

# Sicamous

COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM

July 2022



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# INTRODUCTION

The community of Sicamous is committed to the values of Communities in Bloom. Using the tools and feedback received from Communities in Bloom since re-entering the evaluated category in 2017, we have made significant improvements in all aspects of the evaluation grid.

The District of Sicamous is a proud sponsor and partner of Communities in Bloom and supports all Sicamous CiB efforts to transform Sicamous into a vibrant and beautiful community.

At the heart of our community is the Sicamous Channel, bridging the Mara and Shuswap lakes which are popular destinations for vacationers. Visitors, seasonal residents, and permanent residents, heed the call to hike, boat, swim, fish, and paddle, tripling the population in the summer months.

Sicamous is conveniently located at the intersection of two major highway routes, the Trans-Canada Highway and Highway 97A, connecting travelers from the Lower Mainland and Alberta to the sought-after destinations of the Shuswap and Okanagan.

Sicamous is within the Splatstin Traditional Territory. We value our relationship with the Splatstin and the partnerships we are developing with them. Our relationship is built on mutual understanding and appreciation for shared economic interest and stewardship for the land, environment and people that live in this beautiful and unique community.



## CIB Information and Participation History

Population Category: 1001 to 3000

Year	Bloom rating	Special Mention	Outstanding Achievements/Awards
2005	74.3% 4 blooms	Floral Display at Round About	
2016	Novice Category	Kayleena Taylor - planters	
2017	66% 3 blooms	New Roundabout	
2018	73% 4 blooms	Involvement of the Splatstin First Nation	Community Champion – Deb Heap
2019	73% 4 blooms	Cenotaph Revitalization, Legion Parking/Event Space Improvements	Landscape Criteria Award
2020	Not Evaluated	Improving a Local Treasure	First Place – The Legion, Creating a Multiuse Space
2021	Modified Evaluation	Resilient Community Committed to CiB Ideals	Third Place – “Hope is Growing Community Clean-Up Event”

# ABOUT SICAMOUS

Population	2,613 (2021)
Website	<a href="http://sicamous.ca">sicamous.ca</a> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/SicamousCommunitiesInBloom/">facebook.com/SicamousCommunitiesInBloom/</a>
CIB Committee Chair Contact	Deb Heap
District of Sicamous Contact	Darrel Symbaluk, Operations Manager
Area	12.71 km <sup>2</sup>
Acres of Active Recreation	approx. 112 km <sup>2</sup>

Sicamous residents are fortunate to live in a community that is one large unending recreational space. Formal parks and greenspaces include Finlayson Park, Sicamous Beach Park, Sicamous Dog Park, Eagle Valley Nature Park, Waterfront Walkway, Lions Park, and Main Street Landing. The District of Sicamous owns the Sicamous Curling Rink, which is used for curling and pickleball depending on the season.

Community facilities include the Sicamous Recreation Centre (Home of the Sicamous Eagles), the Sicamous Legion, the Red Barn Arts Centre and the Sicamous Seniors Centre. Boat launches available for public use include the Finlayson Boat Launch, Kappel Boat Launch, Old Town Boat Launch and Mervyn Road Boat Launch.

Other Civic Sites: RCMP, BC Ambulance, Fire Hall, Civic Hall & District Offices, Chamber of Commerce, Museum and Okanagan Regional Library, Post Office, Eagle Valley Community Resource Centre, Parkview Elementary School, Eagle River Secondary School, Water Treatment Plant, Wastewater Treatment Plant, Public Works yard.

Sicamous success in seeking out and being awarded grants has allowed us to move forward with projects that will help us to achieve our objectives and that align with Communities in Bloom priorities.



# WHAT'S NEW

In 2022 an unforeseen world event captured the hearts and souls of the citizens of the world when Russia invaded the Ukraine. Sicamous Communities in Bloom wanted to show their support with a sunflower theme for 2022.

In keeping with our theme, we chose the Ukrainian Internment camp memorial as our feature project for 2022. We placed it in a more visible location and surrounded the memorial with donated sunflowers, yellow and blue themed annuals, and perennials. Rocks were donated to frame the garden and sunflowers were planted in several locations throughout the town.

The Arts Council once again partnered with Communities in Bloom to help us highlight our sunflower theme. They provided us with several lovely Art Boards that were placed in high visibility locations.

Tamara Loughran, who was the daughter of Ukrainian immigrants, partnered with Communities in Bloom to raise funds for our new Ukraine Immigrants with sales of sunflowers and vegetable seedlings. She also spearheaded the elementary school student's planting of sunflowers along Highway 97A.

