




## INFORMATION UPDATE

<b>TO:</b>	Mayor and Members City Council
<b>DATE:</b>	May 28, 2020
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Trillium Awards Program Changes for 2020 Due to COVID-19 Response (ES20006) (City Wide)
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	City Wide
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Craig Murdoch Director, Environmental Services Public Works Department
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

This Information Update is to inform the Mayor and Members of City Council of temporary changes to the Hamilton Trillium Awards Program for 2020. Public Health restrictions to support the health and safety of staff, volunteer judges and property owners during the COVID-19 response does not allow for the Program training, judging and awards ceremony to occur as normal this year.

### Background

The Hamilton Trillium Awards Program promotes community pride by recognizing properties whose landscaping and maintenance contribute to a more attractive neighbourhood and community. Each year, the volunteer-based Trillium Awards Executive Committee with the support of volunteer judges, award more than 300 White Trilliums, one Pink Trillium in each Ward, the single overall Red Trillium Award and the Award of Excellence Corporate Awards. The program and award winners are celebrated at an event normally held in conjunction with the opening of the Mum Show.

### Normal Process

Property owners in the City of Hamilton are nominated for a Trillium Award. All nominated properties across the City are visited and scored in person by over 70 volunteer judges. Judges work in pairs and walk or drive the zones to evaluate all nominated properties. Winning properties are visited twice, once to judge and once to deliver the award to the door. City staff provide the volunteer judges with in-person

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OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

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training, hard copy score cards, and the physical awards to deliver to the winning properties. Nominations close in early June with White Trillium judging beginning in mid-June and the final Red Trillium judging taking place early to mid-August.

#### Temporary Digital Awards Program for 2020

Public Health restrictions to support the health and safety of staff, volunteer judges and property owners during the COVID-19 response does not allow for the Program to run as it does in a normal year. Many Program judges are in a higher health risk category based on COVID-19 health criteria. Therefore, through virtual meetings, the volunteer-based Trillium Awards Executive Committee came up with an innovative online Trillium Awards program that encourages continued beautification for residential and commercial properties in the City.

To facilitate participation in the Program and to offer White Trillium Awards in 2020, property owners will have the ability to nominate themselves using an online platform recommended and supported by the City's digital communications team. The nomination portal will be housed on the Trillium Awards webpage and will allow the Trillium Awards Executive Committee, staff, volunteers and nominees to participate in the Trillium Awards Program safely this summer. The easy to use online tool will include an intake application to gather required information, mapping capability to provide an address and the ability to upload photos for consideration. The Trillium Awards Executive Committee will support the judges by providing virtual training, an electronic score card and digital photo specifications. Nominees will be required to submit up to five digital photos of their property with at least one photo capturing the entire front landscape of the property. Nominations can be made for properties in any City of Hamilton Ward. As a reminder, the Ancaster Horticultural Society operates a Ward 12 specific program and have confirmed that their program is also running this year.

Up to 20 submissions per ward that meet the criteria will be considered for a White Trillium Award certificate which will be sent to property owners. Up to two commercial properties per ward will receive an Award of Excellence certificate following the same Program process. As the 2020 program is digital, the program will only require a few judges as opposed to the 70 normally required to support the program. Pink and Red Trilliums will not be awarded this year.

Promotion and educational information about the 2020 digital program will be communicated via the City website, social media channels, Councillor newsletters and local horticultural enthusiasts. The nomination portal will open June 15<sup>th</sup> and property owners will have until July 15<sup>th</sup> to submit their nomination and photos. White Trillium judging will take place between July 15<sup>th</sup> and August 15<sup>th</sup>, with certificates being sent in late August.

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If you have any questions related to the Trillium Awards Program, please contact Angela Storey, Manager of Business Programs, at extension 6483.

**APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED**

Not applicable