

Town of Milton hopeful of winning Communities in Bloom Contest

by Stacey Massey

There's nothing left to do but wait. As of September 15, the Town of Milton will finally know its ranking in this year's Communities in Bloom contest for provincial communities (population 20,001 to 50,000).

Milton is in competition with three other communities - Owen Sound, Tecumseh and the neighbouring community of Halton Hills.

Milton's judging took place from August 15 to August 17 but the preparations for the event have been ongoing since last year through the participation of numerous volunteers.

The judges, Ted Blowes of Stratford and Martin Quinn of Kincardine, were treated to many of Milton's precious gems including the Mill Pond Millennium Gazebo, the Waldie Blacksmith Shop, Bronte Street Pioneer Cemetery, Percy Merry School Millennium Gardens, and everything Campbellville has to offer.

Despite the deceiving title of the program - Communities in Bloom - its focus is on a wide variety of community components.

"There are eight categories, it's not just about blooms," Mr. Quinn said. "Although a lot of people do think that."

Each competitor is evaluated for their efforts on improving and addressing tidiness, the environment, community involvement, heritage, urban forestry, landscaped areas, floral arrangements and turf areas. Each of the eight components are then broken down further to incorporate the efforts expended by the municipality and its inhabitants such as the commercial businesses.

"We want to know what the factories are doing. How much litter is around, etcetera," Mr. Quinn said.

Though Mr. Blowes has been involved in the Communities in Bloom judging for a number of years, Mr. Quinn was a judge for the first time this year. He said not only does judging allow him the opportunity to compare his own town to others, it lets him see the way communities can really come together for a single cause.

"It's amazing when you start this project in the community. You find out all these different people are doing all this work in the community."

As both judges acknowledged, the program is well known for its ability to not only bring a community together for a common cause, but also to bring about a great sense of pride.

Pride was exemplified by two prominent Milton volunteers during an intimate meeting with judges. Jean Woods represented the rural community. Her focus on the rural areas of Milton and her role in the yearly Nassagaweya clean up days are just the tip of the iceberg.

Len Lee also presented a brief speech about the pride of Miltonians as demonstrated through community service clubs.

The general theme that seems to arise in every discussion about success in the Communities in Bloom program is cooperation.

"You really do need a cooperative effort," Mr. Blowes said. "You have to have leadership from the top - it really makes a difference."

After 36 years, Milton's Mayor Gord Krantz has proven he is able to fill the role and model the type

of leadership needed in succeeding not only in the program but as a town in general.

"I try to involve myself as much as I can," Mayor Krantz said.

He is hopeful that his involvement in community events, especially those directed to youths will ensure Miltonians success in the Communities in Bloom program and a wonderful future in general.

"The young people are the leaders of tomorrow," Mayor Krantz said. "I think we're planting those seeds right now that they need to carry on."



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BMX Biking brings out the best in kids



Photo by Donna Danielli

Graduates and instructors of the BMX Riders Ready Program enjoyed a wonderful season of bike riding and learning. This year marks the first season for the privately run program headed by Nicky Pearson. The program has received a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation to continue next spring. For more information on the program contact Nicky at 905-873-3018 or visit the web site at www.track2000bmx.com.

First Row left-right: Katherine Danielli, Danielle Bertin-Trémbly, Adam Spicer, Graham McCarney, Anthony Faria, Sean Morris, Matthew Hillier, Brady Pearson. Back Row left-right: Nicky Pearson, Michael Danielli, Sue Lyons (Canadian Women's BMX Champion), Chris Stull, Tim DaSilva, Kyle Pearson. Everyone involved in the program would like to express their sincere thanks to Sue Lyons who not only offered her skills and time but also supplied the group with jerseys.

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