



# 2024 Ontario Edition Judge

## Karen Stephenson Profile

I am very excited about the opportunity to be a Communities in Bloom judge for Ontario. Over the course of my 30+ year career, I have led corporate functions such as, Regulatory Compliance, Stakeholder Relations, Communications, and Safety, Health, Environmental, and Quality (SHEQ) Management for Canadian, North American and International companies. In all my leadership roles, I have prioritized team building and continuous improvement.

My relationship with Communities in Bloom (CiB) began in 2009 when I joined ScottsMiracle-Gro Canada as Director, Regulatory Affairs and Stakeholder Relations. I was the key liaison between Scotts (a major sponsor) and the national CiB organization. I represented Scotts at numerous events, such as the Communities in Bloom Symposium and Awards. The partnership that was developed between CiB and Scotts during my tenure was instrumental in the development of community programs, such as Scotts Gro For Good grant program and the Humboldt Urban Garden Sanctuary. I am incredibly proud of what we accomplished together. Over my 13 years with Scotts, I met many impressive people from communities across Canada and beyond who were trying to make their community better through CiB. When I retired in 2022, one of my objectives was to volunteer with a respected community focused organization. I had such a great relationship with Communities in Bloom that I wanted that relationship to continue.

My personal interests include travel, hiking with my dog, cooking and wine.

I am looking forward to my judging experience and helping CiB and it's communities become even better.



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