



## ***District Eleven***

**District Director - Alan Batke**

**Ambassador's** 41 members volunteered 366 hours at five locations during the year. In May they delivered marigolds and petunias to 104 units of Windsor Housing and are usually greeted by, "Here come the flower ladies!" The group had information booths, plant sales and seed planting and craft making tables at Eco-Beat and the Sandwich Festival. They recently established a website and a monthly newsletter.

**Belle River** has 163 adult and 58 youth members. They held a children's potting up workshop in April and over 50 youngsters made hanging baskets for Mother's Day. Two flower shows and an Open Gardens tour were better than ever with 500 tickets sold! They raised enough money to give \$1,000 in bursaries, setting aside \$2,000 for the 2003 graduating class to cover the double cohort. The youth newsletter is published in English and French.

**Blenheim-Harwich** hired a coordinator for the flowerbeds in Eriean, in front of the municipal building, outside the arena, under the town clock, Optimist Park and Memorial Park, IODE and a new grass garden near the fire hall. The coordinator also undertook the *Communities in Bloom* program and rallied local businesses, the society

and the recreational facilities staff. As a result of these efforts, Blenheim was awarded four blooms. The society also supports the Rondeau Bay Watershed Coalition.

**Brigden's** fifth annual Brigden Landscape and Garden Show was held at the Brigden fairgrounds. A sprinkler system was installed in the Horticultural Park and the society won first prize for its sunflower display at the Brigden Fall Fair.

**Essex** planted all the downtown beds with annuals after digging and storing last year's bulbs. They also planted the police station beds and added lots of new plants to the Train Station project. A July Flower Show was held as well as two plant and seed exchanges and two silent auctions.

**Fort Malden** hosted its 17th annual Garden Tour. Two members sit on a Parks Beautification Committee and their input, with the society's financial donation, led the town to institute a trial hanging basket program that will be doubled for 2003. The society continued its support and care of Seagram Park, Community Centre Garden and King's Navy Yard Park Gardens. Six members received Ontario Volunteer Service Awards.

**Greater Windsor** celebrated its 50th anniversary and held four flower shows with great turnouts. They donated \$300 worth of books for the library and delivered flowers to 120 senior members who live in senior housing units. The society also donated \$150 to the Versa Care Nursing home which used it to beautify their courtyard. They also gave \$1,000 to St. Theresa Church in lieu of free usage of their church.

**Kingsville** did spring plantings in Business Improvement Area boxes, Lakeside Park and the OPP bed. In June they held their annual potluck dinner and silent auction, where they had to make it, bake it, sew it or grow it.

**Leamington** is involved with a Labyrinth at Garrison Gardens and spent \$4,500 on new shrubs around the Tomato (Tourist Information Booth) early in the spring, as well as planting 950 bulbs of crocuses, hyacinths, tulips and daffodils around the Tomato.

**Ridgetown** plants at town entrances, Greenwood cemetery, Mary's Garden, the J.J. Neilson Arboretum, the Ridge House museum, Memorial T.R.E.E.S. Forest, the Native Trees Forest and the Ridgetown Public Library.

**Sarnia** maintains part of the College Avenue Garden which was bequeathed to them many years ago and is going ahead with a sprinkler system to avoid carrying water to the garden. A rose show and a

flower and vegetable show were held.

**Thamesville** had a successful plant sale the same day as the local town-wide yard sale, which brings in crowds of people from surrounding areas. In July they had a Garden Tour Spirit Walk in which 'spirits' along the way told stories or put on skits.

**Tilbury's** plant sale was a huge success with a total of 232 entries. The garden tour was a success with more than 150 people visiting the 12 gardens. A main project was the beautification of the town of Tilbury with trees to schools and bedding plants.

**Watford/Warwick** started its first youth gardeners club which met six times and did four projects: stepping stones, birdhouses, herb gardens and pumpkin carving. Each gardener also grew his or her own 3' x 4' garden which was judged four times throughout the season.

## At a Glance

District 11 consists of 14 societies in the counties of Essex, Kent and Lambton with 2792 members. Over the year they held 17 flower shows, nine garden tours, three plant sales, 10 bus trips and planted 44 town or city gardens.



## ***District Twelve***

**District Director - Billie Rheault**

**Kapuskasing**, established in 1929, takes as its floral emblem the shasta daisy. They are the farthest north of the societies in this district. They continue with their annual planting at some of the local area businesses, helping to spruce up the town and make it brighter for some of the residents. This year for the first time they entered the national *Communities in Bloom* competition. They also continue to hold their annual flower and vegetable show, now in its 74th year.

