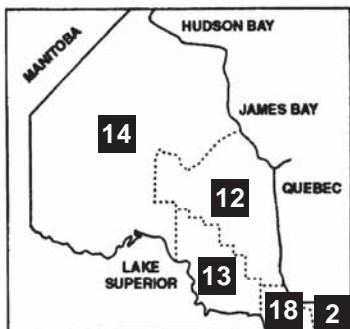
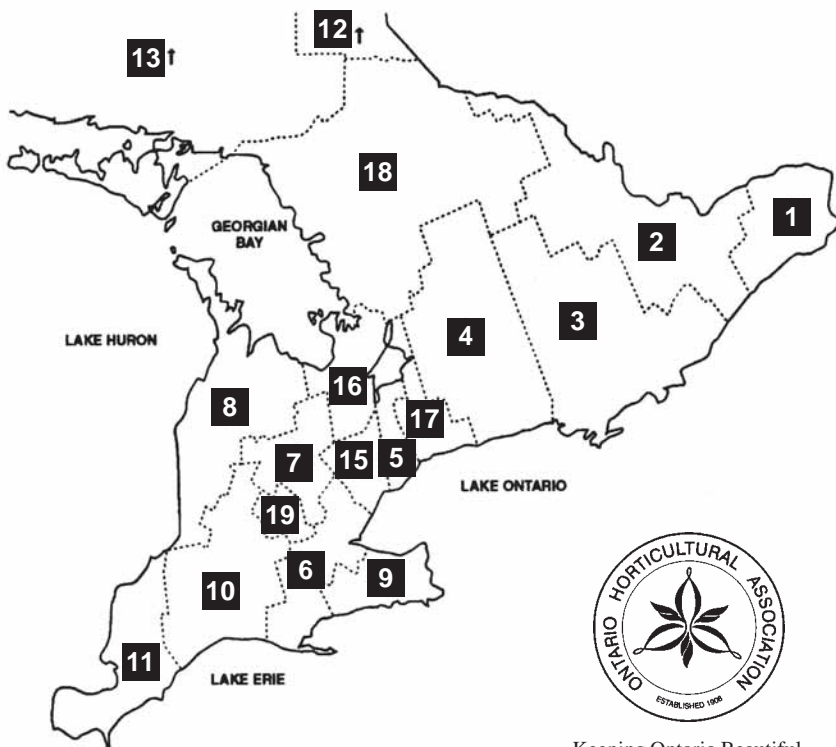


# Ontario Horticultural Association District Map



- District 1 - Dundas, Glengarry, Prescott, Russell, Stormont
- District 2 - Grenville, Lanark, Ottawa-Carleton, Renfrew
- District 3 - Frontenac, Hastings, Leeds, Lennox & Adlington, Prince Edward
- District 4 - Haliburton, Northumberland, Peterborough, Victoria
- District 5 - York East
- District 6 - Brant, Halton, Norfolk, Wentworth
- District 7 - Dufferin, Wellington
- District 8 - Bruce, Grey, Huron
- District 9 - Haldimand, Niagara North (Lincoln), Niagara South (Welland)
- District 10 - Elgin, Middlesex, Oxford, Perth
- District 11 - Essex, Kent, Lambton
- District 12 - Cochrane, Timiskaming, Nipissing
- District 13 - Algoma, Manitoulin, Sudbury
- District 14 - Kenora, Rainy River, Thunder Bay
- District 15 - Toronto West, Peel, York West Region
- District 16 - Simcoe
- District 17 - Durham
- District 18 - Parry Sound, Muskoka
- District 19 - Waterloo



Keeping Ontario Beautiful



## *District One*

### *District Director - Anne Kerr*

*This will be my last report as Director for District One. It is hard to believe that I have completed five years as your representative. I will remember the many wonderful projects the societies have completed -- the constant support of community beautification, the emphasis on improving our environment, and the support provided to our young gardeners.*

**Cornwall** Society continues to work with Domtar in fundraising and also maintains flowerbeds throughout the city with special mention of the ones at their community hospitals. These beds must be truly appreciated by the patients, staff and visitors alike. Speakers covered a variety of topics including Environmentally Friendly Practices.

**Martintown** has received many compliments for the flower boxes on “the Bridge.” These boxes are very beautiful and also provide the needed volunteer hours for the student who cares for them over the summer. The youth leader had projects at each meeting and then these items were exhibited at the flower show. The

speakers covered Environmental Issues; How to Prepare for the Flower Shows; Growing Roses; Planting Spring Bulbs; and Conserving House Plants.

**Maxville** Society received the “Special Projects” grant to improve and refurbish the bed at the north entrance to the village. Trees and their Enemies; Preparing Dahlias for Planting and Storage; Roses and Crossbreeding; Seedlings for Your Garden; and Silk Flower Arrangements for Special Occasions were topics covered by invited speakers.

**Russell** Society continues to make improvements at MacDougall Park; also plants and maintains flower beds at many public buildings and a Seniors’ Apartment. They utilize “Master Gardeners” to bring information to members. Some members attend the flower show in Kingston. They also have a very active Youth Group with these junior members competing at the annual flower show.

**Societe d’Alfred** have planted two trees in Plantagenet at the ‘Trans Canada Trail’ site. Speakers covered

Apple Orchards and Grape Vines; Recycling and Composting; Seedlings; and Floral Arrangements. They provide a scholarship for a student studying horticulture and attending Alfred College.

**Vankleek Hill Society** is enjoying an increase in membership. Trees were again planted at the local elementary schools and all reference books owned by the society were donated to the Champlain Public Library. The society also purchased a number of subscriptions for gardening magazines and these will be available at the library. Speakers covered Grapevine Wreaths and New Ways to Use Them; Judging and Exhibiting at the Flower Shows; and Container Gardening. Their youth group had many projects including planting a "Pizza Garden," and they participated at the Tulip Show and the Summer Show.

**Williamstown Green Thumbs Society** hosted the Annual General Meeting in April. This was a very well organized event with a large representation from our societies and many other interested gardeners. Guest speaker Larry Hodgson of Quebec City, a gardening radio host and contributor to Canadian Gardening magazine, gave a wealth of information on how to reduce the time spent while maintaining your garden and flower beds. The society celebrated their 25th flower show! Orchards; Wildflowers; and Making Obelisks were the focus for some of their meetings. The society also organizes the Glengarry Giant Pumpkin Weigh-Off.

## At a Glance

Almost all of the societies have hosted flower shows and three societies have well organized youth groups.

Trips covered many areas of interest, including: Whitehouse Perennials; Kiwi Gardens, Perth; Rideau Wood Ramble; Burritts Rapids; the gardens of Marie-Victorin, Kinsley Falls; the Governor General's Residence; Walking Tour of the Market, Ottawa; Laporte Garden Centre, Orleans; and Montreal Botanical Gardens.

The societies provide food items and other resources for charitable organizations and encourage environmental awareness by asking members to bring their own cutlery and dishes when a 'pot luck' meal is planned.

Thanks to all the societies for their cooperation and support during my time in office. Memories of the hospitality I received will be a positive reminder of the time I worked with these fabulous, dedicated horticulturalists.



## *District Two*

### *District Director - Ken Fink*

**Almonte** continues to educate, enrich and enliven its members as they are often entertained by proficient speakers and demonstrators. Their pride of place and great passion for plants is shown by the volunteer hours.

**Beachburg** celebrates 45 years young, as they continue public planting. A chiropractor, an orchid specialist, a rhododendron expert and a rock garden planner were highlights of the year. The society hosts four flower shows a year.

**Carleton Place:** A great fundraiser was the Annual Strawberry Social held at Victoria School Museum complete with music from the Town Band. The “Yard of the Week” award continues to be popular with residents. A garden tour entitled “Lawn Gone” featured properties where natural materials or alternate ground cover replaced grass.

**Deep River** has a large club which provides beautiful baskets and planters for the downtown merchants. They plant and maintain a therapeutic garden at a long term care facility. The youth program planted a garden at the school.

**Eganville** hosted District 2’s Annual General Meeting, this jewel of the Bonnechere Valley are celebrating their 50th anniversary. Found here are beautiful planters on the town bridge. The planting of a blue spruce and a maple tree on the Welcome Hill were part of the beautification.

**Gloucester** had a peony expert; an infamous head gardener at Rideau Hall; and a photo judge on how to achieve the perfect garden picture, as speakers of the club. They have a very devoted team who continue to provide flowers to four nursing homes and maintain gardens at a Group Home.

**Kanata-March** continues to enhance the community by maintaining gardens at the Glen Cairn Branch of Kanata Public Library, Molly Wilson Memorial Gardens and Tom Thomson Park. A booming members only open garden series of tours was held.

**Kemptville** was busy planting at the Post Office, Rotary Park and Oxford Mills Public Library. Involved with the downtown beautification committee started in 2004 they will continue in 2005. They enjoy an enthusiastic youth program.

**Madawaska Valley:** Shoppers hungry for plants after a long winter, carted off everything including bagged mushroom compost and cedar mulch from the May plant sale. They visited six inspiring gardens. A plant auction in the fall, a barbecue in the summer and a Christmas potluck with great speakers finalized their year.

**Manotick** hosted the A.G.M. in 2004 with Marjorie Harris as keynote speaker. Village planting increased when they entered ‘Communities In

Bloom'. Flower shows were staged, with a greater participation in the novice class.

**Nepean** increases in membership, while producing six newsletters a year and awarding two bursaries. They host four flower shows a year and do a lot of community planting.

**Ottawa** will host the convention celebrating the 100th anniversary of the OHA. They were involved in the 10,000 Tree Project sponsored by the city and continue to work with Health Canada Information Day and Friends of the Experimental Farm Sale Day. Public planting takes place at the Rideau Valley Veterans Care Centre.

**O.V.R.G.S.:** The annual international seed exchange program is a huge undertaking for this club - gathering, packing and shipping. They attract noteworthy speakers from Washinton State, Calgary and the Czech Republic. This club was one of the hosts for the annual district flower show in June ... a first and great success.

**Pakenham** has a strong Junior Gardeners Program and received three prizes in various classes and one award for Best Junior Garden in the District. They hosted a judging school workshop and are making plans for their 80th anniversary. Public planting along the five span stone bridge is a sight to be seen by all gardeners.

**Pembroke** Horticultural Society was 80 years old. Members submitted articles "Gardening Tips" to the local newspaper. Doing a lot of public planting, they received a marble plaque displayed at Miramichi Lodge, where they made commemorative gardens in honour of an O.H.A. president, Frances Lemke. They've an active youth group.

**Perth:** This society continued

planting and maintaining gardens for Parks Canada as well as the local cenotaph. They also participated in revitalizing a heritage property and offered assistance in the Round Garden for the Blind. A program called 'Learning to Garden' was held in two elementary schools.

**Petawawa** volunteers planted and maintained flower beds at the Civic Centre complex, tended to flower boxes at the Legion Hall and planted flower beds at the cenotaph. They selected flowers for planting at the "Homefires Park" and involved the community in the society community gardens.

