

FEBRUARY 2016

SITELINES

Landscape Architecture in British Columbia



THE ORNAMENTAL LANDSCAPE INDUSTRY IN BC

The Ornamental Landscape Industry in BC | Value of the Landscape Horticulture Industry in BC | PlantSomethingBC | BCLNA at the BC Legislature | The Nursery Sector in BC | Live Plant Imports—A Hidden Pathway for New Pests | The 'Landscape Industry Certified' Program | International Green City Conference and Tours | BC Agriculture & Food Climate Action Initiative | What is a 'Community in Bloom'?



habitat

systems incorporated

Sage Receptacle: Patents pending.
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The Ornamental Landscape Industry in BC

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The BC Landscape & Nursery Association has existed as an organization since 1953, originating with several growers who named it the BC Nursery Trades Association. This group believed that working together, they could better meet industry challenges more effectually and efficiently. Since that time, the BCLNA has grown to include the landscape sector, garden retail, suppliers as well as the original nursery growers, providing advocacy, training and benefits to help members run profitable and smart businesses.

Through this continuum, BCLNA has not been alone as it grows as an industry. Government agencies and ministries at both the federal and provincial levels have played significant roles – and become good partners, of the industry. Collaboration and cooperation with these organizations and allied industry including BCCLA, the Western Canada Turfgrass Association, and the BC Agriculture Council (BCAC) with its various sectors, have strengthened the BCLNA, enabling it to do much more than it could on its own. This month's BCLNA 'guest editorship' includes information and articles 'from the source' of much of the regulation and information – first hand and a direct line to you.

Also, through the continuum, some issues just come back in a different way. Whether it is the changing invasive species of pests and diseases, the fluctuating currency, or nursery production practices, adapting and learning to change remain a key ingredient to success. Professionalism in the industry is another issue that is a continuing challenge, with BCLNA actively encouraging the industry to adopt the 'Landscape Industry Certified' program as an accreditation for employers and employees, in addition to the horticulture programs available through institutions and the 'Red Seal' Landscape Horticulturist designation that became in effect in 2013, putting it at the same level as other formal trades, such as electricians.

What's New

In 2016, purchasers will find a limited supply of nursery stock available for purchase; with the low production in the US, and the high US dollar, nursery stock is being actively sourced from as far away as the Eastern Seaboard.

Of considerable interest is the issue of climate change and its effect on plants and plantings, as well as changes in disease and insect presence and incoming weeds. As the climate change issue evolves, growers will be adapting to varieties that will better suit the climate, ►

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The purpose of Sitelines is to provide an open forum for the exchange of ideas and information pertaining to the profession of landscape architecture. Individual opinions expressed are those of the writers and not necessarily of those of the BCCLA.



Cover Image: Cove's Edge, Paul Sangha Landscape Architecture

In this Issue:

The Ornamental Landscape Industry in BC	3
Table: Value of the Landscape Horticulture Industry in BC.....	5
PlantSomethingBC.....	5
BCLNA at the BC Legislature	6
The Nursery Sector in BC	6
Live Plant Imports—A Hidden Pathway for New Pests	8
The 'Landscape Industry Certified' Program	10
International Green City Conference and Tours..	12
BC Agriculture & Food Climate Action Initiative	14
What is a 'Community in Bloom'?	16



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while maintaining good plant vigour and attractive qualities.

Another significant development is the nationalization of the BC Landscape Standard. This BCSLA and BCLNA collaboration began 35 years ago, and its adoption by the Canadian industry as the basis for its national standard is testament to its thoroughness and adaptability over time.

Another very positive program is the 'Buy Local' PlantSomethingBC program, with shared funding from the BC Ministry of Agriculture through Growing Forward 2. Be sure to ask your landscaper to use the PlantSomethingBC logo where they are using BC grown plants in their plantings, so people can see the great quality and variety of plants sourced locally.

Water is in the Works

The BCLNA has been an active participant during the development and review of the new Water Sustainability Act including covering issues of the impact on cost of water to food and environmental sustainability, priority ratings for different industries, municipal access (and rights)

and regional water plans. The BC Ministry of Agriculture has been very active on this issue; a very good example of the type of work being completed is the Okanagan Sustainable Water Strategy, which looks at the long-term water usage patterns and issues, while mapping out potential solutions. <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/agricultural-land-and-environment/water/water-management>).

The BCLNA strongly urges the BCSLA and its members to become involved in the municipal and regional water planning process, to support adequate water supply for green infrastructure initiatives wherever you are located. The effect of BCLNA's involvement over the past 3 years has been well worth our while. (<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/agricultural-land-and-environment/water/publications>).

