Evaluation Form

2026

Communities in Bloom Collectivités en fleurs Alberta

Bon Accord

2026 Evaluation Form

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Community: Bon Accord
Category: Population 1-2,000

Community Appearance	**121.50**	/	**150**
Environmental Action	**119.00**	/	**150**
Heritage Conservation	**114.00**	/	**150**
Tree Management	**130.50**	/	**175**
Landscape	**151.50**	/	**200**
Plant and Floral Displays	**138.50**	/	**175**
Total	**775.00**	/	**1000**

Percentage: **77.50%**

Bloom rating: **4 Bloom**

Bloom rating: Provincial, National and International Participants
Up to 55%: 1 bloom. 56% to 63%: 2 blooms. 64% to 72%: 3 blooms 73% to 81%: 4 blooms. >82%: 5 blooms.

Community Highlight: **Therapeutic Gardening in Bon Accord**

Representative(s) of Community

Name:	Christina Fedorak	Function:	Community Services Coordinator, Town of Bon Accord
Name:	Andrea Owen	Function:	Bon Accord Parks and Recreation
Name:	Dan Atkins and Myrna Ross	Function:	Communities in Bloom Members

Judges

Name:	Marie Wenger	Name:	Bob Coté

Evaluation date: July 30,2026

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IMPORTANT NOTES:

Evaluation is adjusted to the climate and environmental conditions of the community.

Evaluation is also adjusted to match the capacity of a community population to the achievements in all criteria – i.e. evaluate what they do (achieve) with what they have (population/ resources).

Some aspects of the evaluation might not be applicable: scoring will be prorated.

The score will vary from the previous year because the evaluation form is subject to modifications each year and the scores are based on the perception of the current judges.

SECTORS OF EVALUATION

Municipal:

- Municipal properties, parks and green spaces, streets, streetscapes
- Properties owned and run by municipalities such as museums, historical sites

Business and Institutions:

Properties owned and managed by

- **Business:** commercial sector, shopping centres, Business Improvement Areas (BIA), industrial parks, manufacturing plants
- **Institutions:** schools, universities, churches, hospitals, service and community organization buildings (such as YMCA, Legion), private museums, Government and Crown Corporations buildings (such as Canada Post, provincial and federal parks, etc.)
- **Tourism bureaus and Chamber of Commerce offices**
- **Farms:** in rural communities, farms can be considered in this section

Residential:

- Citizens and citizen groups acting within their own properties
- Residential property owners, rate payer groups including condos and co-ops

Community Involvement:

The principle of community involvement is so fundamental to the program that it is considered in each segment of the evaluation.

- Individuals, community organizations, citizen groups (includes youth programs) – all contributing to various aspects of community improvement, including municipal spaces maintained through the efforts of volunteers and community
- Organized clubs such as horticultural societies, garden clubs, community associations, school groups
- Service clubs such as Rotary, Lions, Optimist
- Participation (financial and/or in-kind or employee participation) by the municipality, businesses and institutions.

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GENERAL COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

Congratulations on 26 years in the Communities in Bloom (CiB) program. That is a remarkable accomplishment. Much civic pride and community involvement continue to make Bon Accord a thriving and vibrant Community.

Bon Accord is a resilient community. The evaluation was just a few days after several storms blew through toppling a number of trees in public spaces and in residential areas. However, we found the town clean and tidy. There was talk of the damage but also that it was time to clean up and move on.

The Town shares their plans and information on an easy to access web site. The 2022 – 2026 Strategic Plan is well defined. The Town Facebook has current information for the residents, businesses and visitors. The residents can keep up with the Town's plans and progress as Town Council meetings are live streamed. The Town of Bon Accord 2026 Community Profile Document is an excellent summary of what is happening in the four sectors of the six CiB criteria, and we felt prepared to listen and view the Community.

We thank the Mayor, CAO, Councilors and Town Administration for their warm welcome and taking the time off their busy schedules to discuss updates on new initiatives and projects. It was very evident in the meet and greet that the Mayor and Town Council and Administration support the efforts of the Communities in Bloom Committee. They have similar priorities and work together to create a beautiful and sustainable Community.

We commend the CiB Committee and members for commitment for 26 years to a long list of projects that have remained sustainable and progressive especially in the criteria of Community Appearance, Landscape, Plants and Floral Displays and in their contributions to Cultural Heritage especially in the cemetery. We also were happy to note that there is a CiB flag in the Centennial Park flower bed, which was the first CiB project.