**Renfrew** enjoyed the renowned botanist and author Diana Beresford-Kroeger who gave an interesting lecture on the Philosophy of Trees. Civic beautification was continued at the Haramis Park/Tourist Booth Gardens. This society will host the District 2 Flower and Vegetable Show in July.

**Smith Falls:** Our new society held their innaugural meeting in January 2005 to become our 21st society. They are off to a roaring start. Welcome!

**Stittsville-Goulbourn** had 1200 hours of volunteer work reported. A \$500 bursary was awarded to a local student pursuing agriculture or horticulture at a college or university. The Royal Canadian Legion and the Granite-Ridge long term care facility are recipients of community gardening by this group. The Junior Gardeners program has over 40 members.

**West Carleton:** The October plant auction and a May plant sale provided both fun and funds. Public plantings take place at the Reading Garden of the Carp branch of the Ottawa Library. Garden tours occur in July and three flower shows are held.



## *District Three*

### *District Director - Larry Connell*

**Ameliasburgh** had close to 60 members who maintained gardens and participated in the floral division at the local fair. They enjoyed spring and fall plant auctions which made for lots of fun and good plant buys. They tried a new project of giving gourd seeds to members in the spring and the gourds were brought to the October meeting.

**Bancroft's** 111 members enjoyed a plant sale in May when members brought in various items. Other events included garden visits in July and a beauty contest for best flower or vegetable garden. They offer a bus trip in the spring to one of the flower shows in Toronto. They added taking care of the Millenium Gardens, Post Office, the Library, as well as Quinte Manor. The 2005 A.G.M. was held in Bancroft.

**Belleville**, with over 100 members, has a bursary program for Moira Secondary School and help in the greenhouse. They established a gardening library with books and magazines; and arranged garden and bus tours, especially the Ottawa Tulip Festival. Among the noteworthy speakers were Boniebrae Daylilies and a discussion on hydroponics.

**Brockville** had over 130 members that planted and maintained beds at the Brockville Museum, Railway Station, General Hospital and Senior Citizen Building. They had gardens tours as

well as two flower shows and two plant sales. A flower arranging course was held. Brockville had excellent speakers on the topics of "Operating A Garden Centre", plus "Trees, Bees and Honey". They took a bus trip to Canada Blooms.

**Collins Bay** with over 40 members look after the planting and maintenance at the Isabel Turner Library and the Loyalist Gates which have four flower beds. The youth leader works with children at Collins Bay Public School. They had several excellent speakers on Bulbs, Heritage Seed, and How to Prepare Material for a Flower Show.

**Gananoque** had over 70 members that planted tulips at the town gates and hall. They maintained several gardens, along with the International Square and Landon Bay Gardens. Noted for its youth group, they planted perennials and made centerpieces for the seniors 'Meals on Wheels' at Christmas.

**Kingston's** almost 340 members are a strong presence at the Lung Association Gardening Festival in February. They provided information at two gardening centers and the Farmers Market. They publish a newsletter (The Columbine) ten times a year. Other functions include a June Flower Show at the Kingston Mall; an Iris & Peony Show; and the annual Flower & Vegetable Show at the Frontenac Mall. The Society maintains

public plantings at a museum, a public library and Paterson Garden. Twelve Trillium Awards are given front garden beautification in and around Kingston.

**Lennox-Addington** society's 60 members support the greenhouse program at NDSS school. A scholarship was presented to a student of Napanee District SS. Other projects included Community Gardens and Davis House along the Napanee River. Gail Knowles worked preparing the newsletter which won an award at the OHA Convention.

**Prince Edward County** had 120 members who gave two Lilac bushes to each of the county cemeteries and helped finance civic plantings. They maintained projects such as the town square, tourist bureau, hospital and community center. Winnie Rightmeyer is compiling a history of the society which just had its 135th anniversary

**Rideau Lakes** has 117 members who look after community plantings in Delta, Elgin, Crosby, Forfar, Portland, and Westport. They work with the youth group, spring planting in two schools. The society hosted the 2004 AGM. Their newsletter (The Lilypad) won 1st place at the OHA convention. They contribute soil, peat moss and fertilizer to Rideau District High which has a greenhouse and many members overwinter plants while they are winter vacationing. A bursary is available to a deserving student.

**Stirling** has 74 members who plant and maintain several gardens in and around the village. Something new was a Perennial Fall Sale in September which was very successful. The busy youth have projects at every meeting such as: toad houses, collages of autumn leaves and a banner for sun

awareness. Members are proud of their youth and leaders as they received 1st prize in the scrapbook competition at the OHA convention.

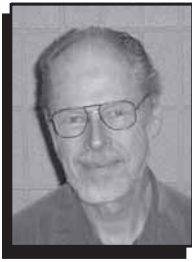
**Trenton** had 72 members involved in plant sales; garden tours; and a bus trip to Casa Loma. Service initiatives included Victoria Park Perennial Garden; a student bursary; Waterfront Trail donation; and trees for the Old Town Hall.

**Tweed** has over 75 members to help President, Harald Neumann who has spearheaded plans for a new garden near Hwy #37 and Tim Horton's. His vision is to create a memorial garden and sanctuary where people can go for a quiet walk or sit down and enjoy the trees and shrubs. Flowerama is on July 1st at the Tweed Memorial Park. They are working on increasing youth membership and are arranging to plant trees at the schools.

## At a Glance

Over 1300 society members do all the usual – and often unusual. The thing that amazes me is the total commitment that these societies have. They beautify their communities, award bursaries, educate their members, and encourage the youth.

Several societies have been actively involved in helping their municipalities achieve national recognition from Communities in Bloom.



## *District Four*

### *District Director - John Sellers*

**Bobcaygeon** continues to create new municipal gardens and to add perennials and shrubs to various others to provide and increase winter and summer interest. V.P. Dave Marsden, with children from the public school, expanded the “Children’s Garden” at Settlers’ Village with the produce raised going to the local food bank. Diane Hearse created a lending library and information office, open to the public, with materials donated by members.

**Brighton** celebrated its 80th Anniversary by expanding the garden tour out into the township, giving a bursary at the high school and a Trillium Awards programme for the best garden in the twelve municipal wards. They also started a Peoples’ Choice Award at the annual flower show.

**Campbellford** used a Community Foundation Grant to finish a project at Picnic Island Park and also completed the South Entranceway Park project. Funds were raised for beautification of the Memorial Hospital and the Municipality of Trent Hills.

**Coboconk** members enjoyed a garden tour and planted and maintained over sixty baskets, barrels and boxes. They had a booth at the Lions’ Club Carnival and participated in the Santa Claus Parade.

**Cobourg’s** new initiatives included two fundraising bus tours to Acton

gardens and to Rama. An OHA joint society Special Project award was used to provide plants for the Speechley Palliative Care Garden at the new hospital. Shows are now held in the Town Library. They also hosted an OHA ‘Working With Volunteers’ workshop for districts in this area.

**Colborne** participated in the Apple Blossom Tyme Festival, planted 15 beds in Castleton, Colborne and Salem, and donated plants and bulbs for the Lakeshore Hospice fundraiser as well as participating in the Speechley Garden project.

**Fenelon Falls** celebrated their 85th Anniversary by donating two park benches to the local museum and by winning the Community in Bloom star award for beautification. They also tend a vegetable garden for, and make donations to, the local food bank.

**Grafton** will be maintaining the new Wicklow Heritage Park. They hosted a successful District meeting and made donations to the Halifax Recovery Fund and to the Community Centre. Twenty junior gardeners built raised beds at the school and donated the vegetables raised there to the Fair Share Food Bank.

**Lakefield** used plant sales to finance many hanging baskets and stone troughs as well for six gardens in the area including a new one at the South

Lakefield sign. To encourage others, a garden competition was held in summer and a Festival of Lights in December for which certificates were given. Their 2004 yearbook calendar won the District prize.

**Lindsay's** very successful plant auction funded a number of excellent speakers and a tour of three local garden centres. They are now partnered with Lilac Gardens of Lindsay and participated in the May Lilac Festival.

**Minden** celebrated their 25th Anniversary with a special flower show and took part in the museum's re-enactment of Queen Victoria's Jubilee in period costume with a demonstration of croquet. They also hosted three practical workshops making stepping stones, baskets and twig trellises.

**Norland** had two very successful plant sales, funded plantings at the Cenotaph and Library and a held a garden party. They also set up and organized the Remembrance Day celebration.

**Norwood's** meetings featured expert speakers and Master Gardener advice. They are involved in local beautification, Memorial Day presentations and present a scholarship. Plant sales and shows draw the community, in part thanks to good media coverage and their webpage at [www.gardenontario.org/site.php/norwood](http://www.gardenontario.org/site.php/norwood).

**Omeme** celebrated a 65th Anniversary with an old-fashioned garden party, a tour of members' gardens, two day-long field trips to Peter Keeping's garden and to the Peterborough Ecology Garden. They also entered a successful float in the Santa Claus Parade.

**Peterborough**, in conjunction with the area Master Gardeners, drew six thousand people to another successful two-day 'For The Love Of Gardening' show enabling them to contribute plants, shrubs or donations to Bridgenorth beautification, Hospice Peterborough, the Ecology Park, Riverview Park and Zoo, and to the Warkworth Business Association. They provide four, one thousand dollar, scholarships. In the massive flood they lost over 125 books, a library cart and a number of other supplies. Their Fleming Park project was also severely damaged and is being restored.

**Port Hope** celebrated the 150th Anniversary with an excellent and practical District fall meeting. They assisted the Ganaraska Conservation Authority with Dorothy House Museum Rotary Park, civic fountain restoration and maintenance of the Library garden. As well, they provide two scholarships for students going into horticultural fields.

## At A Glance

District 4 consists of 17 active societies encompassing Haliburton, Northumberland, Peterborough and Victoria Counties.

Five societies celebrated anniversaries -- 25th, 65th, 80th, 85th and 150th anniversaries of service to the communities around them.



## *District Five*

### *District Director - Nikola Warnock*

**Agincourt** did public plantings at local schools and churches and participated in an outreach program at the Tom Longboat Public School.

**Aurora** had a great plant sale and everyone enjoyed the garden tour.

**Beach** was involved with the gardens at the Library and L'Arche/Greenwood House. They took a bus trip, had a plant sale and a garden tour.

**East York** was busy with the continued project of the rejuvenation and restoration of "the Rockery" at Stan Wadlow Park. Many members participated in Toronto's "Spring Clean Up". The Garden Tour visited eight gardens which were open for visiting on a variety of times and dates resulting in an unhurried and enjoyable event.

**Greater Toronto Rose and Garden Society** co-hosted the District 5 Annual Meeting. They held a successful Rose Show and the July garden tour was a delightful day.

**Lake Simcoe South Shore** planted three gardens and sponsored a Garden contest in the community. The after school youth program was a success. To round out the busy year they finished with a winter bus tour to Owen Sound's Christmas Festival of Lights.

