

## District # 1

### Ottawa River from Voyageur Park



*Nestled between the Ottawa River to the North and the St. Lawrence River to the South, District #1 consists of the five counties of Stormont, Dundas, Glengarry and Prescott/Russell. It is small in area but large with garden enthusiasts. We can boast to being home to the Alfred Bog, Larose Forest and Voyageur Provincial Park as well as the South Nation Conservancy. We are seven societies strong with nearly 1000 members who managed to put in 11,000 + volunteer hours. Bravo!*

**Cornwall** hosted the District's AGM and a great time was had by all. One of their many community projects was the donation to the city of 500 tulip bulbs at the Cenotaph, the results were so beautiful that the flowers were featured on a poster to promote the City. The Society's biggest fund-raiser for the past 7 years has been "Bark Day" but sadly, the longstanding partnership

with Domtar is at an end with the closing of the Domtar facility.

**Martintown** added 10 new barrel planters throughout the village to compliment the lovely flower boxes decorating the Martintown bridge and the four flower beds at the town's entrances. The Society hosted two open garden tours and a very popular Garden Party for the District and instead of a formal flower show, the Society organized the judging of individual member's garden's. The members liked this idea so much, they may continue it again in 2006. Speakers topics included carnivorous plants, orchid culture, peonies and wild local plants.

**Maxville** starts each meeting with a pot luck supper and speakers who's topics range from "bats" to "forced bulb techniques". The Society continues to plant and maintain the four town entrances,

Post Office, community arena and the north end of the village. Two successful plant auctions were held and a number of members participated in a bird bath workshop. The annual bus trip took the members to Kiwi Gardens and Rockwell Gardens in Perth/ Their flower show is a community favorite.

*Russell* is still hard at work improving McDougall Park and other planting areas include the Russell Legion and Cenotaph as well as the Seniors Residence. 4000 plants were sold at the annual plant sale and the Society held five garden tours and a reception at McDougall Park. Numerous workshops were available to members ranging from “Preparing for the Show” to “Christmas Arrangements“. Russell Society also utilizes the local Master Gardeners, and members can always be found in attendance at the annual OHA Convention.

*Société d’Alfred* celebrated their 20<sup>th</sup>. Anniversary with a great party. Decorations included bright floral arrangements and colourful birdhouses. Guest speakers included Mr. Pierre Boileau who discussed bogs and marshland. This topic was of great interest to the members as the Alfred Bog is in their community. Other speakers covered Biological Gardening and Birds in our Gardens. The annual

bus trip took them to the Montréal Botanical Gardens, always a great place to visit and the fall auction had lots of great bargains.

*Vankleek Hill* continues to be active in local beautification projects such as maintaining Mill St. Park and donating flowering trees and shrubs to commemorate the graduating classes of two local elementary schools. The Society also distributes tulips and daffodil bulbs to local intuitions and seniors homes as well as supplying flowers to the “Meals on Wheels“ organization for birthdays and Christmas. Their annual Flower Show and Tea is always well attended by the community and the participation by the members increases each year.

*Williamstown Green Thumbs* started the year with a commitment to help beautify the village in preparation for the “Queen’s Royal Regiment Enactment“. Flower boxes were planted, the parade route was decorated and perennial beds were restored at the Township building. The annual flower show had 217 entries and five members graciously opened their gardens for tours. The Youth Group projects consisted of planting and maintaining geraniums at the local library, entering pumpkins in a giant pumpkin weigh off and planting bulbs at the elementary schools.

*Linda Stewart*

## District #2

### Project for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



As you travel down the Highway 17 corridor, stop at **Deep River** and smell the flowers at the two health care facilities. While strolling the streets observe the forty hanging baskets and fourteen planters in this picturesque town. Did you know that Deep River has the largest per capita membership of any society in Ontario?

After visiting the food bank garden plots in **Deep River**, continue on to **Petawawa** and visit the award winning gardens that won the Trillium competition. If you are here at Christmas time, view the tree decorated by the Horticultural Society which was planted the first year they became incorporated.

We come next to **Pembroke** with its lovely flowered and tree-lined promenade along the Ottawa River. Pansy Patch Park is always a palette of colour, thanks to this society.

Continuing into **Beachburg**, stop and admire the nine beds of annuals and perennials at County Haven, a senior's home. This small but active club planted 300 tulips for the Albert's Gardens project, a climate variability study.

Further down the lane is **Renfrew**, host for our District Annual Flower & Vegetable show in 2005. What a show it was! They too have planted 300 tulip bulbs in the climate study by the

National Capital Commission.

Bringing in many noted speakers, they had a memorable year.

As we travel south we arrive at **Eganville** and admire the lovely baskets and trees planted to celebrate their 50th Anniversary, at Fairfield and Centennial Park, also our delightful hosts for our AGM in 2005.

Continuing our route we come to Barry's Bay and **Madawaska Valley** Horticultural Society. Here we can view the many containers of flowers in several areas of the village. If you want a good deal on plants, attend their annual plant auction in September. You may be surprised at the auctioneer ....and what he sells you.!

Next on our tour we drive along the Mississippi River to **Pakenham** and gaze at a unique 'Iris' bed started by one of its members who is no longer with us, but the work is being continued by her husband. A great big thank you is in order here. Six members received Provincial Volunteer Awards this year. Congratulations to all!

The town of **Almonte** celebrated 125 years young in 2005, and the Almonte Society beautified the town with stunning planters. Stop and see the plum trees planted at the library and next spring, see the tulips, 300 of them, planted for a climate awareness project.

Just down the road is **Carleton Place**, where you can admire the flower beds at the museum gardens and at Beckwith Town Hall.

**Perth** Horticultural Society is very active with a Junior Gardener Program at 3 elementary schools. While here stop and see the Flag Garden and Cenotaph Garden and the many planters this society maintains.

Our newest club is **Smith's Falls** with 130 members in just one year. Our stop over here is to admire their work at three public gardens in the downtown area. Good job!

Approaching the Capital City we stop at Carp home of the **West Carleton Garden Club** and see the results of hard work done at the Library Reading Garden; and sitting on the Memorial Bench we sniff the many flowers planted here as well.

If you haven't seen the Trans Canada Trail, come to **Stittsville-Goulbourn** and see the work this club has done to enhance the trail . Also visit the flower beds at Granite Ridge Long-term Care facility.

**Kanata-March** Society, our next stop, has installed an irrigation system at the Tom Thompson Park, making it easier to water the many flower beds found here. You can also admire the many plantings at Hazeldean Public Library and South March Old Town Hall.

**Nepean**, in the heart of the city, is the home of the 2007 AGM .Many plantings are done in and around the area. Driving East of the city we arrive at **Gloucester** , home of the 2006 AGM. . Here we visit the gorgeous gardens

at Christian Horizon's Group Home. If you want to learn about preserves and organic vegetables this is the club to ask.

To the south we arrive at **Manotick**, that lovely hamlet on the Rideau River. . Celebrating 75 years, they planted and maintained new beds at the local library for the community to enjoy.

Driving through **Kemptville**, you can see many community plantings at the post office, the library, Rotary Park and Oxford Mills. The downtown has a new beautification project thanks to the society.

Our specialist club, the **Ottawa Valley Rock Garden and Horticultural Club** is always busy giving instructions on how to make hypertufa pots to all our societies. What a plus to have them on board! If you want alpine seeds, troughs , plants and advice visit this club. In 2008 they will host the North American Rock Garden Society Convention in the city of Ottawa and we wish them much success.

Our anchor club and one of the oldest is the **Ottawa** Horticultural Society and home of the **100th Anniversary Convention in 2006**. Here you can view some great plantings at the Hospice at May Court or you can sit in on lecture series which they sponsor.

Hope you enjoyed your trip through the Ottawa Valley and District 2, home of the 100th Anniversary Convention 2006

**Ken Fink**

Mr. Ken Fink is the Convention Chairperson - 2005-06.

## District #3

### Gardens abound in District 3



#### **Ameliasburg** (64 members)

Under the leadership of President Gwyn Bedford, members are quite active in maintaining four gardens in the areas of the Ameliasburg Museum; the Ameliasburg Public Library, Purdy Lane Planter and the Marilyn Adams Centre.

#### **Athens** (85 members)

This new society, incorporated in 2005, brings to District #3, a total of 14 Societies. We welcome them heartily. James Cairns, President, advises that his members hope to start a 'Therapeutic' garden at a local seniors' home this year. This past year they planted 300 'Red Emperor' tulips to participate in the Ottawa Region Climate Change Study.

#### **Bancroft** (118 members).

President Peter Dyson advises that the plant sale in May was very successful and new members were signed up at this event. They maintain gardens in the Millennium Park, at the post office, the public library and at Quince Manor. They hosted the 2005 AGM held in Bancroft.

#### **Belleville** (100 members)

The AGM for 2006 will be held here.- Ruth Wright heir President advises that the city parks and recreation dept. is planting a garden in their honour and that they only have to supply plants for this endeavour. This society offers a bursary to a student in the study of horticulture.

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It may be of interest, historically, that this society has, in their archives, minute books that show that the first meeting of the Belleville Horticultural Society was held in the town hall in 1876. They are now 131 years 'young'

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#### **Brockville** (146 members)

President Donelda Shackles and her group plant and maintain gardens at the railway station, the senior citizen building, the Brockville Museum and the Brockville General Hospital. This society financially supported Community in Bloom, the Rideau St. Lawrence Science Fair and a member working on her Master Gardener's certification.

***Collins Bay*** (72 members)

President Diane Huddle and her members participated in the Albert Garden project by planting 300 'Red Emperor' tulips in the Catarauqui Cemetery. They also reclaimed a half-acre land-locked piece of property with a raised perennial bed and installed 2 memorial benches.

***Gananoque*** (70 members)

Members planted 2000 tulips at the gates entering town and at town hall last year. They continue to maintain the Horticultural Park.

***Kingston*** (363 members)

Under the leadership of Dave White this society participated in the Lung Association Gardening Show in February where they maintained an information booth and presented a floral design competition. They scoured the countryside for recipients of their 12 Trillium awards that are awarded for beautification of front gardens in and around Kingston.

***Lennox-Addington*** (60 members)

President Harold Bentley and his members partnered with grade 12 students at Napanee District High School to grow plants for their May Sale. They also partnered with the L&A Stewardship Council to re-plant trees which were cut down or severely pruned and hope to have trees in the ground by the spring of 2006.

