COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION: Champion was established in 1911, with the coming of the railroad. Originally, the village was called Cleverville and was located 2 miles east. Champion is home to new residents, as well as third and fourth generation families. Farms and acreages surround the village and these residents consider Champion their community. The village has two schools, playgrounds, churches, ball diamonds, running track, four churches, restaurant, Drop-In Centre, grocery store, gas station, library, post office, community centre, Legion hall, bank, fire department, campground and a new swimming pool. In 2007, CiB Centennial Park was created behind the community hall to provide a beautiful setting for weddings and other special events. There is a wonderful sense of community spirit and involvement by volunteers who serve in numerous ways through the Lions Club, Legion, 4-H, school and church groups, and the Pioneer Club.

Champion is the gateway to Little Bow Provincial Park, Little Bow Resorts, Twin Valley Dam Campground and Southern Alberta Bible Camp. The Town of Vulcan is located 18 km north on Highway 23, where many Champion and area residents are employed, attend high school, shop and receive medical care.
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8. Criteria Section:
   Tidiness
   Environmental Action
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   Heritage Preservation
CiB Committee:

Marilyn Wolfe - CiB Chair (Rural resident) Call 403 897-2345 if you would like to volunteer
Gail Starzyk - CiB Co-chair
Racille Ellis - Secretary-Treasurer 403 897-3013
Helen Saunderson - Village Resident 403 897-3741

Ella Rhodes - Village Resident 403 897-3765
Jamie Smith - Municipal Representative
Elsie Pasolli - Village Resident
Mary Hergenhein - Pioneer Club Rep
Kathy Perley - Community School Rep
Dick Ellis - Village Council Rep
2016 is Champion's tenth year with the Communities In Bloom program and we have witnessed much growth. This program continues to breathe new life into our village. Everything that has been accomplished has been due to the resourcefulness and efforts of our volunteers and support from the village staff and council.

A Community of Champions!
Village Council

Mayor - Jamie Smith

Councillors;
Dick Ellis           Aaron Matlock
Colton Povey        Trevor Waagenvordt

Village Administration & Staff

Jeffrey Coffman - Interim CAO
Wendi Smith - Administrative Assistant
Fernando Reis - Public Works Foreman
Public Works - Jorden Jones
STEP Student - Ty Delude
Road Maintenance: Tim
HISTORY of Champion Communities in Bloom - 2005 to 2016

* Oct. 24/05 - First general meeting held with 14 in attendance

* Feb. 6/06 - Projects initiated for our 95th Anniversary:
  - Memorial Benches, elevator silhouettes & coal car west end of Main St, memorial pots and planters for Main Street, trees at ball diamonds and entrances, watering truck

* April/06 - 18 memorial planters and 14 benches ordered

* May/06 - 1st Annual Community Clean-Up Day
  - Plaque unveiled at Heritage/Elevator/Coal Car Park

* June/06 - Village of Champion & CiB awarded Community Initiatives Program funding ($33,030.00) for Centennial Park

* Aug/06 - First evaluation by Provincial CiB judges; attended Awards Ceremony in Vegreville and received 3 Blooms.

* Dec/06 - First “Light Up The Park” Event @ village campground

* April/07 - Work begins behind the hall - electrical trenched in, concrete poured for gazebo and bricks laid. Trees and shrubs planted.

* May/08 - Grand Opening of Centennial Park

* May/09 - Metal vine trellis donated to Centennial Park

* Spring 2011 - Legacy Corner gazebo and metal cutouts are installed in time for our 100th Anniversary.

* July/2012 - Second Provincial evaluation - awarded 3 blooms

* July/2013 - Third Provincial evaluation - awarded 4 blooms.