**Timmins's** floral emblem is the marigold. This society has always been very involved with planting in community parks and in particular at Gilles Lake, and this year three of the society members hosted garden tours at their home in the first annual self-guided Garden Tour started by the Chamber of Commerce. They continue to hold their annual flower and vegetable show as well as specific one-day shows throughout the year (i.e. rose show in July).

**Kirkland Lake's** floral emblem is the tuberous begonia. As of 2002 this society has 175 members. One of their most successful fundraisers is a roast beef dinner, held at the local Legion, which always sells out. They have always been a busy

society and they do plantings of thousands of annuals at many of the local tourist attractions, in particular the Miners Memorial Museum. Over the years this society has also been involved with flowerbeds at the Royal Canadian Legion Hall, Cenotaph, K.L. Airport, Works Department office, the Recreational Complex and other parts of the downtown area. They always host an annual Shop and Stop, usually at the end of April, and it has always been well attended and successful. They also continue to hold an annual flower and vegetable show.

**Englehart's** floral emblem is the gladiolus. They are involved with many projects including civic planting which includes the hospital, and the town 'welcome planters.' They also enjoy other activities such as the spring plant and bake sale, the Festival of Flowers, Christmas workshops and fundraising, selling Vesey's plants and bulbs. They also hold an annual flower and vegetable show. This society also honours history. In the past it has planted a tree dedicated to the memory of past Ontario Horticultural Association president Mrs. Ruby Bryan and participated in the official opening of the Englehart Public School Millennium Garden, a cooperative project

between the school and the society. This effort is a reminder of a very special year.

**Cochrane's** floral emblem is the rosa rugosa. A few years ago this society was asked by the town mayor to assist in the development of a small park at the town's entrance as a Millennium project. This they did and continue to look after it. They help to maintain some of the local beds including the one at the hospital and hope to expand the butterfly garden at the Hillcrest play park. They continue to hold their annual flower and vegetable show in conjunction with the Cochrane Fall Fair.

**Iroquois Falls's** floral emblem is the petunia. They are a smaller society and yet they still do some community planting. Instead of an annual flower and vegetable show they hold a garden competition, which has many interested participants.

**Porcupine District's** floral emblem is the pansy. They are very active in community events and planting and usually take on one large project a year. They have been responsible for planting flowers in the Lions Club Park and will be undertaking a community garden project in the next year. They also continue to hold an annual flower and vegetable show. Each year this society hosts an appreciation night for members and past exhibitors.

## At a Glance

District 12 is located in northeastern Ontario, with seven societies spanning a geographical area from the northern city of Kapuskasing, west to Timmins, east to Kirkland Lake and south to Englehart. It also encompasses the cities of Cochrane, Iroquois Falls and Porcupine.

For being such a large geographical area, these seven societies come together for fall and spring meetings which are well attended and well received. They serve not only as a time to educate but also as a time of fellowship, with common goals and help for all societies.

A judges' and exhibitors' workshop was held at Englehart high school in 2002. In August, 2003 a district floral design/exhibitors' workshop was scheduled to help members who wish to compete in flower shows.

Each society, whether large or small, makes a contribution not only to their own society but to their communities.



## ***District Thirteen***

**District Director - Judy Lewis**

**Assiginak** makes fire quilts to be given to victims of house fires. To pay for needed materials, they hold bake sales, plant sales and auctions. The two garden tours, flower show and luncheon and large flower show are held each year.

**Blind River** holds a pumpkin and sunflower contest. They participate in the community Harvest and Winter Carnivals and hold a walking garden tour, potluck supper and social.

**Bruce Station**, a struggling society with great potential, does a marvelous job of decorating the town with eye-catching floral displays. They are great promoters of cookbook tours of local gardens. The town of Bruce Mines is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year.

**Campbell** will celebrate their 75th anniversary in April, 2003 and donates to the Central Manitoulin Public School Fair and to the Manitoulin Secondary School Student Aid Fund. They hold a fall supper and Christmas luncheon, and also host a very large flower show in August.

**Elliot Lake**, a retirement community, sponsors a beautification competition in the community and a

large park which is used as a backdrop for wedding pictures. They bring in many interesting speakers and take an annual tour of Adcock Gardens on St. Joseph Island. Attendance at meetings is over 100 and the society has a monthly newsletter.

**Espanola** joined with the town's major industry, Domtar, which provided a \$25,000 grant to redo the beds at the town's north entrance, and also supported the Adopt-a-Street program. They also hold an annual plant sale, a local garden tour and flower show and tea.

**Lake George** is a busy group now undertaking the beautification of the highway right-of-way along with the municipality. They held an Echo Bay For Sale Day on the first Saturday of May, featuring a plant sale and display of youth work. They host a flower show and exhibit, hold a Christmas potluck and a picnic in the park in July and also take a garden tour by bus.