***Prince Edward County*** (72 members) President Sandra Dowds and her members hold a Gardeners Gala at McCauley House Museum with a celebrity speaker, plant sale and tea. They also volunteer at the high school with supervision and planting instructions.

***Rideau Lakes*** (105 members)

President Andi Bianco's membership maintains gardens in Delta, Elgin, Crosby, Forfar, Portland and Westport. They celebrated their 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2005.

***Stirling*** (80 members)

President Sylvia Edgar and Youth Leader Paula Hiebert are both doing a great job encouraging their youth group. This past summer they entered a scrapbook in the 2005 O.H.A. Convention in North Bay for which they received a second Prize ribbon.

***Trenton*** (75 members)

President Bev Foshay and members maintain gardens in Victoria Park and Centennial Gardens. They celebrated their 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this past June with the induction of seven life members.

***Tweed*** (50 members)

President Ray Clark and his members have been working on a special garden near Hwy 37 and Tim Hortons, started by Past President Harald Neumann. The society also does various plantings for the town. You can always count on a good showing at their Flowerama in the Park on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Congratulations to Harald for his work with the youth group.

*Due to limited space I have been unable to list all the activities and accomplishments of all 14 Societies in District Three with a membership of over 1200 people. They beautify their communities, educate, encourage and reward their members. I am proud to be their District Director.*

***Larry Connell***

## District #4

### A new District Service Award



**Bobcaygeon** added a ninth garden to those they plant and maintain, plus a students' garden at Settlers' Village decorated with large scarecrows. The Garden Tour featured local artists and Master Gardeners. Floats in three parades drew additional members. Some members were called on to act as judges in three area contests.

**Brighton** celebrated its 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with many past presidents and members attending. They have continued the open Trillium Competition for best front garden in the various wards of town and township.

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The highlight of 2005 for the Lakefield Society, was the 2- day Antique Fair and Flower Show with 32 exhibitors and over 250 Flower and photographic entries

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**Campbellford** holds mini-shows at most meetings with a sale table of extra donated items. The library has been reorganized and augmented. The Pumpkin Contest draws increased entries yearly. New gardening aprons for use in public events publicize the Society name. Competitions are held for new designs for the Resource Centre, Picnic Island and Entranceway beds that they plant and maintain as the town celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.

**Coboconk** celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a Flower Show. They have started an Adopt-a-Barrel with members taking individual responsibility for weeding and watering. In addition they take part in the Lions' Club Carnival and the Santa Claus Parade, and raise funds through craft, bake and plant sales.

**Cobourg** created and maintains the new Five Corners Millennium Garden at a major entrance to Cobourg and will take on an established but neglected rose garden in Victoria Park. An innovative Mystery Driving Tour visiting public and private gardens a heritage garden at a pioneer museum is planned for the coming year as well as a tour of dry stone bridges, walls and follies in the Cobourg - Port Hope area is also planned.

**Colborne** raised funds from a plant sale and participation in Apple Blossom Tyme with a good sale of Anniversary Tulips and donations. A series of In-Garden visits to members gardens shared gardening insights. The Speechley Therapeutic Garden which members helped create was dedicated at Northumberland Hills Hospital. Final highlight was a most successful Fall District Seminar at the Keeler Centre.

**Fenelon Falls** maintains several gardens including those on the Museum and Chamber of Commerce properties. One unusual topic was the growing of

Giant Pumpkins and Large Vegetables with seeds for those who wished to try for themselves. A garden Tour, Plant sale and a September Plant Auction raised funds.

**Grafton** celebrated its 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a picnic, participation in Canada Day Parade, and the introduction of logo-ed T-shirts, society pins, e-mail member contact and a President's Award for Volunteer hours among other things. A slide show of members' gardens may become an annual event, and a Christmas pot-luck with entertainment by local musician Aengus Finnan.

**Lakefield** - Highlight of the year was the 2 day Antique Fair and Flower Show with 32 exhibitors and over 250 Flower and photographic entries. They hosted the District Annual Meeting in April and won First Prize for their Yearbook Calendar. New is the "Green Thumb Club" youth group for public school pupils.

**Lindsay** - The main event of the year was the Lilac Festival of the Lilac Society which has merged with the Horticultural Society.

**Minden** - The youth programme grew fresh vegetables at the Three Sisters' garden to be their donation to the food bank. Other highlights were the Flower Show on the theme of "A Teddy Bear's Picnic" and two workshops involving making tufa troughs and garden stepping stones headed by Pauline Plooard.

**Norland** - Highlight of the year was winning second place in the national level of the Communities-in-Bloom contest. Summer, Fall and Christmas public decoration programmes occupied most of the year along with a community-wide Christmas decoration contest

**Norwood** showcased gardening talents in a Summer Flower and Vegetable Show and their photography in a Photographic Show and Tell.

Barrels and gardens in town were updated throughout the year to reflect the changing seasons, and they were involved in designing plantings around the new Community Centre. A bursary was also provided to a local student continuing to study horticulture at a post-secondary institution.

**Omeme** - Beautification of the Town Square was the main project of the year and in conjunction with this they took part (with the City of Kawartha Lakes) in Communities in Bloom as a "Work in Progress". The LCBO bed was totally changed to a xeriscape bed. The street barrels served their usual function in summer and were changed to Christmas greenery in November.

**Peterborough** - "For The Love Of Gardening", a showcase for regional businesses and organizations, brought diverse exhibitors and speakers from a growing radius, raising funds for many projects in and around 'Pete'. Four \$1000 scholarships for post-secondary horticultural studies were awarded. Working with Peterborough's first entry into Communities-in-Bloom, they also put funds into refurbishing their flood damaged library and into redesigning and equipping damaged Fleming Park.

**Port Hope** has held forums and panel discussions as well as numerous speakers. They hold three shows including a Christmas Show and Social, a Members' Garden Tour and an open Front Yard Judging Competition.

**Rice Lake** programmes brought nature and ecology minded speakers in addition to four flower shows. The plant sale included a garden Flea Market to expand its scope and profitability. For fun a Pies, Preserves, Arts and Craft Show displayed other talents of the members, and a five to ten minute Horticultural Hint section was added to all meetings.

**John Sellers**

**York District  
Garden**



**York District #5** consists of 16 Societies. We stretch from Lake Simcoe all the way down to Lake Ontario. Our District encompasses an exciting diversity; specialty societies, rural and urban locations. District 5 Societies are actively involved in their communities; planting and promoting gardening.

The exposure of youth to the world of gardening is one of our big concerns. After all where do new gardeners come from? It is a credit to the Societies and the diverse ways they manage to reach out and interact with the young people.

The District 2005 Annual was co-hosted by *East York* and *Leaside Societies*. The project was approached with trepidation by the hosting Societies, but the obstacles were overcome. The meeting was a marvelous day and earned a small profit for the hosts!

District 5 was delighted when Margaret Killey, a life member of the Scarborough Horticultural Society, received the Trillium Award for her years of dedication and participation. The Trillium is one of the highest awards presented by the Ontario Horticultural Association.

*Agincourt* participated in public plantings at local schools and churches.

*Aurora Juniors* planted in the community garden. The Club planted on Yonge Street and at the York Region Board of Education building. The Chamber of Commerce building received Centennial tulips.

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Youth participation should be of prime importance. Their exposure to the world of gardening is a big concern. After all, where do new gardeners come from?

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*Beach* celebrated their 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Their youth project was a \$500.00 donation to the Toronto Botanical Gardens Teaching Garden. Two bus tours and some great speakers rounded out the year.

*East York* co-hosted the District Annual Meeting which was a great day due to lots of hard work and planning. The restoration of "the Rockery" at Stan Wadlow Park is still keeping members busy. Good speakers and special events filled out the season.

**Greater Toronto Rose and Garden Society** hosted their annual Rose Show and the July garden tour.

**Lake Simcoe South Shore** sold the town on a purple planting scheme which included 1000 O.H.A. Centennial tulips. The youth program reached a membership of ninety children. This year they successfully tried an Autumn garden tour.

**Leaside** hosted its best garden tour to date! They spent a lot of time and effort working on the District Annual Meeting which was a big success. The Club introduced local children; school groups, physically challenged children and children who due to circumstances don't have gardens, with the "Joys of Gardening". Success was theirs in competition, with a second at Canada Blooms and a first at the CNE..

**Markham** was busy with Communities-in-Bloom and the Susie Awards. O.H.A. Centennial tulips were planted at a local elementary school as a Youth project. Two bus tours rounded out the year.

**Mount Albert** had the most O.H.A. Centennial tulip sales! ...and are awaiting the sea of purple! The first annual golf fun day was a great day.

**Newmarket** maintained the garden at the community centre and planted containers. As always

the bus tour and plant sale were popular!

**North Toronto** had a busy year with great speakers and lots of flower shows.

**North York** based their speakers program on wellness and environmental concerns. The Club hosted two free public workshops. Donations were made to the Nature Conservancy of Canada and Meals-on-Wheels.

The **Rhododendron** society continued in their efforts to raise public awareness and interest in growing rhododendrons.

**Riverdale** had a dynamic year filled with excellent speakers and flower shows. Their fund-raising project sponsored a horticultural award at Humber College in memory of a past member.

**Scarborough** had a busy 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The year was highlighted by an Anniversary Dinner with an historical fashion show and a presentation from their archives. The Juniors were busy planting gardens, entering competitions and going on a great field trip to specialty garden centers.

**Stouffville** was involved in community plantings and have been working on having an interesting speakers program to stimulate membership.

**Nikola Warnock**

## District #6

### Symbolic of the Carolinian District

Credit: Jim Commins



The Carolinian District has 21 very active societies. In addition to the Presidents' Meeting, a special meeting on Awards and Constitutions was held. A highly successful Spring Workshop and Flower Show, including A.G.M., was hosted by the Brantford Club, and the year ended with a District dinner hosted by Lynden & Ancaster Societies.

The District has a very strong Executive, consisting of Assistant District Directors, who assume the responsibilities of Secretary, Treasurer, communications, web-site, and program. Integral to our activities is our participation in local shows such as the Ontario Garden Show, and the Hamilton Mum Show. All of the societies have a strong sense of volunteerism.

**Acton** keeps busy with many projects. It is noted for the library garden with its hundreds of daffodils and the creation of lily beds downtown.

Mass planting of daffodils and Centennial Tulips were done in the Rotary Park pathway.

**Ancaster** – The annual Trillium Awards Program serves all Ancaster homes and businesses. Other activities include plant & bake sale, flower & vegetable show, maintaining flower beds and providing floral arrangements for special events hosted by other community organizations.

