

'Pitch-in' kicks off Communities in Bloom

by Dave Preston

District workers and volunteers kicked off the Canada-wide Pitch-In Week Monday by planting trees and picking up garbage in a local park.

The event took place at Morrison Park and was combined with the official launch of Communities in Bloom activities that will involve a number of community groups getting Peachland ready for competition judging in July.

"It's all about people, pride and plants, in that order," said Gord Thorne, Communities in Bloom Committee chair.

"The idea is to make us the best community in bloom that we can," said Mayor Keith Fielding, who joined Thorne, town workers and volunteers in planting more than 100 trees around the park.

Thorne was on the committee in 2002 and 2003, when the town received three and four blooms out of five respectively. The district took a hiatus from the competition since 2003 but has entered this year in conjunction with centennial celebrations.

"It's about people getting together to embark on cleaning up our community," said Thorne.

Judging for the Canada-wide competition takes place July 23 and Thorne said judges will be in town for two days to look at Peachland.

"We tour them around the community," said Thorne. "They're looking for lots of other things than just vegetative."

Because of the town's centennial in



Mayor Keith Fielding and Phyllis Papineau plant trees in Morrison Park Monday.

Dave Preston photo

2009, Thorne said his committee is looking for lasting legacies that fit in with Communities in Bloom.

Already a number of community organizations have stepped up to pitch-in for the competition, including:

- The Sportsmen's Association has committed \$2,000 to plant native plant species along Trepanier Creek that will help keep both humans and garbage out of the creek area;

- The fire department will plant native grasses in some areas where trees have been removed for pine beetle kill mitigation;

- The Rotary Club wants to do some work along the concrete wall in Cousins Park;

- The St. Margaret's Youth Group will fix up the area between the Little Schoolhouse and Fourth Street Place and build a Zen garden;

- Sparks, Brownies and Guides will dress up the Trepanier Pedestrian Tunnel with plants;

- Several groups will work on planting native plants along the foreshore between Swim Bay and Heritage Park.

Sparks, Brownies and Guides members were out Monday evening picking up garbage from Swim Bay to Heritage Park. Thorne said everyone can get involved in Communities in Bloom and he urged anyone interested to contact the municipal office or himself at 250-767-9435.

Sportsmen clean up creek



A member of the Peachland Sportsmen's Association picks up trash near Trepanier Creek last Wednesday. The group participated in the 20-minute Community Makeover April 1, picking up nearly 10 bags of garbage from inside and around the creek. The event was sponsored by the regional district.

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