The 2015 Drought underlined some very significant issues including access and availability to water, its cost and the cost to replace plants lost to drought. BCLNA members found many of their clients

preferred to incur the cost of fines for irrigating during Stage 3, rather than risk losing their plants in the landscape. The BCLNA was also asked by Metro Vancouver to provide its perspectives on the effect of watering restrictions on its industry as well as the urban forest. Vancouver's goal to increase the canopy from 18% to 22% to mitigate climate change will not be possible if plants and trees are not able to be sustainably watered.

Social change for the public and environmental good, to maximize water efficiency and use, is possible without legislation. It has been successfully done with the anti-littering campaigns and more recently with recycling. People want to be part of a better world. A better world includes healthy trees and gardens.

The BCLNA would like to thank the BCSLA and its members for working with us to a common goal — the beautification and sustainability of BC landscapes. We look forward to growing our mutually beneficial relationship in the future. **SL**

Detailed average Full and Part Year household expenditure, British Columbia, 2009*

Number of households in sample		Count: 1,115
Estimated number of households in BC		Count: 1,811,520
		Avg Expenditure per Household
1. Garden supplies and services — Total		\$252
• Nursery and greenhouse stock, cut flowers, and decorative plants		\$127
• Fertilizers, herbicides, insecticides, pesticides, soil and soil conditioners		\$42
• Horticultural services, snow and garbage removal		\$83
2. Lawn, garden and snow-removal tools and equipment - total		\$67
• Power lawn, garden and snow removal equipment		\$40
• Other lawn, garden/ and snow removal tools and equipment		\$27
For Comparisons:		
• Sports and athletic equipment		\$161
• Prescription eye wear		\$160
• Movie theatres		\$90
• Live sports events		\$51

Report provided by Stats Canada in 2010.

*2009 was the last year that the detailed household expenditure survey including garden and landscape supplies and services took place.

PlantSomethingBC

Don't Just Stand There

— Sign Up Today!



This spring BC's growers, landscapers and garden centres are encouraging British Columbians to get their hands dirty by gardening with locally grown plants as part of an exciting new initiative, PlantSomethingBC. Through PlantSomethingBC, the BC Landscape and Nursery Association, alongside the BC Government, will strive to increase the sales of BC grown plants with the use of social media, billboard advertising, and an interactive contest focused on encouraging aspiring and experienced gardeners to think and buy local. Participating companies are included on plantsomethingbc.ca's searchable database, making it easy for consumers to find landscaping companies and garden centres that lead the PlantSomethingBC buy local movement.

This project is supported by the BC Government's Buy Local Program; delivered by the Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC with funding from the BC Ministry of Agriculture. [SL](#)



BCLNA Building *'Garden of Honour'* at the BC Legislature

Designed and Resourced by BCLNA members

In November 2015, representatives of the BCLNA met with the Honourable Linda Reid, Speaker of the House, and the Honourable Norm Letnick, Minister of Agriculture to review plans for a Garden of Honour at the Legislature, with their choice of design, filled with BC-grown plants donated by BCLNA members. This project is moving ahead with a design competition, in anticipation of completion of the installation by April 2016.

L to R: Honourable Minister Norm Letnick, Minister of Agriculture, Leanne Johnson, COO GardenWorks, Bill & Grace Van Belle, Van Belle Nursery, Honourable Linda Reid, Speaker of the House, Hedy Dyck, BCLNA Chief Operating Officer and Fred Wein, Clearview Horticultural Products

– the **NURSERY SECTOR** in BC

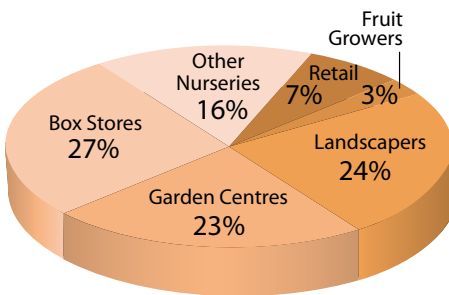
Dave Woodske, Industry Specialist, BC Ministry of Agriculture

The wholesale nursery sector produces a myriad of wonderful ornamental plants to beautify outdoor landscapes and revegetate damaged native ecosystems. The major markets for wholesale nurseries are the box stores, independent garden centers and landscapers (Figure 1). The importance of each market channel has changed dramatically in recent years. Since 2001, the portion of sales accounted for by garden centers has declined 60%, whereas sales to the box stores and landscapers have increased 340% and 160%, respectively (Statistics Canada). It is clear the landscapers and box stores are becoming more important market channels at the expense of independent garden centers.

Wholesale nurseries are an important part of communities across BC. Nurseries are present in all regions of the province. Although, the Lower Mainland and Okanagan regions account for more than 90% of the 3,531 hectares of production area. The sector also makes a significant contribution to the economy of BC. In 2013, the sector had sales of \$182 million but the economic contribution is known to be much larger due to the multiplier effect. The sector accounts for over 13% of farm gate sales for agricultural crops in the province and 35% of nursery sales in Canada (Statistics Canada).