Equally we would like to acknowledge the members of the Bon Accord and District Agricultural Society. They are greatly committed to Community Involvement projects in Bon Accord and have supported the CiB Committee in projects through financial or in kind or volunteer participation.

Bon Accord is a small town, but the business and service sector is growing and their contributions and donations to the economy of Bon Accord are significant.

We thank the Town of Bon Accord and the Communities in Bloom Committee for your warm welcome and generous hospitality and being part of the CiB Program. It was delightful to visit Bon Accord and the tour given by the CiB Committee was simply awesome. We hope our observations and suggestions will further help the Community to grow.

Marie Wenger and Bob Coté

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Community Highlight Description



Therapeutic Gardening in Bon Accord

The Bon Accord CiB Committee plan, plant and maintain four main flower beds in Bon Accord

These beds are as follows:

- Centennial Park Bed which now also includes a CiB flag, first bed planted by CiB
- The Heritage Rose Garden was established in 2005
- The flower bed at the Bon Accord Welcome sign featuring annuals for pollinators
- The partly shaded flower bed in front of the library featuring shade tolerant flowers

Each year they have fun and find joy in planning the beds, planting the beds and caring for them.

A group of nine of them may work for one hour in fellowship, yet the garden has received 9 hours of care. It makes them feel good that the plantings also bring joy to the residents and passersby.

This is very rewarding and therapeutic to them not just in the theme year for therapeutic gardening but each year that they do this project.







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COMMUNITY APPEARANCE

Community appearance reflects an overall effort by the municipality, businesses, institutions and the residents throughout the community to create great first impressions and a sense that there is continuous attention and upkeep to critical elements of a community that benefit quality of life and economic vitality Elements for evaluation are: parks and green spaces, medians, boulevards, sidewalks, streets; municipal, commercial, institutional and residential properties; ditches, road shoulders, vacant lots, signs and buildings; weed control, litter clean-up (including cigarette butts and gum), graffiti prevention/removal and vandalism deterrent programs.

	Max	Actual
Municipal		
Gateway Impressions First impressions of the community including gateway/entrance landscape treatments	10	8.0
Overall Impressions Order, cleanliness, curb appeal and first impressions	10	8.0
Anti-litter/Graffiti Prevention and Removal Community anti-litter/graffiti awareness programs	10	8.0
Regulations Effective bylaws, programs and policies and enforcement; litter control, private property maintenance by-laws, vandalism, graffiti prevention and eradication, graffiti removal kits to residents	10	8.0
Asset Appearance Includes public green infrastructure: parks, streetscapes (sidewalks, planters, urban signage and furniture such as benches, litter and recycling containers etc.)	10	8.0
Municipal Properties Appearance Visual appeal and condition of municipal buildings and municipal owned properties	10	8.0
Business & Institutions		
Overall Impressions Curb appeal, order, and cleanliness	15	12.0
Site Conditions Condition of buildings (exterior maintenance), grounds, sidewalks and parking lots	15	11.5
Furniture/Amenities Appearance Condition of urban furniture: benches, litter and recycling containers	5	3.0
Residential		
Overall Impressions Curb Appeal, order and cleanliness	20	18.0
Property Conditions Condition of buildings, grounds and yards	15	13.0
Community Involvement		
Public Participation In community, neighbourhood or individual streets, clean-up programs, activities and annual maintenance (including promotion, organization, innovations involving youth and seniors, etc.)	10	8.0
Community Support Financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses service groups, and institutions for community clean-up programs.	10	8.0
Community Appearance Total	**150**	**121.50**

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COMMUNITY APPEARANCE

Observations:



The overall appearance and first impression of Bon Accord is neat and tidy with no litter and graffiti. The entrances were welcoming and the red Adirondack chairs were equally inviting. Just prior to our visit, Bon Accord had several severe storms which toppled trees and caused damage, yet the streets were free of debris.

The Town has a number of land use and community standards by laws which help keep the Town clean and are easily accessible for review on the Town website. As necessary these by laws are enforced when a property needs maintenance and cleanup and has not complied.

