



District Six
District Director - Bob Williams

Acton purchased indigenous grasses, shrubs and plants to continue restoration of Henderson Break along with completion of work on Memory Gardens and were involved in Communities in Bloom.

Ancaster held its annual plant show, held some garden tours and continued with maintaining community gardens.

Brantford took part in the Brantford Blooms event, as well as continuing to look after community plantings.

Burlington's major projects were a perennial garden at New Street and a shade garden at Maple Avenue. They also support three elementary school planting programs at the local park.

Bronte had a booth at the Home Show and held a barbecue at the Historical Society grounds. They also held a plant sale and garden tour, and plant and maintain the local Historical Society grounds.

Delhi and District initiated a project with the BIA Adopt-a-Planter. The 56 downtown planters were adopted out to the public and they were responsible for planting and maintaining them.

Flamborough planted four Japanese lilac trees at Strabane Park and helped to rejuvenate the herbal teaching garden at Mountsburgh Conservation Area.

Georgetown re-designed and replanted the community garden at the Greenwood Cemetery and planted a xeriscape garden at the Civic Centre. They also did plantings at the Willow Park Ecological Garden, the Lucy Maud Montgomery Garden and Old Seed House Garden.

Glen Morris continues to support the Keg Lane School Fair and the Glen Morris Public Library as the need arises. In addition, three society members opened their homes for evening garden tours.

Haldimand continued to maintain local community gardens and held tours of members' gardens.

Lynden purchased and maintains two cast iron urns at the Lynden United Church, and also won first prize for its float 'A Walk through the Garden' at the local Canada Day parade. The society celebrates its 75th anniversary in 2003.

Milton planted and installed the large Millennium Gardens with the

theme of Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow with a \$7000 grant from Landscape Ontario and Canada Blooms, and researched and replaced a monument/plaque which was dedicated to Milton in 1980 by the Dutch Canadian Club, commemorating the help of the Canadian Forces in the liberation of Holland in the Second World War.

Mount Hamilton planted a tree at Macassa Lodge and provided plants for the Meals on Wheels program and provided both judge and board members for Hamilton's Trillium Awards program honouring excellence in property maintenance and landscaping

Oakville sold over 850 tickets to its annual local garden tour at the end of June. Horticultural therapy teaching was continued with geriatric patients at the hospital and allotment gardens were set up for local children with supervision and assistance from members.

Paris participated in the Spring in Paris weekend by holding a garden tour. They also installed a sprinkler system at the local Cenotaph and, with the support of the *Paris Star* newspaper, started a program of issuing certificates of appreciation to owners of outstanding gardens in the community.

Port Dover planted and maintained gardens at Heritage Park, Memoriam Park, Brant Hill, the Museum and Cockshutt Road at the entrance to the town.

Simcoe and District works in partnership with the Horticultural Program and teacher at Simcoe Composite High School, and had many speakers on a variety of subjects.

St. George continued its good work in maintaining community gardens, held a plant show and toured society members' gardens.

Waterford's Young Gardeners Program was repeated this year with 10 young people participating. Two park areas were created and developed in Waterford's Horticultural Place.

Winona maintains the Four Corners at Winona Road and Highway 8, and donated to the Winona Food Bank and Royal Botanical Gardens.

At a Glance

The 20 societies in the Carolinian District are very active with plant sales, spring and summer garden tours and flower and vegetable shows.

Their many special projects include planting flower beds, supervising youth groups, taking part in Brantford Blooms and the Ontario Garden Show at the Royal Botanical Gardens.



District Seven

District Director - Marlene Bruckhardt

Arthur decided to use floral workshops to increase member confidence in design work and increase competition in the floral shows.

Clifford was the host society for a most successful district annual meeting. Several Clifford youth members took part in the annual Hipel and Markle Flower and Vegetable Display competition.

Elora/Salem is a small community society but is extremely active. They are involved in Arbour Week plantings and host an annual gardening conference. Members also do a large amount of work with the younger members of the society, who, hopefully, will be the gardeners of the future.

Erin continues with active community planting and garden tours. Its members also take an active part in contributing to the annual fall fair.

Fergus is one of the communities who entered the *Communities in Bloom* competition and was a big part of that successful effort. They have also shown great initiative by expanding their interest and installing a pagoda in Terry Fox Park,

which adds to the public's enjoyment of this town facility.