**Brantford** was the host of the Carolinian District #6 Spring

Workshop; Flower Show, and AGM. They donated shade trees to two schools and the Myrtleville Museum. They supplied plants and labour for a Demonstration Garden.

**Bronte** manages two major public functions : a display table at the Glen Abbey Home Show; and the Plant Sale at the Hopedale Mall. They have a strong relationship with the Bronte Historical Society at Sovereign House.

**Burlington** provides financial support to the Burlington Civic Rose Awards, Central Library, Salvation Army, and the George Bolus Parkette. Plantings are provided and maintained at two city parks.

**Delhi & District** made donations to 'Send a Child to Camp'; funds to seven local schools for horticultural projects; worked with the BIA on "Adopt-A-Planter" program; donated \$100 worth of books to the library, and to Delhi's new Medical Centre.

**Flamborough** – The members were very successful in their annual fund-raising events which included two garden tours. Members also act as judges for their local "Trillium Awards Program" which is designed to encourage all home owners to beautify their property. Seniors receive potted plants in December.

**Georgetown** has undergone significant changes including a new meeting location, a change in the fiscal

year (Sept.-Aug.), and name tags with the Society logo. Two flower arranging workshops have contributed to increased participation in their three flower shows.

**Glen Morris** spear-headed their entry to "Communities-in-Bloom" and tied for First. They added a 'Seed Exchange' a bus tour of selected gardens and an "in-society" garden tour to their list of many activities. Another project is the restoration of the east side of Centennial Hall.

**Haldimand** went on their annual bus trip this time to the Niagara area. They held their first (but not last) garden tour. They have moved to a new meeting place. Their membership has significantly increased.

**Lynden** – Community projects include an annual garden tour plantings at the Legion Cenotaph, Lions Park, and the United Church. Their monthly meetings always include a "horticultural tip" from one of their members.

**Milton & District** is solely responsible for two civic garden projects and has been active with garden projects in the school and at a local senior's residence. A photographic competition, and a flower arranging and propagation workshops were also held.

**Mount Hamilton** – Gardening magazine subscriptions were donated to ten libraries, and two \$200 bursaries were donated to students in the Mohawk College horticultural program. Plants were purchased and maintained at new gardens, and \$500 was donated to the Conservator Society.

**Oakville** provided assistance for native flower plantings. Allotment gardens were set up for local children with supervision from members. Financial assistance was provided to Master Gardeners, the Municipal Greenhouse, White Oak horticulture program and Ian Anderson House.

**Paris** – Members are actively involved in quite a few fund-raising events which include the Annual Garden Tour, Plant Sale, Flower and

Garden Show, plant auction, selling bulbs and collecting grocery tapes. The Society initiated a "Memorial Tree Park" in memory of past members, and participated in the Adopt-A-Road program.

**Port Dover and Woodhouse** – Society members have access to and use of the greenhouse at the Port Dover School for over-wintering plants. They organized a bus trip, an annual picnic, a two-day garden tour, and two flower shows during the year.

**St. George Garden Club** once again hosted the District Presidents' Meeting. Community projects included the extensive Lily Garden and establishing a heritage orchard. Their youth planted a tree seed at Tim Horton's and enhanced school property.

**Simcoe & District** planted and maintained seven public gardens, arranged bus trips to Canada Blooms and garden tours, participated in a Junior Horticultural Society program involving 55 elementary school children, and participated in an educational booth for the Fall Fair.

**Stoney Creek** held several events, including a strawberry social, silent auction, flower show, garden tour and picnic, and a Christmas Workshop. They provide ongoing support to the Trillium Awards program and funds for horticultural reference materials in schools.

**Waterford & District** saw the official unveiling of a historic plaque at the re-designed and re-planted Bridge Park, where a xeroscaped plan was devised. Constitutional changes included a new fiscal year (Nov.-Oct.).

**Winona** – . They award bursaries to six elementary and six secondary school students for environmental awareness, donated to the Winona Food Bank, Mission Services of Hamilton, and the R.B.G. Members provide a display and sale of flowers at the Winona Peach Festival.

*Barbara Waddell*

## *District #7*

### **A scene in Guelph**



District 7 is comprised of the counties of Wellington and Dufferin. We have a total of 14 societies that are all actively involved in providing beautification for their communities, in the planting and care of public flower beds, which are located at libraries, fire halls, senior centres, entrances to their town/city and parks.

Horticultural societies take great pride in the undertaking of the planting of trees. This is done under the category of "Public Plantings" and often trees are planted in early Spring during the week referred to as Arbour Week. Communities and their citizens are the beneficiaries of these activities as the Horticultural Society not only pays for the purchase of the trees, shrubs, and flowers, but they also provide the labour to prepare the soil and ensure the plants are watered so that the roots can become established and flourish. Horticultural Society members also do the weeding and deadheading of the plants so they can continue to bloom throughout our season of warm, sunny weather. When the weather turns to frost and the beauty of the blooms fade and the foliage no longer can stand up to the Canadian cold, these areas are cleaned and prepared for winter, only to retire for a few months before bursting forth in bloom once again under the caring hands of Society volunteers the following year.

Horticultural Societies also play host to a number of flower and vegetable shows throughout the growing season..

The items exhibited at these events are from the gardens of members who have either started the plants from seed

indoors, hardening the plants off before setting out in the garden, or from direct seeding or obtaining plants from local nursery growers.

Society members take pride in the plants they grow and eagerly share their extra plants to the general public via plant sales in the Spring and often in the Fall.

Horticultural Societies meet on an average of ten times a year. Each year program books are prepared; speakers engaged for interesting monthly meetings, and memberships are sold to the public. Each Society is well organized with an executive and have a President, Secretary and Treasurer. Each year they report to OMAFRA providing an accounting of their expenses and a list of executive members.

A number of Horticultural Societies support a youth program for children from the ages of 5 to 18. The children learn about plants and how to start them, often having a garden of their own to cultivate and enjoy. They learn how to work with flowers and the making of floral arrangements. They create a variety of craft items using material from nature. Frequently these items are entered in the Provincial competition as well as Society shows and they can earn prize money.

District 7 has a youth competition wherein a number of youth members from a society can work as a team in preparing a vegetable and fruit display of produce grown from the gardens of society members. Also part of this competition is the preparing of a floral arrangement and we have three different

age groups for this section. This event is held in late August and is hosted by a different Horticultural Society from the District each year.

**Arthur** – At their plant sale they have BBQ and refreshments available and have a draw. Many businesses in the community support them by purchasing advertisements in their program book.

**Clifford** has an active Senior and Youth group who actively participate in their Spring and Summer flower shows. Although they are now part of the Town of Minto, Clifford maintains their original society name.

**Elora/Salem** hosts a Gardening Conference each year in February. This allows them to get an early start on the year. They also work with children in their society and have a special section for them in their August show. Elora is the oldest society in District 7, started in 1850, and have published a book on their history.

**Erin** – This Horticultural Society has the strong support of their community. Erin has their own website that allows them to provide regularly updated information on all their activities.

**Fergus** is the second oldest society in District 7, celebrating their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. They have created a magnificent, inviting and restful oasis in the park at the entrance to the town. They are now focusing on the restoration of Templin Gardens.

**Grand Valley** has a theme for each month and encourages floral design entries conveying this theme. They are supported by businesses in their community with advertisements in the yearbook.

**Guelph** is active with many gardening events including a bus tour. Meetings are kept interesting by having a 15 minute demonstration before meetings start and also by having mini flower shows from time to time. They have an active youth group and take part each year in the District 7 Youth Competition.

**Guelph Township** has an active Public Planting committee and have contributed greatly to the trees and flower bed in the local park and at the newly established library property. They have a Pot Luck Dinner and an Awards Evening and later on, a BBQ.

**Harriston** is host to a successful Garden Festival held each June. They actively plant and care for the lovely floral containers gracing their town streets. They are also now a part of the Town of Minto but retain their original society name.

**Hillsburg** is a small society in a rural area that continues promoting activities and plantings in their community and had a successful restoration project at Hillsburg Pioneer Cemetery.

**Maryborough** plant and maintain a number of flower beds in town in addition to plantings in the local park. They host regular flower shows and have a small youth group. They celebrated their 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

**Mount Forest** now has their name added to the national Communities-in-Bloom map. They care for 11 gardens in their community and bring colour and beauty to everyone. Due to their success, home gardeners are now giving more thought to their own gardens with stunning results.

**Orangeville** is an active society that publishes a regular newsletter. They are in their 35<sup>th</sup> year and offer a "Garden of the Month" tour of member's properties in addition to a larger annual garden tour.

**Shelburne** holds their monthly meetings at the Senior Centre and host their flower shows at the Royal Canadian Legion. They are active with public plantings and offer a bus tour to members. They close their year with a potluck dinner and presentation of prize money and awards.

**Marlene Bruckhardt**

## District #8

### Southampton



District 8 is located in the counties of Grey, Bruce and Huron. We are looking forward to showing off our beautiful area of Ontario to all OHA members who attend Convention 2007.

All of the 23 societies in District 8 have fantastic groups of volunteers. They do everything they can to beautify their communities with gorgeous displays of flowers, trees and shrubs. We were proud to announce that *Kincardine* and *Mildmay* jointly won the Communities-in-Bloom Canadian Classic Award.

All of our members tirelessly plan flower shows and still find time to hold fund-raisers like plant and bake sales, have bus tours and garden tours. They have fun too with pot-luck suppers, picnics and BBQs.

*We are saddened to have lost Eastnor Society this year. After many years of serving the community of Lion's Head their members voted to dissolve their group.*

*Auburn* maintains the entrance bridges; 22 barrels on the Main St. and Manchester Gardens. Highlights for the year included two garden tours and a nature hike in Goderich.

*Bayfield* – This charming community owes a lot to their Horticultural Society, whose members plant and maintain many areas in the town. Bayfield celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The Society runs an Open Gardens program in summer..

The *Blyth Society* is busy each year planting and maintaining the

huge number of planter boxes and flower beds in the area along with a butterfly garden.. They also are part of the Greenway Trails committee promoting the use of the old rail tracks and scenic hiking trails.

*Brussels* is busy with guest speakers, tours and participation in the local Fall Fair. They supply a number of prizes in the flower section. This year they purchased hanging baskets for Main St. to add to the existing planters,

The society purchased a new podium for the local arena.

*Chesley* – A highlight of this society is a very successful flower show. Areas cared for by members include the cairn, the town entrances and the two beds at the cenotaph. Chesley will celebrate 105 years with a horticultural society.