Keeping Bon Accord tidy and neat is encouraged through the whole community. Children from both schools take part in spring cleanup of public places. The parks and recreation staff check the parks each morning for litter and debris. The majority of resident yards are well maintained and residents also do their share in picking up any litter in public places.

We were impressed to hear that children asked for more waste receptacles along walking trails. Also the skateboard park is kept clean and tidy and free from graffiti.

On the whole business and institution properties were neat and tidy.

The Town Staff maintains the turf in the green spaces and dog waste bags and receptacles are available in parks. The Town has cleaned up the frontage off the highway and added tables, some chairs, shrubs and trees and unique planters.

Recommendations:

We noted unique, locally made waste cans in parks and public spaces. Are there also such receptacles for pop cans and plastic water bottles?

The Community School sign is prominent and attractive but in needs repair. Equally the flower bed is full of grass and weeds and the impressive raised vegetable beds are also full of weeds. We understand that we visited during school break. Perhaps some type of arrangement can be made with the Parents and Teacher Association or other groups so volunteers can look after this area in the summer.

Another solution to the comment above is use a mulch in the bed under the sign. Perhaps the raised vegetable beds could be mulched before the summer break to slow down the weeds and retain moisture.

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Continue sending education communication on weed control and weed identification.

Creeping bell flower, even though removed from the prohibited weed list, has not changed its spreading habit and should still be controlled as much as possible.

There are some way-finding signs in Bon Accord but others can be added such as to the Heritage Rose Garden and the Jewel Box and start of the Dark Sky Trail.

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ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

Environmental action pertains to the impact of human activities on the environment and the subsequent efforts and achievements of the community with respect to environmental stewardship, policies, by-laws, programs and best practices for waste reduction and landfill diversion, composting sites, landfill sites, hazardous waste collections, water conservation, energy conservation, and activities under the guiding principles of sustainable development pertaining to green spaces.

	Max	Actual
Municipal		
Sustainable Development Strategies Policies, programs, guidelines, long-term planning/vision; effective bylaws/policies and their enforcement; and public education programs and activities. This includes activities such as: the creation of Active Transportation networks, fleet management, and recognition of the importance of biodiversity to mitigate and adapt to climate change.	20	17.5
Waste Reduction Reduction of waste going to landfill and results (3-R: reduce, reuse and recycle), municipal composting programs, including activities such as composting sites, yard waste collections, plastics reduction programs, mulching of wood debris (Christmas trees, hedge trimmings, etc.) and reclamation of cut trees. Handling of hazardous waste including e-waste collection and reuse of compost material. Officially mandating the greening of public events such as on-site recycling bins, biodegradable drink containers, food service dishes, utensils, etc. to minimize the use of plastic.	20	17.5
Water Conservation Use reduction programs such as promotions, efficient irrigation, use of non-potable water, water restriction policies	15	11.5
Energy Conservation Programs such as alternate forms of energy (ex. geothermal, biomass, wind, solar) and initiatives such as: energy-efficient appliances, shielding for night skies, efficient street lighting	15	12.5
Environmental Initiatives, Innovations and Actions - Development and expansion of sustainable mobility and active transportation networks such as bike lanes, multi-use commuter pathways, and recreational trails - Horticultural practices such as planned biodiversity, green roofs, green walls, green lanes, living fences, buffer zones; re-use of sites; engineered wetlands, bioswales, permeable surfaces and rainwater management - Brownfield redevelopment, remediation, land reclamation - Air quality programs such as alternate energy sources, sustainable design of facilities, sustainable fleet management, reduction of greenhouse gas emission (carbon reduction), anti-idling by-laws.	10	8.0
Business & Institutions		
Participation in The Environmental Effort Waste management (reduce, reuse and recycle), water conservation, energy conservation and audits (fleet management, electric conservation), brownfield management	10	7.0
Corporate Environmental Initiatives and Action Innovation/stewardship, initiatives, activities (for example: environmental clean-up activities, plastic reduction) carbon emissions, green roofs	10	7.0
Residential		
Participation in Environmental Initiatives 3-R (reduce, reuse and recycle), composting	10	8.0
Water & Energy Conservation Practices such as water use reduction, rainwater collection and rain gardens, alternate forms of energy, thermostat reduction	15	11.0
Community Involvement		
Public Participation – Civil Action Participation in public forums and policy development on environmental issues, such as climate change adaptation and mitigation	5	3.5
Public Participation in Activities Community (including children/youth), neighbourhood or individual street environmental activities and programs (including promotion, organization and evidence of taking ownership, etc.)	10	8.0
Community Support Financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions in public environmental activities and programs	10	7.5
Environmental Action Total	**150**	**119.00**

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ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

Observations:

Bon Accord has achieved some of its goals and continues to work on its progressive plans to ensure that it is sustainable and active in environmental stewardship.