Grand Valley has moved to a new location for its meetings. Each month they have a mini floral competition which gives members a taste of what is expected in a judged show. They also have an active youth group which worked hard to maintain a community garden. This group also looked after their own garden and kept a running journal of its activities.

Guelph City hosts an extremely popular garden tour each year and is very active in the public planting of trees in cooperation with the city. They also have an active youth group which brought distinction to the society and to themselves by winning the Herb Markle award for display of vegetables in the annual Hipel and Markle competition.

Guelph Township has been very busy settling into its new home after the closing of the school. They have also occupied themselves with working with township officials in the amalgamation of Guelph/Eramosa townships, an often difficult and complicated task. They have continued with plantings in the

community as well as the park. Their youth members are keen competitors in all of the society's shows and the annual Hipel and Markle competition.

Harriston had the bright idea of undertaking a new approach to its plant sale. They invited vendors and speakers for a day in the park. This turned out to be a highly successful event which attracted a much larger attendance than anticipated. A welcome byproduct of this initiative was that it resulted in increased plant sales. It will now become an annual event.

Hillsburg, though small, continues promoting activities and planting in its community.

Maryborough (Moorefield) continues to beautify the local landscape and maintains six barrels on the main street of Moorefield. They also have youth members who learn gardening techniques.

Mount Forest has a garden tour, bus trips and plant sales as well as educational speakers to encourage membership in the society.

Orangeville is an active society with a regular newsletter, plant sales, floral shows, educational speakers and active member participation at meetings. Their youth members are also an active part of their society.

Shelburne has regular meeting and a garden tour and floral compe-

titions. One of their meetings is an open forum for other society members to participate with them and they make this a special evening.

At a Glance

Over the past few years District 7 has gone through the provincial restructuring of communities and changes of names, roads, etc. and is beginning to settle into the new changes.

At the district meeting held in April, members learned more about the host society community and members. At the presidents' meeting in the spring, members are encouraged to discuss local problems and receive suggestions from other attendees.

Participation and/or attendance to other members' societies is also encouraged.

An increasing number of societies are starting to have workshops to encourage confidence in design work and also at Christmas time have a wreath-making workshop.

Societies are continuing to educate their members and the public about horticulture. It is the dedication of public and private planting of trees, shrubs and flowers which helps to improve the quality of our environment.



District Eight

District Director - Merrie Francis

Durham's special events included a garden tea party, a bus tour to Cullen Gardens, a plant sale and presentation by Frank Kershaw.

Hanover holds plant sales where everyone has fun bidding on their favourite perennial. A craft show in November has many exhibits and of course a horticultural table. This year they are combining their April meeting with Neustad.

Markdale supports the Markdale Fall Fair and Horticultural Show and holds a green thumb sale. They completed a major planting project at the new area library and plant tubs and beds. They have a young gardeners club and also had a mystery garden tour.

Neustadt planted barrels on main streets, the boxes on the bridge and the entrance signs. Five society members received Volunteer Awards in Owen Sound and Guelph.

Eastnor has garden benches and trash cans made of recycled rubber and is redoing the landscape around the seniors' centre and Royal Bank. They also plant a memorial garden and walk along the marina and bay.

Kincardine played a major role in the new streetscape, a new park and 22 municipal flower beds as part of Kincardine's successful effort to become national *Communities in Bloom* winners in the 5-10,000 population category. They commissioned a landscape design for a teaching garden about one acre in size that will become their signature garden.

Mildmay has 256 members. They utilized Master Gardeners and maintain a memorial garden. They had bus tours to the Stratford Flower Show and a , garden festival. Their special event was Mildmay Homecoming.

Ripley hosted District 8's annual meeting with the theme Wings in the Garden, doing special decorations of flowers and butterflies. They hold an annual flower show, a mystery bus tour and a fall fair float.

Tara is a small town but a busy one. They hold a flower show, planting sale, planted a memorial tree, plant and maintain 15 flower beds and assist the downtown Business Improvement Association with boxes on the bridge and baskets on lamp stands.

Teeswater is a small community as well but is always coming up with new ideas, such as flowers in motion. They had a large parade of wheels, bikes, baby buggies, skateboards, wagons etc. All were beautifully decorated with flowers.

Walkerton is very busy with water gardens. They will be installing two new water systems in flower beds. They registered in the Communities in Bloom contest 2003. They utilize young offenders who need to do community work/service hours and hire summer students to help with beds and watering.

Auburn's main goal to to keep Auburn beautiful. They have planted many perennials and annuals and put flower boxes on the bridge over the Maitland River.

