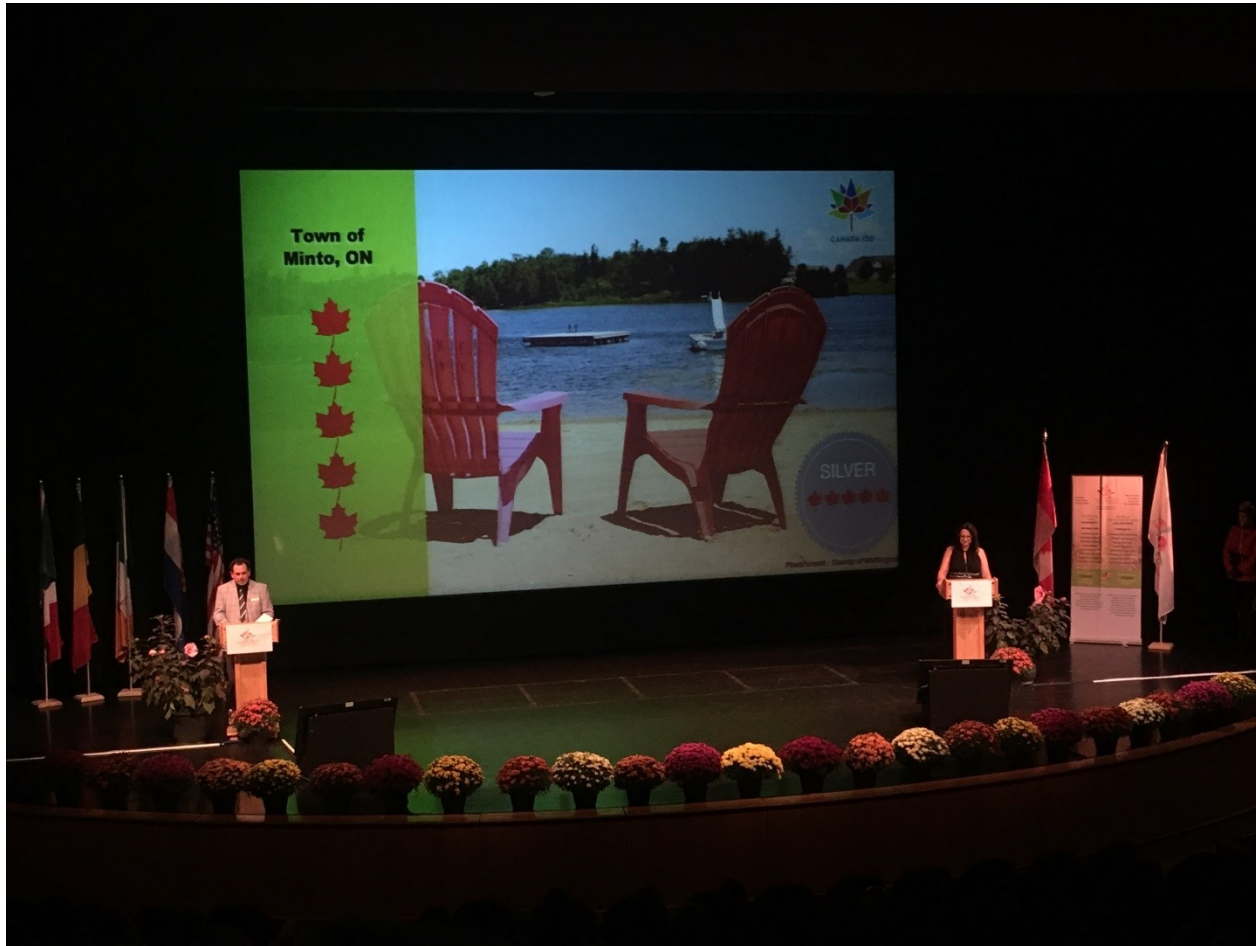




Communities in Bloom – 2017  
Canada 150 Special Edition



2017 Score  
87.7% Silver

2013 Score  
85% Bronze

# Special Mention: Green Legacy Program



# General Comments

- There is a great deal of collaboration – Groups work together.
- Very strong volunteerism.
- Minto has good heritage sites and with much volunteer labour and grant monies has been able to restore many buildings in the downtown areas.
- Volunteerism is getting more challenging as the typical volunteer is getting older and young people are busy with families and other things. When organizing a volunteer event advertise it as a “done in a day” event so people will know it is a project that can be accomplished in one morning or one day and the commitment is of short duration.
- The tour was very comprehensive and the tour guides were very knowledgeable about how everything gets done. The judges thank everyone we met during the tour for their hospitality and genuine sense of enjoying their participation in Communities in Bloom

