

Brief Outline of Front Garden Recognition Awards, a Brampton Horticultural Society Initiative

It is that time of year again and the Brampton Horticultural Society will be starting their program at the end of June.

This is a volunteer driven project with approximately forty volunteers giving their time and transportation to cover the city and evaluate gardens based on criteria given to them as guidelines. The program is possible, thanks to the sponsorship of Shoppers World, Brampton.

The city is divided into 20 sections and all areas are covered. Volunteer judges are assigned a different area each year. It is an initiative that was started in 2004. In the first year **500** front gardens were recognized for their appearance and enhancement of their community. To date **3500** front gardens have been honoured by the Society and another 750 will be recognized this summer.

This is not a City of Brampton initiative and does not require information on location of gardens to be submitted

The success that has been generated by homeowners, volunteers and our most important sponsor is evident. Congratulations to all members of the community who are enhancing and improving the beautification of the City of Brampton.

The following is a list of the ten criteria that are used as guidelines for the volunteer judges.

- *Curb Appeal*
- *Garden is neat and tidy*
- *Garden is well-maintained*
- *Use of colour*
- *Harmony and Balance*
- *Good selection of Plant Material*
- *Good diversity and arrangement of Plant Material*
- *Use of focal Point*
- *Creativity*
- *Uniqueness*

At least seven of these should be met to consider a garden worthy of an award. We look at a garden for its overall appeal. It might not be the design that the volunteer would choose personally and has the homeowner worked hard, exhibited their own style into their front garden?

Ron Spraggett
Brampton Horticultural Society
Front Garden Recognition Award Chair