

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **VIRGINIA**  
County : **CAVAN**  
Category : **C**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 14-07-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	39	38
The Built Environment	40	31	29
Landscaping	40	29	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	19
Litter Control	40	31	29
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	21
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>209</b>

## **Virginia, County Cavan**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

The lakeside town of Virginia was looking resplendent on adjudication day, colourful floral displays of flowerbeds, hanging baskets, flower tubs and window boxes added greatly to an attractive and tidy streetscape. Thank you for the completed questionnaire with support documentation which reflects a new found enthusiasm and commitment on the part of Virginia Tidy Towns Committee which if sustained and with the support of the community and local authority will bring Virginia into serious consideration for a major award.

Thank you for the completed entry form and support documentation - most helpful to the adjudicator.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Virginia is a town of great character with numerous stone buildings enhancing the streetscape as one approaches the town. The mill building on the river bank which have been tastefully converted into residential accommodation was much admired.

The stone terraced cottages on the Oldcastle road have retained their architectural heritage over the years and continue to be nicely presented and are matching the attractive stone boundary wall of Virginia Park Hotel. Again James Matthews Public House was attractively presented with window boxes, flower trays and seating. Other premises to catch the eye were Sharkeys Hotel- what a display of very fresh and colourful window boxes, Woodbine Inn and the very impressive Ramor Theatre.

The many freshly painted business premises added greatly to a much improved streetscape. The National Irish Bank, Medical Hall, Catholic Church, Church of Ireland and schools all looked well and impressed the adjudicator. Good to see work on going at Heerey's, given its prominent location in the centre of the town. When finished it will enhance greatly this part of main street.

### **LANDSCAPING**

Existing landscaping projects are colourful and presented neatly. Pity you have not yet managed to enhance the presentation of the Bailieboro road junction or completed the stone walls along lake road and river. The Lough Ramor Amenity Area has improved considerably with additional planting, however, further attention to this area is desirable to present same as a major visitor attraction for leisure enthusiasts and those who just wish to relax and enjoy the beautiful scenery that is Lough Ramor.

The Pergeloa Garden Centre is very colourful and the adjoining stone cottages with lovely hanging baskets are equally attractive. Young trees are maturing greatly and blend in nicely with the landscape.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The lakeland setting offers many opportunities for projects under this heading. Do promote the high amenity value of Lough Ramor by developing nature walks and identifying wildlife habitats. The Slí na Sláinte route is an excellent project and deserving of support from Coillte and Cavan County Council - you might also liaise with North West Tourism in this regard. The new signpost for Lough Ramor is prominent and long overdue. As a Tidy Towns Committee you have an important role to play in protecting and increasing the appreciation of wildlife in your community. This can be achieved by working with the schools and seeking the advice and guidance of ENFO which is an information service set up by the Minister for the Environment.

The adjudicator is hoping for greater progress under this heading for 2001.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

Virginia has litter free on adjudication day. Your strategy for litter control has been noted by the adjudicator and you are highly commended for this .

### **TIDINESS**

Virginia has a well cared for and tidy appearance which can be attributed to your strategy to promote an anti-litter campaign - mail shots to businesses setting out anti-litter laws, clean up evenings, colourful planting, new footpaths, freshly painted residential and commercial properties - not forgetting the many heritage buildings and stone boundary walls that are a feature of the town.

All contribute greatly to a welcoming and peaceful environment - well done to all those involved.

### **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

In general most residential properties were well presented - many with nicely maintained gardens with an attractive selection of flowers and perennial plants.

The many new estates are tastefully landscaped and well maintained and hopefully existing new developments currently taking place will follow suit.

### **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

All approach roads were well presented and the new signposting much admired together with new footpaths in the centre of the town - well done to Cavan County Council. Some stone walls still need attention and the footpath/forecourt area of Neville's Garage has an untidy surface and is in urgent need of repair. Keep the hedges cut and the verges trimmed.

An improved performance is reported by the adjudicator.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

You would appear to have a clear focus as to what is required to achieve further progress. Your meetings with Cavan County Council are important and should decide your future strategy. Virginia has again increased its marks and attention to detail will now take you further in the competition.