

Blooming

Success



by Doris J. MacKinnon

In 2003, Red Deer won the Provincial Championship in honour of the magnificent displays of summer colors found throughout the city. For two successive years, Red Deer was awarded five blooms out of five, by "Communities in Bloom," a Canada-wide beautification program. In addition to serving as an educational tool, "Communities in Bloom" awards bloom ratings to towns and cities for achievement in eight theme areas, including floral displays, landscapes, turf and open spaces, urban forestry, community involvement, heritage preservation, environmental awareness, and tidiness.

While Red Deer was not able to participate in the "Communities in Bloom" competition last year, due to a shortage of volunteer commitment, Doug Evans, with the city parks department, stresses that they would love to continue to participate in this beautification program. Evans encourages anyone interested in volunteering to contact his office at 342-8360.

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The community of Red Deer has earned a reputation for its wonderful park areas, and its enthusiasm for gardening. The floral centerpiece of the park system sits directly adjacent to City Hall, where more than 37,000 flowers are planted each year. Located in the centre of the city, the park features well-manicured gardens, which display the array of flowers, set among pathways, birdhouses, and benches. The theme changes each year, and the park provides a relaxing atmosphere in which to enjoy a stroll or a picnic lunch.

In keeping with the "green" outlook, the city maintains an urban parks program. Each year, city