**Massey-Walford** is involved with a newly constructed park at the town's only traffic light, with a fountain being added in 2003. This society is celebrating its 40th anniversary of its flower show. They also toured Lark Whistle gardens near Tobermory.

**St. Joseph Island** plants in all four townships on the island and were hosts for the annual meeting in 2003. They held an annual tea at Adcock Gardens in July, a local horticultural delight. They also hold a pumpkin contest, a large flower show and participate in the fall Harvest Festival.

**Sault Ste. Marie** is in partnership with other local groups and is sponsoring a community teaching garden in a low income senior area, with raised beds for the handicapped and wide paths as features. They support the vegetable garden category in the annual city beautification contest and are involved with *Communities in Bloom*. They held a flower show and tea in August, a garden tour by bus, a large plant sale, a Christmas dinner with awards from the flower show and a photography contest. They also produce a monthly newsletter.

**Sudbury** is a very active group. They redesigned the John Street Park, a well-known local area, and tend the gardens at Science North. They hold five flower shows a year, a garden tour by bus, a very large plant sale and host a one-day tour to Canada Blooms each year. In addition, they give a bursary to Cambrian College and produce a year-book and a monthly newsletter. They also now have a website

**Thessalon** holds a beautiful yard competition to get others in the community to help make the area more attractive. They built a memorial garden at the medical centre and hold an annual potluck awards night

to honour outstanding workers in the society. This is a small group but very active in plantings. They meet in members' homes as necessary.

## At a Glance

The year 2002 was an exciting one for the 12 societies in District 13 as we hosted the annual Ontario Horticultural Association convention in June. Special thanks to all who attended and we hope they enjoyed themselves.

An interesting fact was that 35 societies were represented for the first time. The district annual meeting was held in Espanola with past Ontario Horticultural Association president Kevin Healey attending.

Although there isn't any formal competition, each society is expanding, the flower show entries are up, community plantings keep expanding, memberships are growing and a positive, good feeling abounds throughout the district.

All societies try to visit and support each other.



## ***District Fourteen*** **District Director - Harriet Hansen**

**Fort Frances** drafted and passed a constitution, a notable achievement. The Flower Show was beautiful but the entries of garden produce suffered from poor conditions due to massive rains. The garden by the Good Neighbours sign has the society's commitment of \$1000 and another \$200 is pledged to work at Rainy Crest. Up to \$200 is also earmarked for storage cabinets at the CN Station. Over the year workshops were given on the perennial garden, Betafish bowl, planting and caring for orchids and a pruning classic at the library grounds.

**Sioux Lookout's** community project continues to be the planters at the William George Extended Care Home. In spring about 20 members enjoyed creating and painting birdbaths made from terra cotta pots. In the fall they had an orchid workshop and a number of participants have been successful though some are still waiting! Bulb and plant sales continue in the spring and fall. A very successful Flower and Vegetable Show was held in August.

**Vermilion Bay's** (Evergreen Thumbs) first group activity was a plant sale which was held in May, followed by a June penny auction at the local Antique Tractor Show. In

October there was an orchid workshop in Dryden, plant and produce exchange at the regular meeting and a talk on perennials. Donations were made to several local groups – the Happy Go Lucky Seniors, Genealogy and History Society and the Pine Tree Pathways Committee.

**Longlac's** gardening got off to a very slow start but once it got going it was an excellent year. Projects undertaken included a flowerbed at one of the local churches and donations toward planting at the other two churches. They also planted at the Tourist Information Building and during Summerfest they sponsored a garden contest and presented a video of the gardens judged at the August meeting. A bulb sale raised funds and members enjoyed a flower arranging demonstration and a hands-on workshop on table centrepieces. They also built a Christmas display – a polar bear in a canoe to add to the Festival of Lights.

**Geraldton** provided five churches and the Legion with bedding plants, planted the Welcome flower bed and three beds at the hospital. The Information Centre asked the society to teach children how to plant and the result was the planting of its large circular flowerbed. Four cash prizes were given

for the Best Garden contest. The society measured and formed a landscaping plan for the clinic and ordered various shrubs and trees for it.

**Atikokan's** summer was not the best for growing vegetables because of the wet spring and the great flood on June 11. They recovered from that and did the town's hanging baskets with a gorgeous show of wave petunias that lasted into September. Seventy-five bedding plants were purchased for the public plants and hanging baskets, and were planted at the hospital, library, tourist bureau, town office, clinic, beer store, Esso Station and museum. The Clean and Green Committee's spring clean-up along the highway coming into Atikokan was very successful.

**Thunder Bay** members helped out at the annual Slice of Pizza Project. Early June found members planting at three of the seniors homes, rejuvenating the perennial bed at the Conservatory and planting the beds at the Thunder Bay Community Auditorium.

