy

By Jack Evans  
The Intelligencer

The man whose trademark was a huge Canadian flag made of flowers, Poppe (Bob) Bosma, has died.

One of Belleville's long-time employees, head gardener for the Parks and Recreation Department, Mr. Bosma, RR 1 Ameliasburg, died Sunday at Belleville General Hospital at age 62.

Mr. Bosma had held the position of head gardener since April of 1974 and was described by parks and recreation director Doug Moses as "the type of man who really makes a difference in a community."

He said Bosma and his crew designed and patrolled all public planting areas in the city, including the large Canadian flag display along Highway 401.

He credited Bosma's efforts as being a key factor in Belleville's winning the prestigious international Communities in Bloom Award two years ago.

His wife, Linda, said of the floral flag display, which drew so much favourable comment and interest over many years, "That was his pride and joy."

"We're devastated in this department. He will be missed," Moses added.

He said the parks staff will be serving as an honour guard for the funeral set for Wednesday, Dec. 16, 1998, at 1 p.m. from Maranatha Christian Reformed Church.

He noted that Bosma had suffered a heart attack several years ago, but recovered and was back on the job, "always happy and a strong work ethic."

He put in a regular work week last week and along with his associates enjoyed the department Christmas party last Friday.

Visitation is at the Belleville Funeral Home and Chapel, 68 North Front St., Tuesday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Besides his wife, Linda, he is survived by one daughter, Tanya Bosma of Toronto, and several brothers and sisters, most of whom live in the immediate area.

One sister, Anna Koekman of RR 7 Belleville, said Bob's main interests in life were "his work and his family."

The family has requested donations to the Ontario Heart and Stroke Foundation in lieu of flowers.

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