*Clinton Society* presented a garden bench to the town. They took part in the Spring Fair with a garden booth. and in August held their annual flower show.

*Durham* is very busy creating and maintaining town areas from the welcoming signs to beds in seven parks. They had a successful plant sale, garden tour and tea. They hosted the district board meeting. A donation of 100 OHA tulip bulbs went to a local school that had won Schools-in-Bloom..Members provide information booths at the Fall Fair and the Durham Herb Fair.

*Goderich* society's fifty members enjoyed an eventful year culminating in

and maintained several gardens. The society helped with the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of WW2 and the Year of the Veteran celebrations.

**Hanover** – The members help to beautify their surroundings at several public locations. The annual flower show features magnificent displays of annuals, perennials, roses & floral arrangements.

**Hensell** members continue to plant and maintain eight mixed perennial/annual beds throughout the village. They sponsored categories in the Spring Fair and held a Canada Day Decorating Contest.

**Kincardine** Society offered a bus trip to Canada Blooms. A highlight was the annual Garden Seminar that attracted 120 gardeners to hear noted speakers. 200 people enjoyed the "Through the Garden Gate " garden tour. . A bench was purchased from funds received from Special Project.

**Lucknow** Society members had a busy year with plantings and garden improvements. They help the local Girl Guide group with the upkeep of their Memorial Garden. A fantastic flower show featured many beautiful exhibits.

**Markdale** – In July the members enjoyed a Mystery Garden Tour. The 100 members have worked very hard to develop and maintain extensive gardens around the library. The society assists the students at the elementary school with their garden. A bursary is provided to a post secondary student continuing on in horticultural studies.

**Mildmay** Society members enjoyed many interesting and informative speakers at their meetings. They are happy to assist the local Sparks and Brownies to earn their badges.

**Neustadt** – A total of 8 speakers visited the society this year with much expertise to share. There were two major bus trips, one a fall trip to Bala and the Cranberry Festival.. The members look after the flower boxes

and beds in the communities of Neustadt and Ayton.

**Ripley** Society members beautify the four entrances to their community as well as other public locales. At Christmas they assist in arranging baskets for Main St. This past year they entered a float in the Ripley Reunion Parade and the Fall Fair Parade.

**Seaforth** – The 88 members of this society had a busy year that included interesting speakers, a bake & plant sale. . They also play an active role in Ciderfest celebrations in September.

**Southport** Society combines the enthusiastic and community-minded gardeners of Southampton and Port Elgin on the beautiful shores of Lake Huron. They care for several garden sites in their area.

**Tara** – Plantings include the new Rotary Park and the 15 village beds as well as caring for 4 grass areas. The society works with the downtown business improvement group to plant and maintain the boxes and baskets along Main Street.

**Teeswater Culross** – Members are kept busy planting and maintaining gardens around the community. Last year they enjoyed bus trips and held a garden tour and tea.

**Walkerton** entered in Communities-in-Bloom and was awarded 5 blooms and the prestigious "Home Hardware " Best Community Volunteers Award" for all of Canada. They hosted a Spring Garden Affair & Gourmet Luncheon, a day of garden bliss featuring speakers, artisans and garden centres with demonstrations.

**Wingham** Society replaced two wooden benches in Cruickshank Park. They had a table at the Trade Show where tickets were sold on a quilt. A bus trip was taken to Canada Blooms. Several social evenings were held to recognize the contributions of members.

**Valerie Neal**

## District #9

### Home & Garden of D.D. Diane Kiers



**Dunnville** members participated in a variety of horticultural-related events. Their greatest contribution to the community are the flower beds in bloom. Everyone who visits are greeted by large waves of colour. In 2005 members planted over 1,000 Centennial tulip bulbs for what they hope will be an amazing mid-spring display.

**Fort Erie** proudly hosted the 2005 District Fall Forum; a first ever B.B.Q. was enjoyed by all who attended. The town has been invited to enter “Communities-in-Bloom”, at the national level. Most important is their youth involvement. Members gave an instruction course on planting crocus bulbs to a Girl Guides group and plan the same with tulip bulbs in 2006.

**Grimsby** – Community involvement and featured events included a plant sale, a hands-on workshop, the Trillium Awards; providing students with service hours they require & decorating a Christmas Tree as a fund-raiser, for Rotary. Their volunteers maintain flower beds & provide flower baskets. A bursary is given to a student entering a horticultural program. A donation of a bench was made in memory of Robert Fleming. Projects are being arranged to include involvement with school students; floral design for the Historical Society and “ The Plant a Row , Grow a Row “ program.

**Lincoln G & H Club** lent their support to the Centennial Committee of the

Vineland Experimental Station, by donating 100 OHA bulbs. Members enjoyed a hands-on Christmas workshop. A Potluck which included a tour of a member’s lovely garden noted for a fine display of dahlias. Donations are made to the Niagara College & several other worthy causes.

**Niagara Falls** Society began District 9’s celebration of the OHA Centennial year by hosting the District’s Spring Forum.. Members enjoy beautiful and well-entered flower shows; floral design seminars, plant exchanges, garden strolls (including a first winter stroll). Civic projects include a bursary to a student of the Niagara Park School; a Trillium Award; donation of a memorial bench to the Niagara College, Glendale Campus & additional donations to the local library and the Community Kitchen. Their society is promoted with attractive displays at Niagara College Open House. **Niagara-on -the- Lake**, looks forward to their 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Garden Tour, which will include 8 beautiful gardens. Their committee works very hard to make this major fund-raiser a success. An annual event , that members look forward to is their bus trip to Canada Blooms. They will enjoy a nice mix of Community Center speakers, visits to greenhouses and garden centers. Their President Jim Maw, thanks all of the Directors for a job well done

**Pelham** members benefit from their own web site - [pelhamhortscty.com](http://pelhamhortscty.com)

Special events include a plant, lawn & bake sale, a garden tour, and a flower & vegetable show, which is open to the public. Projects for Youth include donations to the Niagara College Tree Fund, and the secondary school horticulture program. Other projects are the creation of a flower bed at the Fonthill Library, in partnership with the Pelham Library. OHA tulips were planted at both the Canadian Legion and at the Village Flagpole. Potted plants are given at Easter & Christmas to both branches of the library.

**Port Colborne** – Four society member were honoured with Volunteer Awards. Members continue to plan and carry out their Earth Day plantings, a plant sale & their Annual Rose Show. Everyone participates & enjoys their monthly mini flower shows. Civic projects include maintaining flower beds at three local sites. Flower boxes were provided for new buildings at the Marine Museum

**Ridgeway & District** members enjoy three major flower shows, a plant sale and participation in the Niagara College Open House. Their program chairperson participated as a judge for Communities-in-Bloom at the local level. Club groups continue to participate at the Shagbark Trail, with their plan for a Butterfly Garden. In honour of the OHA Centennial, 140 tulips were donated to the town of Fort Erie, for a public planting.

**Smithville** members include their community in their events; at a rose show at the Seniors Legion Villa, the residents are encouraged to participate; Youth are encouraged to take part in a floral workshop, a Fall Fair Vegetable Display, a 'Stepping' Stone workshop and garden competitions. Supplies necessary for all youth projects are provided and they are encouraged to enter their projects in the Fall Fair. A bursary is given to a Smithville District Christian High School student continuing in a horticulture program.

**St. Catharines** – This Society is 147

years old and members look forward to celebrating the OHA Centennial by proudly remembering W.B. Burgoyne, past member and President of their society & most importantly, the first President of the OHA. As a special project, members will honour him by beautifying Montebello Park. with the planting of a special white rose they have had named after him. This Park was donated, long ago, to the city by Mr Burgoyne. Youth involvement is encouraged with the donation of bulbs for instructional plantings. Approx. \$9000.00 derived by fund-raising, is donated by their society to worthy projects in their city. Included are Student Awards, purchase of books for Niagara College, a greenhouse for a secondary school youth program.

**Thorold** Society had an active and successful year. Events included a memorial tree planting, a giant plant sale & two major flower shows, participation in the Niagara College Open House & the Cancer Society's Daffodil Tea. Community projects include donations to local schools and to the library, scholarships and book prizes to students at the secondary school. Civic projects include beautification at 3 park sites; flower bed maintenance at several facilities.

**Welland** members proudly held their 87<sup>th</sup> Rose Show, had a successful plant sale & 5<sup>th</sup> Garden Walk. For the first time in many years, they participated in the Rose Festival Parade. Civic projects included Merit Awards for beautification, given to city residents, businesses and institutions; donations of plants to nursing/long-term care facilities, planting spring bulbs at the Children's Village, donating bulbs & holding a workshop on planting them for a group of children, sponsoring youth memberships in Vermeers' Bud Club. Members enjoyed their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Landscape Conference.

**Diane Kiers**

## ***District #10***

### **The Beautiful Thames Valley**



*Thames Valley District 10* is represented by 23 societies with many excellent ideas and projects, as we cover a large area and have different requirements, I hope that our experiences will be of interest and help to others.

*Aylmer & District Horticultural Society's* application to re-join the Ontario Horticultural Association was approved on Sept. 29/05. They are gearing up for an exciting new season as part of District 10 .

*It has been noted that four societies in District 10 are over 100 years 'young*

<b><u>Society</u></b>	<b><u>Established</u></b>
<b>London</b>	<b>1852</b>
<b>St. Thomas</b>	<b>1870</b>
<b>Stratford</b>	<b>1878</b>
<b>Wodstock</b>	<b>1888</b>

*Belmont & Area* as a new society held two plant and yard sales, entered a float in the Santa Claus

Parade and sold over 120 packages of the Centennial Tulip bulbs.

*The Dorchester Horticultural Society's* Youth group had 15 members with their own garden, they attended craft, flower arranging sessions. The children were encouraged to enter in the local fair.

*Dutton/Dunwich Horticultural Society* maintain seventeen large gardens; Main Street planters; two parks, Buttermilk Bog and a Memorial Tree planting program.

*Kirkton Horticultural Society*, planted gardens at the Kirkton-Woodham Community Centre. They support three local fairs and plant Amaryllis bulbs for five area Nursing Homes.

*Glencoe Horticultural Society* planted new gardens at the local library and across from the municipal buildings along with maintaining the many projects they already have.

*Ingersoll & District Horticultural Society* project for 2005 was to purchase and install planters at the entrance to Alexander Hospital.

