

Grimsby Garden Club

2015 Annual Report by President Beth Sommers

☼ Membership

- The Grimsby Garden Club has 143 members – 75 are single members and 68 are family members. So we have 109 memberships in the Club. We had 32 new members in 2015.

☼ Special Events and Activities

- We participate every year in the Grimsby Home and Garden Show where we used our new tent for our booth
- We participated in the Marketplace at the Pumphouse in Blooms for Africa Garden Tour this year
- Our first Volunteer Appreciation evening was hosted by Marilyn Cornwell on Aug 31st
- We again played a part in the Historical Society's Home and Garden Tour at the end of by creating the floral arrangements in the houses on the tour
- We sponsor and decorate a Christmas Tree for the Rotary Club's Fantasy of Trees
- Our Floral Design Course was offered in April/May with our own Lil Howarth instructing

☼ Civic Planting

- Lauren Doig spearheaded our endeavours this year and they were substantial – the Elm Street bed was entirely renovated in partnership with the Town doing the old plant removal, new soil remediation and club members planting the roses, hydrangeas and boxwood.
- We particularly thank Wendy Chrystian for the design and plant specifications.
- Mayor Bob Bentley cut the ribbon on the grand opening of the new beds
- The town baskets were again designed and planted under Lauren's direction – our thanks to Trillium Hill for their facilities and support in planting and watering the baskets.
- Our hospital beds continued to be cared for this year by Lynn Riding Liz Willson and their team of volunteers.

☼ Programme

- Our Speakers program, organized by Sue Lusted ranged from insects to roses this year with lots of different and interesting topics
- Our July outing was to a residential garden in Beamsville where Wendy Fletcher and Marilyn Cornwell are gardeners in the specialty gardens.

☼ Social

- We made a time change to our meetings this year with social time at 7:00pm
- Our meetings depend on volunteers to bring the treats and to get the coffee, tea and water ready. We had a rotating chair this past year and thanks to many volunteers who contributed their time and effort

☼ Youth

- Our youth program focuses on two things:

- Scholarships – two scholarships of \$400 each were awarded this year to students going on to a post-secondary program in horticulture/environmental, etc studies
 - The Grimsby Farmers’ Market presence is chaired by Joanne Johnston. In June, September and October we had hands-on garden activities for children
- ⊗ Flower Show
 - Our Flower show moved to September this year and allowed us to include vegetables in the show. We had two photography shows this year – one in January and the second one was part of our Annual Flower Show
- ⊗ Garden of the Month
 - Our team of and Wendy Frank and Beth Sommers awarded a Grimsby garden with garden of the month from May until October
- ⊗ Plant Sale
 - Peter Carr-Locke took over as plant sale chair this year and we moved our sale to the end of May in 2015 given the cold springs of past years and plan the same for 2016
 - We received donations from wholesalers and garden centres and raised just under \$1200
 - Our raffle prizes were donated by Vineland Estates and Trillium Hill
- ⊗ Newsletter and Social Media
 - Our newsletter made the transition to a mail service, in line with the new legislation to allow recipients to manage their own subscriptions, and giving us a more attractive look.
 - We continued to grow our Facebook presence, and added our Grimsby Garden Club blog. Our website migrated to the OHA gardenontario site, and is now known as grimsbygardenclub.ca
- ⊗ Publicity
 - We continue to advertise in our local newspapers and guides in support of our community and to bring our activities to the community
- ⊗ Trillium Awards
 - Mary McLaren chaired our annual Trillium Awards, with Marilyn Cornwell assisting the photographs and the awards presentation slide show.
 - 56 trilliums were awarded in residential and non-residential categories with almost 30 club members participating as judges
 - Bob Bentley presented the awards to the recipients at the Trillium award ceremony in September
- ⊗ Constitution and By-laws
 - There were no activities on our constitution and by-laws in 2015. The OHA requests that we upgrade our constitution and by-laws in 2016 and we are working on the draft now.

🌀 Nominations

- This is the committee that brings forward candidates for the board members and the executive. Mary McLaren has stepped down as Secretary, and Wendy Frank has taken on the role as Interim Secretary, with Marilyn Cornwell's support. We have 2 new candidates for the board and our current board members are standing for re-election in 2016.