Strategies for waste reduction continue with curbside pickup for waste, organics, and blue bag with more recyclables added starting October 01. Big item pickup occurs yearly. Bon Accord is part of the Rose Ridge solid waste collection and recycling commission which coordinates solid wastes and recycling. Community involvement also plays a part here as the 4 H Club collects batteries, electronics and tires for a fund raiser and are stored at the Jewel Box which is the Golden Gem senior gathering place. Compost is also available for residents. Toxic waste can be disposed of at the Gibbons site.



Water conservation is practiced. A number of residents have rain barrels and these can be ordered at a discounted price through the town.

Significant effort has been put into energy conservation. The Town continues to achieve energy cost savings through use of alternative form of energy from the solar farm. This practice has encouraged several residents and businesses to also use this form of energy.

Most lighting in public areas is now LED. The library has been recently retrofitted with LED lighting which has decreased energy consumption. The Dark Sky walking trail has dark sky friendly lighting.

The addition of a new ice plant in the arena has created a major environmental impact by effectively decreasing the use of ammonia and energy consumption.

Bon Accord is contributing to carbon reduction by having several electric vehicle charging stations available which are utilized regularly.

Plans continue to develop the Storm Water Management Facility which will utilize the provincial wetlands to mitigate flood risk and create an ecological green park like space for residents to enjoy and wildlife to use as their habitat.

Recommendations:

Keep promoting the positive effects of solar energy to residents.

Keep promoting use of storm water through use of rain barrels to encourage water conservation.

Storm water retention from Town buildings may be useful for watering planters and hanging baskets maintained by the Town and also supply the community garden.

If not already done, use of compost may be an effective way to enhance flower beds.

The judges suggest that special care is taken to ensure that the Storm Water Management Facility involving the wetlands is a low impact development and maintains the natural heritage of the wetlands and riparian areas.

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION

Heritage conservation includes efforts to preserve and protect both natural and cultural heritage within the community. Preservation of natural heritage pertains to policies, plans and actions concerning all elements of biodiversity including flora and fauna ecosystems and associated geological structures and formations. Cultural conservation represents the "persona" of a community and refers to the heritage that helps define the community including the legacy of tangible (built/hard assets) elements such as heritage buildings, monuments, memorials, cemeteries, artifacts, museums and intangible elements such as traditions, customs, festivals and celebrations. The participation of groups such as historical societies, traditional cultural groups, and conservation groups is considered.

	Max	Actual
Municipal		
Natural Heritage Plans Management and preservation policies, plans, programs and initiatives: including eco systems, eco parks, trail networks, grasslands, naturalization, wetlands, urban agriculture/farming, wildlife and wildlife corridors, protection of sensitive habitats, species at risk and support for at risk pollinators.	20	16.0
Natural Heritage Promotion Management and promotion of natural heritage (through communications, information and support programs, economic development/tourism) including year-around activities and programs for education and use of natural heritage sites (including trail networks) for and by the public.	15	12.0
Cultural Heritage Plans Policies, by-laws, plans, and preservation initiatives for heritage buildings, cemeteries, artifacts, museums, monuments, heritage trees and gardens, including their integration with streetscapes and landscape	15	11.0
Cultural Heritage Activities Initiatives throughout the year including festivals and celebrations along with preservation of traditions and customs	15	12.0
Business & Institutions		
Natural Heritage Assets Conservation, restoration and integration of natural heritage, including eco parks, conservation areas, trails, heritage gardens, trees and landscapes.	10	6.0
Cultural Heritage Assets Conservation, restoration and reuse of heritage buildings and artifacts including their integration with the built/hard, streetscapes and green landscapes	10	7.0
Residential		
Cultural Heritage Initiatives Conservation/restoration and reuse of heritage buildings and artifacts on residential lands	10	7.0
Community Involvement		
Natural Heritage Public Participation Participation in community (including children/youth), neighbourhood or individual natural heritage programs and initiatives including developing policies and plans, site improvements (including trails, eco parks, reforestation and management, maintenance, conservation and education initiatives	20	15.5
Natural Heritage – Community Support Financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions (including environmental groups) in community-initiated natural heritage activities and programs	10	7.5
Cultural Heritage - Public Participation Participation in community (including children/youth), neighbourhood or individual cultural heritage programs including year-round heritage community events/activities, festivals and celebrations along with preservation of traditions and customs	15	12.0
Cultural Heritage - Community Support Financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions (including historical societies) in community-initiated cultural heritage activities and programs	10	8.0
Heritage Conservation Total	**150**	**114.00**

