Communities in Bloom judges to tour the town on Tuesday

The town will have a chance to show off its municipal, corporate and residential gardens and green spaces to judges from Communities in Bloom on Tuesday, August 14.

The town is competing in this year's Communities in Bloom competition, a non-profit Canadian beautification program that awards bloom ratings for achievement in floral displays, landscapes, turf, urban forestry, community involvement, heritage conservation, environmental awareness and tidiness.

Municipalities compete with other like-sized communities and winners will be recognized at a banquet in Stratford in September. This is the first year Halton Hills has entered the competition on a town-wide basis. Norval entered last year and earned three blooms out of a possible four.

"It was something I always felt Halton Hills should be involved in," said Mayor Kathy Gastle who played a role in Norval's participation last year. "I look at this as a long-term commitment" to foster civic pride and community beautification she added.

'It was something I always felt Halton Hills should be involved in.'
—Mayor Kathy Gastle

Many volunteers and community groups have been involved in getting the town ready for judging on August 14.

"I think we've done a lot in a very short time," said Gastle. "I hope next year council will have a budget for it."

"It will be an in depth judging," said Gastle. They are expected to provide valuable feedback that can be taken into consideration for future competitions.

Residents of the streets are asked to make their yards look great on tour day by decorating their mailboxes, adding window boxes, trimming their hedges, cutting their lawns and cleaning up litter. Residents can also purchase 12" by 16" flags emblazoned with the Communities in Bloom logo to decorate their gardens. They are available for $14 from Aretta Morgan at the Town of Halton Hills, 905-873-2600 ext. 2340.

For those who have regular garbage pickup on tour day arrangements have been made to have garbage on those streets picked up by 8:30 a.m. so residents are asked to have their trash out early.

During their tour of the town judges will travel along Queen St., Acton Blvd., Mill St., Elgin St., Bower St., Alice St., Willow St., River St., Main St., Lakeview Ave., Elmore Dr., Elizabeth Dr. and Birchway Place in Acton.

Streets they will tour in Georgetown are Halton Hills Drive, Maple Ave., Charles St., James St., Market St., Park Ave., Main St., Mountainview Rd. N., Treanor Cr., Argyll Rd. and Hwy. 7.

In Glen Williams they will travel along Main St., Confederation St., Mountain St., Wildwood Rd., and Oak Ridge Dr.

They will tour Hwy. 7, Adamson St. and 10 Sideroad in Norval.

The judges will be taken along these roads as they make their way to showcased sites in town including the Halton Hills Civic Centre, North Halton Golf and Country Club, both Acton and Georgetown downtown areas, Remembrance Park, Cedarvale Park, Watchtower, Limehouse Community Hall, Acton Arena, Acton Rotary Park, Legion Terrace Apartments, Blue Springs Golf Club, Andrews Scenic Acres, Stewart's Mill housing development, Georgetown South Community Park, Lucy Maud Montgomery Gardens and Willow Park.

—By Lisa Tallyn, staff writer

'Hockey Mom' Judith Kirkness stands in front of a North American map pinned with all the locations the Acton Hockey Moms have received calendar orders. Their profile was enhanced recently again with their inclusion in the July edition of the *ESPN* magazine.

Acton Hockey Moms calendar continues to score well in U.S.

It seems everyone loves Acton's calendar girls. Though the year is half over, the Hockey Moms of Acton calendar continues to draw attention—and orders—from across North America.

The calendar is featured in the July issue of *ESPN* magazine in an article titled *63 Reasons Why Sports is Better than Almost Anything*. Checking in at number 48 is the calendar a group of Acton moms put together to raise money for their kids' hockey teams. It has raised $9,800 so far.

"I can't believe how far this has gone," said Judith Kirkness, who organized the calendar. "It's amazing how word has spread."

Kirkness and the other moms have done radio interviews for stations in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Detroit, Pittsburgh and Atlanta. However, the biggest boost came from an April article in *Maxim*. The men's magazine didn't contact the moms so none of the moms knew about the article.

Kirkness was about to disconnect the 800 number they were using for orders when she noticed their Web site suddenly had 1,000 hits in one weekend. She only found out about the *Maxim* article from somebody who was ordering a calendar.

The site now has over 50,000 hits— more than 75 per cent of them in the last three months. The Olde Hide House donated the calendars it had purchased back to the moms to help fulfill all the orders.

"The name of Acton is all over North America," Kirkness said. "It gained some exposure for our little town."

A group of moms in Buffalo is already planning to follow suit with a calendar of their own. But don't count on a sequel from the Acton hockey moms.

"There's going to be a lot of hockey mom calendars but I don't know if it would work in this community again," Kirkness said. "I can't really see us doing it again."

They've decided to stay together as a fund-raising organization but the moms are heading back to more traditional methods, starting with a barbecue in conjunction with M&M Meats during the Leathertown Festival, Aug. 12.

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer

What You Said

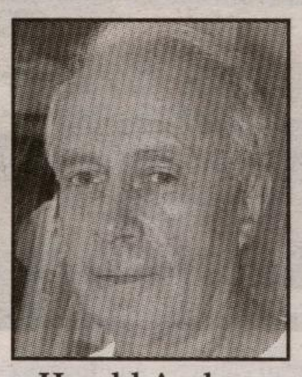
'What's your favourite way to beat the heat?'

Dave Lunn
caterer
Georgetown

"I jump in the pool in the backyard."

Janet Sim
housewife
Norval

"The pool. I usually have to clean it first, though."



Harold Andres
engineering technologist
Acton

"Swimming. There are other ways like air conditioning."

Nick Dunn
student
Acton

"I drink lots of water or go swimming."

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