

PRESS RELEASE

September 22, 2009

Congratulations Whitecourt! Whitecourt Wins Provincial Communities In Bloom Competition

Whitecourt received provincial recognition for its membership in Communities In Bloom and won the 2009 title in the 6,001 to 12,000 Population Category. Not only did Whitecourt win, but we were also awarded 5 Blooms, the highest honour bestowed by the program. Now that Whitecourt has received the 5 Bloom designation we will be able to compete nationally in 2010.

The results of the 2009 Competition were announced at a Provincial Awards Banquet in Strathmore, Alberta on September 19. The category Whitecourt won was scored as follows:

Population 6,001 to 12,000

1. Whitecourt
2. Beaumont
3. Drumheller
4. Sylvan Lake
5. Taber

Whitecourt also received recognition and special mention for our "Active Partnerships." The Provincial Judges stated that Whitecourt is "a great model to any community" and that we have "done an extraordinary job of forging partnerships and relationships that foster pride, generosity and a collective energy."

Judging for this year's competition took place in early July, and the judges commented on how much they appreciated our hospitality and enthusiasm for the Communities In Bloom Program. The Communities In Bloom Program, which Whitecourt joined in 2006, strives to improve the tidiness, appearance, and visual appeal of Canada's neighbourhoods, parks, open spaces, and streets. A focus on environmental awareness and preservation of heritage and culture is also an integral part of the program's success, resulting in improved quality of life.

Town Council and the Communities In Bloom Committee thank Whitecourt residents, businesses and volunteers for supporting our participation in the Communities In Bloom Program. We look forward to working cooperatively to prepare for next year's competition.

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