



## ***District Sixteen***

**District Director - Edna Caldwell**

**Alliston** has completed Phase 2 of the Memorial Gardens and Arboretum on the main area of town, having several business partners locally, and will begin replanting trees, shrubs and flower beds. A Youth Club was operated by members at a local school. The April Flower Show was held in an art gallery, where the floral designs interpret specific works of art.

**Angus** held dedication ceremonies of the Old Stone Site Garden (the stone unearthed was laid in 1939 to commemorate the visit of King George and Queen Elizabeth) in the spring, and in late summer, of the Millennium Garden and Farewell Garden with many guests attending from the OHA, local municipalities and the military from nearby Base Borden. They finished all the plantings at the Clock Tower Garden, near the library.

**Barrie's** Garden club held a Spring Seminar with 100 keen gardeners attending. They created four demonstration gardens and a tall grass prairie garden of 60 species of grasses indigenous to Simcoe County in their Arboretum. The City of Barrie awarded the club \$100,000 for a Sesquicentennial Pavilion in the Arboretum.

**Beeton** held a garden tour and took a bus tour to Niagara Falls and

started renovations on flower beds in the local park. Each member had his or her 'name' rocks placed in these flower beds.

**Bond Head and District** took part in Communities in Bloom in its municipality and opened its Garden Tour and Tea to the public. They added large concrete planters, a bench and shrubbery to a parkette which is at the centre of the village. The planters were filled with evergreens for Christmas and the winter season.

**Brentwood** held its annual Strawberry Social Night with a special speaker, inviting three neighbouring societies. They continue to beautify both the villages of Brentwood and New Lowell with several flower beds.

**Coldwater** celebrated its 50th anniversary by inviting the local MPP to present each of the directors with a special volunteer award. A Youth Club is held in the local elementary school at the noon hour.

**Collingwood** installed and landscaped a water feature at its Arboretum as well as celebrating its 40th anniversary. Each June a dedication ceremony is held at the Arboretum of any new In Memoriam trees.

**Creemore** set up a display at the local spring Garden Show and con-

tinue permanent plantings at a new community park. At its summer flower show there is a youths' workshop for the children to make floral designs.

**Elmvale** has Open Garden Weeks with eight gardens and many visitors. They supply bedding plants for the new Heritage Park and plans to participate in the Communities in Bloom.

**Gilford** was actively involved *Communities in Bloom* for the first time and continue to improve its Arboretum by renovating three existing beds. They are planning a garden tour in their area for 2003.

**Midland** continues to donate trees annually to the town and is recognized for its town beautification by having its name inscribed on a piece of local granite which sits in its Millennium garden. The members of the Youth Club plant seeds and cuttings which they sell at the society plant sale to raise their own funds.

**Orillia** has a Youth Garden at a school where students are involved in planting. They held a second Gardening Pride competition where residential, business and institutional entries were judged and an awards given.

**Oro/Medonte** has very active youth programs in three local public schools with over 200 children enrolled. They celebrated their 35th anniversary in December and held a Potting Day in spring and fall, potting up perennials in compost from

the municipality. Members took some of the pots home to grow for the Plant Sale.

**Painswick** was part of the newly organized *Communities in Bloom* program. They have two youth programs in public schools. Painswick hosted District 16's Fall Seminar and have been organized for 30 years.

**Penetanguishene** maintains its Ecology Garden, hanging baskets and public gardens and planted a memorial crabapple tree.

**Stayner** provided plants around a new gazebo at the Railway Park for Heritage Day and hosted District 16's Spring Convention.

**Tottenham** and District received Volunteer Group of the Year at the Home and Garden Show where they had a booth. They have increasing numbers of people at the monthly meetings.

## At a Glance

District 16 consists of 18 societies which are active in their communities.

One of the features of this district is the open gardens program. There are 18 private gardens and arboretums available to be visited all over the district, providing a telephone call is made first.



## ***District Seventeen***

### **District Director - Kathryn Carnegie**

**Ajax Garden Club** continues to be involved with Ajax in Bloom, now in its fifth year, and The Festival of Trees, a Yuletide fundraiser for the local hospital.

**Beaverton** not only celebrated its 80th anniversary in 2002 but also dedicated three In Memoriam trees and hosted a well-attended district AGM.

**Bowmanville** has been successful in obtaining funds from both TD Friends of The Environment and the Trillium Foundation. These funds are being used to enhance two of the main entranceways into town. The Foundation Garden in the Village of Tyrone continues to thrive through the efforts of several local partnerships, including the horticultural society. This society continues to be involved in the Municipality of Clarington Apple Blossom Awards program.

**Brooklin** reports that 'everything grew' including membership, numbers of plants and the Butterfly Meadow, still in its early stages. As well, the society entered a float in the Brooklin Spring Fair parade and was to participate in the Harvest festival in September. Stoneleigh, the much-toured gardens of Judi and Michael Denny,

was the site of several fundraising events this year and is also featured in the *Ontario Gardener* magazine Beautiful Gardens 2003.

