



Chatham-Kent named THE Tidiest CiB community



Not only has Chatham-Kent maintained its prestigious '5 Bloom' status as a contender in the 55,001 to 150,000 population category of the 2009 National Communities in Bloom (CiB) competition, but the Municipality also received the Tidiness Criteria Award! Being chosen above more than one hundred possible national and international competitors' submissions, from across all population categories, gives well deserved recognition to Chatham-Kent for its unmatched overall community tidiness.

National judges, Jim Baird and Gerald Lajeunesse, were on hand in Vaughan, ON Friday October 2nd to congratulate Chatham-Kent CiB delegates attending the Awards Ceremonies. The Municipality's Special Mention in 2009 was for its Empowerment of Community Members. In the detailed evaluation received it was pointed out that the "... local volunteers and organizations in the various communities are the strength of the Municipality. The strong partnerships and teamwork observed between the municipal staff and community members allow citizens to be empowered in undertaking projects." "From clean-up projects to fundraising to embellishment initiatives to heritage conservation activities to environmental protection and stewardship to support groups, the citizens of Chatham-Kent demonstrate through their action that 'thinking globally and acting locally' can strengthen and sustain a community of communities that is Chatham-Kent." With respect to the Tidiness category the judges saw "...the widespread adoption of rural roads by the adjacent farms" as adding "significantly to the tidiness of the community." It was also "clear to the judges that the 'pride of place' was a real factor" and that "...all sectors of the community appear to be involved."

Kamloops, BC outshone Kawartha Lakes ON, Lethbridge AB, Sarnia ON, Wood Buffalo AB and Chatham-Kent to become this year's 55,001 to 150,000 population category National champion, but Chatham-Kent's performance continues to be applauded with the competition's highest attainable 5 Bloom standing. Earning the 2009 Communities in Bloom Tidiness Award in addition to this is an impressive accomplishment and an ongoing indication of the quality of life established here, for today's enjoyment and for the generations to come.

Congratulations Chatham-Kent!