

**Media Release****June 24, 2010****H.W. Burgess P.S.  
is CK's Top Bloomin' School**

The winner of Chatham-Kent's 2009/2010 Schools in Bloom contest, H.W. Burgess Public School (Wallaceburg) has been awarded a \$500 gift certificate generously provided by the Downtown Chatham Centre. With a national slogan of "People, Plants, and Pride ...Growing Together", Communities in Bloom (CiB) promotes the involvement of all ages. All elementary and secondary schools are therefore annually encouraged to participate in Chatham-Kent's Schools in Bloom competition. The most outstanding efforts and initiatives are rewarded with gift certificates compliments of local businesses.

"The staff, students and families of H.W. Burgess P.S. should be commended for their hard work and exceptional efforts in fulfilling all of the five Schools in Bloom criteria", said Municipal CiB coordinator, Monica Moore. "I'm always astonished with the caliber of innovative programs, projects, and events that are revealed through our local competition." Principal P. Terrance McNaughton wanted to recognize the parents of children at the school who work at Union Gas for their help. He said "much of the initial funding and labour in building the school garden area was due to Union Gas and their "Helping Hands" Program." All entries were judged on their Clean-up & Tidiness Effort, Environmental Awareness, Student & Community Involvement, Schoolyard Greening & Gardening, and Curriculum Integration of Outdoor Spaces.

Congratulations are also in order for Chatham Kent Secondary School, Chatham whose exceptional 2<sup>nd</sup> place entry was applauded with a \$175 gift certificate, compliments of the Wheatley Woods Native Plant Nursery and Garden Centre. St. Joseph Catholic School and Ecole St-Francis, both of Tilbury tied for 3<sup>rd</sup>. They will receive \$100 compliments of Sherry's Perennials of Cedar Springs and \$100 from All Seasons Nursery and Flowers in Wallaceburg, respectively. All participants will also receive trees next fall to plant on their school properties.

The national CiB judges will visit Chatham-Kent from July 21 – 24, 2010. While here, the entire Municipality's efforts (resident, business, institution and municipal) will be marked on their environmental and heritage preservation as well as overall beautification and tidiness efforts. This year's many outstanding school initiatives will be an important aspect of what the CiB committee has to relay to the judges as part of Chatham-Kent's National 2010 CiB entry.

For further details on Chatham-Kent CiB visit [www.chatham-kent.ca](http://www.chatham-kent.ca) or call 519.360.1998.

**- Ends-**

EDITORS PLEASE NOTE - photo attached

Caption: H.W. Burgess Public School in Wallaceburg is the winner of the 2009/2010 Chatham-Kent Schools in Bloom competition. In the creation, ongoing expansion and maintenance of this naturalization area, students, parents, staff, their families and Union Gas employee volunteers all work together. The school was awarded a \$500 gift certificate generously donated by the Downtown Chatham Centre for their many outstanding efforts.



**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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