

Blooming good results for town in first year of judging: mayor

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
Staff Writer

Whitchurch-Stouffville impressed the Communities in Bloom judges so much during their summer visit, they awarded the municipality a standing of four out of five blooms.

It was an exceptional achievement for a community entering the beautification program for the first time, the local committee says. Communities in Bloom, a non-profit organization, examines eight areas when its judges visit villages, towns and cities across Canada.

They include the use of flowers, trees and plantings, preservation of heritage

and culture, environmental awareness and community involvement. Two judges visited Whitchurch-Stouffville July 27 and 28.

Usually, towns and cities joining the program for the first time receive two or three blooms, Mayor Sue Sherban said. She chaired the local Communities in Bloom committee, working with about 10 residents.

The award was presented last month in Owen Sound.

It was a significant achievement, Mrs. Sherban said, "that we did so well with such a large municipality to cover".

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum

received a special mention and the town achieved high marks in each of the eight categories.

"A lot of the projects wouldn't have been completed without sponsors' help," Mrs. Sherban said.

The town won't be entering Communities in Bloom next year, however. That time will be reserved for assessing this year's results and planning for entry in 2008 with the goal of achieving five out of five blooms.

In the meantime, schools will be approached to see if they want to take part in the Ontario Schools in Bloom next summer.

The committee was so pleased that vandalism in the summer was way down com-

pared to the previous year, committee member Maureen Wood said.

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