* Summer/2013 - Directional Signage Project begun

* Dec./2013 - First Cafe’ Christmas fundraiser for pool change rooms

* 2014-2016 - Planted a variety of perennials, shrubs and trees. Plans for a Tree Nursery have begun and grants received.
Bruno & Doug sizing things up

In 2013, this project was initiated by the CiB committee who acted upon the suggestions of the 2012 judges to have directional signage in the village. With the help of the swimming pool staff and community volunteers, signs were hand painted and installed at the entrances, as well as along Main Street.
Judges’ Tour Map Legend

1. Village office/ATB
2. Convenience Store
3. Pioneer Club Drop-In Centre
4. Gas Plus
5. Heritage Park
6. Eric’s Kitchen (Hotel)
7. Mariska’s House of Treasures
8. Fire Hall
9. Public Library
10. Recycling Depot
11. Post Office
12. Legacy Corner
13. Historic School Bell
14. Community Hall & Centennial Park
15. Swimming Pool
16. Playground
17. Community School
18. Sports Field & Track
19. Public Campground/Washrooms
20. Royal Canadian Legion Hall
21. Ball Diamonds
22. Roping & Riding Arena/Mower Racing Track
23. Cemetery/Field of Honour
24. St. Mary’s Catholic Church
25. Evangelical Free Church
26. Hope Christian School
27. LDS Church
28. Congregational Church
Village of Champion

Tour Map 2012

1. Village Office
2. Legacy Corner
3. Post Office
4. Recycling Depot
5. Library
6. Swimming Pool
7. Community School
8. Ball diamonds
9. RV Park
10. Legion
11. Gordon Bowker's
12. Community Hall
13. Centennial Park
14. Heritage Park
15. Hotel
16. Roping & Riding Arena
17. Cemetery
18. Brian Anderson's
19. Paul Matlock's
20. Wahl's
21. Gerry Peter's
22. Sven Pasolli's
23. Churches
24. Jim & Helen Sauderson's
25. Mark Losey's
26. Sean Pooley's
27. "Shorty's"
28. Lebsack house
29. Lagoon
30. Cleerville
31. Barb Grove's
32. Long Coulee
33. Doug Rhode's (Billet)
Plans are being made by the municipality to build a new Fire Hall on Railway Avenue within the next year. More room is needed for our new fire engine and our volunteer firefighters.
Communities in Bloom Judges Visit - July 28, 2016

**ITINERARY:**

1. 10:00 a.m. - *Meet and Greet Reception* at the Pioneer Club Centre on Main Street

2. 10:30 a.m. - *Walking Tour* along Main Street & 2nd Avenue North

   *Memorial planters, benches and historic building plaques will be viewed

   - Mural flower bed & Village Office (meet with CAO)
   - Schoolhouse Bell Corner
   - Legacy Corner & CiB Garage - Kathy Perley - (Anniversary Committee)
   - Swimming Pool & New Change Rooms - (Pool Staff)
   - Community School- Track-Playground- Shorty’s Field
   - Campground - camp kitchen - horseshoe pits - washrooms (Public Works)
   - Legion Hall - Veteran Displays, 8 official dart boards - (Legion Member)
   - Community Hall - Museum display case (Lions Member)
   - Centennial Park - Wedding Gazebo - Hitching Post
   - Historic Home- moved from Cleverville in 1911 (Puffed Wheat Factory)
   - Heritage Park - Elevator Silhouettes - Coal Car - Pumpjack -(Racille Ellis)
   - Historic Hotel -1911
   - Fire Hall - (Volunteer Firefighter)
   - Library- (Patty Able - Librarian)
   - Recycling Depot - (Dick Ellis - Waste Management Officer)
   - Post Office - (Kim Nichols - Post Mistress)

3. **Lunch** - 12:00 Noon @ Helen Saunderson’s Home

4. **Driving Tour** - 1:15 (with CiB Committee members)

   *Railway Avenue South - Roping Arena & Mower Racetrack, Tree Nursery site, Cemetery,