**Lambeth Horticultural Society** celebrated the 30th Anniversary of their Rose and Flower Show in June. Volunteers maintain the greenhouse at a local retirement residence on a weekly basis.

**Listowel & District Horticultural Society** members helped North Perth host the International Plowing Match in September. In keeping with our original name of Mapleton, they add at least two maple trees to North Perth each year.

**London Horticultural Society** manned a display at the Farm Show at Western Fair, with information on herbs. A Serviceberry was planted in honour of Arbor Day.

**London/Fanshawe Horticultural Society** planted annuals, replanted an herb garden and helped with the maintenance at the non profit McCormick Nursing Home.

**Parkhill & Area Horticultural Society** held their Annual Flower Show in conjunction with Corn Fest an annual town event where they sponsored a magician for the children.

**Port Burwell-Bayham Horticultural Society** started a new garden at the beach, along with the town planters, a boat at the bottom of the turn about, Memorial Gardens and Cenotaph they were previously tending.

**Rodney and District Horticultural Society** planted shrubs and placed benches at the Fair Gates and the Olde Jail. A Halloween Night was held at the decorated Jail, when costumed members gave out candy to 153 children.

**St. Marys Horticultural Society** gave a print of poppies by a Guelph artist to the Royal Canadian Legion in honour of the Year of the Veteran and the Society's 40th Anniversary.

**St. Thomas and District Horticultural Society** marked its 135<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a Garden Tour/Victorian Garden Party/Pot Luck Supper combination in July.

**Stratford and District Horticultural Society** design and maintain five annual gardens and oversee the maintenance of six perennial beds, an iris bed, and a lilac dell.

**Strathroy-Caradoc Horticultural Society** co-hosted a composting seminar with the Township of Strathroy-Caradoc.

**Tavistock & Area Horticultural Society** have revamped the entire surroundings of the Public Library and the Historical Museum.

**Thorndale & Area Horticultural Society** had two rocks engraved for the Memorial Rose Garden and Wye Creek Park.

**Tillsonburg Horticultural Society** maintains several gardens, holds flower shows, and runs a youth program, bus tours, along with educational meetings.

**West Lorne Horticultural Society** maintains several gardens and planters.

**Woodstock Horticultural Society** planted over 100 peonies, 22 varieties in honour of both the Society's and the City's floral emblem "The Peony".

**Anna Peterson**

**Always in Bloom**



*Ambassador* society members spent a very quiet year, other than their regular meetings with interesting speakers. They continued sponsorship of St. Francis school gardens. New projects planned are sponsorship of Assumption Natural Habitat and preparing to host the District AGM in the fall.

**The Belle River & District**, last year, spearheaded the building of a gazebo at Lakeview Park. This year a Dedication was held on the site where two pillars were erected, on which engraved plaques were mounted, recognizing past founding members and the volunteers who helped make the building possible. A Memorial Tree was also planted in memory of all members past and present who have passed away. This will become an annual event.

**Blenheim-Harwich** celebrated its 88<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2005. Their members assist in the planting of the town's hanging baskets. The society partners with the BIA to co-ordinate the floral displays in the community/ They also donate gardening books and magazines to the local library an

award a bursary to a graduating high school student.

**Brigden & District** – Activities include family gatherings following meetings for pot-luck suppers, a picnic and a banquet. They have a very active youth group. They have regular meetings with interesting speakers and demonstrations. They hold two flower shows a year and have a raffle as a fund-raiser.

**Essex & District** can be very proud of their amazing youth group of 20 members. They help with clean-up, planting of annuals and maintenance, planting tulips etc. They planted a “Compassionate Garden” and donated vegetables to the local Food Bank. The children partake in hands-on learning. The children are very enthusiastic and enjoy getting out their Green Thumbs’ to prove it.

**Fort Malden Society** is located in **Amherstburg**. An annual plant auction was held in April. This year's event showed a record profit – over \$2,000.. Way to go! With the assistance of the TD friends of the Environment, members took on the

project of reforestation on Laird Ave. And were able to plant 28 trees along the boulevard. Another beautification project was completed at the Amberstberg's Carnegie Library, with the construction of a water feature. Three \$500. Scholarships were awarded.

**Greater Windsor** – Fundraisers included a very successful annual plant sale, bus trips to Canada Blooms and a garden tour. Their volunteer members work tirelessly at the clean-up, planting and maintenance of several parks, gardens and island beds in Windsor and the surrounding communities.

**Kingsville** – Members care for a large number of the flower beds at public parks and municipal buildings in Kingsville and despite inclement weather their perseverance has paid off handsomely. Society identification signs were made and placed at each garden site. The very active youth group members placed many entries in the society flower show. The society publishes a newsletter four times a year.

**Leamington** – This society awarded one \$500. bursary this year. A Memorial Stone, which recognizes the part members play in the society, is completed. A Dedication Ceremony was held in their honour. Two trees were planted in remembrance of past members.

**Ridgetown & District** – General meetings are held with interesting and informative speakers. They hold an annual perennial sale (a perennial favourite). Other activities include a garden tour, flower show, a fall plant sale and an annual Christmas Banquet. They plant and maintain

several gardens and containers in the community. Two Memorial benches were added to Mickle Park in honour of War Veterans.

**Sarna** – Monthly general meetings kept everyone on their toes with outstanding speakers on a wide variety of topics. Volunteer members were kept busy with the annual clean-up and the society plant sale. A summer trip was made to Hostas Choice and Wrightman's Alpine Garden. The rose Show was held in June, then off to Convention followed by the Society Flower and Vegetable Show.

**Tilbury & District** – This society tried three new things this year, a newsletter, a field trip and an increase in membership dues. All three were most successful. The newsletter brings just as many members to a meeting as did countless phone calls. Not one person complained about the increase in dues. In June the field trip took them to St. Clair Gardens, toured the property and had their meeting under the maple trees. Members of the Tilbury Society may indeed be very proud of the work they in the name of horticulture.

**Watford/Warwick** – We have been very busy this year. We had 52-3ft wide aggregate planters delivered (cost of \$16,000) which we split with the township. We have a total of 72 planters. They were marvelously colourful. A lot of volunteer hours donated on this project. Congratulations! A large cascading water feature, surrounding shrubs and perennial gardens were added to our Memorial Park.

**Rose Johnson**

## *District #12*

### **A peaceful northern garden**



This vast northern district consists of seven very active societies. The territory is spread over a large area in the north-east portion of our province, with Englehart to the south and Kapuskasing to the north.

The aim of each of these societies remains the same...to beautify their communities to the best of their ability. They strive to educate, not only their members but the general public at large, in how to grow beautiful flowers and abundant produce in their harsh and somewhat difficult climate.

It is astonishing to see the lush growth in the lovely gardens in all of the communities. Their flower shows are very successful.

***Cochrane Horticultural Society*** planted and maintained the flower bed at the Lady Minto Hospital as well as maintained the

five flower beds in the town. They were filled with mixed annuals and perennials. In July a successful Garden Tour was held. In late August, they held their Annual Flower and Vegetable Show in conjunction with the Agricultural Fall Fair. This coming year, this society will be planting an additional flowerbed at the new Polar Bear Habitat

while continuing to maintain the existing beds planted this year.

***Englehart & District Horticultural Society*** hosted a successful Garden Tour in 2005 as well as organizing two plantings of flowerbeds on two separate evenings. They held a Spring Plant and Bake Sale, which is always a very popular event. Plans are underway for their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration in 2006. They will also be hosting the District 12 AGM in April 2006. Come and join them for the 'Festival of Flowers' in August.

‘ ***Iroquois Falls and District Horticultural Society*** –

Incorporated in 1917, this Society had 60 members in 2005 who were busy beautifying their city by planting and maintaining numerous flowerbeds and holding garden competitions.

***Kapuskasing Horticultural Society***, established in 1929, takes as its floral emblem the Shasta Daisy. It is the farthest north of the societies in the district. In June, the society held its bi-annual Perennial Plant Sale. They planted the Mini-Park with summer annuals. Once again the society “adopted a bed” in the upper level of Riverside Park and planted a quilt patch on the lower level. In August, the society hosted a Garden Tour, the Lawn and Garden Competition, and the 76<sup>th</sup>, Annual Flower and Vegetable Show. In the fall, the Mini-Park was planted with purple Centennial Tulips. Guest speakers at general meetings included the District Director and the President of the Farmers’ Market.

***Kirkland Lake & District Horticultural Society*** –

This year the society has over 100 members including 7 life members. Society volunteers planted all the beds and planters in the downtown area as well as at the Tech Pioneer Residence and Hospital. Meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month, where a speaker presents a

relevant topic. Upcoming for 2006 is a Garden Tour in conjunction with the High School Reunion.

***Porcupine Horticultural Society*** had a busy 2005 season with the planting of raised planters at the Anglican Church; cultivating many varieties of vegetables at the Community Gardens at the Lions Park in South Porcupine. A number of workshops were held and were well attended. The society members have been busy planting trees, flowering shrubs and offering gardening advice in the community.

***Timmins Horticultural Society*** meets the last Tuesday of the month at 7pm to organize their activities for the year. In 2005, they lent their support to the Schumacher Lions Club by providing advice on trees, flowers and plant selection to restore the McIntyre Park. The circular flowerbed at Gillies Lake was planted and maintained by society members. Booths were set up at various activities held in the city such as the Sportsman Show, Welcome to Timmins Night and the Home Show. Information and handouts were distributed highlighting membership benefits and the Ontario Horticultural Association.

***Kees Stryland***

## District #13

### Centennial Quilt Created 1967 by Members of Manitoulin Island

District 13 is made up of three separate and very unique areas. This division was made because of the vast territory that the district covers in northern Ontario. The entire area is roughly in the shape of a triangle, with an approximate 3 to 3 1/2 hour drive to each point. Despite the distances, we are a very closely knit district.

Aside from the AGM in May, we have two advisory council meetings, one in the fall and one in the spring where representatives from each of the 13 societies can meet and learn from one another. Business is conducted in the morning and a work-shop is held after lunch. Each area has their own elected Assistant Director. I am very proud of the way each of them have taken on the responsibility of making contact with the societies in their areas. Because of the sometime hazardous driving conditions, we are not often able to visit each other during the winter months. A very competent Secretary and Treasurer are also at the helm, and the past District Director plays a very active role in the district affairs.

The quilt, shown above was a district project. Each square was appliqued and embroidered by a member of each society. It is now hanging in display at the Manitowaning Museum.



Over a period of three years the District sponsored an OHA qualifying Judging School. Classes were held in Sudbury and the students came from different societies across the District. 2005 saw the graduation of 30 new judges..

