

District 9 Annual Report for 2019

Dunnville Horticultural Society
Fort Erie Horticultural Society
Grimsby Garden Club
Lincoln Garden Club & Horticultural Society
Niagara Falls Horticultural Society
Niagara-on-the-Lake Horticultural Society
Pelham Garden Club
Port Colborne Garden Club
Ridgeway & District Garden Club
Smithville Garden Club
St. Catharines Horticultural Society
Thorold Horticultural Society
Welland Horticultural Society

District Director - Margaret Tanaszi
13 Societies

District & Officers Information Report - District 9

District 9 held two successful district meetings. The Spring Forum and AGM, with the theme, "Getting to Biodiversity," featured two outstanding speakers. Cathy Kavassalis, Master Gardener and Oakville Horticultural Society member, spoke on "Pollinator Gardens from the Ground Up. Sue Clarke of the Niagara Parks School of Horticulture spoke on "The Legacy Prairie Garden at Niagara Parks Botanical Gardens." In October, the Fall district meeting featured Kevin Kavanagh, horticulturist and owner of South Coast Gardens nearby, on "The Evolving Garden: Selection of Native Plants for Long Term Success." In the afternoon, Helen Scutt, OMAFRA Agricultural and Horticultural Specialist, led a wide-ranging seminar on governance in the OHA. The District donated funds for 5 prizes at the Niagara Regional Science Fair, and the Director served as a judge. At the District Spring Forum and AGM, the District presented 90th anniversary certificates to three member societies: Dunnville Horticultural Society, Port Colborne Garden Club, and Thorold Horticultural Society.

Dunnville Horticultural Society

DHS celebrated its 90th anniversary this year. We also received an anniversary certificate at the District Spring Forum and AGM. We had a large cake at our Annual Potluck/Christmas Meeting in November.

In July we were honoured to receive the OHA's Community Improvement Award for our efforts in improving the Centennial Park Fountain and the Thompson Creek Eco Centre, where we also held a public event to celebrate the completion of this two year project. In October we received the Haldimand County award for the Community Project (under \$10k) for the refurbishing of the Town Floral Clock.

2019 was a busy year for DHS. We had a second tree designated as a Heritage Tree; Dunnville now has 2 of only 100 in all of Canada. We had the Town Floral Clock re-purposed into a

storyboard depicting its long history and won the Haldimand County Community Project Award (under \$10,000). We continued our efforts in the revitalization of Centennial Park and Fountain Monument by restoring the Thompson Creek Eco Centre, and were awarded the OHA's 2019 Community Improvement Award for this.

We had some successful fundraisers. Besides our annual Plant sale where we raised \$1800, we were invited to be one of the recipients in the Haldimand Mayor's Gala where we were awarded a cheque for \$5000. We also gather many donations from our local businesses which we used in a penny sale at the AGM raising over \$400. We also donated a scholarship worth \$500. to Dunnville Secondary School.

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Besides holding our well-attended monthly program nights for our members, we had a very successful planting day (planting over 200 trays of annuals in 20 community beds), we partnered with 4H for our Junior Gardener program, held a fall garden tour, had monthly articles placed in the local papers by two of our members, participated in the Dunnville Lion's Home and Garden show, hosted a very well received District 9 Fall Forum, were one of the recipients of the Mayor's Gala being awarded \$5000 in funding, and ended our year with a huge birthday cake to celebrate DHS's 90th Birthday!

Fort Erie Horticultural Society

Our special events this year included planning for the 100th Anniversary of the Society in 2021; working with Community in Blooms, Fort Erie, planning events; arranging for trees to be planted in co-operation with the Town of Fort Erie; Plant Sales in May and June; and a new program of giving advice for neighbours and new residents on gardening.

We held a spring Plant Sale as well as a Flower and Art Show as fundraisers.

Grimsby Garden Club

The Grimsby Garden Club enjoyed a busy and successful year with a myriad of events and accomplishments which would not have been possible without the continued and dedicated support and efforts of our volunteers for which we are extremely grateful. The Speakers Series featured an entertaining array of interesting and informative speakers. The Club participated in the annual Home and Garden Show. The Grimsby Garden Club hosted the highly successful OHA District 9 AGM. The annual Grimsby Garden Club Plant Sale was a financial and attendance success. The Club Civic program continued to highlight the Club commitment to the beautification of Grimsby with extensive floral displays of baskets and planters, throughout the seasons, in the Town centre. The Grimsby Garden Tour featured a stunning array of Grimsby finest gardens and was both a financial and attendance success.