To improve the visibility of Communities in Bloom in the community, we wear our red T-shirts to celebrate the national CiB theme colour when we are weeding, water and planting. Communities in Bloom has a page on the District website ([www.sicamous.ca/explore-discover/communities-in-bloom](http://www.sicamous.ca/explore-discover/communities-in-bloom)) that links to our contact information and Facebook page. We are also featured in the Sicamous Visitors Guide and Council declared 2022 the Year of the Garden in Sicamous.

Sicamous is registered as a Destination Garden Community on the Canadian Garden Route to let the rest of the country know how proud we are of our community (<https://livethegardenlife.gardenscanada.ca/garden-route/Sicamous/>).

Sicamous Council has made support for Communities in Bloom a strategic priority and the DOS has added important policies in the last few years that support strong CiB communities.

Sicamous has undergone dramatic changes since the judge's last visit. As per the judge's suggestion, we have incorporated new achievements and plans into our itinerary, and we have also documented our accomplishments at the start of each of the evaluation criteria sections.



# WHAT'S NEW

## Other new developments:

- The District of Sicamous has received a grant from the BC Active Transportation Grant Program to develop an Active Transportation Network Plan. This plan will establish a set of strategies to improve options for walking, rolling and cycling in Sicamous. Public consultation about how to make Sicamous more accessible is underway. The District is also developing a Parks and Trails Master Plan project which aims to create an inventory of existing parks and trails within Sicamous to understand whether current outdoor recreation resources meet the needs of the community.
- The Sicamous Beach Park has undergone significant improvements which include the replacement of the existing and aging washroom structure to be universally accessible, the addition of concession facilities, surface pathways for ease of access, landscaping, playground improvements, and additional outdoor seating with a pergola.
- The Solsqua-Sicamous Bridge has been replaced improving connections within the community and offering an improved, safe walkway for pedestrians and cyclists.
- A Ground-Breaking Ceremony for the new Community Bio-Heat Facility took place on Earth Day – April 22, 2022.
- The District has taken steps in the development of the Shuswap (Secwépemc) Healing Centre. The Healing Centre will be a health and wellness facility built in collaboration with Splatsin. Construction is expected to commence in 2023.
- The affordable housing project is set to break ground on Main Street in the fall of 2022. Until then, the site is home to the beautiful Pop-Up Community Garden.



# FOLLOW-UP TO JUDGES' SUGGESTIONS FROM 2019

We appreciate the great feedback we receive from the judges each year.

As recommended:

- The community profile book concentrates on past accomplishments with the tour itinerary focusing on what is new and our vision for the future.
- Tour stops reference the specific areas of the evaluation grid being addressed with the representatives speaking to the project and how it coincides with the evaluation criteria.
- The recommendation to form a CiB participation committee has been incorporated into our itinerary for 2022, with specific leads addressing each of the grid sections.
- Highlighting local school involvement in the initiative was easy this year as the excitement of our youth planting sunflowers in their yards and along the highway in support of the people of the Ukraine is infectious. Other youth involvement initiatives are detailed in the grid sections.

Other specific recommendations are addressed within their relevant grid sections.



# PARTNERSHIPS

Communities in Bloom is a strong partner and supporter of the District of Sicamous. We have also been an avid supporter and participant in the transformation of the Legion building and property. The Legion is a critical part of our community and the anchor of our Town Centre. We have largely completed the beautification and landscaping of the Legion site. We have helped to transform an underutilized and unsightly property into a location our Veterans and residents can be proud of and the home of a vibrant and welcoming Farmers Market.

We have also developed strong mutually beneficial partnerships with the following organizations: Splat'sin First Nation Sicamous and District Chamber of Commerce.

We continue to expand the list of businesses that support Communities in Bloom and that Communities in Bloom assists. More and more businesses are approaching Communities in Bloom directly to ask for advice and offer support, which is good news.



## CiB Partnerships

Eagle Valley Arts Council	Riverside Landing, Eldorado and Owl Creek Manufactured Home Parks
Parkland Home Building Centre	Sicamous Alliance Bible Church
Eagle Valley Resource Centre	Sicamous Pickleball Club
Buckerfields	Century 21
Sicamous Farmers Market	Pines Motel
RCMP	Paradise Motel
Seniors' Housing and Seniors' Centre	Bayview Fine Homes
Fungi Festival	Bruhn Crossing
The Marina	Sicamous Return-It Depot



# COMMUNITY APPEARANCE

We have completed our Legion site makeover with our lovely art board display at the back and colour coordinated garden bed. The Legion was an unsightly part of our downtown and is now the location of a vibrant farmers market and a place where people want to gather.