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION

Observations:

In 2015 Bon Accord became Canada's first International Dark Sky Community. This is an example of a vast natural heritage that communities have but may not enjoy to the fullest. Lighting designed to protect the dark sky has been installed, especially on the Dark Sky trail. The CiB Committee take night sky readings on a regular schedule to keep the designation. The Town has placed pairs of red Adirondack chairs so the night sky can be watched in comfort. The Town Facebook page posts reminders of meteor showers or other Dark Sky happenings

The provincial wetlands on one end of Bon Accord is another example of natural heritage that the Community can enjoy. When grass is being mowed in this area a 6-foot buffer zone is left for the wildlife and care is taken not to disturb nesting fowl. Plans are progressing to make this area a Storm Water Management Facility which will not only protect the Town from high water but also create a park-like setting and at the same time a home for wildlife especially birds.



The Welcome sign in the form of a castle wall, "castle planters" and coat of arms remind the residents of their Scottish roots.
The tangible and intangible cultural heritage presents itself in a subtle manner but is found throughout the community. For example, the unique elevator shaped banners remind of places and sites of the past.

Legion Park and the Cemetery are well maintained and keep Bon Accord's cultural heritage alive. Legion Park has memorial benches, and the cemetery has a monument to the pioneers. Both sites came to be or have been improved through community involvement and donations.

The library is a welcoming community orientated place promoting cultural heritage through programs and heritage artifacts and photos.

The Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) encourage community involvement and intangible heritage through many programs including Kids Camp and having seniors drop in for some of Kids Camp summer programs which may include sharing of the past.

Bon Accord is building its own cultural heritage through traditions, festivals and celebrations such as Music in the Park, Canada Day Celebrations, Harvest Fest and Winterfest. These celebrations are supported by the business sector, volunteers and donations.

Harvest Days celebrate western and agricultural roots with even a traditional bench show from the past. The Agricultural Society is a key organizer of this event and has been part of Bon Accord for over 50 years.

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Recommendations:

As already mentioned in Environmental Action, continue to work on plans for storm water management using the natural wetlands

Continue to work on promotion of artifacts related to local area.

During Harvest Days celebrate agricultural and western roots in this area. Bring a taste of Alberta Farm Days to the Community. For example, bring in a farrier or other agricultural trades for a demonstration. Reach out to the rural community and someone may want to help.

The Community School has an impressive mural representing indigenous culture. Boost indigenous recognition by incorporating more indigenous art or murals.

Continue with Dark Sky Initiative. These initiatives celebrate the natural heritage of dark sky and enhance this recognition for Bon Accord.

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TREE MANAGEMENT

Woodlands, Canopy Management, Urban and Rural Forestry includes the efforts of the municipality, businesses, institutions and residents with regards to written policies, by-laws, standards for tree management protection (selection, planting, and maintenance), long and short-term management plans, tree replacement policies, pollinator-friendly tree selection, tree inventory including heritage, memorial, and commemorative trees, and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programs.

