

A blooming passion

Federal government employee uses green thumb to help Edmonton blossom

By Colleen Boicey

Sept. 7, 2006 –Edmonton, AB – A childhood love of gardening is at the root of an Edmonton resident’s passion to make her city a more beautiful home for everyone.

Lorrie McFadden volunteers on the Edmonton Horticultural Society’s board of directors, a commitment that has her doing everything from teaching residents how to turn piles of dirt into enviable gardens to donning a sunflower costume at gardening shows.

As part of the 700-member horticultural society, Ms. McFadden contributes to its numerous gardening projects across Edmonton, including the city’s participation in Communities in Bloom. This is a national endeavour in which cities across Canada compete for the most beautiful green spaces. Volunteers from the society also serve as judges in Edmonton’s Front Yards in Bloom program, in which postal carriers nominate the most beautiful gardens on their routes.

Ms. McFadden, an employee with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, also provides gardening workshops and helps promote the 97-year-old society at gardening shows, through the media, and as “Sunny,” the society’s sunflower mascot.

“The programs we offer help make the City of Edmonton a nicer place to live,” she said. What’s more, encouraging residents to take up gardening helps persuade city officials to support green spaces and keep Edmonton looking beautiful,” she added.

Ms. McFadden is one example of Government of Canada employees making a difference in their communities. Along with their regular volunteering, thousands of public servants participate in the annual Government of Canada Workplace Charitable Campaign (GCWCC), the largest workplace charitable project in Canada. In 2005, federal public servants contributed more than \$29.5 million to GCWCC in 113 communities nation-wide. GCWCC 2006 kicks off on September 7 and will run until November 22.



Lorrie McFadden, a member of the Edmonton Horticultural Society’s volunteer board of directors, goes to great lengths to help her community bloom.

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