The Red Barn had many site challenges with overgrown, messy trees that had ripped apart a derelict chain link fence, the property at the back was a junk yard, the minimal site made improving the appearance of the frontage problematic. It is now quite lovely with a beautiful art installation on a new fence, plantings, and screenings at the back as well as improvements to the neighbouring properties.

Derelict homes on Main Street were removed for a new affordable housing project and commercial space. Groundbreaking is in the fall so the cleared space has been turned into a lovely "Pop-Up Community Garden" to enjoy for the summer with a hand carved bear from one of the trees as a feature. Local kids were engaged by a poll to decide what would be carved by a local chainsaw artist. The bear is dressed up each season. For the summer he has been surrounded with sunflowers in keeping with our Communities in Bloom theme for 2022.



# COMMUNITY APPEARANCE

- The Sicamous Beach Park has undergone a significant makeover, increasing the functionality for park events. The concession is built into hillside facing our concert stage. This makes it easier for concert goers to see and stay dry.
- Gateways into the community are valued with large, branded signage welcoming people into the community and identifying Sicamous as a CiB and anti-litter community.
- The *Good Neighbour Bylaw* reduces the wait time for the District to act on unsightly property issues.
- The Communities in Bloom Chair conducts regular tours around town with Bylaw Enforcement and Council members to ensure issues are addressed.
- The Sicamous Alliance Bible Church, the local pickle ball club and the Sicamous Legion are strong partners and supporters of the Annual Community Clean-Up and Seniors Housing Garden tune-up. We are thanked regularly for the improvements to the look of the community.
- Graffiti has not been much of an issue, but the Sicamous Legion mural was coated with anti-graffiti paint as well.
- A new Buddy Bench has been installed at Parkview Elementary School. Spearheaded by Grade 6 student Hazel Spanke and supported by Sicamous Council, the Buddy Bench is meant to help students signal to others that they are looking for someone to play with.



# ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

In Sicamous our lakes and rivers are the life blood of the community and protecting them has been everyone's priority.

- Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades were recently completed. Upgrades have enabled the District to submit an application with the province to increase the overall wastewater capacity for the municipality. Specific upgrades include the enhancement of the aeration system, three wastewater lift-station generators, a new wastewater treatment plant standby generator, a headworks screening system with odour control capabilities, and the addition of tertiary filtration.
- The District of Sicamous has taken a lead role in-province preventing the introduction of destructive zebra mussels to our pristine waterways.
- The District Planning Team's Active Transportation Network Plan and Parks and Trails Master Plan initiatives place emphasis on the importance of using active transportation modes to decrease Sicamous' greenhouse gas emissions and promote healthy communities.
- The construction of the Community Bio-Heat Facility in the Sicamous Industrial Park will aid in the production of clean energy and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in the community. The facility will consist of a biomass boiler heating system and a boiler house which will repurpose wood waste into fuel and provide thermal heat to buildings within the Sicamous Industrial Park.
- The District continues to pursue and lobby the provincial government to establish a Regional Community Forest in Sicamous in partnership with Splat-sin and the City of Enderby.
- Plans are in place for the sustainable building of the Shuswap Healing Centre. These practices will reduce energy consumption in both the construction and operation of the facility.
- A grant application has been submitted to the Strategic Priorities Fund Capital Projects for upgrades to the Finlayson Boat Launch which includes flood mitigation efforts.
- A grant application has been submitted to the Strategic Priorities Fund under the Capacity Building Stream for the development of a Community Transportation Plan.
- Sicamous Communities in Bloom has worked in collaboration with the operators of the Sicamous Return-It Depot to ensure their downtown location is both a convenient one-shop-stop for returns and recycling and an attractive community asset with added sea cans painted to coordinate with the building, an artboard, and hanging planters.



# HERITAGE CONSERVATION

Conservation of historic buildings has always been a challenge for Sicamous due to the destruction of structures over the years due to flooding. We continue to celebrate our history and cultural heritage in unique ways.

The Regional Shuswap (Secwépemc) Healing Centre is a hallmark of a new era for Sicamous and area. Working together with the Secwépemc Nation this facility will be a symbol of the commitment to share information and work on projects together that benefit the entire region.

It highlights the next stage of development and growth for our resilient, dynamic, and beautiful community from the perspective of Truth & Reconciliation, economic development, respect for heritage, and the provision of services which are participatory, culturally appropriate and socially inclusive.