	Max	Actual
Municipal		
Overall Impression Overall impact, benefit and first impression of the urban forest	10	8.0
Strategic Plans Policies, regulations and tree by-laws, tree protection and planting on public and private lands	15	12.0
Urban Forestry Plan Plan, design and inventory management including integration with overall green infrastructure landscape plan, and measures to preserve, protect, manage and expand overall tree inventory, including woodlots and managed forests	20	16.5
Plan of Action Procurement, species diversity (including native trees), selection of hardy and pollinator habitat tree species, recommended tree list and tree planting standards.	10	7.5
Integrated Pest Management (IPM) / Plant HealthCare (PHC): plan of action for invasive pest detection and control, information on current infestations and diseases	10	8.0
Public Information Programs Provides information on good planting techniques, best practices and maintenance programs	15	12.0
Maintenance Quality Best practices with demonstrated results	10	7.0
Qualified Resources Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff and/or qualified experienced contractors) and/or in place training programs	5	3.0
Business & Institutions		
Tree inventory Contribution to expanding overall tree inventory and canopy, management of hedgerows and forests, with consideration of design and diversity including native and hardy species of trees, on properties owned by businesses and institutions.	15	9.0
Maintenance Quality Programs, best practices with demonstrated results: watering, pruning, IPM	10	6.0
Residential		
Tree Planting Contribution to expanding overall tree inventory, with consideration of design and diversity including native and hardy species of trees on residential properties	15	12.0
Maintenance Quality Best practices with demonstrated results	10	7.5
Community Involvement		
Public Participation Participation (including children/youth) in tree planting and conservation programs such as Green Streets Canada, Arbor Day, Maple Leaf Day, and other tree planting and maintenance programs and activities on public lands (including promotion, organization etc.)	20	14.5
Community Support Financial and/or in-kind or participation or promotion by the municipality, businesses and institutions for community tree planting and conservation programs on public lands	10	7.5
Tree Management Total	**175**	**130.50**

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TREE MANAGEMENT

Observations:

The trees on 51 Street planted by the 4 H Club in 1967 are impressive and were not damaged by the recent storms in Bon Accord. Equally there are healthy and huge trees in Centennial Park, the cemetery and in residents' yards.



Public works cares for trees, removes black knot or trees as needed and informs business and residents on black knot. Plant health care (PHC) is used as needed. For example, the cedars in Legion Park were struggling but with ample watering are now thriving.

It was great to see start of an orchard in the community garden area, however the fruit trees and bushes seem to be struggling. They should be monitored and perhaps the plentiful rain will help them thrive.

There are some policies in place for landscaping plans in new developments and commercial developments

The public works manager comes to Bon Accord with tree experience which is an advantage for the Community. We regret that because of other pressing commitments we were not able to discuss with him the forestry plan and strategic plan that may be in place for tree management. We have listed our recommendations below and note that some may already be in place as the Town has a healthy and thriving tree canopy.

Recommendations:

The judges acknowledge that trees are relocated or removed if needed and they suggest that a Tree Protection Plan be developed (if not already in place) and be communicated to residents.

Since trees have been lost in the recent storms, now maybe a good time to start a tree inventory. Records of types of trees and location could be kept. It may be also helpful to know what kinds/types of trees are more susceptible to storms and not replant with same trees lost in the storms.

Sustain the tree canopy. Since Bon Accord has a relatively mature tree canopy, the judges suggest that the Town interplants young trees near the old trees or the ones that had to be removed to ensure that the tree canopy is sustained over time. This would not only be proactive but also create a tree replacement program.

Bushiness and residents also lost trees. A workshop on suitable trees for planting and proper techniques and care may be beneficial. Create tree-care education opportunities. Perhaps a workshop can be organized for town staff and residents on pruning, Plant Health Care (PHC) and Integrated Pest Management (IPM).

When healthy trees are trimmed by the town, perhaps the branches can be used for mulch.

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LANDSCAPE

Landscape includes planning, design, construction and maintenance of parks, green spaces and cemeteries suitable for the intended use and location on a year-round basis. Elements for evaluation include native and introduced materials; biodiversity, materials and constructed elements; appropriate integration of hard surfaces and art elements, use of turf and groundcovers. Landscape design should harmonize the interests of all sectors of the community and provide safe and secure public spaces. Standards of execution and maintenance should demonstrate best practices, including quality of naturalization, use of groundcovers and wildflowers along with turf management.