**Cannington's** downtown has changed dramatically, thanks to the purchase by the horticultural society of banners for the light standards. In partnership with the museum, the society planned and participated in a grand opening, replete with piper and a ribbon-cutting ceremony, for a new nature trail along the Beaver River. In addition, the Civic Beautification Committee plants and maintains 21 half-barrels and five flower beds, as well as having assisted in the rejuvenation of the landscaping on the grounds of the local high school in preparation for their 50th anniversary.

**Georgina/Brock** has undertaken an extensive beautification/restoration program for the old Cooke's Cemetery.

**Newcastle** donated hand-made Valentine's Day bookmarks to a local hospital and is already making plans for hosting the 2004 district AGM.

**Orono** has plans for a new garden at the public library. The society continues to plant and maintain

beds at the Cenotaph and throughout the village. Publications for a new society library are also being amassed.

**Oshawa** is a partner in the development of the new Oshawa Valley Botanical Gardens project.

**Pickering's** Esplanade at the City Centre has become a more esthetically-pleasing place to stroll or sit as a result of the continued plantings and maintenance under the auspices of the society. As well, Pickering received the 2002 District Tink Award and celebrates its 70th anniversary and plans to host the 2003 AGM

**Pineridge** celebrated its 25th anniversary with many of its founding members in attendance. The club is the proud recipient of one of the 2003 OHA Special Project Fund allotments which will be used to assist with the expansion and redevelopment of Cartwright Fields, a recreational area which serves the population of the Village of Nestleton and its environs. The club also enters a float and sets up a booth at the Blackstock Fair.

**Uxbridge** is in the process of identifying the Beautiful Gardens of Uxbridge, the top 12 of which will be featured in a 2004 calendar. In addition to celebrating a 35th anniversary, the society also dedicated an In Memoriam 'stone' at the Seniors' Centre where it holds its meetings.

## At a Glance

The 12 societies and garden clubs which comprise District 17 all continue with unique, locally-flavoured fundraising activities, public plantings and beautification projects, innovative workshops, information sessions and guest speakers.

At the district level, three new committees, that will remain viable on a year-round basis, have been put into place in order to better serve the membership; the District 17 newsletter has been reinstated; the constitution committee will act as a resource for clubs/societies considering changes to their current constitutions; the ways and means committee will provide assistance in filling out applications for the various grants and an Internet coordinator has been appointed to encourage and assist clubs/societies to get online and set up with websites.

The very successful 2002 Gardens and Gateways tour highlighted 12 properties, each chosen by the clubs/societies in the district.



## ***District Eighteen*** **District Director - Vickie Wiemer**

**Argyle** was very pleased with its small garden tour this year.

**Baysville** for the first time participated in its town's Walk About. Along with the Master Gardeners, they set up tables on the closed-off Main Street along with numerous other organizations and businesses. They sold plants and publicized their public plantings and felt it was good exposure. They continued having their table during the Art in the Park exhibition where they collect donations to look after the park. They also contributed to the River Front Project to help with the repair of the stone pillars and fence. They installed a large granite rock at the entrance to the town with brass letters on it.

**Bracebridge** plants and maintains six gardens and helped with *Communities in Bloom*. They provided two \$1,000 bursaries and funding to five local schools for horticultural projects. Their youth projects included 30 science experiments with plants displayed at the Flower Show and also a super botanical art mural.

**Callander** continued with the planting and maintaining of Memory Tree Park. This year they stained the shed, mulched around

the trees with wood chips and installed two new benches. Several weddings have been held there.

**Gravenhurst** changed the venue of its annual vegetable and flower show to the Seniors Centre and received rave reviews. This society donated plants to the gardens at the Seniors Centre as well as planting gardens for the Historical Society and at the post office and community centre.

**Huntsville** decided to have a potluck dinner meeting in September and this was so successful that they will continue this. Their experiment with a potluck dessert meeting was also highly enjoyable. They have an extremely active youth group which meets monthly and is responsible for one of the flower beds on their main street.

**Mattawa and District** is one of our new societies. They are establishing a beautiful park on the Mattawa River and last year put in benches and flower and garbage containers. This was opened at a special ceremony attended by the mayor and also the present and past District 18 directors. It was followed by a barbecue.

**North Bay** celebrated its 40th

anniversary by having a flower exhibition at one of the malls in town. They asked the Master Gardeners to provide talks during the day and at the end, they invited the mayor, the first president of the society and the district director to tour the show and then cut their 40th anniversary cake. The mall gave the society a beautiful plaque which now hangs in Casselholme Nursing Home, where they have their regular meetings. This show was not judged but the public was asked to vote for the 'best in show' and three prizes were given out. The public enjoyed participating.

**Parry Sound** has many competitions but this year they held their major show in a rural private home where they also sold tickets for a lovely luncheon which was served outside.

