

August 4, 2011

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**Garden Contest winners announced**

The winners of the fifth annual Garden Contest were announced during a reception at the Museum at Campbell River on Thursday, July 21. The featured agenda item was part of the Communities in Bloom national judges' orientation. Attended by nearly 100 people, the winners were treated to an Oscar-like event that included presentations of prizes and pictures of their award-winning gardens by our Garden Contest judges.

*"Despite the late summer, standards were high this year, and it was really difficult to pick our award winners,"* said event organizers Susan McEwen and Stacey Larsen. They also sincerely thanked 14 sponsors who provided the awards and in-kind donations essential for making the contest the great success it has become.

The overall best garden award went to Carol Couture, a long time resident and avid gardener. The judges said: *"This is a truly amazing mature collection of trees, shrubs, and flowers in a park-like setting nestled along the Quinsam River. The property invites and envelopes one in a series of beautiful serene rooms with connecting pathways, a prolific shade garden and a beautiful pond."* When she's not gardening, Carol runs the local Adopt-a-Highway and the Beautification Programs.

One of the stand-out moments in this year's contest was the winning entry in the community garden half-plot category. The Carihi High Tyees, a group of special needs students, applied the principles of math and geometry to lay out their plot in precise squares. The students topped this impressive feat and demonstrated true community citizenship by donating all of their produce to the food bank.

The judging criteria in the contest included design, plant material, hardscaping and overall impression. Specifics such as zero mile diet, heritage elements in the garden, wildlife trees, plants that support the butterfly and bird population were also judged important. Environmental stewardship and "green" gardening criteria such as composting and water conservation were incorporated into the evaluation of every garden this year. The Garden Contest judging committee agreed that the number of categories for both residential and commercial entries would increase this year, and will continue to do so in future, where sponsorship is available.

For further information call the Parks Department at 250-286-7275.

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Photos:

Carol Couture's Best Overall garden  
Garden Contest judging committee

All the winners and runners-up are listed below (next page).

<b>5<sup>th</sup> Annual Garden Contest Results</b>		
<b>Category</b>	<b>Award</b>	<b>Winner</b>
RESIDENTIAL PATIO/BALCONY	1 <sup>st</sup> 2 <sup>nd</sup>	JIM BEST DAVE SMITH
SMALL RESIDENTIAL GARDEN	1 <sup>st</sup> 2 <sup>nd</sup> 3 <sup>rd</sup>	KATRICA DRAZENOVIC MELANIE TOWLE DONNA GOODENOUGH
RESIDENTIAL LARGE GARDEN	1 <sup>st</sup> 2 <sup>nd</sup> 3 <sup>rd</sup> = 3 <sup>rd</sup> = Special mention	JOHN LOTRIDGE DELLA & DICK CHELLEW MONIKA STAUB/NEIL STEWARD PAULINE & RICK HUMPHREY KEITH DAVIDSON
COMMUNITY GARDEN HALF PLOT	1 <sup>st</sup>	CARIHI TYEES
COMMUNITY GARDEN FULL PLOT	1 <sup>st</sup> 2 <sup>nd</sup>	LOIS CUMMINGS DANUTA COLE
MULTI RESIDENTIAL COMPLEX	1 <sup>st</sup>	SOUTH POINT ESTATES
BUSINESS STREET FRONTAGE	1 <sup>st</sup>	SYBIL ANDREWS HERITAGE SOCIETY
BUSINESS PROPERTY	1 <sup>st</sup>	ROYAL COACHMAN NEIGHBOURHOOD PUB
BEST OVERALL GARDEN		CAROL COUTURE