

Barriere Blooms – 2020 Victory Garden Contest

We can all agree that people across the globe are experiencing a lot of fear and uncertainty with the pandemic. However, there are inspirational stories of people everywhere connecting in ways that remind us all that we are united regardless of Country, race, religion or economic status while still remaining “physically distant.” While Barriere may not have towering apartment buildings with balconies for us to all join in song as a display of camaraderie, we do have the fact that *Barriere Blooms* every spring.

With community camaraderie in mind, the District of Barriere is pleased to announce its *Barriere Blooms* project for 2020. This year we want our residents to plant *Victory gardens* in their flower beds and containers and we have selected the four contest categories. Planting Victory gardens will allow us to show our togetherness, resourcefulness and has the great benefit of offering garden produce.

Victory gardens were planted during and after WW1 and WW2 all over the world. Residents planted vegetables, fruits, herbs and edible flowers in their front yards and flower beds. By as early as spring 1940, planting a Victory garden emerged as a popular form of wholesome, patriotic leisure that strengthened families and enlisted their untapped productive potential. At its 1944 peak, it was estimated that upwards of 209,200 victory gardens were in operation nationwide producing a total of 57,000 tonnes of vegetables.

Best Business Victory Garden — Businesses are encouraged to plant fruit and vegetables, herbs and eatable flowers outside their business. The winning entry will receive a *Barriere Blooms* certificate and bragging rights.

Best Kids Victory Garden- Teach your child about planting a garden. Victory gardens are small enough that children won't lose interest and will give them a sense of pride. Winning entry will receive a cash prize of \$50, a *Barriere Blooms* certificate and bragging rights.

Best Residential Victory Garden- Participating residents will plant fruit, vegetables, edible flowers and herbs in containers or hanging basket outside their residences. The winning entry will receive \$200 cash prize and bragging rights.

Best Council Member Planter- Members of Council will plant fruit, vegetables, herbs and edible flowers in the cedar planters located in Fadear Park. The winning entry will receive an Award Certificate and bragging rights.

Ideas:

- Take advantage of the additional time at home to plant a new garden bed; maybe in an interesting shape or with an unexpected floral color variation.

- Incorporate a secondary challenge to the contest by having family members compete against each other with their own dedicated sections of the yard.
- Use the experience as a learning activity for children in the home that are not able to attend their regular classes.
- Incorporate signage thanking our essential workers braving the front lines during this pandemic.
- Practice your photography skills or get the kids to photograph their own or their favorite creations in the garden and post them on social media.
- Share gardening tips and tricks with other BLOOMers on social media.

Participation in the contest is easy! There's no registration necessary. Just put your imagination to work and take photos of your Victory Garden and post them on the new Barriere Blooms Facebook page. If you don't have a Facebook account or access to the technology to take and upload photos to the contest page, no worries! Just give Councillor Donna Kibble a phone call or send her an email that you would like someone to drive by and take a few photos and your Victory Garden will be uploaded for you! You can also let us know if you would like to nominate someone's Victory Garden who you don't see on the Facebook page and we'll contact them and ask if they would like to participate. The deadline for entries will be in mid-July with an exact date to be announced in a few weeks.

So what are you waiting for?! A prize? There's that too! Residential entries are eligible to win the \$200 cash Grand Prize! And there's even a category just for kids! The prize for the most voted on kid's garden is a \$50 cash prize!

Come on Barriere! We are a community that has always united during times of great trial and let's show off that unity to our neighbours, children, essential workers, the North Thompson Valley and, hey, maybe even the world.

Public Voting for all entries will take place on the Barriere Blooms Facebook page in mid-July.

Questions regarding this program can be found on the Barriere Blooms Facebook Page, by calling Councillor Donna Kibble at (250) 672-5672, by emailing – dkibble@barriere.ca , or calling the District Office at (250) 672-9751.