At the far western point of the triangle, in the Algoma area, is **Sault Ste, Marie**, one of our largest societies. They have absolutely the most fabulous plant sale every spring. It is really a big festival with craft vendors and music. Their very successful Community Garden project is well known throughout the district. The plantings at the "Lighted Cross" has been nominated for the OHA Environmental Award. Their over 100 volunteers account for over 2000 volunteer hours annually.

Starting east along the Trans Canada Hwy. #17, we approach the small community of **Echo Bay**, the home of the **Lake George Society**. Members have made the town inviting with 6 community flower beds. They hold a lovely flower display and tea in conjunction with the Laird Fair, and have "People's Choice" awards.

We then leave the highway for a

short jaunt south, across a bridge to **St. Joseph Island**, Members plant and maintain several flower beds in their three small communities. They involve the youth by taking seeds to the children, along with planting instructions, in the school, Girl Guide and Pathfinder groups.

Further along the North Shore of Lake Huron is the town of **Bruce Mines** and the **Bruce Station Society**. Members very capably hosted our AGM in 2005. They are widening their scope of activities and hope to increase their membership.

The last society in the Algoma section is our smallest, **Thessalon**. Their few members are enthusiastic, meeting regularly in each others homes. They have created and maintain lovely flower beds at each entrance of their community.

Our next stop is the half way point along the north shore. The society of **Blind River** extends their hospitality to the district by hosting our spring and fall meetings. They plant and maintain several flower beds in the community including the Marina and a Memorial Park. They host a Bean Supper for the community at the Winter Carnival.

Our newest society is just down the road a way, The **Spanish Society** is a very 'gung ho' group and very anxious to learn. They have many plans for the years ahead.

To the north, a bit, is our next stop, which is in **Elliot Lake**. This is known as "Retirement City". Society members are enthusiastic and welcoming. They have several beautification projects on the go. They are under new leadership and avid plans for the revamping and rejuvenation of their society are under way.

Continuing along Hwy 17 we come to one of our oldest societies,

**Massey-Walford**. Their meetings are made interesting with good speakers on a variety of topics. They are saddened to have lost two great leaders in as many years, but are determined to rally despite their aging population.

On the next loop we head south, and reach the home base of the **Espanola Society**. They plant and maintain many planters and flower beds throughout the community, especially one at the town's entrance. Their meetings are well-attended due to the excellent and diverse speakers.

Continuing south we cross a swing bridge and find ourselves on beautiful Manitoulin, the largest fresh-water island in the world. There are two societies on the island, **Campbell**, on the south west shore and **Assiginack Society** on the north east shore. The island folk are extremely active in their own as well as the surrounding communities. They also work hand-in-hand with the Agricultural Societies, many members belong to both. The Campbell Society has a large and excellent youth group, "The Rainbows", that has done themselves proud at the OHA youth competitions.

We now return to Hwy. 17, and in an hour or so, we reach the home of the largest society in **Sudbury**. With just under 300 members, this is a very active society with very diverse projects. They publish a monthly newsletter and an 80-page plus yearbook and have their own web-site.

Five flower shows are held each year. Their biggest pride and joy is the John St. Park. Next year we will be traveling another hour down Hwy. 69 south to a new society in **French River**.

*Claire Liinamaa*

## District #14

### Display at AGM In Fort Frances



The boundaries of the ten societies in District 14 reach from Vermilion Bay, Fort Frances to east Terrace Bay and north to Longlac. All societies continue to support many local projects and organize educational workshops for the youth and adults.

Our societies have many dedicated members who give many hours of their time volunteering to organize meetings, workshops and flower shows. They also plant and maintain flower beds, containers etc. to beautify their communities

**Atikokan** had a busy year caring for the annual planters and hanging baskets in the downtown area. A \$500.00 bursary was given to a forestry student. The Green and Clean program is a success, with less garbage each year. The year ended with the creating and entering a float for the Christmas Parade. The theme this year was "A Very Beary Christmas".

**Evergreen Thumbs** is the newest society in the district and has

activities planned for 11 months of the year, These consist of a plant sale, the making of bluebird boxes, garden tours, a flower show and a workshop on hypertufa containers. The young "Sparkling Violets" planted tulips at their school and collected seeds for next year's planting. In the summer they made faces using vegetables and fruits. In the winter they made ice wreaths and displayed them in the schoolyard.

**Dryden** – As a society they made 2 major donations to the city parks. First was the planting of a fir tree and the other was to beautify the new park with beds of annuals and perennials. A Dryden's Family Safety Night was held which featured safety for children in our homes and community. Garden tours were held in July and, as usual they all were spectacular! August led to the Flower Show and Tea that is held annually to allow us to show off our best flowers. The fall fair and a bursary draw led the way into autumn with a produce and perennial exchange.. This was exciting and generous. It is always enjoyable to share the fruits of

one's labours The Christmas dinner wound down the year with a delightful feast.

**Fort Frances** – The members continued to plant and maintain the beds at Rainycrest, CN Station, and the Good Neighbours Sign. The society supports the Communities-in-Bloom with the Learning Garden and tulip “Memorial to Veterans” The Tulip Growers of the Netherlands donated tulips. Eighty students of the Robert Moore School, with the help of society members grew seedlings and planted them in the Learning Bed, at the school along with the OHA Centennial tulips.

**Geraldton** – The OHA awarded the society with the Community Improvement Award for the Memorial trees planted at the hospital site. The tree planting has continued for the 3rd year. The ‘Welcome Bed’ had a new look this year. The use of dusty miller, cosmos, red and light green lettuce, in a pattern of a love-knot that kept it's colour well into the fall.

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The Geraldton community “Welcome” bed was unusually inviting this year. A distinctive Love-Knot was formed with red and green lettuce combined with dusty miller and cosmos.

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**Longlac** – It was a busy year for the members, filled with learning and participating in the community. They did their annual plantings. A special workshop was held where

they made stained glass stepping stones. For added fun, a float was entered in the “Summer Fest Parade” with a Garden Party Theme.

**Nipigon-Red Rock** – The group plants and maintains the town's flower beds. They had a ‘bird viewing’ outing along the trail at the river. A pumpkin and potato-growing contest was held . Two long standing members received 40 year pins from The Ontario Volunteer Service Awards.

**Sioux Lookout** had a busy year with monthly workshops; Designing garden beds, growing hardy roses and How-to-build a pond were presented. Everyone enjoyed the hot summer, which contributed to a very successful annual flower and vegetable show and also an excellent the garden tour.

**Terrace Bay** – The “Adopt-a-Bed” program was continued and the beds received special attention during the Municipal Council's 2nd memorial service on Father's Day at the cemetery. The society hosted the Annual District AGM, which was enjoyed by all delegates.

**Thunder Bay** – Our big event of the year was hosting an evening with Marion Jarvie, well known lecturer from Toronto, speaking on “Plants You Cannot Be Without”. We learned much about perennials that are suited to our particular area in the north. The year ended with a Christmas workshop on “Outdoor Urn Arrangements for the Christmas season”.

**Harriet Hansen**

## District #15

### Xeriscaping a scree garden in a parking lot



District 15 is home to more than 2300 members in Toronto West, York Region West and Peel Region. The District stretches from the Oak Ridges Moraine and Niagara Escarpment in the north, across the Peel Plain to the shores of Lake Ontario. The headwaters of the Credit, Don and the Humber Rivers run through our communities from climatic zone 4 in the north to zone 6 in the south. We have gardeners with substantial acreage on working farms and large country estates and many with smaller lots in historic towns and villages. Other members garden on sunny apartment windowsills and balconies and in tiny oases in both established urban communities and the ever increasing suburbs. Our youngest society celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2005 and our oldest was founded in 1834 - the first Horticultural Society in Ontario.

**Bolton & District** (204 members) celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by hosting the District AGM. They continue to work on naturalization projects in the Humber River Valley planting more than 350 native trees & shrubs. A local nursery donated 400 ornamental woody plants (value \$6000) and these were planted in the gardens at their meeting location.

**Brampton Society** (231 members) celebrated its 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by holding their Annual Flower Show in the City Hall Atrium, entering a float in the first "Flower City Parade" and by working with the City Parks Dept and their "Communities-in-Bloom" activities, "Front Garden Recognition" program and "Gardening as a Hobby" workshops.

**Chinguacousy Garden Club** (121 members) took on a new project at Tall Pines retirement home organizing activities from planting balcony containers to making Christmas wreaths for their bazaar. CGC Junior Gardeners continue to meet once a month.

**Cloverleaf Garden Club** (204 members) continued with outreach and support into the community by working at several public locations. Members volunteered in educating school children about heritage seeds, herbs, flowers and vegetables.

**Credit Valley Society** (214 members) turned 20 in 2005. The garden tour received extensive publicity which helped to bring in 450 visitors. A new project was naturalizing the school yard. The CVHS continued to support 4 scholarship funds donating over \$1,100.00

**Etobicoke Society** (219 members) celebrated its 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2005. They continued to work on gardens at two libraries and the Health Centre. Several new gardens were also initiated. Outreach to youth included lessons on growing plants, creating floral centerpieces and the Broadacres School naturalization. This society joined with Westway Society in designing Elmbrooke Park Library gardens.

**Nobleton & King City Society** (81 members) again planted flower barrels as well as several other gardens throughout the community. They also participated in Communities-in-Bloom. New projects included three new gardens in neighbouring communities..

The Societies of **Parkdale & Toronto** (235 members) won the District's Baker Youth Trophy for work with budding gardeners. The Plant Fair included a Green Elephant horticultural yard sale. The members' hard work was rewarded with a BBQ. and a stroll through a courtyard garden.

**Richmond Hill Garden & Horticultural Society** (264 members) plants many barrels and baskets in March for the Town to put in the streets later on. There was a large membership increase in 2005, thanks to the Front Garden Recognition Program and Open Gates Garden Tour, which made many townspeople aware of our existence.

**Roselands Society** (96 members) held their plant sale on the May long weekend using plants purchased at the Ontario Food Terminal as well as perennials donated by members. They continued to care for gardens at a hospital facility. They supplied 16 judges for the 2005 Toronto West Great Gardens Contest.

**Schomberg Society** (55 members)

plants and maintains four gardens in their community, one of which contains over 1,000 lilies. The society is active in the local Chamber of Commerce "Pals Group".