   *Sev Pasolli Home - Coal Mine Mural and coal car

   * Miracle Gro Contest participating gardens

5. Evaluation time for Judges @ Pioneer Club Drop-In Centre
GENERAL INFORMATION
Municipality: Village of Champion  Population: 380
Municipal Budget: $1,050,000 (total consolidated) $798,000 (operating only)
Parks budget as a % of municipal budget: 7.2% (of operating)
Total area: 67 HA

Parks and green spaces area as a % of total area: (Approximately - 22.5% (15.1 HA)

MUNICIPAL ACTION PLAN: Strategy and level of involvement of the community in its preparation for the Communities in Bloom judges’ visit.

The Municipality has registered in the Provincial CiB program for the past ten years, wanting to stay actively involved for the purposes of improving the village.

To prepare for the 2016 judges’ visit, members of the CiB committee and other volunteers organizations have met with the CAO and public works foreman to act upon many of the suggestions given in the 2012 and 2013 evaluations. The goal of our municipality is make Champion a safe and attractive place to live and to encourage new residents to make their homes here.

A number of projects have been initiated and supported by the municipality over this past year. It is

VILLAGE OF CHAMPION GOALS & ACTION PLAN for 2016 - 2021

1. THE VILLAGE OF CHAMPION SUPPORTS RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT:
   *Support the Swimming Pool Committee in the maintenance of the Swimming Pool Change Rooms
   *Partner VBDS, the skating rink committee & Recreation Board to acquire funding to build a covered multi-purpose arena, using green technology in the plans where possible.
   *Address gopher infestation at the track & ball diamonds with Palliser S.D.

2. CHAMPION IS A SAFE & TIDY COMMUNITY & ATTRACTS NEW RESIDENTS:
   ● Monitor vacant and unsightly premises to determine their safety. Contract By-Laws officer to enforce the removal of unlicensed vehicles
   ● Contract demolition of condemned buildings (Shawnee Excavations)
   ● Enforce new Land-Use By-Laws for future residential & business development projects. New residential & business lots along Railway Avenue have been approved and the sale of these lots will be advertised online.
● Provide support for the building of the *new Fire Hall* on RR Avenue
● Sponsor an annual *Main Street Day* with the school & 4-H (painting Main St. facades, fences, sign posts and pedestals, etc.) with the school & 4-H. Borrow the lift from the County of Vulcan public works department.
● Help the school with their *Pitch-In Day in June*
● Support the *CiB Planting Day*
● Register in the Provincial “Communities in Bloom” program
● Continue to paint street curbs & handicapped parking pads
● Contract sidewalk repairs and aging tree removal/trimming
● Contract Fortis to replace aging power poles/light standards
● Develop designated land for a *Tree Nursery* and a drip system using funds awarded by the Lethbridge Community Foundation.
● Refer to the new *Tree Inventory* for ongoing tree care and succession planting
● Establish a schedule for annual care and pruning at Centennial Park trees & shrubs, following up on the June *Tree Care Workshop* demonstrations in June
● Maintain, repair and fuel the CiB water truck
● Monitor the drip lines along Railway Ave. and prepare for fall plantings of spruce trees
● Hire extra summer staff and students to mow and maintain our parks and green spaces through the STEP program

3. **CHAMPION MARKETS THE VILLAGE OF CHAMPION REGIONALLY:**
   ● Update the new website with VBDS (Vulcan Business Development Society) and the Vulcan County’s IT, providing links to Vulcan Tourism and Real Estate [www.villageofchampion.ca](http://www.villageofchampion.ca)

4. **CHAMPION PROMOTES CULTURE AND HERITAGE PRESERVATION:**
   ● Accept applications for heritage site designations through the new *Heritage Site By-Law & Vulcan County Heritage Management Plan Committee*
   ● Apply for designation of the old Fire hall for a possible Museum site

5. **CHAMPION IS A BUSINESS FRIENDLY COMMUNITY:**
   ● Partner with the county’s EDO to provide business plans to new businesses
   ● Advertise business opportunities online
   ● Promote and support existing businesses and new proposals
   ● Consider tax incentives
We are looking forward to the judges’ visit on July 28. Their recommendations and encouragement will help Champion to:

“Keep growing and stay green!