**Powassan** was extremely pleased with its programs this year – especially the tufa pots they made and the talk about spiders and bats. The workshop in November saw the members making their own woodland Christmas wreaths.

**Sprucedale** had a most interesting meeting in September. They have a potluck dinner to which members are invited to bring guests and the business is put aside in favour of some musical entertainment. The orchestra they had this year was excellent. This was their 15th anniversary and they gave their first president, who is still extremely active, a life membership.

**Sundridge** obtained a Trillium Foundation grant which enabled them to add picnic tables, benches and more planters to beautify their town.

**Whitestone and District** is our second new society and is doing a lot of community beautification which includes looking after three cemeteries and rebuilding a flower bed at the fire hall.

## At a Glance

District 18 welcomed two new societies in 2002 so now numbers 13.

All are very involved in public plantings and most have some form of flower show. Garden tours, either for members only or for the general public are becoming more numerous.

Baysville did great job in hosting the district annual meeting. Glen Cox gave an excellent talk on pelargoniums and fuschias. As was written up in the Ontario Horticultrual Association newsletter by Liz Trolove, Parry Sound provided the district with an excellent fall workshop involving two crafts with Madeline Hobson giving some excellent instruction.



## ***District Nineteen***

**District Director - Maryanne Weiler**

**Ayr** saw the completion of a Memorial Garden at the nearby community centre of Roseville. Unfortunately the designer of the garden was killed in an automobile accident before the garden was finished, hence it became a memorial garden. The society donated \$600 to a June village festival. Current work projects are: having the cenotaph repainted; sandblasting a memorial drinking fountain and installing a Canadian flag on the bandshell. Litter pick-up was funded in the downtown core and parks and 13 planters, 24 hanging baskets and four park garden areas were weeded and watered. Members of the society help judge youth horticultural entries each September as part of a school fair and donate \$50 in prize money to this event.

**Elmira's** annual dinner was attended by 115 members, over half the total. The second annual plant sale was sold out before 10 a. m. with proceeds over \$1,000 and the Junior Horticultural program continues to be successful. The garden site was enhanced with the installation of a fence. A special feature of the garden tours was a community garden at Floradale supported by an OHA grant of \$400. The Christmas Candlelight

house tour added to the season's festivities.

**Hespeler** planned three bus tours to Stratford, Toronto and Windsor. Civic beautification is evident at the Bergy Hill project, Bechtel Park and Queen Street Corner.

**Kitchener's** major function was the operating of the 7-1/2 acre Rockway Gardens which are used as a teaching tool. They house a plant sale, bulb sale and information centre for the society and Master Gardeners. In addition, the original fountains placed at the gardens in 1933 were renovated and moved to a central part of the garden at a cost of \$250,000.

**Preston** is hoping to increase its members through 10 general meetings. A plant sale and workshop were to be held at Gore Park and the society is slowly extending the Gore Park garden to what it was years ago. An irrigation system will aid in this effort.

**Waterloo's** membership swelled significantly. In 2001 this society had 215 members and by 2002, there were 336 members, an increase of 121 within the space of one year, the greatest yearly in-

crease since the inception of the society in 1895. Four society members attended the annual convention in Sault Ste. Marie. In July the society had a very successful member garden tour and the annual Flower and Vegetable Show in August was a huge success. The society's *Garden Gazette* newsletter continues to be a popular venue for timely garden information and announcements of speakers and events. The society had a total of 1,461 volunteer hours.

**Wellesley's** meetings included speakers on such topics as green gardening, ponds, rock gardens, antique tools and harvesting equipment. The society plants and maintains numerous beds in six rural centres to beautify Wellesley Township. They also have displays at the local Home Show and Agricultural Fall Fair, as well as a Summer Garden Tour and Christmas potluck. The new pledge adopted by this society for 2003 is to be more active in 'green' issues.

**Wilmot's** focus of civic beautification is one of the most important reasons for the society. Many volunteers worked diligently in the over 65 flower beds in the seven communities of the township, including the grounds of Castle Killbride. The Junior Gardeners program continued to see many enthusiastic young people planting and tending their personal gardens as well as participating in fairs, shows and competitions including the Hi-

pel Markle Competition. The society is working closely with a local town beautification committee in establishing two new flower beds in New Dundee. They also presented subscriptions to *Ontario Gardener* to the three local libraries, planted 2000 crocus bulbs at The Oasis in the Centre, entered a float in the New Hamburg Santa Claus Parade and presented an inaugural \$500 scholarship to a graduating student from Waterloo Oxford who is pursuing studies in the horticultural field.

## At a Glance

The Region of Waterloo houses the nine societies of District 19 with a total membership of over 1,500 avid gardeners. The regional emblem is the jack-in-the-pulpit which was introduced by the horticultural societies.

Societies are made up of an equal number of urban and rural groups. The Master Gardeners play an integral role in the educational programs of many of the societies.

As with many districts in the Ontario Horticultural Association, the nine societies add much beauty to their respective communities with their plantings.