



# MEDIA RELEASE

The Corporation of the Town of Fort Erie

## Big Win for Fort Erie!

Fort Erie was recognized as the Winner of the National Communities-in-Bloom Competition, at the National Awards Ceremony held in Edmonton on October 13, 2012. Fort Erie also received special recognition for the Point Abino Lighthouse Restoration.

"Such national recognition is big" stated Mayor Douglas Martin. "Fort Erie should be extremely proud of this outstanding accomplishment, as it is a direct result of the efforts of the entire community to make Fort Erie a better place. Well done Fort Erie!"

The National Communities-in-Bloom Judges Evelyn Alemanni and Jim Baird wrote that "Fort Erie is a town where all the community partners are working together. Citizens groups, businesses, the town and even the International Bridge Authority all work together. Special mention should be made of the community volunteer organizations which produce some spectacular floral displays. The Town has also stepped up to the plate in a major way with the restoration of the Point Abino Lighthouse. The Town made the financial commitment to purchase this unique National Historic Site, and then worked with other government partners to complete a \$1.4 million restoration of the exterior which was finished in 2011. This concrete structure's many classical details have been meticulously restored."

This award means that Fort Erie received higher scores than any other Canadian municipality with a population between 20,000-50,000, in the areas of tidiness, environmental action, urban forestry, heritage conservation, landscapes and floral display. The National Judges specifically recognized the efforts of the Crystal Beach Beautification Committee for the floral displays along Ridgeway and Erie Roads, the War of 1812 celebrations, the benefits of the Adopt-a-Park Program, and the Museum's ongoing efforts to preserve our heritage. They also commended businesses such as McDonald's and churches such as First Baptist for becoming actively involved in creating beautiful floral displays.

Councillor Bob Steckley expressed that "as Council's representative for Communities-in-Bloom, I am thrilled that the combined efforts of our committee, town staff, volunteers, and local residents were recognized at the national level. We already knew that Fort Erie was a great place to live, and this award further justifies this belief!"

Communities-in-Bloom is a national organization dedicated to the promotion of green spaces in community settings. Within the actual context of climate change and environmental concerns, communities involved in the program can be proud of their efforts, which provide real and meaningful environmental solutions and benefit all of society. 97 communities of varying sizes participated in the 2013 program.

**For further information, please contact:**

**Town of Fort Erie:**

Signe Hansen - 905-871-1600, e-mail: [shansen@forterie.on.ca](mailto:shansen@forterie.on.ca), [www.forterie.on.ca](http://www.forterie.on.ca)

**Communities in Bloom National Office:**

Vivian Shum - 514-694-8871, e-mail: [communication@cib-cef.com](mailto:communication@cib-cef.com), [www.communitiesinbloom.ca](http://www.communitiesinbloom.ca)

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*Please visit the national Communities-in-Bloom website at [www.communitiesinbloom.ca](http://www.communitiesinbloom.ca) for a complete list of the results along with an online copy of the latest magazine.*