Legacy Corner was built in 2011 to pay tribute to 100 year heritage. The garage behind the park has been designated for CiB storage.
Champion to add new trees, start tree nursery

The Village of Champion plans to spruce up the community. The municipality has received a $5,000 grant from the Community Foundation of Lethbridge and Southwestern Alberta, and it plans to use the funds to buy 20-24 well-established spruce trees to plant, likely along First (Railway) Avenue, said Brady Schnell, the village’s administrator, last week.

Champion hired an organization out of Lethbridge to complete an inventory of the trees in the community, he said.

“We were kind of surprised to realize we had 360-plus trees in our little community,” said Schnell.

The inventory will include information such as the location, type and age of the village’s trees, and the best way to maintain them, he said.

Schnell hopes to have the results of the tree inventory in January.

To replace aging trees, Champion wants to start a tree nursery, he said.

Funds from the community foundation grant will be used for that nursery, says the foundation.

“The grant will establish a sustainable tree nursery and irrigation system that will provide trees for the town now and into the future,” it says.

Communities in Bloom judges recommended several years ago that Champion put in place some kind of tree succession program, said Marilyn Wolfe of Champion’s Communities in Bloom group.

“We’re hoping in the spring to start the tree nursery program,” she said.

The goal is to have the tree nursery project completed by July 2, during Champion’s 1956-anniversary celebration, said Wolfe.

The tree nursery program will be located just off Railway Avenue, with access to a nearby water lagoon in the village’s south-east, she said.

A variety of trees will be grown in the nursery, said Wolfe.
CRITERIA

SECTION
TIDINESS

MUNICIPAL

● A By-Laws Officer was hired this year to help with the enforcement of unsightly premises regulations in the village
● Streets and curbs were given a new coat of paint in June
● Streets were swept and cleaned before the 105th weekend
● A lift was borrowed from the County of Vulcan for use in painting facades on Main Street. Entrance boxes and posts were painted
● New horseshoe pits were built in the public campground to replace the old ones and sod was laid beside this area
● Paint & brushes were supplied for the students by the village for the picnic table painting day. A BBQ lunch was provided by the CAO for the volunteers.
● Shawnee Excavators was hired to demolish and remove condemned and unsafe buildings, including the skating arena
● Streets are maintained and snow is removed on a regular basis
● Village workers held a recycling pick-up drive for residents and businesses in June.

BUSINESSES & INSTITUTIONS:

*School students, parents and 4-H joined the village workers in painting 14 picnic tables at the campground and fences on Main Street.

*School students and staff organized a “Pitch-In Day” on June and have formed a Student Leadership program to address needs in the community.

*The Swimming Pool staff has worked closely with council members and the foreman to paint posts, mulch, weed and edge vacant lots and
park areas. Wooden butterflies were put onto the Telus fence. These were painted by students at the school.

*School staff/students & some business owners plant flower pots or donate funds for CiB to purchase flowers.

RESIDENTS: Residents mowed their boulevards and other yards; trimmed hedges in preparation for the 105th celebration.

*Many resident gardeners have donated perennials to be transplanted into village flower beds and parks.

*12 of our local residents were delighted to be chosen in the 2016 Communities in Bloom/Miracle-Gro Best Garden Selection Award program and to receive gifts from Miracle Gro.

* We have had a number of new residents move to Champion this year and we have seen some amazing yard transformations in a short period of time. This sense of pride seems to be sweeping our community!

*Our CiB committee works closely with the village & pool staff, Lion’s, Legion, Pioneer Clubs, Schools, and residents to help with the maintenance of our public spaces, as well as, private residences, by organizing regular work bees.
Congratulations!