The nursery industry struggled to endure some lean years after the US recession, which began in late 2007. In the following years, the number of nurseries declined by 5% and the total production area declined by 11% (Statistics Canada, 2015). There are strong indications the situation is improving. Consumer confidence is on the rise in the US, which should help to alleviate remaining oversupply in the marketplace. The good spring weather in BC and elsewhere did help to drive sales this year, which has brought a renewed sense of optimism to the industry. The industry knows, however, that the detection of an exotic pest at a local nursery could change the situation virtually overnight due to the imposition of trade restrictions.

Non-native plant pests can cause considerable environmental and economic damage when



introduced to new locations. The nursery sector is well aware of the huge cost to eradicate Sudden Oak Death from local nurseries in the past decade. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is responsible for preventing the introduction and spread of harmful plant pests within Canada. The Agency has the legislative authority to establish directives that regulate the movement of commodities to prevent pest spread. The provinces also establish regulations to prevent the spread of pests that are of provincial concern. In BC, there are regulations in place to limit the spread of Balsam Woolly Adelgid (*Adelges piceae*) and Little Cherry Disease. These regulations were established to protect forest resources and cherry production in the Interior of BC. The nursery industry needs to be aware of these regulations since they restrict the movement of true firs and ornamental flowering cherry trees within the province.

Balsam Woolly Adelgid (BWA) is a damaging pest to susceptible true firs (*Abies species*). It can stunt tree growth, leading to unmarketable trees, poor timber quality and tree death. The intent of the BWA Regulation is to protect true fir forests by

establishing a quarantine zone where BWA occurs in BC and by prohibiting the movement of true fir trees out of the quarantine area (Figure 2). The lone exception is the movement of cut Christmas trees and boughs from November 1 to January 31. The Balsam Woolly Adelgid Regulation requires all true fir trees to be grown under permit in the province. Annual permits can be obtained from the Entomologist with the BC Ministry of Agriculture in Abbotsford. The CFIA supports the BWA regulation by prohibiting the importation of true fir trees into BC from another province or country. True fir trees cannot be brought into BC from elsewhere.

Little Cherry Disease is a serious virus disease of sweet and sour cherry in BC. Symptoms of infection include fruit that is smaller than normal, with poor colour and poor flavor. The Little Cherry Control Regulation establishes a "little cherry control area", which includes the Okanagan and Similkameen valleys, and the Creston area (Electoral Areas A, B and C of the Central Kootenay Regional District). The regulation prohibits the planting of ornamental flowering cherry species and the importation of cherry stock and propagation material into the control area. Nurseries in the control area must obtain special permission from the Ministry of Agriculture to propagate flowering cherries for sale outside the control area. The regulation also provides a mechanism for removal of infected trees in the control area.

The introduction of non-native plant pests is a threat to the nursery industry and the environment in BC. The nursery industry needs to do their part to prevent the introduction and spread of exotic pests by complying with import regulations and by informing the Ministry or CFIA of detections of non-native pests. Everyone has a responsibility to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive pests. **SL**