	Max	Actual
Municipal		
Sustainable Designs – Soft Landscape Sustainable designs: energy efficient, use of green materials, naturalization, xeriscaping, suitable plant varieties (including pollinator friendly), traffic calming, bank stabilization	15	12.5
Sustainable Designs - Hard Landscape Urban and civic design standards for streetscape and public places including considerations for public safety: flags, banners, public art, fountains, site furnishings, signage including wayfinding and directional, seasonal design and décor, walkways and paving materials including use of artificial turf and its protocols	15	12.0
Landscape Plan Integrated and implemented throughout the municipality	10	8.0
Landscape Management Programs Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Plant Health Care (PHC), alternative solutions to diseases and infestations when appropriate, Invasive Species Management, increased naturalization and adapted maintenance programs	10	6.5
Landscape Maintenance Policies, Standards, Best Practices and Programs including irrigation water management	10	7.5
Landscape Quality Landscape maintained to appropriate standards, specs and best practices, as an example as shown in the Canadian Landscape Standards	5	3.0
Qualified Resources Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or in place training programs and/or qualified experienced contractors	10	7.5
Year-round use Demonstrated year-round opportunities and programs for education and people being active and using parks and green spaces (urban agriculture, community gardens, parks and recreation programs and accessible public washrooms)	10	7.5
Business & Institutions		
Sustainable Designs Energy efficient, use of green materials, naturalization, xeriscaping, alternate groundcovers, urban agriculture	10	7.0
Integrated Plan Contribution to urban & civic design and public green spaces above requirements: such as public art, streetscape, site furniture, fountains & innovation in concept & design	15	10.0
Maintenance Quality Adequate ongoing life cycle management (ongoing maintenance, ground & asset management, rehabilitation & replacement) of all landscape elements	10	7.0
Residential		
Streetscape Appeal Residential yards (year-round, seasonal, themed)	15	12.0
Maintenance Quality Lawn care, trees and shrub maintenance (with demonstrated results)	15	12.0
Plant Selection Selection of plant material (native, local, innovative, edible & pollinator friendly plants)	10	8.0
Community Involvement		
Public Participation in community programs (including children/youth) such as: urban agriculture, community gardens, "yard of the week", volunteer park maintenance, holiday illumination and decoration (promotion, organization, etc.)	20	15.0
Volunteer Succession Plan and Recognition Succession Plan and Recognition (by municipality and/or volunteer groups) of volunteer efforts in all aspects of the Communities in Bloom program including activities in all evaluated criteria	20	16.0
Landscape Total	**200**	**151.50**

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LANDSCAPE

Observations:



Bon Accord is immediately visually appealing with vast green spaces that are well-groomed and inviting. Centennial Park is a beautiful central gathering place for events such as Music in the Park while Legion Park is a serene place to sit and reflect on the past. Other parks have up to date playground equipment which is inclusive and accessible, and some have state-of-the-art exercise equipment. And as you stroll or drive past the parks, you may come across the Heritage Rose Garden (a CiB Committee project) which creates an impressive focal point and is a drawing card to the Town of Bon Accord.

A flagpole in Centennial Park has the CiB flag which celebrates the continuous efforts of the CiB committee and volunteers in the many projects initiated for the Community.



The Community Gardens Committee has established an impressive, raised community garden that has individual and shared beds and the start of a fruit orchard. The Town supports the garden by providing water.

The Community School has raised garden beds where the students can grow and harvest vegetables. Some of these vegetables are entered in the Bench Show during Harvest Days

The Dark Sky Trail and the newer addition connect different parts of the Community and include some well-maintained benches, red Adirondack chairs, waste receptacles and night friendly lights for dark sky viewing.



Many residents have beautiful, tidy yards with varied soft landscaping and a variety of trees that are thriving. The traffic calming boulevard is doing its job and is attractive and well maintained by the Town and residents.

We were excited to learn that the CiB Committee is planning its next project which is to build and erect several rock gabions and place them in a prominent area of the Town landscape. Mounted plaques would recognize something historic to the Community.

Volunteers are recognized for their many hours of effort in the Community and seniors are celebrated on Seniors Day. The CiB has an informal Succession Plan and has two new members through an invitation on Facebook.

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Recommendations:

Continue with the project of erecting several gabions. You may want to invite children to participate and also ask for suggestions on where to put the gabions and what to put on them that will be memorable.

Create a map of the walking trail for residents and visitors.

Continue planning to keep your green spaces sustainable and inviting as they contribute much to the wellness of the Community.

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PLANT AND FLORAL DISPLAYS

This category evaluates the efforts of the municipality, businesses, institutions and residents to design, plan, execute, and maintain plant and floral displays of high-quality standards. Evaluation includes the design and arrangements of flowers and plants (annuals, perennials, bulbs, ornamental grasses, edible plants, water efficient and pollinator friendly plants) in the context of originality, distribution, location, diversity and balance, colour, and harmony. It also pertains to flowerbeds, carpet bedding, containers, baskets and window boxes.

