

GENERAL COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

One of the things that is always great about visiting a small town or village in Alberta is the warm welcome, and the small town spirit of friendliness. The Village of Veteran is no exception to this rule. We would like to thank you for your hospitality, the amazing lunch, and for sharing your recipes with us as well. Of course, the horse and buggy ride all day was just the icing on the cake!

We want to encourage you to keep recognizing your volunteers, and we express great admiration for the Veteran Eagle for helping to recognize volunteers in the community as well as promoting an interest in improving Veteran's future.

The youth of your village also deserve special mention for all they do, from pitching in for town clean up, to helping with flower beds, and especially for helping to restore Dave Pennington's medals. What a group of achievers!

Your village is beautiful. The gardens, landscaping, murals, and even trees speak to the heart of your village and the pride you take in it. Congratulations, especially because you have to exist on such a small staff and budget.

You have a lot to overcome this year with the fire in the hotel, and the failing of another historical building. These will present big challenges to you, but take heart, we believe that you will be able to bring these buildings back to life from their proverbial ashes.

We would like, if we may, to offer a few suggestions for next year's judging day. First of all, it would be great if the judges could meet with the mayor, council (if available) and town staff. It allows us to express our appreciation to them as well for their work with the Communities in Bloom committee.

Secondly, an agenda with an idea of timing helps us to prepare for the day, and think about questions we will need to ask.

A suggestion for your profile book would be to make sure that you include the dates with all clippings and events that are documented. Some of them were included, but not all. Also, along with the profile book, a copy of the local paper, would be very informative.

We enjoyed reviewing the Village website – it could use a bit of an update though – the 2012 CiB results should be reflected and advertised – and soon the 2013!

Finally, please, do not be afraid to sell your village. Point out your strengths in each area, and give special consideration to your current accomplishments.

It was a great pleasure to spend the day in Veteran. Best wishes in all your future endeavours.