

OHA's 19th Annual Successful Gardening Show

International Centre, Mississauga

Why do we do it – stage and enter flower shows? Is it the sense of accomplishment a successful show brings, the recognition and prize money of a winning entry, the camaraderie shared with like minded people in a spirit of friendly competition, or something else entirely? A flower show is a lot of work after all. The schedule must be set, staging organized, judges arranged. You need publicity, volunteers, and of course entries, hopefully lots and lots of entries. Personally, I think the best reward is the pleasure and excitement expressed by the novice exhibitor holding an Honorable Mention ribbon as if it were a Best in Show rosette.



Following the loss of our Chair, Liisa Wolfgram, to cancer in early February, show committee members, Lotte Brunner (Cloverleaf), Wendy Gay and Dawn Teal (Roselands), Gera Koster and Cathy Faber-Rowlands (Etobicoke), Barbara O'Malley and Heinke Thiessen-Zemancik (Credit Valley), and Celia Roberts (Oakville) were determined to ensure that this year's show was one Liisa would have been proud of. The call went out and 37 exhibitors answered, including both novice and experienced exhibitors.

This year's theme *Just About Time* inspired some wonderful designs including a pineapple princess (pictured above) created by Jennifer Arnott in the fun class, *Once upon a Time*, a decorated fruit or vegetable. Helene Selemidis-Hill's fabulous 6' tall interpretation of a My Fair Lady poster, placed first in the Invitational class. Best in Show for design was awarded to Heinke Thiessen-Zemancik and Judge's Choice to Bette Hall. Julie Forbes was the top prize winner in the horticultural classes showing her talent in growing some outstanding tropical and cacti/succulent plants. Cloverleaf Garden Club was awarded 1st in the Society class, a Plants & Flowers exhibit.

This show would not be possible without the support of Showcase Marketing President Paul Newdick and all his staff. We extend a thank you for 2400 square feet of space, skirted tables, curtains, carpeting, special lighting,

ribbons, and printed material. We also thank Showcase Marketing for hosting our judges' luncheon and extend our gratitude for \$2792.00 in exhibitor prize money and demonstrator honoraria.

We recognize and thank the publicists, Linda Crane Communications and Kim Graham & Associates, for including us in the press packages and arranging interviews with Rogers Daytime Television, Breakfast TV Live, and CP 24 Live.

The two demos presented daily were well attended and received. Helene Selemidis-Hill (Aurora H.S.), Marie Decker (Oakville H.S.), Janice Schmidt (Milne House, pictured below) and Elizabeth Schleicher (Burlington H.S.) created 'Simple and effective floral designs for your home'. Edel Schmidt

(Cloverleaf G.C.) and Heinke Thiessen-Zemancik presented 'How to create your own spring planter'.

The show committee thanks all the volunteers and exhibitors and congratulates them on a job well done. Next year, we hope more of you will participate. This is a wonderful opportunity to share your love of all things horticultural as well as ideas and experiences. See you at the 20th annual show April 12-15, 2012.

Heinke Thiessen-Zemancik,
Acting Show Committee Chair 2011