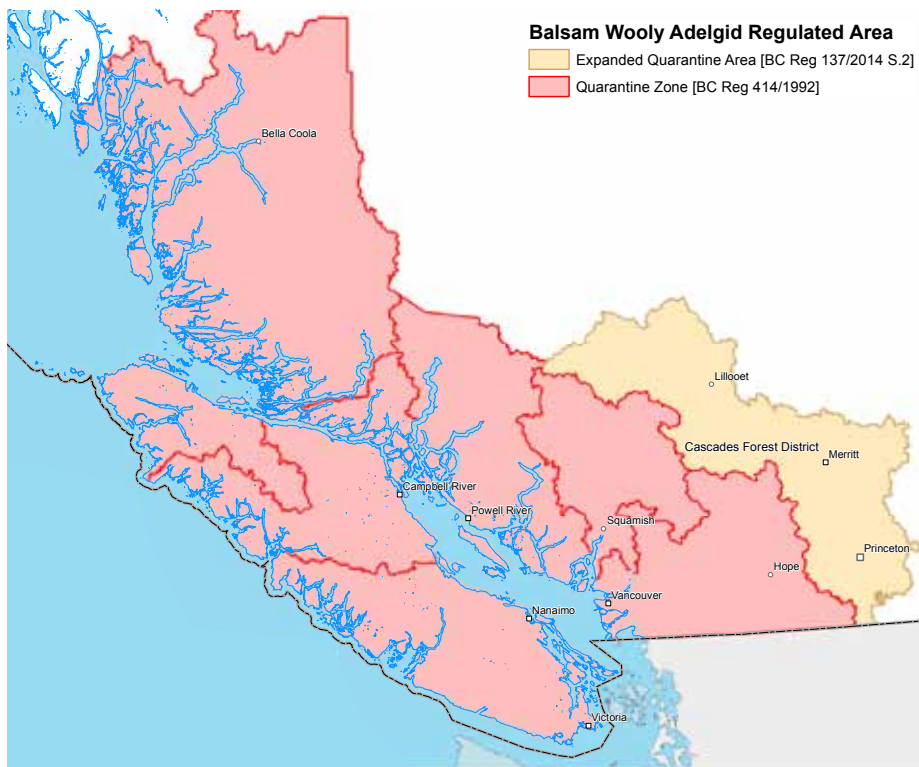


Figure 1. The major market channels for wholesale nurseries in BC (Statistics Canada, 2014).

Figure 2. Areas within BC that are regulated for Balsam Woolly Adelgid.

Live Plant Imports

— A Hidden Pathway for New Pests

Troy Kimoto, Survey Biologist, Canadian Food Inspection Agency



British Columbia's horticulture industry is an important contributor to Canada's greenhouse, nursery and floriculture sectors. Not only do products from these sectors contribute to Canada's economy, they also add aesthetic value to private and public properties.

Protecting these sectors from the introduction of non-indigenous pests is part of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's (CFIA's) mandate. Through the plant protection program, the CFIA strives to prevent the introduction and spread of plant pests, and detect and control or eradicate designated plant pests in Canada.



In achieving these objectives, the CFIA (together with industry) has developed plant biosecurity standards. The Agency also oversees regulations concerning import certification programs and is responsible for inspecting imports that may carry these pests.

Figure 1. Citrus longhorned beetle (CLB).

Figure 2. Maple tree with CLB exit hole.

Figure 3. Rose attacked by CLB in Italy.

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CFIA's plant inspection work focuses on a variety of ways these non-indigenous pests may be introduced. The two most common pathways for these pests are through wood packaging material (e.g. pallets, crates, boxes, etc.) used to support, protect or secure a consignment, and the import of nursery stock. While some non-indigenous pest species do not pose a major risk, some may cause significant economic and ecological damage.

Since its discovery in Canada in 2002, the emerald ash borer (EAB), a highly destructive invasive beetle which attacks and kills all species of ash, has caused extensive tree mortality and millions of dollars in damage. The majority of the damage is due to the cost of tree removal and replacement which are borne by property owners. The pest also impacts ecosystem functions (carbon cycling, wildlife habitat, etc.).

In Europe, between 38% and 43% of non-indigenous insects are believed to be introduced through horticultural and ornamental trade. In the United States, there are 455 non-indigenous forest

insects and diseases, of which 82 are classified as pests that have a "high impact". Of these 82 damaging pests, the majority of them were introduced through the importation of live plants.

In Canada, the import of live plants can transport sap feeders (e.g. aphids, leafhoppers), foliage feeders (e.g. defoliating moths), pathogens (e.g. fungi, bacteria, viruses) and wood-boring insects. Many of these pests can be hard to detect as some have eggs that are less than one millimeter in size and may resemble the plant's surface. Pests may also be present within plant tissue which adds to the challenge of detecting them.

One invasive pest to watch for that is not known to occur in Canada is the citrus longhorned beetle (*Anoplophora chinensis*). This pest is native to Asia and attacks many plants important to the horticulture industry (e.g. Acer, Camellia, Cotoneaster, Ficus, Malus, Morus, Prunus, Rosa, etc.).

The citrus longhorned beetle has been found in live plants exported from infested countries and found around nurseries importing these products. This pest can kill

live, healthy plants and is therefore regulated by Canada, US and many European countries.

Under the federal Plant Protection Act, pests associated with imported nursery stock must be reported to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) (<http://www.inspection.gc.ca>). By reporting non-native pests, you can assist in mitigating the impacts of invasive species.

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VICTORIA OFFICE:	250-363-3454
KELOWNA OFFICE:	250-470-4897

Currently, there are many regulations administered by the CFIA to prevent the introduction of pests via the live plant pathway. Please visit our website (<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/plants/horticulture/eng/1299167784070/1299167874884>) for information regarding import requirements.

Help protect and maintain BC's horticulture industry by preventing the introduction of unwanted pests. **SL**



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GREEN INDUSTRY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

THE 'Landscape Industry Certified' Program

by Claudia Santos, CNLA Certification Coordinator, Milton, Ontario

Mistakes cost. But people don't always want to believe that the old adage, "you get what you pay for", will ring true. Landscape projects often turn into cautionary tales. Horror stories are becoming all too common when the project manager discovers that newly paved walkways and irrigations features are either cracked and crooked or leaking.