Your garden has been selected in the 2016 Communities in Bloom/Miracle-Gro® Best Garden Selection Award program as one of the top residential gardens in the Village of Champion.

We recognize your hard work and dedication to create and maintain such an impressive garden. We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge these efforts and to thank you for contributing to the beauty of our community.

Please accept the attached gifts from Miracle-Gro® as a token of our appreciation.

We share a passion for gardening and like to celebrate with other enthusiasts. We invite you to join the Scotts Miracle-Gro Facebook page (www.facebook.com/ScottsCanada), and encourage you to share photos of your beautiful garden as an inspiration to others.

Once again, please accept our warmest congratulations.

Sincerely,

The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company, in Partnership with Communities in Bloom and your local committee

For more information on this program, please contact the Village of Champion - Communities in Bloom office at 403 897-2345.
ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

Municipality:

- Vulcan & District Waste Management Commission - waste transfer station is located south of Champion & collects yard waste, garbage, scrap metal, appliances, bicycles, hazardous waste, etc.
- Recycling Depot on 2nd St. is effectively used by the residents
- Household and yard waste is collected weekly. This is contracted through the municipality under the WMC.
- The village foreman provides a springtime pick-up of large items and yard waste for those who are not able to take these items to the transfer station
- Watering restrictions and fire bans are announced in the local newsletter and posted on a large sign at the north entrance and at the Post Office.
- By-Laws are enforced by the County By-Laws officer (Unsightly Premises)
- Information and education is now possible via the village’s new website: [www.villageofchampion.com](http://www.villageofchampion.com) which will be supplemented by their monthly newsletter which accompanies the utility bills. By-law policies and changes are posted regularly
- Mulch stockpiled and made available to residences and parks

BUSINESSES and INSTITUTIONS:

- Cigarette butt receptacles and garbage containers for public use.
- Low flush toilets installed in newly renovated Legion Hall
- Rock and bark mulch used around buildings to control weeds and conserve water.
Palliser School Division sent out a pest/gopher control crew to take care of the problems at the track and ball diamonds. Railway Avenue and the cemetery was also taken care of.

Maryska’s House of Treasures receives used clothing and household items to be sold and reused.

RESIDENTS:

- Rainwater collection systems & barrels have been set up in many yards to conserve rainwater and to offset utility costs.
- Xeroscaping is becoming popular with many residents
- Grass is being seeded and gardens planted on some vacant lots.
MAIN STREET CLEAN-UP DAY

NEW HORSESHOE PITS AT RV PARK
VILLAGE THANKS VOLUNTEERS
HERITAGE CONSERVATION

MUNICIPAL:

● A Heritage Site By-law has been signed by the Village stakeholders, to allow site owners to apply to the Vulcan County Heritage Management Plan committee for designation of a heritage site or building. Marilyn Wolfe has been appointed as Champion’s representative on this committee.
● Village Council has agreed to apply to the committee to have the Fire Hall designated as a heritage building, giving them the option to apply for funding if or when a decision is made to repurpose it for a museum.
● The village CAO has partnered with VBDS’ grant writer to ensure that all possible avenues of funding are investigated.
● Village public works staff have taken over the maintenance of the cemetery, to ensure that the gopher infestation is under control.
● Public works staff communicates with CiB weekly to see what needs to be done at Legacy Corner, Heritage and Centennial Park.
● The Village has painted the village office exterior, and the fire hall upper facade. Both buildings are listed in the 2014 Heritage Survey.
● The firehall has recently been remediated to fix an asbestos leak in the ceiling.
● Joined and Launched a new village website through the County of Vulcan’s initiative program funded by the Lethbridge Community Foundation. www.villageofchampion.com
BUSINESSES & INSTITUTIONS:

- Legion promotes a Remembrance Day Literary & Poetry Contest at the schools
- Field of Honour is being upgraded with a new bench and railing
- Annual Remembrance Day service & dinner on November 11
- Library Society hosted the 75th annual Irish Concert
- Highland Dance Club hosted the annual Robbie Burns Dinner
- School Christmas concert and old-time family dance
- Lions Light Up the Park with hayrides, bonfire, games & carols
- Welcome Newcomers program has been initiated by CiB & FCSS
- CiB has begun a Heritage Plaque program to replace some of the existing signs on our historic buildings and will ask Jr. High students to create a new walking tour map for the village.
- Champion Hotel has tried to keep its interior decor consistent with the era it was built, allowing CiB to place historical photos in the lobby and dining rooms.
- VBDS has recorded a number of seniors’ stories to be shown on Vulcan’s newly launched VTV website
- Champion’s Anniversary Committee chair, Kathy Perley, created a bi-annual E-newsletter to be sent to all of those who attended the centennial celebration
- CiB placed small plates onto the Hitching Post at Centennial Park to acknowledge the weddings which have taken place since 2007.
- Pioneer Club hosted a Grandmothers’ Tea in May where the Jr. High students served and presented a historical musical.
- Each Halloween, the club gives out treats at the Centre. Seniors can use this venue as an alternative to answering their doors that night.
- CiB, Historical Society & Pioneer Club will partner with the Galt Museum archives manager to acquire funding to have Dale
Keenan’s scrapbooks scanned by a U of L graduate next summer.

RESIDENTS:

● Sev Pasolli published a second book, *Memories of the Champion Red Sox Baseball Team*

● Marilyn Wolfe has been collecting local wedding dresses along with pictures and stories. These were displayed at the 105th.

● An additional metal cutout plaque is being donated and will be placed between the Post Office and Legacy Corner.

● Grace Klitmoller, displayed her collection of hats, clothing and accessories along with her sister’s uniform (1st female commercial airline pilot in Canada) at the 105th.

● Keith and Carol Harris loaned memorabilia from their private collection for the Timeline Displays at the Hall.

● Dale Keenan, a former resident, has been nominated by the Pioneer Club for an Outstanding Achievement in Heritage Preservation Award in Alberta for his scrapbook collection of 50 years.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

● A History Display Committee was formed for the purpose of creating a *Champion Timeline* display at the Community Hall for the 105th weekend. This group will become the Champion Historical Society. Their goal is to establish a location for a museum by 2018. Wedding dresses and artifacts are being stored at the homes of Racille Ellis and Marilyn Wolfe.

● Community members were given an opportunity to write their comments about the museum concept at the Timeline Displays.
Scrapbook collection to be scanned and catalogued digitally at the Galt Museum

Sev Pasolli’s new book

Veterans Honoured by Legion
Dorothy Degenstein, Champion’s oldest resident, was parade marshall for the 105th.
Museum wedding dresses

Rosella Bjornson’s display
Original family car restored for 105th parade

Volunteer Firefighters beside antique fire hose reel to be placed at the new firehall site
Timeline Displays

Champion's Past, Present and Future
URBAN FORESTRY

MUNICIPAL:

- “Ladybug Arborists” (Maureen Sexsmith) compiled a comprehensive TREE INVENTORY of Champion’s public trees.
- Ladybug Arborists taught a TREE CARE Workshop in June for residents and staff and other municipalities
- Received funding from the Lethbridge Community Foundation to establish a TREE NURSERY and tree succession program along the lagoon near Railway Avenue. This program will provide tree planting and selection advice in accordance with their new Land Use By-Laws and residential/business development plans.
- Worked closely with Vulcan Business Development grants writer Liza Dawber to secure funding for new trees for our green spaces and future nursery.
- Offered a two-day chain saw certification course for public works staff and the general public
- Public works staff and councillors have helped the CiB committee with the planting of new trees and removal of dead trees. Trimming of hedges and pruning is ongoing.
- Installed a new drip system to the spruce trees along Railway Avenue
- Installed a new solar water pump and gravity hose system on the water truck’s tank which helps to fill the watering bags around our newly planted trees.
- Hauled and spread mulch to be used around the trees

BUSINESSES & INSTITUTIONS:

- Champion School had 7 foot spruce trees planted at the playground
Two of our churches had their aging poplars checked, some of which were removed and replaced. The Lion’s Club continues to care for the poplars and spruce that were planted at “Shorty’s Field” in 2013.