**Streetsville** (156 members) changed their year end so had 2 AGMS in the same year. Volunteers were pleased to get some relief from maintenance during the hot dry summer thanks to having an automatic sprinkler system installed. New to the society program is an hour long gardening or design class held before the general meetings.

**Swansea Society** includes 70 keen people interested in horticulture. Community work includes projects at High Park, Town Hall and the Legion, where our volunteers participate with enthusiasm. They had a bus tour to the Guelph Arboretum.

**Thornhill Society** (168 members) worked on projects including tulip and memorial tree plantings. They hosted Judges Tea for Communities-in-Bloom and surveyed Thornhill to provide over 70 nominations for Markham's Susie Awards.

**Westway Society** (85 members) celebrated its 45th Anniversary in 2005. Seventeen members participated as judges in Toronto's Best in the West Garden Contest. In the Fall, some members tramped through a tall, wet, grassy field and forded a marsh to rediscover a plaque placed near some apple trees which had been planted as a 1967 Centennial year project.

**Woodbridge Society** (103 members) played an active role in the Vaughan Community-in-Blooms and Schools-in-Bloom programs. For community beautification projects, the society took care of an historic garden, adopted a park and was responsible for 50 containers.

**Brenda Heenan**

## District #16

**Alliston & District** celebrated their 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Festivities included a demonstration of floral design & a silent auction. Revamping the downtown planters gave them a colourful, well-groomed look. The Gardens of Grey County were visited by bus. A two day Open Garden Tour was hosted by some members. The plant sale continues to attract many enthusiastic gardeners.

**Angus** Society volunteers served over 3,000 hours in 2005. Their annual plant and pie sale was a great success. Their Visitors' Night featured a local arts and TV figure as speaker. They said goodbye to this venue as it closed this year.. They planted two more flowering crabs in Farewell Gardens.

**Barrie** was 131 years young in 2005. Members enjoy a varied program. Much time and energy has been directed to the arboretum in Sunnidale Park. They hire a student to work there for nine weeks. They had a special opening for the Barrie Metals Pavilion this year, another new addition to the Park. Barrie hosts a Spring Seminar and workshops throughout the year.

**Beeton** – Meetings are held every month at the Beeton Manor which allows them to invite interested seniors as they won't have to travel. The "hands-on" live demonstrations at members' gardens are really enjoyed. The creation of a water garden is anticipated,. The town plantings are maintained & the gardens at the library were completed.

**Bondhead & District** celebrated their 30th Anniversary. A successful plant & bake sale & a plant auction were held. The Communities-in-Bloom program was supported. A tour of several local gardens & a bus tour to Algonquin Park was sponsored. A

parkette and the arboretum are tended by members.

**Brentwood** society members plant and care for several flower beds and planters in the two local communities. They supplied three local churches with seasonal plants. Their largest fund-raiser is the annual plant sale. The society hosted a strawberry social with invited guests from 3 neighbouring societies.

**Coldwater & District** – 2005 was a busy year. Members hosted the District Presidents' meeting. Material from an abandoned garden was moved to the Memorial Garden which is to be completed next year. The garden incorporates many stones which are to be inscribed with names of past board members. Changes were made to gardens at the centre of the town, lowering the beds to make them more visible in an effort to deter vandalism.

**Collingwood** Collingwood is proud of their arboretum which is located near the waterfront. Seventeen new trees were planted. Next spring should see a blaze of purple sweeping around town as many of the Centennial tulips went into the 20+ beds maintained by the society. They are partnering with other local groups to add a new gateway to the arboretum. A call to artists and landscape architects will follow and the plan is to blend the new structure with the surrounding environment.. An exciting endeavour.!

**Creemore** – We must begin with the community gardens, for these are the very '**root**' of what and who the Society is all about – caring for, improving and beautifying the gardens at the cemetery, the library, medical centre,. A new sign was erected over the entrance, a picnic table was donated & a second park bench is to be installed. A new endeavour for 2005 was the Heritage Garden at the Jail.

**Elmvale** Society activities included planting 11 containers & 4 public beds, having two excellent flower

shows, one bus trip to Casa Loma, eight meetings with very good speakers & four potluck meals, They presented a bursary of \$100 to a high school graduate. \$700 worth of Centennial tulips were purchased. They hosted District 16 Fall Seminar,. A lot of hard work went into the preparations of all this and members are to be congratulated for a job well done!

**Gilford & District** – A "Mad Hatter's Tea Party" with silver tea service and scones was an entertaining meeting. The speaker spoke on garden 'pretties'. Three work- and-learn days were introduced at the arboretum.. Successful fund-raising projects were a plant & yard sale & an auction of houseplants, baked goods and preserves. A bus trip to Owen Sound area was enjoyed by all. Several educational workshops were held..

**Midland** Society is a very active group with over 200 members and 70+ youth members. Established in 1897, the society has involved the community through their generous civic improvements –planting public gardens & dock areas with new & replacement trees. The plant sale has now grown to include information booths with Master Gardeners, massage therapists, & wildflower societies. Plants grown by the youth groups earn them extra money for their various activities.

**Orillia** This 118 year 'young' society provides plants and maintains the library garden which received a 1<sup>st</sup> prize in the Institutional category in Garden Pride contest. Three years of hard, earnest work has gone into the revitalization of the arboretum which is the home of a rare yellow bog iris. Planned this year is to open a walking trail & construct a viewing platform, to see the iris in bloom.

**Oro-Medonte** Society is the proud sponsor of four youth clubs who are very active in the community and in horticultural competitions. Three youth delegates were present at the North Bay

Convention and enjoyed the camp experience. This year daffodils were planted at the signs to the municipality and this will be carried through into next year – a welcome burst of colour for spring. A booklet of Native trees and shrubs is being prepared for all residents in the municipality. This 100th Anniversary project will be delivered door -to -door by the society. A native garden is also in the planning for one area school.

**Painswick** Winning an award for the best display at the Get Gardening Show set the tone for the PHS for 2005! All youth who visited the show left with a potted daffodil and instructions - a big hit! A community grant allowed for additional trees, new beds and a continuation of a centre pathway at a parkette . The site won the Edna Caldwell Community Improvement Award. Volunteerism is at a high point in Painswick Horticultural Society!

**Penetanguishene** Members continued their efforts with the town in developing the Ecology Gardens for the community. They plan to install new segments to the gardens on an annual basis. Education of members & the community will continue with a speakers' series.

**Stayner's** activities included trips to Canada Blooms , Spring Convention, Fall Seminar and the Association Convention in North Bay. A "planting bee" was held at two local parks, the medical centre, the town entrance & the library A booth was manned at the Stayner Fair to promote membership.

**Tottenham** the society planted & maintained nine community gardens. Three flower shows were held. Fund-raising is ongoing for their major project, Glimmer Memorial Gardens, with bulb & bake/garage sales. A first for the society was in making use of the Master Gardeners as educational speakers

**Dorothy Shropshire**

**Albert, a 'princely' feline  
in the garden of retiring  
D.D. Kathy Carnegie**



There are five Garden Clubs and seven Horticultural Societies in District 17, which includes communities as far north as Lake Simcoe and to the south along the 401 corridor from Pickering to Newcastle. Suburbia is fast arriving all through the District. The demographics are rapidly changing. Clubs and societies are working diligently planning more challenging programs in order to attract new members.

The Clubs/Societies are involved in civic beautification projects, and most hold events, such as fund-raising dinners, and plant auctions to which the general public is specifically invited. Each year, the “open gardens” program brings more avid participation.

Horticultural Shows still remain popular at the monthly meetings. Photography and the garden are happy partners in District 17.

The District 17 Shows & Competitions Committee is entering into its second year now. This Committee, composed of members from throughout the District, has taken on the task of writing the AGM Show Schedule and sponsoring seminars to update exhibitors, show chairs and horticultural judges.

I boarded the Go-Train at Union Station in the big City & before I knew it I was crossing the beautiful Rouge Valley on the eastern outskirts of Toronto.. I disembark at one of the

busiest suburban stations and meander along Liverpool Road where, along with a few other sites, *Pickering H. S.* keeps commuters, as well as local residents, calm & happy with colourful plantings and landscaping projects. Another stop to the east brings me to the home of the *Ajax Garden Club*. I spot the signs; a coffee shop regular tells me that “Ajax-in-Bloom, along with the town’s Anniversary celebrations have kept volunteers quite involved in the community-at-large. The Ajax membership is also very busy preparing to host the next big AGM .

Wow! look at all those cars! I have arrived in *Oshawa*, city of huge General Motors plants, International Communities-in-Bloom multiple award winner, and home of the largest Club/Society in D17, the *Oshawa Garden Club*. At nearly 300 members strong, fund-raising and community service are their fortes. To further enhance The Oshawa Valley Botanical Gardens, a gazebo is in the planning stages. Partnerships with Friends of the Second Marsh, The Seniors Centre, and CIB summer and winter program, among others, continue to thrive.

I now get on a bus ; next stop *Bowmanville*, land of the “Apple Blossom Festival”. A good cup of tea at the “Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon” sponsored by the local society, is very welcome. I have arranged for a “pick

up” and a chat with an old friend who is an honouree at today’s event. Downtown Bowmanville sure looks great. The HS is involved with the Tourist Authority, and other Civic Improvement programs. “It sure is pretty here!”

I am afraid my visit is too soon ended and it’s back on the bus for my ride to *Newcastle*, the easternmost part of D17, along the 401 corridor. The society here is busy; along with all the other traditional annual activities, they are already planning their first float entry into the Santa Claus Parade.

The scenery is becoming more pastoral now. I am being driven away from the 401 corridor, as I am to be a guest of the *Orono Society* at one of their famous fund-raising luncheons. I am enjoying the Main Street plantings, all done by volunteers from the HS. \ The early part of the afternoon is spent in some sort of post luncheon euphoria as I undulate up and over the Oak Ridge Moraines into Lake Scugog country. The village of *Nestleton* is the domain of the *Pineridge Garden Club*. I sit in on a horticultural show seminar sponsored by the Garden Club. I am presented with a unique floral creation by the “design expert” for the day. Plans are already afoot for the Club’s involvement in the annual April Scugog Spring Garden Show.