**Leaside** was active involving local school groups and physically challenged children with the joys of gardening. Some of the activities included working on community plantings at Trace Manes Community Center, Father Caufield Parkett and the Lyndhurst Center.

**Markham** worked on the Markham/Stouffville Hospital and Museum gardens. This year they focused on children ... co-operating with a local elementary school to design gardens that will become part of the school curriculum. Volunteers planted spring bulbs at another elementary school.

**Mount Albert** had a wonderful garden tour and two plant sales, plus maintained numerous flowerbeds throughout the community. Their successful baking competition was continued with a new flavor each year.

**Newmarket** hosted a gardening program for the elementary school children of Mazo de le Roche School that was showcased on the Rogers television network! They maintained the garden at the community centre and planted containers at Fairy Lake for the Resurgence Theatre. Spring and fall bus tours were enjoyed.

**North Toronto** again had a very winning year ... first prize for their entries at Canada Blooms, the CNE and at the District 5 Annual ... for the sixth consecutive year they won best for "Horticultural Excellence". They had nine meetings at which seven had flower shows. In their spare time they lobbied City Hall to prevent the institution of parking fees at the TBG, had a garden tour and held their annual flower show at the Don Mills Centre.

**North York** celebrated their 80th anniversary by giving a donation to the Trans Canada Trail to have a plaque commemorating their anniversary placed in the Toronto pavilion. They co-hosted the District 5 Annual Meeting, and held a profitable plant sale enabling them to provide 680 plants for Meals on Wheels ... 230 more than last year! They continued their support to the Nature Conservancy of Canada and maintained the garden at St. John's Rehabilitation Center. A successful garden tour was held and they visited the gardens of Casa Loma.

The **Rhododendron** Society held four meetings. One particularly successful meeting included a workshop on propagating methods and growing rhododendrons from seed. They raised their profile and worked at educating the public at their booth at Canada Blooms and at their successful plant sale. Several members ventured to the annual North American Rhododendron Convention in the U.S.A., the highlight of that was the presentation of the Silver Medal to long time member, Bob Dickhout.

**Riverdale** continues with it's excellent speaker program in an effort to remain dynamic, attract new members and maintain the interest of current members.

**Scarborough** hosted a profitable plant sale and a profitable bus tour which was thoroughly enjoyed by members. Meetings have been filled to capacity due to an excellent speakers program, great snacks and mini flower shows at all meetings. The Juniors kept a high profile while participating in flower shows at all levels, with many ribbons to show for their entries ... including a first for their window box entry at the CNE.

**Stouffville** was busy with community plantings at the Stouffville Cemetery and working with the Park Planning Committee.

## At a Glance

York District 5 consists of 16 societies. We are a long and winding area that runs from Lake Simcoe down to Lake Ontario.

The District 5 2004 Annual Meeting was co-hosted by the East York and Leaside. What a great day! The speakers talked about global warming and how we can be involved in the restoration of city green spaces.



## *District Six*

### *District Director - Barbara Waddell*

**Acton** is responsible for a memory garden, downtown planting, a planting along the creek edge, a library garden, and a RBG donation. Pride showed as Past President, Max MacSween, was named Citizen of the Year.

**Ancaster** is experimenting with a five-member Presidents' Council to act as President. Plantings included gardens at the Old Town Hall, the municipal offices, Brandon Park, Millennium Peace Park, and Fieldcote Museum. Civic beautification includes a Trillium Awards program and floral arranging.

**Brantford** provided horticultural therapy sessions, garden festivals, and public plantings at three locations. They donated money for tree plantings at Myrtleville Heritage Homestead, the Heritage Apple Orchard project, and the Bell Homestead.

**Bronte** maintains gardens at Sovereign House, participated in the Glen Abbey Home Show, took a bus tour to Cummings' Garden in Dundas, and had a tour of members' gardens. Members volunteer time at Oakville Greenhouse, and they cooperate with Halton Region to promote composting.

**Burlington** performs community projects such as donating a grow light stand, maintaining perennial beds, and a dry shade garden. They financed two \$500 projects to replace plant material, supported three different elementary

schools in horticultural science projects, and conducted the Civic Rose Awards.

**Delhi & District** worked with the BIA in the Adopt-a-Planter program. They held bus trips, staged a flower show, donated to project funding for seven schools, and refurbished beds at the Tobacco Museum.

**Flamborough** held a plant sale, a silent auction, mini-flower shows, a bus trip within the district, a garden tour and a Christmas dinner for members. They run a Trillium Awards program, and are active in civic beautification.

**Georgetown** held a seed swap, plant sale, flower shows at Marketplace Mall, a garden tour, and staged a garden contest. They plant and maintain community gardens at five locations.

**Glen Morris** held a spring and fall flower show, a members' garden tour, a pot-luck dinner, and a "hands-on meeting" where members create something. They plant and maintain seven community beds and are working on an eighth. Youth membership is encouraged to participate in activities.

**Haldimand** plants and maintains eleven gardens in five towns. They held a plant sale, a bus trip; entered a Canada Day float in the Caledonia Parade, and participated in society competition at Caledonia Fair. Meetings include competitions for specimens, designs, plants and crafts.

**Lynden** community projects include plantings at the Legion Cenotaph, Lions Park, and United Church. Their meetings include a “horticultural tip” from their members.

**Milton & District** continues to attract new members through Welcome Wagon, a newsletter, and flyers. They developed and maintain two civic gardens, and contributed to gardens at two other locations. They held a plant sale, bus tour, garden tour, two flower shows, and a photo competition.

**Mount Hamilton** maintains gardens at “Jason House”. They worked on the Hamilton Trillium Awards, contributed to two bursaries, donated garden magazine subscriptions to ten libraries, and provided plants for Meals on Wheels.

**Oakville** plantings included flower beds at parkettes, cancer hospices, and school and church gardens. Meetings included design and horticultural competitions. Workshops were held and financial assistance given to several programs including a donation to RBG.

**Paris** has a program including town park and flower beds, daffodil planting along road sides, Arbour Day tree planting, and Adopt-a-Road. Their “Spring Time in Paris” garden tour and their plant sale are highlights of the year.

**Port Dover and Woodhouse** held flower shows and a successful bus trip. Their Auction Sale, Tea Room and Country Store were well received. Other highlights included a pot-luck supper, society picnic, and a joint meeting with other area societies.

**St. George Garden Club** again hosted the District Presidents’ Meeting. Village plantings included the main street barrels, hanging pots, beds at the Cenotaph, parking lot and lily beds.

They started a youth group with 22 members. They helped plant 20,000 tree seeds at Onondaga Farms in the Grand River watershed.

**Simcoe & District** held flower competitions, spring gardening classes for youngsters, and Norfolk County Fair booth decorating. Their August Flower and Vegetable show had 50 juniors place over 400 entries.

**Stoney Creek** planted and maintained the garden in front of Smith Knoll, donated to the City of Hamilton Trillium Awards Program, and the RBG. Special events included a tour of members’ gardens and a bus tour. Magazines, books and audio equipment were given to two elementary schools and one high school.

**Waterford & District** had two garden tours, a silent auction, a plant sale, and a Flower and Vegetable Show. Public gardens were maintained, several trees were planted and park benches installed. The rehabilitation of Bridge Park is now seeing fruition.

**Winona** donates to the Winona Food Bank, the Royal Botanical Gardens, and does plantings around the Winona Peach Festival sign.

## At a Glance

The Carolinian District has 21 very active societies.

The website and a district brochure were developed and displays were placed at the Brantford Gardening Festival and the Ontario Garden Show.

Executive roles are being defined promoting productive meetings and communications.



## *District Seven*

### *District Director - Marlene Bruckhardt*

**Arthur** continues to maintain floral beds in the community and offered two workshops in addition to four flower shows and regular meetings. They have a BBQ at their plant sale with a draw near the end of the sale. They close their year with a potluck dinner, awards evening and annual general meeting.

**Clifford** has a spring and summer flower show and combine their annual meeting with a Christmas potluck dinner. They have an active youth club with two flower shows and a garden project and the youth members competed in the District Youth Competition held in Elora.

**Elora/Salem** is host for a Gardening Conference held yearly in February. They are actively involved in Arbour Week plantings and have a summer show in August involving their youth members. They are the oldest society in District 7 that dates back to 1850. Elora was the host society for the District Youth Competition held in late August.

**Erin** continues with plant sales and flower shows. This year they had a flower design workshop and a series of one day garden visits which allowed them to appreciate each garden when at its best. They have a new website which allows them to provide regularly updated information on their activities.

**Fergus** continue their undertaking of beautifying Terry Fox Park at the entrance to the community and making it an inviting, restful oasis. They have flower shows and regular meetings. They are working on revisiting and revamping their constitution and to stabilize plans related to civic beautification.

**Grand Valley** have mini flower shows at their meetings in addition to the spring and fall flower shows. They also have a Strawberry Social in June and a banquet and awards night in November.

**Guelph City** have a very successful garden tour program, plant sale and outreach flower shows held in a local mall. They have introduced a 15 minute gardening demonstration prior to their regular meetings which is well attended. They had a bus tour to Canada Blooms. Their youth members are active and take part each year in the District youth competition.

**Guelph Township** have three flower shows a year with the summer show in August being a very large competition and the youth entries equal or exceed those of the adult members. They have a potluck dinner and awards evening in March, and a BBQ in June. They also have an active youth group and compete in the District youth competition.

**Harriston** have mini flower shows in addition to their spring and summer flower and vegetable shows in May and August and they close their year with the annual meeting and potluck supper in November. In June they held their third annual plant sale in conjunction with the Harriston Garden Festival.

**Hillsburg** is a small society that continues promoting horticultural activities and plantings in their community. They have resumed activity with the district.

**Maryborough (Moorefield)** have a regular newsletter detailing activities of the society, regular flower shows, a bus tour and members who work on community plantings along with regular meetings and flower shows. Two of their members are taking part in the O.H.A. Judging School, one who is training as a judge and the other to improve their knowledge on show work.

**Mount Forest** has worked hard with the Communities in Bloom program and are proud to be on the national Communities in Bloom map. The society plants and maintains eight gardens around town and residents are putting more thought and energy into their own gardens. They had three flowers shows, a garden tour and a plant sale.

**Orangeville** is an active society with a regular newsletter, plant sale, flower shows and workshops to aid their members. They had workshops on basic flower arranging; advanced floral design; digital camera workshops, knowing your birds; and creating a scree garden. In 2003 the society undertook an innovative flower show entitled "Kaleidoscope - A Designer's Showcase" which they repeated in 2004

and it is open to all members of horticultural societies. After judging, the show is open to the public to see these most interesting and challenging designs by the O.H.A. members.

**Shelburne** had a "bring a friend" meeting in February and a horticultural and design workshop in May. They hold a flower show in May and August. They close their year with a potluck supper and the presentation of prize money and awards. They organized a bus tour to Canada Blooms and also the Royal Botanical Gardens in Burlington.

## At a Glance

District 7 has 14 societies located in the counties of Dufferin and Wellington. The Spring District Annual Meeting was hosted by the Grand Valley Society and the Fall District meeting was hosted by the Harriston Society. A District President's meeting is held in March each year.