In an effort to prevent companies who pop up, seemingly overnight, with a lawn mower and trailer but no training, from thinking that they're ready to do work on a project, the landscape and horticulture industry has made a real push toward professional development.

Top: Summer Certification Test Day at Kwantlen Polytechnic University School of Horticulture, Langley BC with test candidates, judges and administrators of the test. Judges wear green vests, administrators red vests and test candidates yellow vests. Volunteer judges must be 'Landscape Industry Certified' to be able to judge candidates. KPU provides staff time and the facility to assist industry to promote high standards of skills and professionalism.

Bottom: Judging sod installation.

Landscape Industry Certification exists across Canada and is administered by the Canadian Nursery Landscape Association (CNLA) to provide technical and hands-on learning as well as formalized testing. The goal is to ensure that professionals across the country comply with current standards and industry best practices. The benefits are twofold; for members of the industry it means a certifiable professional credibility and competency, while for homeowners it means having confidence in the fact that work is being completed by a professional, not an amateur.

You should be aware of who you're hiring. Here's how you can distinguish between the different levels and modules of certification, and determine who is a good fit for your work.



Judging the ability to use equipment safely and effectively.

A. Landscape Industry Certified Technician (CLT):

The Landscape Industry Certified Technician program is designed for employees in the horticulture industry who are involved in the technical application of skill and knowledge on job sites. It is strongly recommended that candidates have at least 2,000 hours (1 year) of landscape industry experience. The Technician designation or CLT designation is composed of both written and practical testing components, with variations in testable content based on the candidate's module of choice. There are four relevant modules for Landscape Architects hiring new staff.

1. **Softscape Installation:** A CLT with a background in Softscape Installation would have been tested on plan reading and its practical installation, aspects of irrigation, tree planting and plant identification, tilling and sod installation.
2. **Hardscape Installation:** CLT's with a focus in Hardscape Installation are tested on just that: grading and drainage, installing pavers, correct and efficient use of a skid-steer, chainsaw and survey instrument, hardscape plan reading and calculations.

3. **Turf Maintenance:** Candidate's who have challenged the Turf Maintenance module have an array of areas they've been tested on from irrigation and fertilizer application to the use of varied mowers, trimmers, blowers and aerators.

4. **Ornamental Maintenance:** Finally, a CLT who's specialized in Ornamental Maintenance would have been tested on irrigation, plant identification, tree planting, and the correct use of power equipment. The irrigation components include program controls, line and head repairs and adjustments.

B. Landscape Industry Certified Manager (CLM):

Landscape Industry Certified Managers can usually be found as the owner/operator or manager of the companies in all sectors of landscaping. By establishing a high level of professionalism at the top, excellence flows through the rest of the company and its operations. The CLM designation sets and maintains standards for business management in the landscape industry. By becoming a Landscape Industry Certified Manager, each individual has undergone an exhaustive written examination that tests knowledge, skills and theory required to run a successful

company. The CLM is tested on seven sections encompassing business management: strategic planning, law and contracts, marketing, leadership, human resources, interior production, technical exterior production and corporate finance.

C. Landscape Industry Certified Designer (CLD): A Certified Landscape Designer has the expertise to fill several roles in the landscape design, planting and construction process. Many CLD's work independently and can represent the needs of their clients. A Landscape Industry Certified Designer is qualified to ensure accountability and construction quality. The CLD assists clients in determining a budget, choosing a suitable landscape contractor, resolving any on-site disputes and the management of construction costs. In order to become a CLD, an individual is required to challenge a written exam with six areas of focus: communications, design, grading and drainage, landscape construction, plants and horticulture, and practice. In addition, they must also submit a portfolio for review by a committee, composed of three projects that adhere to a template outlining all pertinent project components.

Volunteers are integral to maintaining the professional standard of the green industry through the available certification programs. There are volunteer opportunities for individuals who are certified, to either take part in the CLT designation as a judge on a practical test day, or as a portfolio reviewer when prospective CLD's submit their work.

Landscape architects, project managers and contractors are welcome to attend a 'Landscape Industry Certified' Test Day as guests, to view how the practical and written tests are organized, presented and judged. For details of test dates in BC, and more about the program, go to <http://www.canadanursery.com/Page.asp?PageID=1226&SiteNodeID=97>

For more specific details, and to attend a test as a guest, contact either Colin Vince or Claudia Santos at the CNLA at certification@canadanursery.com or at 1-888-446-3499. **SL**



International Green City Conference and Tours

March 16 to 18, 2016: Vancouver, BC | www.cnla-acpp.ca/greencity



This March, the International Association of Horticultural Producers (AIPH) will be bringing its annual Green City Conference to Vancouver. This conference is part of the association's Green City initiative, which leads global thinking on the successful integration of nature into the built environment. The conference, hosted by the Canadian Nursery Landscape Association (CNLA), is open to all individuals interested in the role of plants in creating vibrant urban areas in which people and businesses can thrive.