My chauffeur takes me via less-frequented byways towards *Cannington* where the local society meets in a quaint, historic building in the downtown area. From this vantage point members can enjoy the half-barrel planters they have created along the streets. Further expansion, a visitor’s kiosk, and enhancements for the Nature Trail in McLeod Park, have been made possible by local HS volunteers and by a \$10,000 grant from the “Local Initiatives Fund” of the South Lake Futures Development Corporation. ”

I like this “open gardens” concept in which many Clubs/Societies participate. I really lucked out in *Beaverton*, where

several gardens were open! I toured the plantings in the downtown area and enjoyed the hospitality of several members of the *Beaverton Society* as they regaled me with tales of horticultural achievements all through this town which lies on the southern shores of Lake Simcoe. In addition to all of these gardening coups, the HS also treats the Seniors at Gellespie Gardens to an annual luncheon and Horticultural Show.

The Mayor of Georgina-Brock Township picks me up for the short jaunt south along the Pefferlaw River to the hamlet of *Wilfred*, meeting place of the *Georgina-Brock Garden Club & HS*. Historical preservation has been on the minds of these volunteers for several years now; the refurbishment of Cook’s Cemetery continues, and new projects such as the period refurbishment of the gardens at the historic Wilfred Hall, are in the planning stages. His Worship generously offers to drive me by the civic plantings in the town of *Uxbridge*...all the work of the *Uxbridge Horticultural Society*.

Thence, further south to the village of *Brooklin*, which is amalgamated into the town of *Whitby*. I had a guided tour through the award-winning “Butterfly Meadow”, an ongoing project, and, from Grass Park along a busy highway which runs through the village, I bear witness to beautiful surroundings which can only come from well-planned and meticulously-tended public plantings. The *Brooklin HS* has legions of dedicated volunteers who seem to have perfected the concept of “working together for the good of the whole”. The hanging baskets, containers & perennial borders are still lush and thriving well into this mellow autumnal day.

As District Director, I doff my garden hat several times to the volunteers from the local Garden Clubs and Horticultural Societies. What a place that District 17!

*Kathryn Carnegie*

**Garden Display  
Convention 2005**



Of course, the big event in District 18 in 2005 was the hosting of the 99<sup>th</sup> annual convention of the Ontario Horticultural Association. Every Society spent most of their time getting ready for this event and we truly had a good time doing it. The graduate judges of the District 18 Judging School of 2004 took responsibility for making the flower arrangements that decorated the sides of the plenary session room.

I want to thank all the delegates who came. We really enjoyed your visit. A very special thanks to all the people who did such a tremendous job. It was a privilege to work with such a lovely group of people.

It was also our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. To celebrate this event, each Society was asked to pick one of its members to receive a "silver trowel" award. This was a very difficult task because we have so many hard workers. A stainless steel garden trowel with a wooden handle, in which was burned the name of the Society, the recipient's name and underneath District 18 - 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – 2005. These handsome mementoes were presented to the chosen recipients.

Our very newest Society, *Rosseau & District* is not very big but had a very successful year. A first garden tour and first photography contest

were held. The membership is very enthusiastic and put a float in their fall fair parade for which they received first prize.

Another new small Society, *Whitestone & District*, is made up of a number of smaller villages. Most of their public plantings are carried out in the small village of Dunchurch where they have started to renovate an old garden at their library. Members in other villages are actively being recruited to do public plantings there, so that there will be someone on hand in each community to look after the them.

Another newer Society, *Mattawa & District*, with a very small but dedicated group of workers did extensive public plantings in their small town.

*Gravenhurst Society* is an active participant in Communities-in-Bloom. Their flower show coincided with the judging. They provided tour guides and acted as hosts through the homes on the tour. Three of their members opened up their gardens as part of this activity. Many of the plants they use in their public plantings, come from their grow room which is one of their youth projects of planting seeds, transplanting, weeding and dead-heading. The members made 500

napkin rings and the youth helped to podge rocks for the convention table favours. They did an excellent job organizing our fall meeting.

The children's group in **Bracebridge** is particularly helpful with the Town Hall Plantings. Two children registered for the Youth program at the convention and enjoyed themselves very much.

Three of the youth of **Baysville** society were sponsored by one of their members to attend the Convention Youth Program. Last year was their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary and they were pleased to receive a plaque from the township in recognition of their contributions to the village.

**Huntsville** paid to send 3 of their youth members to the youth program at the convention. Their Youth Leader organized this program. Their youth did Christmas crafts at the nursing home. The garden at one of their bridges was expanded and 150 bulbs were planted in the fall.

With the help of a grant from Perry Council, **Sprucedale** revamped the planting and mulched the gardens in each one of their four communities. They were able to hold 2 mini flower shows.

**Sundridge** as well was able to keep up with their public plantings along with their convention planning activities.

The **Argyle Horticultural Society** is another group that includes beautifying their cemetery in their public plantings.

The garden tour of the **Powassan & District Society** featured ten gardens, local artists as well as greeters were in attendance. Since this was the town of Powassan's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, many volunteer hours were put into making their local park look particularly special. They were also responsible for the beautiful landscape design at the Nipissing

University Residence during the convention.

Two members of the **Callander Society** are helping with their Municipality's Beautification Program that is developing a proposal for a new walkway. For the second year, a Veggie Critter contest was held at a park in conjunction with Canada Day Society members judged. Prizes and certificates were awarded to every one who entered. This event has launched the Society into the limelight.

As the convention was held there, it was the main focus of the **North Bay Society**. Their members provided speakers, tour guides, opened their gardens, and successfully participated in the Convention Flower Show. Careful attention was paid to the flower beds looked after by the Beautification Committee, as the summer was very dry and everyone wanted North Bay to be at its best. In particular, it was a challenge to design a bed at the waterfront to welcome the Ontario Horticultural Association Delegates. It was heartbreaking when a bicycle ran through it, but the volunteers and gardens persevered. The Society has available a \$300 bursary for a graduating high school student who is going on to further horticultural studies. If no high school student applies, it is made available to a Master Gardener-in-Training.

A member of the **Parry Sound & District Horticultural Society**, designed and supervised all the decorations for Nipissing University for the Convention. Members of that society were the nucleus around which most of the work was carried out. Each year a local supplier grows geraniums for them, which are then used in their public plantings, sold and given out free at their Geranium Tea held around Mother's Day.

**Vickie Wiemer**

**“Jack-in-the-Pulpit”  
District Flower Emblem**

The Region of Waterloo is the home of the nine Societies of District 19, with a membership that exceeds 1,500 keen gardeners.

The floral emblem “Jack-in-the-Pulpit” was the focal point of a new banner that is surrounded by the names of the societies and the tones of green beige and brown are reflective of the surrounding rural communities.

Each year new and interesting activities, speakers, Master Gardener speaker series, bus trips and workshops have drawn new members to each society. Through the new Garden Ontario website each society can be viewed with only a click of a mouse.

**Ayr Society** – Eight educational evenings were held with excellent speakers. Membership fees were increased to \$5 and had 52 members. The Society worked diligently with the Township Community Service to obtain grant monies. One grant being used for a youth based project to work on an information booklet about names in a park walkway that was installed by the society. The second was for youth members who helped pick up litter in a Spring cleanup. The second phase of an interlocking walkway in the downtown of the village was completed. 17 planters, 24 hanging baskets, gardens at the cenotaph, the community centre and village parks were planted and maintained. Assistance to a nursing home, in a nearby community, in obtaining large



planters for their residents to plant that would beautify an outside sitting area. The Society partnered with the local Lions Club by donating funds to have a new “Welcome to Ayr” sign installed coming into the village. Members helped judge entries and donated prize money for floral entries at the local school fair. Funds were donated for our community “Fresh Ayr Festival”. The May plant sale and flower show had a record number of entries and sales.

**Galt Society** continued to develop and maintain two gardens in Cambridge, one being one acre in size. An irrigation project was completed on site. A summer-long children’s project ‘Fence of Many Colours’ was also installed. Cambridge Sculpture Garden received an environmental award. The society’s annual garden conference “Dream Garden” was a repeated success with 3 speakers and 15 vendors. Other successful events included an annual perennial sale, the ‘Open Gardens’ tour of local homes.

**Hespeler Society** holds monthly meetings with speakers presenting a variety of informative topics. Three society past presidents were honoured with Past President pins. Two members were honoured with life memberships. A plant and mushroom compost sale

was held to raise money for the Society. Five flowerbeds were planted and maintained by volunteer members.

Each flower bed had a sign to inform the public of the society's efforts. Other activities included a bus tour, a memorial tree planting, a flower show & a Christmas potluck.

**Kitchener** Society has made a commitment to Rockway Gardens for the completion of the gardens surrounding the footbridge and fountain & making the area user friendly. Four Society members work with staff members of two local health facilities to provide residents with a horticultural therapy program. The Kitchener Master Gardeners' lecture series was well attended by society members. Garden tours, bulb sales & a plant exchange were successful fund-raisers. Children in the youth program tended their own garden plots. The society has its own website and publishes a newsletter bi-monthly.

**Preston** . The tending of Gore Park continued to be the major activity for the year. The hot, dry season which had plagued all the societies in the district, presented members with quite a challenge. A bed of Centennial tulips has been planted in the park. Workshops included making an obelisk for the garden, & making door wreaths for Thanksgiving.

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Of great interest to members was the discovery of a newsclipping, dated 1936, in the "Prestonian", citing that the first meeting of the Society took place in 1878. This makes the Preston Society 126 years young! The article mentioned all the names of the members of the newly formed society. What an Historical find!

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**Waterloo** – A project known as "Carnegie Green" is the largest undertaking of the society in many years and was accomplished with the aid of a Trillium grant. The plant auction, bus trip & garden tours were all great successes. One of the best ideas this year was the magazine exchange at the meeting. The response arising from this activity has been very positive. As the Society moves forward to it's second century, we continue to share our gardening knowledge and build bridges in the community.

**Wellesley** – The society has members who seem very anxious to learn. They have speakers presenting interesting topics. The membership has shown a definite increase. Participation in a local home show & a fall fair are venues for horticultural displays and the promotion of their activities. Members maintain six gardens throughout the township Major fund-raisers include garden tours, a bus trip, a spring plant sale & the sale of Centennial tulip bulbs (36 bags) will cast a "purple hue" over much of the Township .

**Wilmot** – Master Gardeners play a role in this society's activities. Expert speakers and a Jr. Gardner's flower exhibit make their meetings interesting & informative.

They held a spring plant/yard sale. Their youth program has 35-40 members. The Society awards a scholarship to a student to further their education in a horticultural field. A garden party and also a bus tour of gardens was held in neighbouring villages. Members keep busy tending sixty-five civic flower beds through the township. A special evening slideshow of aerial photographs called "Gifts of Wing" was held district-wide. \$2,802.42 was raised from the evening that was donated to the House of Friendship

**Mary Young**