RESIDENTIAL:

17 local citizens participated in the tree care workshop and showed interest in having a follow-up class this fall. Volunteers continue to help with the planting, pruning and watering of trees and shrubs such as the oval bed at Heritage Park and at the highway signs.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

Many of our residents help the neighbours on their block to trim their hedges or prune back overhanging branches. There was considerable interest in the tree care workshop and this seems to have inspired a number of people to contact the arborist for advice about their own trees or shelterbelts.
CARING FOR TREES WORKSHOP
FRIDAY, MAY 27
10 A.M. - 3 P.M.
Powerpoint Presentation @ Drop-In Centre
Followed by Demos @ Centennial Park
Bring a bag lunch & your pruning tools

Register with Marilyn Wolfe @ 897-2345 or
@ the Village Office

Sponsored by Communities In Bloom
& the Village of Champion

Ladybug Arborists
How Can We Help Your Trees Today?
To commemorate Champion’s 105th year, the CiB committee purchased a tree to be displayed on their parade float. This tree was planted at the swimming pool corner. Packets of wildflower seeds from ATB were passed out during the parade along with an information card about upcoming the Miracle Gro awards.
Volunteer judges selected 12 gardens to be awarded gifts from Miracle Gro and to have a sign posted in their front yards for all to see. The winners have been asked to submit a photo of their garden to Miracle Gro/Scotts Canada for publication.
LANDSCAPE

MUNICIPAL:

- CiB and the Village communicate their plans through meetings and emails before any plans are acted upon for parks, green spaces or other public areas.
- Mowing and snow removal schedules and specifications are set up by the CAO and Public Works foreman to be carried out by the summer staff.
- Champion is now part of Vulcan’s water pipeline. Public works foreman received water treatment training this spring.
- The recent Tree Inventory has given the Village the resources and guidelines to address disease and pest issues for this area.
- This year, the skating arena, a propane shed, a house and two mobile homes have been removed and the lots are being reclaimed (seeded to grass) for sale by the Village.
- A new swimming pool change room has been built and plans are underway to build a multi-purpose arena. Ongoing applications for funding are submitted by the municipality as they come available.
- New residential and business lots are being planned for the east side of Railway Avenue.
- Mulched areas at the entrances are added to in the spring.
- Gravelled edges at the end of Main Street are edged.
- Installation of sign posts when needed.
- Assisted CiB with hanging Winter Lights on Main Street.
- Removed old fence from behind the village office and painted the village office and FireHall.
- Plans are being made to build a new Fire Station, which will be located along Railway Ave.
**BUSINESSES & INSTITUTIONS:**

- LED or fluorescent lighting is used in public halls and schools.
- The Legion has put rock mulch at the front of their Hall to reduce maintenance. A wheelchair ramp has been built.
- The school has a paving stone patio with picnic tables, planters and basketball hoops with a paved surface.
- A shale running track is maintained by Palliser School Division.
- Lion’s Club members decorate the Campground spruce trees with lights in November for the annual “Light Up the Park” festival.
- The Pioneer Club decorates their Drop-In windows at Halloween to welcome little trick or treaters.
- Horseshoe pits were replaced this spring in the campground and new sod was laid beside these.
- A succulent bed was planted in front to the CiB shop.

**RESIDENTIAL:**

- Champion’s residents go all out during the Christmas season with light displays.