After-school students from Sicamous and Splatstin recently took part in a houseboat learning adventure to locate and translate Secwepemc pictographs located along Shuswap Lake. Reproductions of these pictographs were donated by a local resident and are on display in Council Chambers until they can be installed in our new Healing Centre.

Sicamous was also proud to participate in the Pulling Together Canoe Journey.



# HERITAGE CONSERVATION

The war in the Ukraine made highlighting our Ukrainian internment camp memorial an obvious feature project for 2022. The plans to add a Japanese Internment camp memorial at Yard Creek immediately East of Sicamous is welcome news to honour this important chapter of Sicamous history. Communities in Bloom has offered to sponsor the garden part of the memorial.

Earlier this year, Communities in Bloom supported the Red Barn being officially recognized as a heritage building with a Heritage Designation Bylaw ([www.saobserver.net/news/bylaw-giving-heritage-designation-to-sicamous-red-barn-approved/](http://www.saobserver.net/news/bylaw-giving-heritage-designation-to-sicamous-red-barn-approved/)).

A CP Rail Caboose was donated to the District of Sicamous in 2004. A group of residents were instrumental in restoring the Caboose at the time. It is located at the entrance of Finlayson Park where it has become a community attraction. The Caboose is currently undergoing an internal and external restoration to bring back its original colour and markings. It's important to a community that has the train pass through every day and has generations of families who migrated to this area and worked on the rail.

The Museum was moved to the town hall and merged with the visitor centre which has seen an exponential increase to the number of visitors to the museum and interest in our local history and artifacts.

The Museum is holding a strategic planning session in the fall to consider the following ideas we and how they will carry them out and secure funding.

- A heritage garden – as an outdoor exhibit where the plants each year will focus on a historic theme with the garden being accessible for seniors and produce donated to the food bank.
- The heritage trail expansion
- Work with members of the Splatson on Art installations
- Look for practical ways to restore the historic building housing museum artifacts
- Opportunities to use larger artifacts from our collection in public/ community displays. For example, a piece of farming equipment being used as a planter.



# URBAN FORESTRY

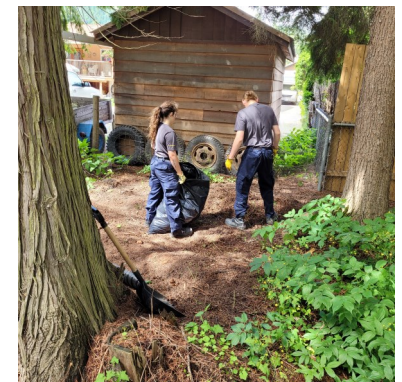
Sicamous is surrounded by beautiful, forested hills. Although we have always considered this a blessing in 2021 it was also a nightmare.

In the midst of a horrific wildfire season in 2021, Sicamous was able to successfully combat the fires raging around our community with no loss of structures or life.

Not only did we not experience the losses inflicted on many other communities, but we were able to turn this natural disaster into an opportunity by reducing forest fuel and in the process open up biking and hiking trails for community recreation and reduce the fire risk going forward.

We continue to make managing our forest assets a priority.

- The District of Sicamous is pursuing the development of a mountain bike trail on the Owlhead Trailhead which was spearheaded by a local youth. The District is working with the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operation and Rural Development (FNRORD) on an application for the construction or maintenance of trails or recreation facilities on Crown Land. Construction is targeted for 2023.
- The District is pursuing a regional partnership with Splatina and the City of Enderby to bring a Regional Community Forest Initiative to life.
- The Sicamous Fire Department was successful in obtaining two FireSmart Grants for 2021-2022. As a result, all Sicamous residents are now eligible for a free FireSmart Property Assessment. Seniors and other vulnerable residents may also qualify for a grant to have FireSmart mitigation work completed on their property at no cost. FireSmart is a national program that is focused on reducing property loss and damage due to wildfire.
- The Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC) is funding a wildfire risk reduction project in Sicamous valued at almost \$1 Million to protect high-risk areas outlined in the District's Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). This work will better protect important infrastructure like a water reservoir owned by the District and vital transportation corridors.



# LANDSCAPE

Sicamous has one of the most beautiful natural landscapes in the province. Our objective is to use thoughtful plantings to accentuate the wild natural beauty of our community. We love our natural spaces and we are all about protecting our environment and letting the bees live, we are not about manicured lawns and toxic herbicides.

Award winning Indigenous architect, Douglas Cardinal is designing our new healing centre. Known for his innovative curvilinear forms, Cardinal says his design philosophy centres on bringing people into balance with the natural environment. His architecture springs from his observation of Nature and its understanding that everything works together seamlessly.