Youth members are an active and important part of our program and we have a yearly competition with youth members from different societies competing with floral designs and vegetable displays. The host society for this event in 2004 was the Elora/Salem Society.



## *District Eight* *District Director - Valerie Neal*

**Auburn** celebrated its 150th anniversary. They planted areas such as the entrance bridges, 22 barrels, and Manchester Gardens and co-sponsored a home beautification project with six families recognized for their efforts. A Canada Blooms trip was a highlight.

**Bayfield** was busy at the library, Mara St. walkway, Lo Harbour, Main St. Triangle, War Memorial, and a parkette at Victoria and Euphemia. They participated in the Pioneer Rummage Sale and local Home and Garden Show.

**Blyth** erected a plaque at the Horticultural Park to explain the society role in the community and planted and maintained planters and gardens throughout the village. Notable areas include a butterfly garden, parking lot planters, the cemetery flowerbed and gardens at the Pump House.

**Brussels** was busy with tours and participation in the local Fall Fair where they supplied a number of prizes in the flower section. Their 52 members tend Main St. flower boxes, hanging pots and a library garden.

**Chesley** had a flower show and a barbeque in Elliot Park where they tend several flower beds. Plantings include the cairn, town entrances and cenotaph.

**Clinton** had informative and entertaining speakers at their meetings and they enjoyed a tour of a lily farm.

The 50 members work to maintain flower beds at Sloman's Park.

**Durham** creates and maintains areas from the entrance signs to beds in seven town parks. Members worked to install wrap-around hanging baskets in two parks. They play a key role in the town clean up day and at the Herb Fair and Fall Fair, and hosted a decorating for the holidays workshop.

**Eastnor** is active in planning streetscape projects and planting and maintaining the community gardens. Meetings feature speakers such as Bill Loney of Keppel Croft Farm, garden tours and demonstrations. Members shared garden renovation experiences and garden plants in a sale.

**Goderich** works at the hospital, MacKay Centre, and the library. They installed a sprinkler system as well as a birdbath and patio stones at various gardens. A plant auction was held in May and plants are sold at the Sunday Flea Market at Historic Gaol.

**Hanover** members tend the flower boxes on the bridges as well as public gardens and flower beds. The August flower show focused on Hanover's Homecoming celebrations and magnificent displays of flower specimens, planters and floral designs were seen.

**Hensell** sponsors many categories in the Spring Fair, plants and maintains flower beds at the entrances and in

village gardens. They are responsible for the hanging baskets and churches receive funds to use for beautification.

**Kincardine** held a garden seminar in May. Featured speakers were Dennis Flanagan, Janet Anderson, Micheal Poscoe and Stephanie Morris. Over 200 people took part in the garden tour featuring six gardens of contrasting styles. They planted and took care of 20,000 annual plants in the community! Their signature garden, The Flagpole Garden, received a new park bench.

**Lucknow** purchased bells for the Main St., and the brickwork completed. They help the Girl Guide group with the upkeep of the Memorial Garden. A flower show featured 150 exhibits.

**Markdale** society highlight was a presentation by noted horticulturalist Liz Primeau. Members enjoyed a Mystery Garden Tour. 107 members develop extensive gardens around the library, the cenotaph, the boxes on Main St., the hospital and town gates.

**Mildmay** participated in the Rotary Day Park festivities, the Fall Fair and planted community daffodils. They assisted local Sparks and Brownies earn badges and planted an Arbour Day tree.

**Neustadt** celebrated its 20th anniversary with a banquet and Paul Zammit as speaker. A large flower show was held and included a youth section. They held a garden walk and two bus trips. Members look after boxes and beds in Neustadt and Ayton.

**Ripley** tends planters at the four entrances, the library and cemetery. At Christmas they assist with baskets for Main St. and decorating Lewis Park. A village garden tour was taken and a mystery bus tour took them to a nursery in St. Thomas, a hosta farm and an interesting garden shop in Stratford.

**Seaforth** with 85 members, was busy with interesting guest speakers, a plant sale, a bus trip, and they were active in Ciderfest celebrations.

**Southport** combines the gardeners of Southampton and Port Elgin and do projects at S.C. Huston Public School, the Legion, the Beer Store, and the entrance signs for Sauble Road and Chippwa. Liz Primeau speaking on front yard gardening was a highlight.

**Tara** hosted the AGM. They tended the new Rotary Park, 15 village beds and four grassed areas. A flower show, a plant sale and work with the downtown business improvement group to plant and maintain Main St. boxes and baskets kept them busy.

**Teeswater Culross** members tend the community hill, library, cenotaph and Post Office gardens. They enjoyed trips to the Botanical Gardens and the Geritol Follies in Hamilton.

**Walkerton** entered the National Communities in Blooms and were awarded five blooms! They enjoyed a Niagara area wine tour, and a great breakfast at Larkwhistle with Patrick and John. A new garden was named 'Memory Lane' to recall Walkerton's past. They had a successful garden tour.

**Wingham** members tend gardens in parks, the campground entrance, community trails, cenotaph and town entrances. They had a 'Homecoming Parade' float and trees were planted to commemorate Past Presidents.

## At a Glance

We had a wonderful display at the International Ploughing Match in Meaford.



## *District Nine*

### *District Director - Diane Kiers*

**Dunnville** proudly celebrated their Diamond Jubilee or 75th Anniversary and hosted the Annual Spring Forum where everyone was given their emblem flower, a red geranium. The youth group were awarded the Lemke OHA Youth Garden Award for 2004. Civic activities included flower beds and participation in Dunnville's Home & Garden Show. Repairing the town's floral clock is in the planning.

**Fort Erie** won top honors in the Communities In Bloom competition for 2004 and look forward to 2005 at the national level. They kept busy with a plant sale, garden walks, bus trips, a seed exchange, three flower shows and fund raisers. In 2005 they will host the District Fall Forum with a BBQ and noted speaker Frank Kershaw.

**Grimsbey** will host the District Spring Forum with speakers Earl Walker, OHA Past President, and Charlie Dobins of HGTV. The 213 members plant flowerbeds on Elm Street and provide town flower baskets. They organize, judge and present town Trillium Awards. They had floral design courses, a workshop on creating herb baskets and discussed how to become a Master Gardener. Bus trips included Canada Blooms and Strong Daylilies.

**Lincoln** continues to maintain the Millenium Forest Project in Vineland, assist the students of Beamsville High

School, provide support to Niagara School of Horticulture/Glendale Campus, take part in Niagara College open house and maintain a park at Albright Manor. They have a garden tour, potluck supper, plant sale and participate at Beamsville Fair.

**Niagara Falls** tends the firehall flower beds, funds a Trillium Award for 'Best Neighbourhood', and gives a scholarship at the Niagara Parks School of Horticulture. Projects included an arbour at the Ontario Early Years Children's Centre Garden, donations to "Project Share" and the "Community Kitchen" and they plant the library. They hold flower shows, garden strolls, plant exchanges, bus trips and flower design workshops.

**Niagara-On-The-Lake** plans to introduce their 'Sunshine Club' which will assist seniors with the upkeep of their gardens. Activities include bus trips, garden tours, workshops and their Rose Show and Flower and Vegetable Show.

**Pelham** planted at the Fonhill Legion and the Fenwick flagpole. They participate in the Niagara College Open House, sit on the Pelham Communities in Bloom committee and volunteer at the Flower and Garden Show. They donate to the Niagara College Tree Trust Fund, E. L. Crossley Secondary School horticultural program and

Ridgeville Communities in Bloom project. They launched their website, [www.pelhamhortscity.com](http://www.pelhamhortscity.com)

**Port Colborne** celebrated it's 75th Anniversary and life memberships were presented to Helen Tanaszi and Loretta St. Louis. A Meritorious Service Award went to Marci Lunt, seven Volunteer Awards and eight Beautification Certificates were also given. They donate to two libraries and a scholarship was presented. They have flower beds, placed a bench at the Chamber of Commerce and planted in Rose Shimansky Park. They have a June rose show and a fall flower show.

**Ridgeway** participated in the Niagara College Open House, the first Niagara Garden and Flower Show and did civic plantings at Stevensville Memorial Hall and Library, and Crystal Ridge Library. A contribution was made towards the flowering baskets in Crystal Beach. In 2005 they look forward to helping plant the new 65 acre Shag Bark Nature Trail.

**Smithville** enjoyed a trip to Canada Blooms, participated in the fall fair and made aprons to wear at club events. They promoted their club with a display at the Smithville Library, planted and maintained the 'Flower Barrel Garden' at the train station and donated books to two libraries. They support the South Lincoln High School 'Memory Garden', give a scholarship, encourage youth at the fall fair and hold garden and flower arranging workshops for them.

**St. Catharines** will miss Past President Guy Bridgestock and MG Lydia Szukis who have passed away. They celebrated their 147th Anniversary and dedicated a garden at Church and Niagara Streets to honor

volunteers. They hold monthly flower shows, a garden walk and plant sale. Donations were made to Community Care, Community Harvest Day, Niagara College Library, City Trillium Awards, Collegiate, and bursaries at Niagara College and Kernahan Park Secondary School.

**Thorold** celebrated their 75th Anniversary with a dinner and awards evening. Plantings were at the tourist centre, library, Historic Museum and Richmond St. Park. With the youth, they did Arbour Day plantings. A high school bursary plus donations to the St. Johns' Learning Centre and The Mel Swartz Park were given. A plant sale, Rose & Flower Show and a Fall Flower and Vegetable Show rounded out their year.

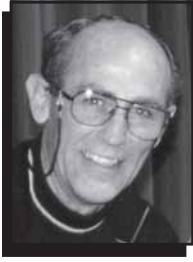
**Welland** were proud of their beautiful rose show and successful garden walk. They participated in Community Days, and donated to city flower beds and senior's facilities. Merit Awards were given for beautification to city residents. They also sponsor their youth in the "The Bud Club" at Vermeers.

## At a Glance

District 9 has 13 societies in Niagara South, Niagara North and Haldimand.

The Spring Forum will be hosted by Grimsby on April 30th and the Fall Forum by Fort Erie on Sept. 17, 2005.

Dunnville, Port Colborne and Thorold all celebrated 75th Anniversaries!



## *District Ten*

### *District Director - Jim Mabee*

**Belmont & Area** joined District 10 on February 2nd, 2005 with their incorporation approved by Steve Peters, Minister of Agriculture and Food. They have held monthly meetings at the library on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

**Dorchester** held a plant sale, strawberry social and a garden tour. Plantings took place at the library, cenotaph, senior's VON entrance, plaza entrance, Bridge St. flower boxes, welcome signs, legion barrels and Harrietsville/Mossley ball diamond. Youth projects included a craft day. They were superb at hosting the OHA board evening for the 2004 convention.

**Dutton/Dunwich** tended 19 flower beds and parks while revamping a couple of their larger gardens. They went to Canada Blooms and toured Grey County gardens.