AIPH is the international association for grower organizations, with a goal of putting flowers, plants and landscaping services on a global agenda. It acts as the central source of industry information for ornamental growers worldwide. It also plays an important role in the advocacy for fair plant breeders' rights.

The association facilitates its mission by supporting world horticultural expositions as well as holding the International Grower of the Year competition. Canada has been a finalist in this competition for the past five years, bringing home the coveted Golden Rose award three times. Included in this prestigious list of winners is Bylands Nurseries, in West Kelowna, who won the first Golden Rose for Canada in 2011. Through this competition, Canada has placed itself among the forerunners of ornamental plant production, cultivating some of the finest quality plant material in the world.

Also in attendance at the Green City Conference, will be the European Landscape Contractors Association (ELCA). This group promotes cooperation and the exchange of information and experience, as

well as fostering the interests of landscape contractors in Europe. Along with its 23 national landscaping association members, the organization also has associated members from Canada, Japan and the USA. Canada's membership in ELCA is through CNLA, which will use the Green City Conference as a venue to share examples from the Canadian perspective on green urban architecture.

Intelligently designed green space is crucial in today's quickly expanding society. Vancouver is a perfect host city as it propels toward its goal of being the world's greenest city by the year 2020. Delegates will be taken on a VIP tour to green design hotspots around the city; including the award winning Westminster Pier Park, the VanDusen Botanical Garden Visitor Centre and Discovery Hall, Olympic Village and the



Opposite Page: Olympic Village

This page:

Top left: Nitobe Memorial Garden Bottom left: Gastown, Vancouver.

Top right: Guilford Centre Green Wall.

Above left to right: Daniel Roehr, Egbert Roozen, Mike Harcourt

Images supplied by AIPH

Fairmont Waterfront Hotel's green roof. Expert guides will take attendees on a behind-the-scenes look at these innovative projects.

The core of the conference will be the one and a half days of world-renowned speakers, who will share practical examples and strategies of real green cities. Opening the conference is Mike Harcourt, 30th Premier of British Columbia, 34th Mayor of Vancouver and current Chairman of the Quality of Urban Energy Systems for Tomorrow and the Canadian Electricity Association's Sustainable Electricity Program Advisory Panel. Harcourt will discuss the importance of long-term vision when building communities, with consideration to the environment, economic, social and cultural impact.

Joining Harcourt on the panel, is Daniel

Roehr, Associate Professor in the School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture at the University of British Columbia (UBC). He is also a registered Landscape Architect in both BC and Germany, a horticulturist and a gardener. Roehr will take delegates through alternative approaches to stormwater infrastructure in light of increasing costs for build and repair. This lecture offers insight to design living roofs in combination with ground-level stormwater control measures to effectively mitigate stormwater in cities. Plants play a significant role in the aesthetic appearance and have a huge influence on the amount of stormwater run-off reduction of those measures.

Other speaking guests include: Karen Tambayong, Chair of the International Green City Committee and of AIPH; Egbert Roozen, Director of the VHG Association

in the Netherlands; Paul Ronan, Executive Director of the Ontario Parks Association; Patrick Condon, project-lead on the East Clayton neighbourhood of Surrey, BC. and Professor of Landscape Architecture at UBC; and Steven Peck, founder and President of Green Roofs for Healthy Cities.

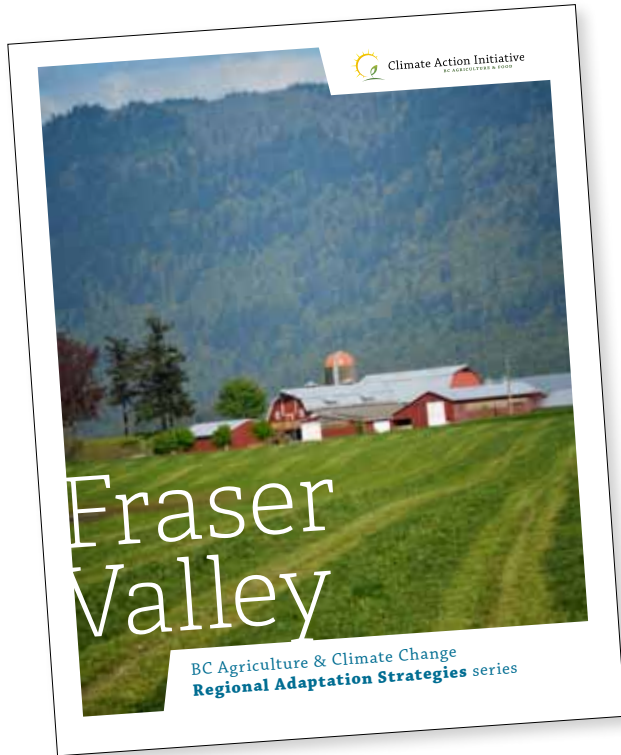
The International Green City Conference is hosted around the world each year, giving delegates a chance to see innovations in urban green infrastructure and planning on a global scale. In 2016, the conference will be held in conjunction with the AIPH spring meeting, the ELCA spring meeting and the CNLA Landscape Canada Summit.