Beyond a medical clinic, this building will also house allied health professionals and community programs rooted in the social determinants of health. A holistic conception of well-being involving a healthy balance of four elements or aspects of wellness: physical, emotional, mental and spiritual. It will also provide community space, both indoor and outdoor greenspace, that will be able to accommodate a variety of users.

Each year since 2017, Sicamous Communities in Bloom has added feature projects which have significantly enhanced the streetscape of Sicamous and strongly contributed to the revitalization of our town, especially our town centre.

Our Beach Park renovations used creative design to ensure optimal use. The attractive new washrooms and concession mirror our community branding for a fun beach vibe. The hill for viewing music in the park and movies in the park faces East so that the audience is not looking into the sun in the evening. The hill also provides a sun block for the band. An art installation sponsored by SASCU will be added this summer to complete the project.



# LANDSCAPE

We have seen some amazing development plans for landscaping in Sicamous this year. Many property owners are going above and beyond to contribute to public space. Exemplary approved landscaping plans include:

534 Main Street – approved landscaping plans to include a semi-public water fountain and outdoor seating area.

1129 Riverside – approved landscaping plans to provide semi-public space through the provision of pedestrian-oriented benches.

709 Main Street and the Thomsen Place Subdivision have demonstrated focus on xeriscaping.

As businesses apply for permits to further develop their properties, adequate ongoing maintenance is enforced through landscape securities, which can be a lengthy process. As a result, there has been little progress on these properties this year.

The District's Development Permit Application process requires the submission of landscape plans that address the policies and guidelines of the Official Community Plan and landscape buffer or screening requirements of the Zoning Bylaw. Where appropriate, it is expected that these plans be prepared by a landscape architect or nursery staff. Sign-off on the installation and inspection by District staff is required. A maintenance period of two years is typically followed. When landscaping is provided off-site, Service Agreements are used to enforce a similar installation and maintenance period before the District takes over maintenance.

The District of Sicamous Planner, Sarah Martin, holds a diploma in ornamental landscape design and maintenance. She reviews landscape plans and inspects installations subject to development permits.

The Sicamous self-watering planters have been a success. Since implementation in 2019, 44 self-watering planters have increased to 60.





# FLORAL DISPLAYS

In Sicamous we are passionate about floral displays that highlight all of the amazing natural features in our community. Each year since 2017 Communities in Bloom has sponsored and created feature projects that have transformed areas that were unimaginative at best or eye sores at worst into lovely spots that people linger at and enjoy.

In 2022 Communities in Bloom and the District met and agreed to a planting plan for our planters that we have received many compliments about.

Each year our art board and banner projects have a strong floral theme to support Communities in Bloom plantings.

Communities in Bloom hosts a table each week at the farmers Market with events such as the Kids Flower Show, plant exchanges and other educational and promotional activities. We hosted Tamara Loughran's seedling and art board sales which raised over \$2000 for the new Ukrainian Immigrants to Sicamous.



# FLORAL DISPLAYS

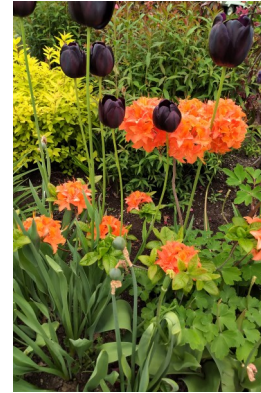
As mentioned in “Landscaping,” the self-watering planters adopted in 2019 have been a big hit. We continue to explore plantings that are beautiful, dramatic and require less maintenance.

As mentioned in “What’s New,” the Pop-Up Community Garden on Main Street is getting greener by the day. It has become a place for residents to gather and visitors to enjoy.

Existing floral garden displays at the Sicamous Beach Park, Main Street Landing, the Houseboat Kiosk, outside the District Office, and the Waterfront continue to be maintained and appreciated by residents and visitors to the community.

Our Spark Garden at the South entrance to downtown from Highway 97A marries our successful branding campaign with physical representation of the “Live More” Spark into a fun garden display.

Sicamous Communities in Bloom will be featuring a local business each week to show off their floral displays and landscaping. Our first profile will be the Pines Motel, which will serve as accommodation for the Communities in Bloom judges in 2022.



# IN CONCLUSION

Sicamous has undergone an amazing transformation since we started down this road with Communities in Bloom 5 years ago. We would like to offer a heartfelt thanks for all the help and support we have received from the BC Communities in Bloom organization. We couldn't have done it without you!







# Squamish

LIVE MORE