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Communities in Bloom application deadline March 31st

The County is encouraging all hamlets to take part in the Communities in Bloom program.

There are so many benefits to joining the Communities in Bloom program,” said Sonja Raven, County Agricultural Fieldman. “All participants have the potential of winning awards and grants on both the provincial and national level. Furthermore, it fosters civic pride, environmental responsibility and beautification throughout our communities.”

The judging will take place in July or August by judges who are part of the Communities in Bloom Association. The participating communities will be judged on eight key criteria: Tidiness, Environmental Action, Heritage Conservation, Urban Forestry, Landscape, Turf & Groundcovers, and Floral Displays and Community Involvement.

Various County communities have participated in this program since 2003. In 2012, Valhalla was invited to the national competition and earned a “4 bloom” rating. Clairmont participated in the provincial competition, and received a 4 bloom ranking. Both communities received positive recognition on locally, provincially and nationally.

“I highly recommend the Communities in Bloom program to other communities,” says Dave Harder, Valhalla Communities in Bloom President. “The program isn’t just about plants and flowers; it’s about community. It’s made our community stronger and more united by helping preserve our natural environment, culture and heritage; and encouraging community involvement.”

If you would like to get involved, please contact the Agriculture department at 780-532-9727. The County supports all hamlets wishing to participate by registering them and paying for all administration costs. For further information on the Communities in Bloom program, please visit www.communitiesinbloom.ca.

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