	Max	Actual
Municipal		
Floral Display Plan of Action Integration into overall landscape plan and distribution through community. Concept and design including sustainable design	15	12.0
Diversity of Displays Flowerbeds, raised beds, planters, hanging baskets, window boxes, carpet bedding, mosaics	20	17.5
Diversity of Plants Annuals, perennials, bulbs, grasses, woody plants, natural flora, pollinator friendly plants	10	8.0
Maintenance Quality Maintenance to appropriate specifications and standards, best practices: watering, weeding, edging, dead heading, etc.	20	17.5
Qualified Resources Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or in place training programs and/or qualified experienced contractors	10	8.0
Business & Institutions		
Concept and Design (including arrangement, diversity, colour of display and plants) on grounds	15	10.0
Overall Plan Contribution to, and integration with, overall community plant and floral program	10	6.0
Maintenance Quality of planting and maintenance: watering, weeding, edging, dead heading, etc. with demonstrated results.	10	6.0
Residential		
Concept and Design (including arrangement, diversity, colour of display and plants) on residential properties including Pollinator gardens and/or inclusion of pollinator plants in gardens	20	17.5
Maintenance Quality of planting and maintenance with demonstrated results.	15	12.0
Community Involvement		
Public Participation in community projects, volunteer initiatives (including children/youth), outreach programs in plant and floral displays (including promotion, organization, etc.)	15	12.0
Community Support Financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions for community plant and floral displays activities	15	12.0
Plant and Floral Displays Total	**175**	**138.50**

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PLANT AND FLORAL DISPLAYS

Observations:

Parks and Recreation in Bon Accord are doing an excellent job in planting and maintaining hanging baskets and planters in the public areas. They are not identical but in beautiful harmony with each other in color and plant choices. The planters are uniquely designed in that they have both flowers and vegetables creating a pleasing effect. A garden enthusiast would be enticed to explore each planter and what is growing in it.

The CiB Committee and volunteers have much pride in the impressive flower beds that they plan, plant and maintain which include the flower bed at Centennial Park which is a vibrant mix of shrubs, perennials and annuals. The Heritage Rose Garden is a well-balanced combination of trees, shrubs, perennials and of course hardy roses. The bed at the Library which has some shade, is strategically planted with a variety of begonias and petunias. The Bed in front of the Welcome sign mainly has striking rudbeckia and Gem series of marigolds which attract pollinators. These beds are featured in the Community highlight.

Many residents feature a variety of very attractive flower beds in their front yards. The CiB Committee provides (Blooming Great) yard appreciation signs to unique yards, beautiful flower beds and most improved yards. They also were successful in receiving the Scott's Miracle Gro grant and can award 12 gardens with a special sign and fertilizer products.

To promote community involvement and participation, events have been organized. The sunflower show down invites families to grow the tallest sunflower, the sunflower with the widest flower or one with the most blooms. Also, a group bus trip has been organized to the U of A Botanic Garden to encourage and inspire gardeners with new ideas.

Recommendations:

Mulch in the rose garden is used effectively to preserve moisture and reduce weeds. Perhaps this method can be an asset in other garden beds, especially ones that cannot be watered or weeded regularly as needed.

As discussed on the tour, the orange day lily, *Hemerocallis fulva* may be spreading more than desired and becoming more prominent than the roses. We suggest leaving 3 or 4 clumps that are balanced in position and remove the rest.

It is great that some hardy shrub roses were added to The Heritage Rose Garden and there are plans for more. There are several cultivars in the Parkland / Morden series that are clump forming with lovely tea rose like shape. Some cultivars are Hope for Humanity, Morden Blush, Morden Fireglow, Morden Ruby and Winnipeg Parks and there are more. The Explorer series of hardy shrub roses also have cultivars that would adapt well in the Rose Garden.

As the vegetables in the planters grow, invite residents to sample them.

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Continue with the Town hanging baskets and planters as they add unity and beauty to the landscape.

The CiB gardening theme for 2027 is **O' Canada Blooming Together** which will promote white and red for Canada's 160 years of confederation. We encourage you to promote this theme in your community in 2027.



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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."

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, and

The contributions of our sponsors and partners!