**Glencoe** toured Kincardine to see their involvement in Communities In Bloom and held a spring plant sale. One of their plantings was a Memorial Garden at the local ball park.

**Ingersoll & District** had a seven stop 'Parade of Gardens'. A new project was a xeriscape garden at Alexandra Hospital. They participated in the "Parade of Lights", Rural Expo in Woodstock and the Embro Fair as well as managing the volunteers room at the convention.

**Kirkton** hosted two workshops for design and made financial donations to Kirkton, Exeter and Mitchell Fairs. Amaryllis bulbs were planted and distributed to five nursing homes. For the convention, they managed the info table and helped with registration.

**Lambeth** planted a Serviceberry tree for Earth Week, and did various civic plantings throughout the village. Responsible for the bus tours at the 98th OHA Convention in London, District 10 'tips our hat' to them.

**Listowel & District** tended the North Perth Park, cenotaph, public areas, and the library. Youth projects included birdhouses and planters.

**London** held a plant sale, spring show, a fair display, plant exchanges, a tree planting, and took bus trips. They were active at the Western Fair Farm Show in March plus the 10-day Fair in September. Responsible for the table centrepieces and foyer display at the convention, they did a magnificent job!

**London/Fanshawe** completed it's first year as a society and now have a membership of 122. They held a major plant sale at Eastern Star Temple and had two field trips within the community. Along with this they tended the Central Library Gardens.

**Parkhill Area** celebrated their 15th Anniversary by planting trees in Coronation Park that will shade the new

benches. The town beds were superb and the boulevards were a showpiece!

**Port Burwell-Bayham** planted trees, maintained town gardens and put on a beautiful performance with their cement planters in the village.

**Rodney & District** continued with their tree and plant sale, hanging baskets, care of ten flower beds, a display at Rodney Fair and decorated lamp posts for the Santa Claus Parade.

**St. Marys** had 348 members including 11 Life Members and 22 Juniors. They held a standard show for the Garden Clubs of Ontario's 6th School for Design Judges. A beautiful library cart was unveiled and they had six members awarded the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship Volunteer Service Awards. The OHA Special Projects grant enabled them to complete Phase 1 of the Peace Garden. Table favours was their excellent contribution to the convention.

**St. Thomas** hosted the 2004 District Annual Meeting and tended the garden at the Kiwanis Senior Complex. Two cleanup days in the Adopt-A-Highway program were completed. They held a workshop on Landscape Design. Their duties for the convention were the flower and youth shows.

**Stratford & District** created a "Memorial Garden" in memory of past president Bonnie Richardson. The flower show included a tea room and a display by the camera club. Basic and intermediate design workshops enhanced the quality and quantity at their flower show. Garden tours; Plant A Row, Grow A Row; a craft group making greeting cards; and a March Break children's workshop rounded out their year. Convention duties saw them capably doing all the signage.

**Strathroy-Caradoc** celebrated their 60th Anniversary by becoming involved in Communities In Bloom and preparing for the 2005 District Annual Meeting. They installed a court yard at the Strathroy Senior Centre; a flower bed at the corner of Victoria and Caradoc Streets; and tended seven gardens in Strathroy and Mount Bridges. For the convention, their duties were the vendors.

**Tavistock** was especially proud of a purchase of a shade tree for the Public School grounds. Activities included a Garden Fair, a garden tour, a display at the fall fair where they also donate prize money, and planting and maintaining gardens around the town.

**Thorndale** tended the township office and garage, Wye Creek Park, the cenotaph, community centre, Jack's Garden, library, Hope Garden, a rose garden, town barrels, and flower boxes on the bridge. They planted 450 daffodil bulbs in the pouring rain.

**Tillsonburg** made extensive plans for bus trips; held two plant and bake sales; a successful flower show; and members' open garden tours. Plantings were done at the cemetery, Station Arts Centre, entrance signs, Simcoe St. bridge, Legion and Mineral Springs. The Junior Gardeners' program was a huge success. As convention greeters they were superb.

**West Lorne & Community** put their focus on building flower boxes for the business area. Donations were collected and the West Elgin Secondary School technology classes designed and built the boxes.

**Woodstock** established a youth club with 11 members; held workshops; and took bus tours. For the convention, they capably hosted the social evening.



## *District Eleven*

### *District Director - Rose Johnson*

**Ambassador** held nine regular meetings at the Bedford United Church, Sandwich Towne area in the far west end of Windsor. They tried a combination plant, bake and yard sale this year and held a flower show.

**Belle River & District** helped the ERCA at the Belle River Lakeshore Park where they re-landscaped, added a fish habitat, new washroom facilities and a new bridge over the river. 39 large specimen trees were planted and nearly 300 smaller trees and shrubs were purchased. Along with the Rotary Club they erected a new gazebo.

**Blenheim-Harwich** hosted District 11's Spring Meeting. With the aid of the BIA they planted hanging baskets and coordinated the floral displays around the community. At the Cherry Festival, they organized a container garden contest. Gardening books and magazines were donated to the local library and they awarded a bursary to the Blenheim District High School.

**Brigden & District** held two flower shows and entered a display in the fall fair. Youth members entered decorated pumpkins in the fair and took many ribbons and prizes.

**Essex & District** were busy with general meetings and area plantings where their members volunteered their time and efforts.

**Fort Malden** honoured Florence and Charlie Bowyer with a rose arbour and two benches installed in Seagram Park. Also honoured was Dr. John Spellman with a tree planted in the park. A successful Rhododendron sale was held in May. They donated to the town's hanging baskets and increased their scholarship fund from \$300. to \$500. Tree plantings took place along Laird Avenue with the assistance of the "TD Friends of the Environment" program. The Library Landscaping Project phase I was completed and plans made for phase II.

**Grand Bend** applied for and received a Trillium Grant that they dedicated to the landscaping of the Community Health Centre. The annual picnic saw Director, Alan Batke, presenting Service Certificates to deserving members.

**Greater Windsor** delivered 4-packs of Begonias to 120 seniors in the area and donated Iris to the Iris House. They planted and maintained the Riverside Health Care Centre, and St. John the Baptist School native habitat which they helped establish.

**Kingsville** tended many sites in both Kingsville and Cottam -- Lakeside Park, library, IODE, OPP, high school, town hall, Cottom Ridgeview Park and BIA planters. Volunteers staffed the tourist booth and with the proceeds

from this were able to purchase two Victorian steel settees for the downtown area.

**Leamington** planted a tree in memory of past treasurer, Lorna Switzer. Activities included a booth at the Home and Garden Show, a plant sale and tour of the Home and Garden Show in Detroit. A new project was a granite memorial in honour of past members, installed in the Sun Parlour Home. Two benches were installed at Dieppe Park.

**Ridgetown & District** were busy tending and caring for beds at the east, west and south entrance to the town; Mickle Park; Ebenezer St. and Main St. concrete planters; Firehall Terraces; Mary's Garden; Pioneer Walk; post office; library; Ridgetown Service Centre; Ridgetown Community Gardens; Native Forest Trail; Information Coach; Walnut Street; Trees Memorial Forest; Greenwood Cemetery; Retail Planter Program; the Village Retirement Home; and the Ridgetown Swimming Pool.

**Sarnia** had a successful plant sale; visited DeGroot's Nursery; held a Rose & Flower Show at Lambton Mall, and also held a Flower and Vegetable Show at Lambton Mall. The College Street Garden, owned by the Sarnia Hort. Society, has been a centre of their focus for the past couple of years and they are looking into the insurance issues.

**Thamesville** had a busy year with the Town Hall Redesigning Project where they have expended great efforts.

**Tilbury** tended beds in downtown Tilbury, Comber and Merlin. They were involved in the Memorial Forest Project with the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority at Northside Park in Tilbury. Nine trees were planted

in memory of loved ones. They also planted five trees in Tilbury Memorial Park. Two scholarships to students entering a horticultural program at St. Clair College were given to Tilbury High School students.

**Watford/Warwick** was busy holding workshops and a successful Christmas home tour. They again put a lot of effort into their Youth Gardeners projects.

## At a Glance

District 11 contains the counties of Essex, Kent and Lambton and over 3500 members. The most southern contingent of the Ontario Horticultural Association, all of the societies were busy with plant and seed sales, garden tours, flower shows, planting and maintaining their beautiful cities and towns, as well as holding interesting and informative monthly meetings.

As the new District Director for District 11, Rose Johnson, would like to thank all the societies for their help and support over the past year and looks forward to new and exciting things to come in the future. The lasting legacy provided for future generations will be shown in the quality of our environment that we are protecting with today's dedication to planting trees, shrubs and flowers.



## *District Twelve*

### *District Director - Kees Stryland*

**Englehart & District Horticultural Society** continued to do what they do best -- hold educational and entertaining general meetings for their members! Volunteers prepared and planted the town beds, including the hospital and town signs. The Spring Plant and Bake Sale was followed by the Summer Barbecue held at Aidie Creek Gardens. At the fall fair, and the Township of Evanturel's 100th Anniversary, they staffed a successful information booth to promote horticulture and their local society. In the classroom youth member horticultural meetings were held at noon hours with as many as 100 youth members attending.

**Cochrane Horticultural Society** planned activities on the rejuvenation and maintenance of two of their planted beds, one at Lady Minto Hospital and one at the Hillcrest Play Park's butterfly garden. Efforts were also put into the Polar Bear Park where they planted interesting perennials and trees. They held a successful herb planting workshop in May and a garden tour in July. Their participation in the Blueberry Festival, for the first time in August, proved to be a great success. They held their popular Annual Flower

and Vegetable Show in conjunction with the Cochrane Fall Fair.

**Iroquois Falls Horticultural Society** is one of the smaller societies in the district, but, they still do lots of town plantings in conjunction with the city, where they give general expertise to the City Beautification committee. A successful, ongoing garden competition still interests and attracts many participants.

**Kapuskasing Horticultural Society** had 52 members and celebrated it's 75th Anniversary where Life Members were asked to help celebrate by cutting a cake. Also in honour of their 75th, the society busied themselves planting 300 Darwin Hybrid Tulips and two dozen Daffodil bulbs in the society's Mini Park located beside the main highway that passes through town. They maintained a flowerbed at Riverside Park, and had a display in the park during the Lumberjack Festival in July. A self-guided garden tour was held in August. The annual Flower and Vegetable Show was held at the Civic Centre Auditorium which was officially opened by the Mayor.

**Kirkland Lake Horticultural Society** always sells out of tickets for their popular annual roast beef dinner which is held at the local Legion. A busy society, they planted thousands of annuals at many of the local tourist attractions, including the Miners Memorial Museum, the Royal Canadian Legion Hall, cenotaph, airport, Works Department office, Recreational Complex and many other parts of the downtown area. They host the annual 'Shop and Stop' that is always well attended and very successful. Another successful venture for this society is the annual Flower and Vegetable Show which attracts many participants.

