



# Press Release



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **NOMINATIONS FOR PRIDE OF POCO GARDEN AWARDS CLOSING SOON**

***Show our local gardeners your appreciation and nominate your favourite garden before the deadline on July 17.***

**Port Coquitlam, July 13, 2009** – Time is running out for Port Coquitlam residents to show their appreciation of our local gardener's efforts to beautify our community. The Pride of PoCo Garden Awards deadline for nominations is Friday, July 17, 2009.

The Pride of PoCo Garden Awards recognize individuals and businesses that help make our city beautiful, and encourages citizens of Port Coquitlam to take pride in our community and make improvements to their own properties. Any resident is eligible for nomination, and the wide variety of categories allows all residents an opportunity to participate. Categories for the Awards include residential, business, multi-family complex, and balcony garden.

Nomination forms are available at all civic buildings, local garden supply businesses throughout Port Coquitlam, and online at [www.portcoquitlam.ca/gardenawards](http://www.portcoquitlam.ca/gardenawards). Making a nomination is easy and a variety of options are available. Nominations can be emailed to [millerd@portcoquitlam.ca](mailto:millerd@portcoquitlam.ca), by calling 604.927.5480, or faxing nomination forms to 604.927.5408. Nomination forms can also be dropped off or mailed to City Hall at 2580 Shaughnessy Street, Port Coquitlam, BC V3C 2A8.

"Anything the City and the Awards can do to promote beautification in Port Coquitlam is great. I was surprised and happy with the nomination," says Jason Brunskill, caretaker for Falcon Court Management, the company responsible for maintaining the landscaping at 2655 Mary Hill Road, and nominated in the business category.

The Pride of PoCo Garden Awards is an annual event sponsored by the PoCo Garden Club and the City of Port Coquitlam. The Awards recognize the efforts of local gardeners that beautify our community, through the cultivation of plants, flowers and other landscaping materials in and around their residential and business properties. Gardens are judged by members of the PoCo Garden Club and representatives from the City of Port Coquitlam. The Pride of PoCo Garden Award winners will be announced at the September 14, 2009 Council Meeting.

###

### **Media Contact:**

Todd Gross  
Manager, Parks & Services  
City of Port Coquitlam  
Phone: 604-927-5428  
Email: [grosst@portcoquitlam.ca](mailto:grosst@portcoquitlam.ca)

# 2009 Pride of PoCo Garden Awards FAQ



## **What are the Pride of PoCo Garden Awards?**

Each year, the PoCo Garden Club in cooperation with the City of Port Coquitlam, recognizes residents and local businesses that beautify our community through the cultivation of plants, flowers and other landscaping materials to create curb appeal around their homes and properties.

## **Where did the Pride of PoCo Garden Awards name come from?**

The Annual Garden Awards have been renamed in honour of the City's official flower, the *Pride of PoCo* azalea. In 1999, the City's Parks and Recreation Department investigated the possibility of having an azalea named after Port Coquitlam as a unique and lasting way of marking the Millennium. The search led to an unnamed azalea originally bred in Chilliwack by Stan Sorenson. After obtaining permission from Mr. Sorenson's estate in 2000, the City registered the *Pride of PoCo* azalea with the North American Rhododendron Society and Royal Horticultural Society in Great Britain.

## **Who sponsors the Pride of PoCo Garden Awards?**

The Awards are sponsored by the PoCo Garden Club and the City of Port Coquitlam.

## **Who can enter to win the Awards?**

Each June, nomination forms are made available at all civic buildings, local garden supply businesses, and online at [www.portcoquitlam.ca/gardenawards](http://www.portcoquitlam.ca/gardenawards). Citizens are encouraged to nominate friends, neighbours and local businesses whose gardens feature striking floral displays and landscape designs.

## **In what categories are nominees eligible to win?**

There are four categories within the competition: single-family residence, multi-family residential development, balcony garden and local business. This allows all members of our community, in all types of residences and properties, to participate and create beautiful plant and landscaping displays around the community.

## **When is the nomination deadline?**

All nominations must be received by July 17, 2009.

## **How do I place a nomination?**

To place a nomination, call 604.927.5480, fax nomination forms to 604.927.5408, drop off or mail nomination forms to City Hall at 2580 Shaughnessy Street, Port Coquitlam, BC V3C 2A8, or email your nomination to [millerd@portcoquitlam.ca](mailto:millerd@portcoquitlam.ca).

## **Who judges the awards?**

The Awards are judged by a panel of representatives from the PoCo Garden Club and the City of Port Coquitlam.

## **2009 Pride of PoCo Garden Awards - FAQ**

### **Page 2**

#### **What are the criteria to win?**

Judging for the Awards is based on front yard and curbside appeal. Effective use of colour, space, and maintenance of plant and landscape materials will be considered. Judges will also look for the use of environmentally friendly nativescape practices. These include the use of native plantings that provide habitats for birds and wildlife, help to reduce the use of water, and decrease storm water run-off and pollution without sacrificing beauty.

#### **When are the Awards winners announced?**

The Pride of PoCo Garden Award winners will be recognized at the September 14, 2009, City Council meeting. First, second, and third place designations are awarded in the single-family residential garden category. Awards will also go to the top multi-family residential garden, the best balcony garden and the most innovative business landscaping.

Prize-winning gardens are photographed and may be featured on the City's website or in publications such as the Community Calendar.