By attending the conference, delegates will place themselves at the heart of this important discussion. There will be plenty of networking opportunities with the world's leading experts on green cities. **SL**

BC Agriculture & Food Climate Action Initiative:

Planning Climate Adaptation Action

Tamara Leigh, Communications Manager,
BC Agriculture & Food Climate Action Initiative



The hands that work the land are the first to feel the impacts of our changing climate. Whether you are growing food crops or ornamental plants, or developing and implementing landscaping projects, how the climate is changing is an important consideration.

Since 2008, the BC Agriculture & Food Climate Action Initiative (CAI) has been working with BC's agriculture sector to enable a proactive and pan-agriculture approach to climate change issues. The tools and resources being developed are building the capacity of agriculture to adapt to projected changes various regions of the province.

The Fraser Valley regional adaptation strategies report is the most recent of 5 regional strategies, including Delta, Cowichan Valley, the Peace & Cariboo. The Okanagan strategy is expected in Spring 2016.

“While our resource materials focus on impacts to agricultural production, the information can also be applied to the context of landscape plants and design,” says Emily MacNair, manager of CAI and adaptation programming.

Warmer, and drier summers; increased variability and extreme conditions; and changes in precipitation patterns are climate related changes that have been prioritized for adaptation actions in every regional plan. Changes in plant pests, pollinators and invasive species have also been identified as critical issues.

“There will need to be more consideration of whether trees, shrubs and herbaceous

perennials are able to withstand extended dry periods, as well as their resilience to more frequent extreme conditions such as periods of extreme heat in summer and intensive precipitation events in winter, spring or fall” says MacNair.

Changes like these are far-reaching, and are likely to impact the viability of all outdoor plantings. For landscape architects, adaptive approaches will incorporate climate change considerations into plant selection and overall design and infrastructure decisions as well.

Regional level analysis and planning has been an important focus of CAI work since

2013. With the support of federal and provincial funding, to date CAI has facilitated adaptation strategies for five regions: Delta, the Cowichan Valley, the Fraser Valley and the Cariboo and Peace regions. A strategy for the Okanagan will be released in Spring 2016.

The regional adaptation strategies, as well as a series of reports on the opportunities and risks associated with climate change in BC, are available on the BC Agriculture & Food Climate Action Initiative website: www.bcagclimateaction.ca. The reports are a valuable starting point for assessing and analyzing potential impacts associated with climate change.



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Regional adaptation workshops bring together farmers, industry associations, and all levels of government to share information and prioritize actions for adapting to climate change.

For the CAI, the regional adaptation strategies are just the beginning. The plans not only identify impacts, they outline priority actions to support agriculture's adaption to climate change. Once a regional adaptation strategy is complete, up to \$300,000 in Growing Forward 2 funding is available in each region for eligible collaborative projects identified in the plans. Implementation of these plans is well underway. Currently, 14 locally led projects have been completed with another 15 in progress.

Funding for the BC Agriculture & Food Climate Action Initiative is provided through Growing Forward 2, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative. **SL**



What is a 'Communities in Bloom'?

Catherine Kennedy, Executive Director, BC Communities in Bloom

Scattered throughout British Columbia there are quite a few excellent examples. Perhaps you would be surprised to know they are not all located in typical tourist areas. It is a program to encourage pride in one's hometown, to celebrate its uniqueness and galvanize its citizens to be part of the solution. And yes, floral displays are an element of the evaluation criteria along with tidiness effort, environmental action, heritage conservation, urban forestry, and landscape areas. The program also recognizes community involvement as the thread that runs through each criteria and is often at the heart of what makes it special. Communities receive an annual evaluation score as they work up to the coveted 5-Bloom level, then, if desired, they can compete against similar population groups from across Canada.