**Porcupine Horticultural Society** had sixteen people participate in the community raised beds at the Anglican Church and are planning to add extra beds, resulting in extra volunteers coming forward and asking to come aboard and give assistance. They are offering a gardening program for seniors at the Spruce Hill Lodge that gives gardening advice and helps the seniors with the raised beds. They will join the city to revitalize one of the parks to honour Georgina and Stan Hunter, two of their original society founding members.

**Timmins Horticultural Society** planted a large circular flower bed by Gilles Lake with Chrysanthemums that were donated by the Canadian Tire Garden Centre; as well as with numerous other perennials. They continue to hold their Annual Flower

and Vegetable Show as well as specific one-day shows throughout the year. This society is quite heavily involved in youth planting and teaching horticulture both in the classroom and in the community.

## At a Glance

The seven societies in District 12 cover a vast geographical territory and are as diverse in their types of activities as they are in their distances. Some societies showcase their showing and growing abilities at their own horticultural shows while others combine with the local agricultural societies to enhance and enlarge their efforts. Some hold spring shows, some summer shows and some fall shows.

Working with the junior members is a huge endeavour that is taken very seriously by this northern district. Many of the youth programs are in conjunction with the local school activities and are held during noon hour breaks -- and they are very well attended!

Spring and fall get togethers are held and each society has the chance to host.



## *District Thirteen*

### *District Director - Claire Liinamaa*

**Assiginack** is one of the smallest societies in our district but is one of the most active. They are celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2005, and their flower show and community plantings will reflect this event. The O.H.A. District 13 Quilt is being retired this year and will be showcased at the Assiginak Museum in Mindemoya.

**Blind River** is a very energetic and enthusiastic group. Their 'Bean Supper' held annually in February as a fund raiser was especially successful this year. They maintain a lovely park in the town and last year a special dedication of a stone monument was held in honor of President Lynn Brown, who had passed away. Blind River hosts the District Advisory Council meetings at their Marina on beautiful Lake Huron.

**Bruce Station** is the smallest society in the district and bravely hosted our Annual Meeting this year. It was beautifully done, with the theme "Can You Dig It?" focusing on the area's past copper mining industry. Congrats to this very deserving society!

**Campbell** flower shows are well-known throughout the district. There are usually over 500 entries by at least 30 competitors. Their specimen entries are well presented and the design classes are extraordinary. They have a very active youth group that wins many

ribbons at Convention competitions. This past year the Society drew up and adopted a new constitution.

**Elliot Lake** members had a very successful year. They initiated the beginning of gardens to be located at the Civic Centre. Their plans are to beautify the town for its 50th Anniversary. They are continuing to have interesting and educational meetings at Renaissance Hall. Their flower show, held at the end of July, is always very interesting to attend and also includes a 'Country Store'.

**Espanola** continues to be a very active and viable group. Their meetings are interesting with speakers such as Laura Patrie, a how-to demo on how to start annuals from seed. Linda Hugli held a workshop on "The Living Pillow". The society partnered with the District Social Services Board by being judges in a garden contest being initiated at the family housing units.

**Lake George** members kept quite busy this past year. There was a bus tour to the Soo to view their community gardens and also the New North Greenhouses. Another tour was to Adcock Gardens on St. Joseph Island. They held their annual picnic; there was a tour of local gardens and their annual flower display and luncheon was held. They plant and maintain six community flower beds.

**Massey-Walford** is a small society that is managing to keep quite active. Their meetings are held at the Public Library. Their flower show is well attended. Society members maintain a lovely park and rose garden on a very visible corner on the main highway. It features a gazebo and benches where a weary traveler can stop to admire .

**St. Joseph Island** is the home of the fabulous Adcock Gardens. This society is highly motivated with a strong community spirit. They plant and maintain eight flower beds as well as window boxes in both towns on the island. Every July they host a garden tea and a guided tour of the grounds of the Adcock Gardens.

**Sault Ste. Marie** is one of the largest societies, located at the western most end of the District. It is unbelievable the number of projects these members tackle. Recipients of a Trillium Grant for their work in Community Gardening. They also won recognition and a grant from the OHA for their continuing work at the Riverview Centre Therapeutic Garden, located at the hospital for mentally challenged patients. They raise funds through the sale of bulbs and have a gigantic plant sale in May. Their monthly meetings are kept interesting with small floral displays and top-notch speakers on a wide variety of subjects. They also host an Annual Garden Tour and a mid-summer Flower & Vegetable Show. "News in Bloom" is their monthly newsletter.

**Sudbury** is another large society and is located at the eastern most end of the District. They hold a large number of fundraising events beginning in March with two bus loads of people going to Canada Blooms in Toronto.

Two annual plant sales held in conjunction with the Master Gardeners are successful. They plant and maintain John St. Park, the grounds at C.N.I.B. Cambrian Hall, and "The Garden of Life" at St. Joseph's Villa. The highlight this year was partnering with the Lung Association and the Master Gardeners in the creation of a Garden Festival which also incorporated the African Violet Show that was highly successful. Six flower shows are held throughout the year. A newsletter is published monthly and an annual yearbook is distributed to all members. 2006 will be their 95th Anniversary and they will be hosting the AGM with the theme "Rousing the Senses".

**Thessalon** society is finding it difficult to compete with the many other sports and social clubs in such a small town. Their small membership try very hard to plant and maintain the two flower beds at each entrance. They have also extended the lovely planting at the Marina. These flower beds welcome everyone with a wonderful display of colour, and give the members a great sense of accomplishment.

## At a Glance

District 13 is located along the North Shore of Lake Huron and dips south into St. Joseph Island and Manitoulin. Thank goodness I have three very capable Assistant Directors.

I am pleased to announce that as of April 27, 2005, we have a new society. The Spanish Horticultural Society brings us to 13 societies.



## *District Fourteen*

### *District Director - Harriet Hansen*

**Atikokan** had a very busy year with 10 workshops, public plantings, making ice candles for the “Walk for Cancer”, the completion of Legion Point Museum Upgrade Project, clean and green group and the care of the plants at the Extended Care Wing of the Hospital and at the local library. For excitement and fun they entered into the local Christmas parade.

**Thunder Bay** had a keynote speaker on landscaping and flowerbed designs and members held workshops on Orchids, Irises, Begonias, Amaryllis, and Trees. Long-time member Ralph Bullough presented a slide show from his visit to horticultural areas of Cornwall, in Great Britain. The year ended with a potluck supper and food donations for the Faye Peterson House Christmas Cheer Fund.

**Evergreen Thumbs** saw elections completed and the group adopted their first constitution. They formed a youth group of which five of the group experimented in the winter sowing of seeds. Coffee mugs with the society logo were given to speakers and garden tour hosts as gifts and the rest were used as a fundraiser.

**Fort Frances** was well underway with plantings at the library, Home for the Aged, CN Station and new Good Neighbours Garden. Communities in Bloom are well under way in this

community and is a new endeavor. A picnic in the park was held to celebrate the 35th anniversary. A new project was two floral displays installed in the window of Rainy Lake Hotel to the delight of passing shoppers. Their flower show drew a large crowds.

**Dryden** members were kept busy throughout the year by a Plant and Bake Sale, flower show, Fall Fair and flower arranging workshop. In the fall, the Plant and Produce exchange had special guests OHA president Wilma Wood and District Director Harriet Hansen attending. They continue to give the Meins Vermeer High School bursary.

**Sioux Lookout** saw a heavy snowfall and a cold, wet spring get them off to a slow start. The group was busy hosting the district meeting, plantings at the extended care outside and inside, plant and bake sale, flower show, and workshops. People keep inquiring about the Bee Friendly Garden speaker.

**Geraldton** held their second dedication and an additional 10 trees were added to the Memorial Grove. Included in the ceremony was a spruce tree planted in the Fisher Court grounds in the memory of Con P. Velyan who founded the society in 1975. A new addition to the hospital grounds was a large perennial bed with plants and shrubs. The ‘welcome bed’ at the entrance to the town had a Canadian

flag planted in remembrance of the late society member Lollie Vaudrin.

**Longlac** held a craft sale that helped increase their annual membership. Spring saw this group off to a good start with a presentation on the care and transplanting of nursery stock, a workshop on painting and decoupage garden signs, decorating stepping stones and making concrete plant markers. They kept busy by completing the retaining walls at the Friendship Centre, a garden contest, tours, and a float in the Summerfest Parade.

**Nipigon-Red Rock** had four members as recipients of Volunteer Service Awards for 25 and 40 years of service. Pumpkin and potato growing contests were a great success for the society. The group planted and weeded the town flowerbeds in Red Rock and Nipigon, and the trail head perennial bed located between the two towns. They celebrated their 40th Anniversary with a garden tea that had three artisans present. Other activities were a flower and vegetable show and a Christmas workshop.

**Terrace Bay** saw its adopt-a-bed program continued and expanded and the beds received special attention for the Father's Day Ceremony which is an annual event sponsored by the town. The pond tour and garden stroll were held to coincide with an annual Drag Race event. The fall fair was held in September along with the pumpkin, squash, and potato contests. Their year ended with a candle-making workshop for members who wished to place a candle at the cemetery at dusk. This event is held in conjunction with the Annual Christmas Tree Bulb Lighting ceremony.

## At a Glance

District 14 is located in northwestern Ontario with ten societies spanning a geographical area east of Thunder Bay to Nipigon-Red Rock, Terrace Bay and north to Geraldton then Longlac. To the west is Thunder Bay, Atikokan, Fort Frances, Dryden, Sioux Lookout and Vermilion Bay.

All of our societies have been very busy with plant sales, garden tours, flower shows, planting beds in their communities and thereby beautifying the towns.

The District meeting was held in Sioux Lookout chaired by Marj Larson. The topics covered were repotting of an orchid with a display, Bee Friendly Garden, and The Secret Life of Plants.

The OHA past president Wilma Wood and I attended the August Memorial Grove Dedication and potluck supper in Geraldton. In the fall we travelled to Dryden for their annual plant and produce exchange.

Two societies celebrated special anniversaries this year. Fort Frances for 35 and Nipigon-Red Rock for 40.

Our district's annual Judges Workshop was held in held in Thunder Bay.



## *District Fifteen*

### *District Director - Liisa Wolfgram*

**Bolton** maintained 19 community gardens in Caledon, three of them new. Their most challenging project was planting 5000 Camassia bulbs and 400 Iris versicolour plants (their club flower) in the Mill Park Wetland they created in 1997. They had floats in the Bolton Fall Fair Parade and Santa Claus Parade.

**Brampton** was involved in “Communities in Bloom” and focused on their Front Garden Recognition Program sponsored by the Bramalea City Centre, placing close to 500 signs in front gardens; and the Boys and Girls Club Community Garden. Their first ‘Volunteer Recognition Afternoon’ was a social at Peel Manor garden. They held three public seminars entitled “Gardening as a Hobby”, introducing gardeners to some basic gardening information and membership to their society was included in the seminar fee.

**Chinguacousy** celebrated their 30th anniversary by inviting city officials to their colourful fall flower show where archives were on display and refreshments served. The youth project was planting a new perennial garden at the Terry Fox Public School.