**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:**

- All of the service clubs and societies, the municipal staff, the school, 4-H and the fire department pull together for special events such as “Light Up the Park” or for Anniversary events.
- Every boulevard and public green space was made available to visitors during the 105th weekend.
- The Schmeelke family worked many hours to upgrade the riding arena and bleachers to hold lawn mower races.
- Centennial Park is manicured by volunteers to keep it ready for outdoor weddings, concerts and family occasions. The cedar...
gazebo, swing and trellis are stained semi-annually. Mulch beds are topped up and the beds are edged by volunteers.

- Grass is mowed once a week by a summer student
- Resident volunteers plant and replace perennials in the spring at the parks and at the Mural.
- Last fall, the CiB committee pruned junipers and dogwoods and used the boughs in the pots to create fall displays. In December, we added red silk poinsettas and ornaments. We also decorated the Community Hall doors with a large wreath and mesh trees.
- Bicycles were painted in bright contrasting colours and the directional signs were given a facelift by CiB volunteers
- A cedar Hitching Post was built by the Schmeelke brothers for Centennial Park to record all of the weddings in the park
- Rainbow Literacy put a book exchange box at the pool corner
- Dick Ellis moved a large rock from the transfer station to Legacy Corner and flowers were planted at the base
- CiB volunteers painted the brown Telus benches a bright red
Centennial Park is becoming a popular country wedding destination
Seasonal displays and signs are put up as soon as the summer flowers are removed from their pots.
FLORAL DISPLAYS

MUNICIPAL:

- This year, the Village budget allowed $3000 in their budget for the purchase of annual flowers, mulch, shrubs and trees.
- For our annual Planting Day, village staff helps with soil prep and supplies equipment for heavy work.
- Pots and beds are planted along Main Street and at the village parks and campground.
- Topsoil and gravel is purchased through the Village budget.
- All pots were given new top soil by volunteers, prior to planting.

BUSINESSES & INSTITUTIONS:

- In the early spring, our planting committee consults with the owner of Long Coulee Growers about the purchase of annuals.
- ATB has donated seed packets of flowers to be spread this fall.
- Home Hardware (Wolfe’s in Vulcan) has ordered 300 tulip bulbs for Champion, to be planted this fall, for Canada’s 150th Anniversary.
- Simon’s Groceteria donated funds for flowers by selling used books. He planted his own pot in front of his store and donated a long arrangement of annuals for a memorial pot at Centennial Park.
- The Pioneer Club and Post Office plant their own pots at the fronts of their buildings and water these.
- The Mural flowers bed is watered by the Village office assistant and ATB manager.
- Champion School plants 5 pots of flowers and these are watered by staff and students.
- CiB continues to use funds awarded to Champion by UFA in 2013.
RESIDENTIAL:

● We have seen much planting of perennials such as lilies, roses, and irises in many of the yards, especially the new residents
● CiB has made a concerted effort to transplant perennials donated by residents
● The Pioneer Club supports and encourages CiB by offering their Centre for meetings and as a place for volunteers go for refreshment
● Twelve residents’ gardens have been selected for their floral displays and improvements this year

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

● Residents, as well as many rural families, continue to offer help with planting, weeding and watering of the pots and beds.
● Families have adopted certain areas of the cemetery to plant, water and weed. This is organized by the Champion Cemetery Committee
● A local student has been hired for the past two years to water the pots where there is accessible water
● A team of seven volunteers water, fertilize and weed the rest of the pots and flower beds, using the water truck
● Local volunteers continue to plant perennials from their own gardens and have created some new areas at Heritage Park
● CiB members research best practices for selection of species and for their care. These ideas are discussed frequently
● CiB Committee plans & orders the annual plants early in the year and keep a journal of photos and order lists from previous years.
● 14 volunteers came out for Planting Day on May 28
● There have been a number of donations given to CiB by those who appreciate the beauty that has been created in our Village
Welcoming Newcomers to Champion