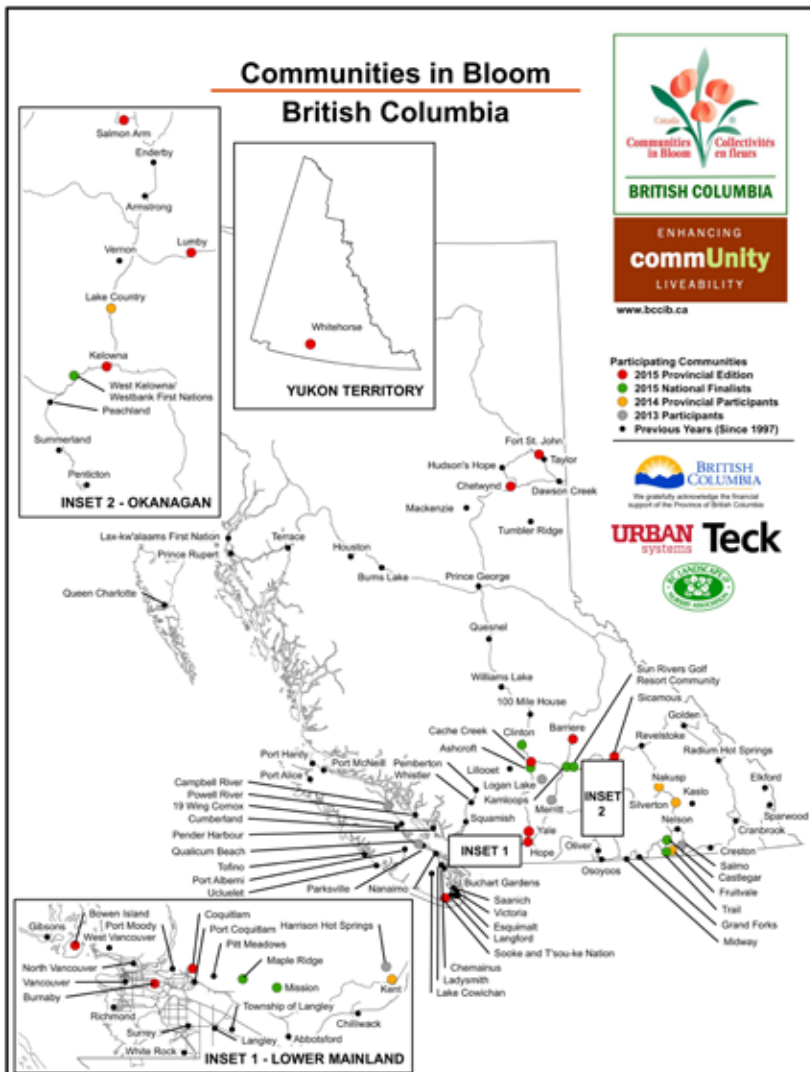
Communities in Bloom is a national program that has helped transform communities for over 20 years. It is a tool for local groups to improve their environmental, economic, and social well being. Simply put; wouldn't you prefer to live in an attractive, tidy town that respects its local heritage and the environment?

Creating a team made up of citizens, business, service groups and a local government representative, the group will target needed enhancement projects in the community. Having the unique CiB criteria to follow creates a focus and deadline to affect real change. Committee members have varied backgrounds: landscape design professional, urban planner, parks and recreation, public works, master gardener, local media, economic development, chamber of commerce or business owner, Mayor or Councillor all wanting to help improve their environment. The evaluation process also helps provide recognition for local volunteers that go under the radar: garden clubs, trail groups, cemetery historians, or the local that picks up litter while walking his dog. Every community has champions that contribute to making their hometown better. The Communities in Bloom program provides a place to recognize these efforts.

There have been over 100 community participants since the program's inception and while not all have gone on to be National or International Champions, a very high percentage have made lasting legacies to their communities. It is exciting to see former participants coming back into CiB using the Novice program as a way to build a committee and encourage volunteers.

With the new Garden Tourism sector developing in British Columbia, our Communities in Bloom participants will be ready. The future looks like a positive and happy green!

BC Communities in Bloom is accepting registrations for the Provincial Edition until March 31. www.bccib.ca **SL**





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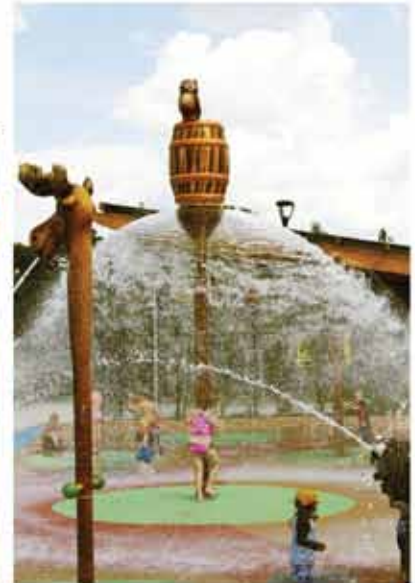
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