**Cloverleaf** was busy with their 60th Anniversary events which included a special Flower Show Extravaganza where Paul Zammit was the guest speaker, archives were on display, raffle

prizes distributed and refreshments served. They held a private members garden tour, aside from their annual public tour. Cloverleaf was one of the clubs to participate in the first annual Mississauga Flower Show held at the Meadowvale Theatre.

**Credit Valley** celebrated their 20th anniversary. They support their community with plantings at Erin Mills Lodge, and the planting of native trees, shrubs and perennials at the Springbank site where with funding from Friends of the Environment, they are restoring a landfill site. They also do plantings at a women’s shelter. During the holiday season they purchase and deliver Poinsettias and Clementines to the hospital and women’s shelter. Over \$1100 is donated to four scholarship funds. They also participated in the Mississauga Flower Show.

**Etobicoke** continues garden projects at the Brentwood Library and the Montgomery Wildflower Meadow. New projects began at the Eatonville Library and the Long Term Care Facility at the Trillium Health Centre. The Centennial Park Conservatory features a new collection of Bromeliads funded by the society. They had two workshops, “Decorative Design” and “Making a Copper Trellis”. A volunteer appreciation afternoon tea was held at the Humber Arboretum.

Members visited four junior schools and assisted over 200 youth in making holiday centerpieces.

**Nobleton and King City** keeps very busy with twelve different community planting projects during the year. They had two tree plantings in memory of deceased members.

**Parkdale and Toronto's** history is a double whammy since they are actually two amalgamated societies. This year the Toronto, the oldest horticultural society in Ontario, celebrated its 160th Anniversary. Reprinted in their newsletters were interesting excerpts from the early history, including its connection with Allan Gardens. Although no youth club, they work with youth at Dovercourt and Dewson School. Children tend gardens on the school grounds.

**Richmond Hill** celebrated their 90th anniversary by holding a birthday party which included archive photos as well as old gardening tools from a member's collection. They held a summer garden party at the Heritage House where the society looks after the herb garden. Their front garden recognition program kept them busy from June through August posting 600 recognition signs in front gardens.

**Roselands** established a close relationship with West Park Hospital's Long Term Care Facility by taking on the planting of three courtyards and three terraces. Profits surpassed all other years with fund raising campaigns that included plant sales, bake sales, and a penny and silent auction. Spring bulbs were donated to nine local schools.

**Schomberg** participated in the Spring Fair and the Main Street Christmas. They held a successful garden tour highlighted by a barbeque.

**Streetsville** expanded community planting and beautification by developing partnerships with other organizations. They increased their involvement at the Old Britannia Schoolhouse to include garden planning and maintenance. They also plant in Rotary Park. With summer workshops they reached a goal of year-round activities for members. They also took part in the Mississauga Flower Show.

**Swansea** worked hard to create a new constitution. Improvement of their yearbook paid off by winning first prize at the District Meeting. A volunteer appreciation luncheon was held at the Town Hall. At the picnic, five members received Volunteer Service Awards from the Attorney General of Ontario.

**Thornhill** celebrated their 90th anniversary with a special program and dinner at the Heintzman House. They maintain the Percy Bone Parkette in Vaughan. The spring plant sale set a record and hopes are for the same in September.

**Westway** had an ambitious project -- the rejuvenation of the garden at the Richview Public Library. Shrubs were dug and replaced with low maintenance perennials and a plaque installed to acknowledge their work. The second summer tea party was held with a decorated hat and a floral display in a tea cup contest. Westway updated their constitution.

**Woodbridge** hosted the District Annual Meeting. They take pride in assembling 40 to 50 flower boxes at major bridges in town. They adopted the historic Wallace House and designed, supplied and planted a large perennial garden and walkway around the house, while decorating through the seasons.



## *District Sixteen*

### *District Director - Dorothy Shropshire*

**Alliston & District** participated in the Millpond Gallery's 'Floral Interpretations' show where floral designs complimented paintings on display. These floral entries were available for sale to the public. Along with a plant and bake sale and a bus tour to Grey County, they had an ongoing 'Open Garden Tour' of eight members' gardens. Improvements to community gardens continued to be an important focus and they maintained the Memorial Gardens and Arboretum and the Riverdale Gardens. They are proud to have developed their own Constitution and Bylaws this year.

**Angus** celebrated their 75th Anniversary. In March, Home Hardware asked them to put on a demonstration of starting seeds indoors. This was a chance to develop more interest in the society. To celebrate this special year, they had a dinner cruise and a year-end dinner. Essa Township presented them with a maple tree which they planted in the library grounds. Other plantings included Flowering Crabs at the Farewell Gardens, perennial beds at the Millennium Gardens and more trees at the library. Welcome and Goodbye signs for Angus were placed on the Brentwood Road. In November the Lion's Club presented society President, Wendy Harry, with the 2004 Citizen of the Year Award.

**Barrie Garden Club** was busy with their May Plant Sale with people lining up at 7 a.m. to take advantage of a varied selection of perennials chosen by John Clarke, sale co-ordinator. The City of Barrie donated \$100,000. towards the Sesquicentennial Pavilion and Botanix came through with plants. The 'Tranquility Garden' in the Arboretum is maintained by three hired staff. The Spring Seminar featured Marjorie Harris as the keynote speaker.

**Beeton** participated in the Honey Festival as well as plantings on Main Street and at the new library. Monthly meetings featured an array of interesting speakers plus a 'make and take' craft night.

**Bond Head & District** tend the containers and a Hosta bed at the corner parkette. They held a garden tour, plant auction and Mother's Day sale. They supported the Bradford Santa Claus Parade, Beeton Agricultural Fair and took part in Communities in Bloom. The youth started a natural compost area at the school which they used for pumpkins and gourds. A bus trip to Niagara area and the Royal Winter Fair gave needed play time.

**Brentwood** held plant sales and a Strawberry Social. A new flower bed was created at the Pioneer Cemetery and they tended the Brentwood and New Lowell Community Centres, New

Lowell School, library, park and Brentwood Triangle. Although no youth group, students were helped with school plantings.

**Coldwater & District** planted and upgraded seven community gardens. A new 'Memorial Garden' was begun and will be completed in 2005.

**Collingwood** did a cleanup at the Arboretum, held a plant sale, rose and flower show, bus trip to Grey and Bruce Counties, an Arboretum rededication ceremony, a fall flower and vegetable show, a tea and bake sale, and the awards night and banquet. They tend seven parks and the public buildings.

**Creemore** took part in the Home and Garden Show and their booth ran children's activities. The 'Special Project Award' from the OHA went towards the downtown park, which is a combined effort with 'Station on the Green'. A new Heritage Garden, at the smallest jail in North America, is a project they look forward to completing. A new event, a combined art and flower show at the church, included a children's workshop plus events at the town Art Gallery.

**Gilford & District** began the year with a 'Snowflake Soiree'. They had a booth at the 'Get Growing' garden show, a plant sale with Master Gardeners on hand for advice, a fall flower and vegetable show, and kept their youth group busy planting seeds and tending school flower beds. They tend gardens in Churchill, Gilford and Lefroy. A garden tour with a Victorian tea and barbershop quartet rounded out their 25th Anniversary year.

**Midland** plant the Main Street planters, other town beds and the dock areas. Tree replacements were donated to private residences. A plant sale and

Communities in Bloom involved most members. Trips included Canada Blooms and the Owen Sound area.

**Orillia** continue to work on the arboretum and spent 450 hours tending it with the hopes of raising awareness of their society. Bus tours took them to Gratrix Lily Gardens, Humber Nurseries and gardens of District 16.

**Oro-Medonte** planted a Red Maple to honour Alastair Crawford, their first President, then District Director and then OHA President. The 260 youth, from four schools, won many prizes at the district level and at the OHA convention in London.

**Painswick** participated in the 'Get Gardening' show where over 400 youngsters left with 'magic beans'. A successful plant sale was held in May. Stroud Parkette, phase I, was completed with benches and a pergola. Knock Historical Site had a Heritage Garden created, complete with an irrigation system and heritage perennials and bulbs. A historical plaque for Andrew Hunter was placed.

**Penetanguishene** tended the beds at the town entrance, placed hanging baskets at Centennial Museum and at the Ecology Garden where two memorial planters were hung.

**Stayner** toured Canada Blooms. They invited the neighbouring societies of Creemore and Brentwood to their general meeting and potluck supper, planted the beds around town, held a Tulip, Spring Iris and Rose Show and an August flower show.

**Tottenham & District** proposed a new landscaping plan for Glimmer Memorial Garden. Membership was increased and plans are to increase it again next year. They held three flower shows and a photo exhibit.



## *District Seventeen*

### *District Director - Kathryn Carnegie*

On a leisurely drive through the District, one will pass through several changes of scenery, from pastoral farmlands, shoreline communities, through urban sprawl. On the south shore of Lake Simcoe, “green thumbs” from the **Beaverton Horticultural Society** maintain the town square, site of plant auctions and Canada Day celebrations, complete with its millennium sculpture and colourful plantings. Commemorative trees are identified for participants in the annual Garden Tour. Bus trips and the August Tea and Show at Gillespie Gardens, to which the seniors who are resident there are invited, are annual events. A membership campaign is afoot.

Following Pefferlaw Brook to the south, one enters the Village, home of the **Georgina-Brock Garden Club**, and to the east along the Beaverton River, **Cannington Horticultural Society**. Both pastoral and riparian in nature, these two groups serve a vast area. The **Georgina-Brock GC**, supported by various partners in the community, has undertaken long-term commitments to the enhancement of Cooke’s Pioneer Cemetery and Wilfred United Church. Meanwhile, the **Cannington HS** is expanding McLeod Park Nature Trail (assisted by a TD Friends of the Environment grant), and the barrel planters in the downtown.

Meandering further south, Lake Scugog becomes the focus of an area served by the **Pine Ridge Garden Club** (Nestleton). April 2005 marks the second year for “The Scugog Spring Garden Show”, presented in partnership with the township, and open to all society members in D17. An autumn corn roast is open to the community. To the west, **Uxbridge Horticultural Society** continues sponsorship for the Fair, and was represented on the 2004 Communities in Bloom Committee. An irrigation project is underway at the library, and naturalization with several thousand bulbs daffodils is being promoted throughout the community.

A short drive to the southeast, brings the traveler into the Village of Brooklin, now annexed into the Town of Whitby. Home of the **Brooklin Horticultural Society**, the village and its environs benefit from beautification projects, parade floats and The Butterfly Meadow, Post #1 on the Lions Wilderness Trail, for which the society won the 2004 Durham Region Irene Kock Education/Communication Award. Brooklin HS is represented on the ‘05 Whitby Communities in Bloom committee. In honour of Whitby’s sesquicentennial, they hosted the AGM 2005 at the refurbished historical Centennial Building in Whitby, an old courthouse rumoured to be haunted!