Bayfield's community project is planting nine public gardens. They had a bus tour to Grand Bend Club's Garden Tour and also Canada Blooms in Toronto.

Brussels has had many interesting speakers and held a successful plant auction.

Chesley plants and maintains flower gardens and planters throughout the community. They host a flower show and have many interesting speakers and tours.

Clinton utilizes Master Gardeners when possible. Their special event is the Spring Bash Walk along the Maitland River.

Goderich will offer gardening time to high school students toward subject credits. They had a tour of Stratford Gardens and visited Pono-view Gardens and entered the Rotary Garden Show. They redesigned the hospital gardens and look after the McKay Centre.

Seaforth uses Master Gardeners. Their community projects are hanging baskets, boxes on Main Street and flower beds. They hosted the Garden Tour around Seaforth and took a bus trip to Stokes Seeds and Niagara Under Glass.

Hensall landscaped and repaired the village sign and planted flower beds and hanging baskets at the four signs at the entrance of the village.

Wingham - see flyer - Alice Munro Literary Garden - ongoing planting and care of many gardens within Wingham.

At a Glance

District 8 has 23 societies located in the counties of Bruce, Grey and Huron. Societies serve large and small towns located in the beautiful countryside dotted with many lakes, rivers and farms. This year the District Service Award went to Dick DeJong from Seaforth society.



District Nine

District Director - Eloise Schumacher

Dunnville members do the planters on every street intersection. They have events like Talbot Heritage Day in February, a bus tour in March and a huge auction in October. Last year this society recorded over 1600 volunteer hours. The Youth Group is expanding .

Fort Erie celebrated summer with a barbecue. This society was also presented with the Doris Lighthouse Trophy which is awarded each year for the highest percentage increase in membership. They plant dozens of geraniums at the hospital, the train station and the seniors' home.

Grimsby is famous for its plant sales - last year it sold out in 45 minutes! New gardeners always need advice, so this society holds a July meeting in a member's garden, an idea started in 2001. They also continued to care for the Fleming Rose Garden.

Lincoln, a new society which joined the Ontario Horticultural Association in 2000, continued to improve their Memorial Tree Park. They also help raise funds for the Beamsville High School greenhouse. A garden tour is held in June for members.

Niagara-on-the-Lake had 300 visitors to their Rose Show. This society also holds a Garden of the Week contest with the entire community participating.

Niagara Falls was responsible for plantings at the new Maple Street Park and hosted the fall forum at the Niagara Parks School of Horticulture. This society won the Eloise Schumacher Trophy, a special watering can, awarded to the society with the largest total attendance at the spring and fall meetings.

Pelham contributed a great effort for the *Communities in Bloom* competition. They also do community planting of the flower beds and containers at the Fonthill branch of the Canadian Legion, and the flower bed at the Flagpole in Fenwick. The annual flower and vegetable show is held in August.

Port Colborne held a special Christmas party as a venue to give their Flower Show awards. The flower show is held in June and they also have a plant sale, garden and art tour. The youth program continues to introduce young gardeners to the joys of horticulture through crafts.

Ridgeway repeated its Victorian Tea, which was initiated last year to help commemorate this society's 80th anniversary. The hall reflected a Victorian atmosphere with members wearing frilled aprons and mopped caps, and period refreshments such as lavender lemonade were served. Because of a popular speaker, a class for terrariums was added to the society's spring show.

St. Catharines participates in Plant a Row and annually harvests potatoes for the Food Bank. They added a new crest to the district banner to replace Garden City. The society holds a plant sale in May and a garden tour in the summer. A senior tour for nursing home residents is also held.

Smithville maintains a Wildflower Meadow at the Leisureplex. Once a year this society has a workshop for its expanding Youth Group. They plant four barrels at the train station, have raised beds in the town core and contribute to town beautification.

Thorold revamped the floral displays at the Chamber of Commerce building. They also host a huge plant sale that attracts shoppers from around the district. Their Rose Show is unique in that it offers strawberries and ice cream, and they also have peaches and ice cream at their fall vegetable show. Don Measner, a past district director and long-time member of this society, received an Ontario Horticultural Association Service Award.

Welland's new meeting site has been successful in increasing this society's membership numbers. This society hosts the biggest Rose show in the district, often with over 300 specimens exhibited. They also have a plant sale and enter competitions at the Welland Fair.