**Nipigon**, in conjunction with Red Rock, held the first annual Civic Beautification Contest with seven categories – best overall yard, front yard, patio and balcony, rural yard, vegetable, commercial landscape and children's garden. The annual Flower and Vegetable Show held in August was a great success with 432 adult and three children's entries. A tree was planted at the marina and members manned an

information booth at a local store answering gardening questions and handing out pamphlets.

**Terrace Bay** planted flowers at the cemetery and expanded the existing flowerbeds. The adopt-a-bed program was continued as in previous years and members planted and tended several flower beds in the parks and downtown area, including the watering of hanging baskets. In July the society sponsored a pond tour with the proceeds donated to Superior Special Olympics.

**Dryden** learned about sowing seeds and starting plants for the Spring Plant and Bake Sale and participated with a booth on poisonous plant material at the annual Family Safety Night. They also donated \$2,500 for city banners and baskets and new winter banners, 10 area churches and the Seniors Centre.

## At a Glance

District 14 is called Northwestern Ontario and includes the areas of Kenora, Rainy River and Thunder Bay.

Ten societies spread out over a wide area are represented by this district. One of the interesting workshops presented at several societies was on the subject of growing orchids.



## ***District Fifteen***

**District Director - Liisa Wolfgram**

**Streetsville** hosted the 2002 district annual meeting and outdid themselves! Assistant district director Wolfgang Dall received the District 15 Service Award. The society entered the Canadian National Exhibition horticultural competition and won first in both the front door and window box classes.

**Bolton** moved to a new location and donated over 5000 perennials, plus planting 1600 Rotary Club tulips which helped fill the 14 new flower beds they have inherited.

**Brampton** continues to be committed to the many community plantings they've taken care of for years and also work with the Boys and Girls Club of Peel, 12 of which became junior members and helped with plantings.

**Chinguacousy** maintains an active youth group with 22 members and 10 meetings during the year. The majority of their projects are in preparation for the district AGM and annual convention which means the leader and president are regular attendees at the OHA convention.

**Cloverleaf** is one of the most consistent monthly flower show clubs in the district. They continue to provide floral arrangements for the City Hall Art Gallery.

**Credit Valley** adds new trees, shrubs and perennials each year to Springbank Meadows Park, an old landfill site. They continue the relationship with the city campaign called Litternot and clean up Sawmill Valley Trail at least three times a year. This is a joy to volunteers as it's a long and beautiful woodland walk.

**Etobicoke** maintains a very strong outreach youth program, working with many schools in the west area of Toronto. They have experienced an increase in membership during the past year.

**Kingsway/Sunnylea** dissolved this year.

**Nobleton** has officially changed its name to Nobleton and King City Horticultural Society to better reflect the membership base. They assisted in the rejuvenation of Cherry Park in Nobleton and created a new perennial flower and shrub bed in Wellesley Park in King City. A new bed was also created by this club near the library in Nobleton. This society covered the cost of all the plant material in these projects.

**Parkdale** and Toronto's garden tour is especially relevant to members and guests, providing much

insight and ideas for gardening in their small inner-city gardens. The tour was filmed for the Mark Cullen show on HGTV.

**Richmond Hill** plants hanging baskets and barrels on the main street. Many hours were spent organizing details for *Communities in Bloom* competition and choosing front gardens to be judged. Richmond Hill was awarded five blooms and the judges commented that the community involvement was a real strength at every level.

**Roselands** competed in the CNE window box competition for the first time and took second place. They introduced a new award in memory of Irene Masdin, which will be presented to the member with the best rose in their summer show.

**Schomberg** participated in Community Spirit Day. They held a dedication of the Millennium Day Lily Bed and a new name plaque. A Preston lilac was dedicated in memory of a deceased member. The society was quite thrilled to see the fruits of their labour when 1000 spring bulbs burst into bloom.

**Swansea** remains actively involved in the CNE competitions, coming away with four awards and having many willing volunteers at the OHA booth.

**Thornhill** moved their annual flower show from a community centre to a nearby mall. Despite the drought members responded with an

excellent variety of specimens which were enjoyed by a much larger audience.

**Westway** continues to do its community work at churches and local schools. They've come up with new ideas for meetings this year and their membership numbers are on the rise.

**Woodbridge** continues to beautify the Woodbridge 'bridge' during the year with hanging baskets, Christmas boughs and bows during the holidays. They decorate Woodbridge Avenue for Valentine's Day and participate in the Woodbridge Fair.

## At a Glance

The 16 societies in District 15 work together, sharing information and new ideas. Education is an important part of our picture and this year we focused on a workshop for show convenors.

Every society and district board member is online, which truly streamlines communications. Our district brochure lists contact information for all societies/clubs and district board members.