Heading west along the 401 corridor, one could take a break at the waterfront trail in Ajax, site of memorial trees and benches, donated by the **Ajax Garden Club**. They continue to support Ajax in Bloom, and members are volunteering for committees planning the town's 60th Anniversary. The plant sale will coincide with Ajax Home Week in June. In 2006 the Club will be the AGM host. The **Pickering Horticultural Society** retains a proud history of public plantings, especially those at the Esplanade and Gazebo, adjacent to one of the busiest shopping malls in the region. Naturalization projects at the Nuclear Station are ongoing. To the east, the **Oshawa Garden Club** has participated in the city's internationally winning entries in Communities in Bloom. The Club is also a partner in developing the Oshawa Valley Botanical Gardens, celebrating its grand opening in June, with a Peony Festival. Heritage peonies from the Gilbert collection were donated by a member of Brooklin HS in conjunction with The Canadian Peony Society. To celebrate its 75th year in '06, a gazebo/pergola will be donated to OVBG.

The **Bowmanville Horticultural Society** is spotlighting civic improvement projects. Refurbishments at the Clarington Tourism Office and the west Hwy #2 entrance are now complete (TD Canada Trust, Friends of the Environment and Trillium grants). The Town Hall and downtown core are now targeted. **Newcastle Horticultural Society** hosted AGM '04 in the refurbished Town Hall, held a Rose Show in June (04) to celebrate its 90th Anniversary, and participates in the Clarington Apple Blossom Festival. The day's meanderings bring the

traveler to the quiet village of **Orono**, passing along the way, several new flowerbeds. The **Horticultural Society** participates in the Clarington Apple Blossom Festival, sponsors Youth Classes at the fair, and makes wreaths for Decoration Day.

## At a Glance

District 17 has five Garden Clubs and seven Horticultural Societies. Suburbia is invading; membership demographics are changing; boards are busy with the challenges and revamping programs; and speakers' lists reflect a broader spectrum of topics. Societies reach out to their communities with tours, beautification projects, open gardens, and horticultural shows. Photography interest is increasing and show schedules are becoming more creative. Barbeques, picnics, teas, and suppers are held throughout the District.

New district committees were created over the last three years: \*email communications' network, managed through the Internet Coordinator, is expanding \*the Ways and Means Committee deals with grants and awards \*the Shows and Competitions Committee provides mentorship, and organizes seminars. This committee hosted "Let's Go To The Show", with Lil Haworth providing savvy enlightenment.



## *District Eighteen*

### *District Director - Vickie Wiemer*

**Argyle** changed the venue of their flower show from the Lions Club to a big tent at “Strawberry Fields” in conjunction with an artisans and craft show. Instead of having a tea they had a barbecue which was a great success.

**Baysville** installed two large rocks at the entrances into their town from Huntsville and from Dorset. The rocks will be inscribed with “Welcome to Baysville”. As well they led a group to install a smaller rock with a plaque that honoured Sid Thomas, a dedicated volunteer, who helped many Baysville clubs with his talent as a sign painter.

**Bracebridge** continued to look after seven public gardens. One was planted by the junior gardeners in an antique horse trough. A hypertufa workshop, a plant buying bus tour and a garden tour highlighted their year.

**Gravenhurst** conducted a tin man garden structure workshop along with many other interesting meeting topics. They assisted in finding gardens for a Community in Bloom garden tour. The youth group started seeds in a growing room, transplanted them, and weeded and deadheaded the Centennial Garden.

**Huntsville** meets from March to November with the exception of August. The Spring and Summer Show and Plant Sale was held at the Huntsville Mall and created a lot of interest. They moved their July garden

tours up to a Friday evening and Saturday in June and this was very successful. In October, two hundred bulbs were planted at the library. The youth group crafted willow baskets and made garden statuary.

**Callander** conducted a “critter contest” for the youth on Canada Day. They hosted the District 18 Fall Workshop where we had great fun making dried centrepieces for the banquet tables at the convention in August, 2005. First time arrangers were particularly proud of their work. Instead of having a Summer or Fall Flower Show, they opted to experiment with a show and had a drop-in social rather than the lunch they usually serve.

**Mattawa** used their Trillium grant to build a boardwalk at Park Mattawan and held a ceremony to open it officially. Trees were planted at the local nursing home with the help of some young people. Katimavik youth continued to help with painting flower benches and gazebos at Dufoe Park.

**North Bay** again manned a booth at the Lung Association Garden Festival. The plant sale was moved to Christ Church Anglican. This was very successful as there was more space, better parking and refreshments were added to the sale. The flower show showed a 50% increase in participants from the year before.

The second recipient of the Madeline and Don Hobson District 18 annual Civic Beautification Trophy was **Parry Sound** for their garden planted at the corners of Bowes and Louisa Streets. They hold quite a few shows including one for house plants, as well as ones for spring, summer, fall and Christmas. Their photo competition is held in October. They used the newly certified judges to judge the fall show.

**Powassan** hosted District 18's Annual Meeting in the spring and did a bang-up job with phenomenal decorations. They raised funds for and built raised flowerbeds of stone in the Community Heritage Garden. They accepted and planted Heritage trees, shrubs and flowers which were donated by community members in memory of loved ones to help celebrate the municipality's 100th year in 2005.

**Rousseau** was incorporated in April and by October had 39 individual members and 16 family memberships. They planted existing barrels and planters with annuals throughout the village. For the fall, they collected evergreen boughs and dried material to make seasonal arrangements in the planters. A field trip to "Lilies in the Valley" was very enjoyable.

The "Gardening Library" of **Sprucedale** was redesigned in 2004. Their "portable" Garden Library travels to each of their four meeting locations. Books, videos and information sheets are used extensively by their members. Over 200 books and videos are in the library. Members use the resources extensively and new literature is purchased each year. The Flower Show and Garden Tour participation fulfilled their expectations. Volunteers worked diligently in the four garden locations

maintained by the society. A portable sound system was purchased enabling members to hear speakers more clearly.

**Sundridge** went to Canada Blooms in March and held a garden tour in July. A workshop and sale of fresh wreaths was particularly enjoyable. A successful arrangement workshop was held in November.

In the various communities that **Whitestone and District** look after, many barrels were planted with either Wave Petunias or Marigolds. The petunias made a great show as they overflowed the barrels. They also tend a number of beds which include perennials, annuals and summer bulbs.

## At a Glance

District 18 has been working very hard on preparing for the Ontario Horticultural Association convention that we are hosting in 2005. A committee was set up with each society being asked to nominate members to it. This committee meets regularly, each society taking turns to host it. We pack our lunches and usually finished around 2:00 in the afternoon.

We finished our Judging School with twenty new judges graduating and four recertified.

All the societies worked on public plantings, revamping some, starting new ones and keeping the ongoing ones deadheaded and weed free. Garden tours continued to be popular.



## *District Nineteen*

### *District Director - Mary Young*

**Ayr** held seven public meetings. Our November meeting took the form of a Poinsettia Wooden Angel workshop. In May, our 84th Annual Flower Show had a record number of plants for sale. We built phase one of an interlocking stone Memorial Walkway replacing a gravel path. We also built a storage shed for the society's watering cart and other materials used for our annual flower show. A new bench was added to the park. A donation of \$2500 went to landscape our new village library. Members of the society helped judge horticultural entries in the local School Fair and we donated prize money. 15 planters, 24 hanging baskets and the cenotaph were planted and maintained as well as Roseville Community Centre and village parks. A spring cleanup day was organized with village youth donating their time to help pick up litter. Our society partners with the Township of North Dumfries to pay for the plant watering and litter pickup.

**Elmira** had seven education programs. May brought our Annual Plant Sale. A garden tour in July had eight homes featured. Refreshments were served at Leisureworld, a new senior's nursing home. The December Candlelight Christmas Tour had four homes and a church this year with over 300 tickets sold. Thirteen community

flower beds were our major focus in 2004. The township provides most of the funding, and volunteers from our society doing the planning, planting and maintenance. We have also completed phase 2 in a major garden at Bristow Park. We purchase 20 hanging baskets which are a wonderful attraction to Elmira's downtown. There were 11 gardeners in the Junior Garden Program who began the year painting the fence around their plots, and ended the year with a judging competition. Our new project is to provide a scholarship of \$500 to a graduating student from Elmira District High School, who is pursuing studies in horticulture at a post-secondary institution.

**Hespeler** had Ellacott Lookout as an addition to our civic improvements. In cooperation with the City of Cambridge, a plan was drawn up for a parking boulevard on Queen Street in Hespeler, Cambridge. Old evergreens were removed and the bed amended with fresh soil. The design included ornamental grasses and new shrubs. The bed was planted with the city contributing woody material and armour stone. In the fall, more bulbs were purchased for Ellacott.

**Kitchener** upheld its motto 'Civic Beauty is a Civic Duty' through its continued commitment to the beautification of Rockway Gardens and

in its programs to the membership. They received a grant from the Kitchener-Waterloo Community Foundation and a donation from the Kitchener Lions Club for the construction of a pedestrian bridge over the central pond at Rockway Gardens and for surrounding landscaping. Our membership in 2004 was 394. The summer garden tours attracted between 90 and 110 on each of the three evenings. The plant exchange with the Kitchener Master Gardeners, and the bulb sale were successful fund raising events. The 19 children involved with the Youth Group met weekly from May through to October plant and maintain gardens at J. Steckle Heritage Homestead.

**Preston** maintains the flowerbeds in Gore Park, installed a 6' high chain link fence between the railway tracks and the garden and removed old Juniper bushes, later replanted with Hostas and a variety of bulbs. Our plan is to plant environmentally friendly perennials. During May 2004 we had our first plant sale.

**Waterloo** had a speaker encourage members to travel to Strathroy to see Cuddy Gardens, so a bus tour was arranged with stops at Hosta Choice Nursery and Swain Greenhouses. A booth was organized at the annual "Get Growing Garden Show". Workshops were held at Sheridan Nursery, Home Hardware and garden sites. The Flower and Vegetable Show was a piece of "eye candy" showing "the jewels" of member's gardens. The "Best of Show" trophies have been retired and cash prizes are now given. With summer lingering into November, Waterloo hosted the fall meeting of District 19.

**Wellesley Township** had a membership of 123. There are six centres throughout Wellesley Township where the society plants and maintains flowerbeds. We have displays at local Home Shows and Agricultural Fall Fairs. For society events, we have a Summer Garden Tour and a Christmas potluck. Our pledge for 2005 is to be more active in "Green" issues.

**Wilmot** was privileged to have Paul Zammit in June, when we had visitors from other societies. Regular meetings are held at the Haysville Community Centre. The Civic Beautification Committee proudly received Wilmot Township's "Citizen of the Year Award" for the Environment, which was presented at the New Hamburg Fall Fair.

## At a Glance

District 19 has nine societies within the Region of Waterloo.

We held a very successful fall workshop with participants of all ages going home with a terrarium and ideas for "the right tool for the right job" presented by staff of Lee Valley.

It is the hope of the District Director and Secretary/Treasurer to visit all societies throughout the year and to visit garden plots, civic flowerbeds and projects throughout the summer months, along with meeting new friends and fellow gardeners.