# Environmental Action

- Score: 164/200
- Observations:
  - Green Energy Plan (LED streetlights, electric charging stations, GPS tracking of PW fleet, minimal use of pesticides)
  - Water Use By-Law
  - Mobile hazardous waste depot
  - Remediation of Lions Heritage Park
  - Earth Day activities
  - Land set aside for conservation



# Environmental Action

- Recommendations
  - Consider expanding the use of hybrid vehicles in the municipal fleet. Develop a short and long range plan.
  - Review the landfill diversion rates and set a higher goal for Minto. (Determine the Minto recycling rate and challenge the residents and businesses to increase the rate by 2% in 2018. Place on social media and small awards given to businesses that increase their recycling the most. Have the local newspaper report on this quarterly).



# Heritage Conservation & Canada 150

- Score: 84/100
- Observations:
  - Minto is involved in areas celebrating the culture of the region. The Cultural Roundtable was established in 2012 and a total of 16 reps meet monthly from different backgrounds and organizations including youth.
  - Minto participates in the National Culture Days weekend.
  - Local Heritage Marker Program
  - Town owns several historic buildings
  - Structural Grant program for downtown properties
  - Downtown Revitalization Committee works with local businesses and groups to create heritage murals in the downtown core.
  - Harriston Historical Society plaque program for residences and businesses.
  - Pioneer cemeteries maintained by volunteers



# Heritage Conservation & Canada 150

- Recommendations
  - Harriston has many beautiful historic buildings in the downtown. Consider developing a brochure for an heritage walk to an architectural walking tour of Harriston.
  - The Heritage Plaque program does not seem to have specific guidelines. Consider developing guidelines and place on Town's website.
  - Expand the Memorial Tree program in Old Rotary Park. Also since there are very few places to sit in Old Rotary Park, consider having memorial benches in the park, on both sides of the bridge.
  - Plant a tree in honour of each graduating class at one of the schools. As the program becomes successful, expand to other schools.



# Landscape & Urban Forestry

- Score: 442/525
- Observations:
  - Minto is very active in the area of Urban Forestry
  - Tree Retention & Management Policy
  - County Green Legacy Program
  - Trees for Minto has planted over 4,100 trees, fruit tree campaign
  - TG Minto Afforestation Project – 7,200 trees by 800 volunteers
  - Tree Carving Policy
  - Palmerston Lions Memorial Tree Forest – 531 trees planted
  - Town Landscape Coordinator
  - Professional Landscape Firm plans all streetscapes
  - New entrance signs and landscaping
  - Horticulture Societies help designing entrances
  - Horticulture students at Norwell help seniors with landscape maintenance as well as other projects



# Landscape & Urban Forestry

- Recommendations:
  - Consider expanding the tree inventory by adding trees in parks to the inventory. Each year expand the inventory by using Town staff or volunteers. Use GPS mapping as a guide.
  - The downtown trees in Harriston are planted in very small cuts in the sidewalk, this will not allow the roots to expand and will lead to a short life span for the tree. It is recommended that the tree has at least 200 sq. ft. of permeable soil about the roots to thrive. The sidewalk is very attractive but cuts need to be made in the sidewalk to allow for root growth.
  - Place a sign near the green wall at TG Site explaining the purpose and philosophy of the 7,200 trees that volunteers planted
  - Consider adding an arboretum at one of the schools with a plaque on each tree. Start small and expand when resources allow.



# Floral Displays

- Score: 152/175
- Observations:
  - Minto plants and maintains 90 hanging baskets, 50 planter boxes, 8 bridge boxes and 30 urns.
  - Canada 150 colours for theme.
  - River water used to water the baskets and boxes
  - Palmerston Home Hardware donation of Canada 150 tulips for Heritage Park and planted by students
  - Horticultural Societies – Adopt a Bed Program
  - Garden of the Month Program



# Floral Displays

- Recommendations:
  - Downtown Harriston is becoming a destination. It might be time to add to the regular floral displays everyone has come to expect. Consider placing a topiary in the front of the Wellington County Library. This will blend with the downtown environment. Leave the topiary in place during June – August.
  - Minto currently has a Garden of the Month program. Consider adding more garden recognitions, such as best shade garden, best perennial garden, or garden with annuals. This could include backyards.
  - The current program uses summer staff for watering and maintaining the many planters. Consider adding more staff, possibly part-time summer help.



# THANK YOU!

- Judges: Jack Clasen & Gaetan Deschenes
- Council
- Town of Minto & Wellington County Staff
- Community Volunteers
- Businesses



# National Communities in Bloom

## Photos, Ottawa



# National Communities in Bloom Photos, Ottawa



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