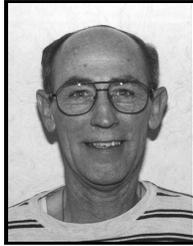
At a Glance

District 9 Niagara is made up of 13 societies extending from a line drawn from Grimsby to Dunnville across the Niagara Peninsula and then east from these two points to Fort Erie and Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The district participated in the 26th International Horticultural Congress held in Toronto, creating a 10 foot fresh floral arch to welcome 3000 delegates as it hosted a luncheon at Queenston Heights. The next Congress will be held in Korea in 2006.

In addition to this event the individual societies completed their schedules of plant sales, public plantings, rose shows, garden walks, flower and vegetable shows, bus trips and monthly meetings.

Despite the very wet spring and extremely hot summer, all the activities went ahead on schedule.



District Ten

District Director - Jim Mabee

Dorchester began with a tufa workshop in March, a Plants 'n More sale in May and a strawberry social. Working with *Communities in Bloom* they set up a memorial tree program. Revitalizing the Junior Horticultural Society and encouraging them to exhibit at the fall fair was a crowning achievement.

Dutton/Dunwich mobilized to establish a six-year urban tree plan, created and maintained a perennial garden at the southwest entrance to town and gave some tender loving care to the historic hall at Iona besides beautifying the town with wooden planters and hanging baskets.

Glencoe purchased two large urns and placed them at the municipal offices, were involved with the International Plowing Match, planted and maintained beds at the Historical Train Station and established a new parkette in the downtown area.

Ingersoll planned and planted around the Suzuki Centre, had a successful Parade of Gardens and purchased daffodil bulbs from Daffodils Unlimited to be planted around the Embro Town Hall.

Kirkton was at the agricultural fair giving away plants, supported

the Kirkton Woodham Arboretum and gave sunflower seeds to be planted by school children.

Lambeth was busy with a new project at the Lambeth Community Cemetery and held two flower arranging courses.

Listowel undertook a major cleanup program while planting wildflowers and shrubs along the river.

London observed its 150th anniversary with OHA president Shirley Daniels and many other dignitaries in attendance. In honour of the occasion they researched the archives and printed a brief society history.

Parkhill battled the summer drought by watering hanging baskets and boulevard beds. The Parkhill in Bloom competition gained great momentum as it became more widely known in the community.

Port Burwell purchased more cement planters this year, which were distributed throughout the communities of Port Burwell and Vienna. The Ken Kirkpartrick Parkette was redesigned and revitalized.

Rodney garnered its Chamber of

Commerce Certificate for Beautification for its contribution to the resurgence of the town gardens.

St. Mary's took great strides in its major project of phase 1 of the Peace Garden by the River Walkway. A new project of identifying and documenting unusual and heritage trees was begun and \$2,500 was donated for the purpose of planting trees along the Grand Trunk Trail.

St. Thomas supported the United Way with a decorated tree that was later auctioned. Entitled Christmas is for the Birds, it was adorned with natural decorations.

Stratford undertook a huge \$38,000 restoration project for the Freeland Fountain which is now prominently displayed in the downtown centre.

Strathroy/Caradoc instituted a name change to reflect its close association with Mt. Brydges and Caradoc Township which amalgamated in 2000. The Lions Park in Mt. Brydges was added to its list of gardens to plant and maintain.

Tavistock installed a plaque at its Memorial Hall Gardens, as well as major plantings for the church where it holds its meetings.

Thorndale successfully experimented with the hiring of a student 'water person' who was responsible for the town beds at 10 locations plus the many barrels.

Tillsonburg celebrated its 20th

anniversary with special guests including the mayor, Irv Horton, its first speaker, Mrs. Gordon Brown and many past presidents in attendance.

West Lorne proclaimed its 75th anniversary in grand style. The services of a local high school student was used with a new computer design program to assist in revamping the design of the West Lorne Complex.

Woodstock commemorated the hosting of the District 10 annual meeting by planting an American beech at Northdale Elementary School. Participation in the Home and Garden Show, helping sponsor the City Beautiful awards, the Master Gardeners' program, the city tree planting program and *Communities in Bloom* kept them hustling. Five senior residences received donations of annual flowers for their gardening enjoyment.

At a Glance

The 20 societies of Thames Valley District 10 are located in Perth, Oxford, Elgin and Middlesex counties.

The district annual meeting took place in Woodstock with 172 members attending and the District Service Award was presented to Ethel McCorquodale of Ingersoll and District Horticultural Society.