The annual Trillium Awards Program, in collaboration with the Town of Grimsby, saw over 140 nominated gardens and 55 awards honouring the beauty and dedication of the towns gardens and their proud gardeners and the Club continued the monthly award of Garden of the Month

which recognized exceptional gardens throughout the seasons. The Club awarded its annual bursary (\$1,000.) at the Blessed Trinity graduation ceremony and held its fifth Volunteer Appreciation Night, recognizing the invaluable support and efforts of its many volunteers, at the Club AGM. And finally, finished the year by continuing the annual tradition of trimming the Christmas tree at the Town Hall.

Lincoln Garden Club & Horticultural Society

In 2019, an average of 60+ members attended each of the 7 meetings. Fifty joined the garden tour which included 4 private gardens and a greenhouse for the cut-flower industry. The field trip to the Niagara Parks Botanical Gardens was likewise well-attended despite the “extreme” heat predicted that day. A photo contest in February was quite a success. Certificates redeemable at our plant sale were given as prizes. This year, our team designed and planted 3 new gardens at the municipal grounds, one of which is the main signage bed. Our rhodo and azalea bed at Mt. Osborne Cemetery is now a scattering garden. In partnership with the Town and Vineland staff, members continued to maintain the now 13 gardens created by this Club, as needed, and we continued to receive positive feedback from the community for these beautification projects. Community outreach and awareness events included consultations from the public re planning, design, plant location & identification; participation in a Senior Showcase event; assisting in the high school plant sale; donation of prizes for floral competitions held by the West Niagara Agriculture Society; creating seasonal containers for the local library; and the annual clean-up during Earth Day in April.

We also gave educational donations to the following:
Niagara College Bursary - endowed, current value \$18K
NPC School of Horticulture - donation \$2,000.
Niagara College Horticulture Department, donation \$2,000.
Beamsville District Secondary School - student bursary \$200.

On the administrative side, the CBL has been revised and unanimously passed. Overall, LGC remains a vibrant community group.

Niagara Falls Horticultural Society

We hosted our 12th Annual Spring Plant Sale in May which has become our major fundraiser for the year. In June, we had our 66th Annual Rose & Flower Show. Our 24th Annual Garden Walk in July was well received by local garden enthusiasts. August we held our 98th Flower & Vegetable Show...one of the oldest continuous shows in the province.

We contributed scholarships of \$500. to both Niagara College and the NPC School of Horticulture. The NF Horticultural Society has entries available in both of our summer shows for Youths (no membership required). We also sponsor the Schools in Bloom program which involves local schools.

Niagara-on-the-Lake Horticultural Society

This past year we held our annual Plant Sale at the Virgil Arena. It was held on Saturday May 11th from 9:00am-12:00pm. We ask that our members and even people in community donate plants towards it. We also work with local growers who grow annuals, herbs, vegetable plants and hanging baskets for us. It was once again a big success with over a \$6000.00 profit.

On July 6th we held our 28th Annual Garden Tour with just over 1000 tickets sold to visit 8 gardens. It is always our best fundraiser. We had approximately a \$15,000.00 profit.

As a society, we have established 5 goals to focus our efforts on:

1. Educate our members on a variety of horticultural topics and instruct proper gardening techniques through speakers and workshops
2. Continue working with the town of Niagara on the Lake on community projects and encouraging everyone to respect our environment.
3. Promote horticulture to young people through donations and bursaries to schools and other organizations
4. Encourage the use and enjoyment of horticulture with our members, community and to visitors to Niagara.
5. Give back to the community through the encouragement and financial support of garden related community projects.

Here are just a few highlights that helped us work towards our goal:

We had a great line up of speakers and this past year was no exception.

The Pleasures and Pains of Growing Organically

Eco-friendly Growing of Roses

The Chautauqua Tree Project

Oakes Garden

The Effects of Climate Change on Gardening

The World of Orchids.

The Gardens of Mexico & Guatemala

We also held a few hands-on workshops at our little memorial park at the corner of William and Nassau such as edging gardens, planting Canna Lilies in the spring and then digging Canna Lilies in the fall. We even had a lasagna gardening workshop there in October.

We had the pleasure of donating \$6500.00 to go towards the plantings in the "Voices of Freedom" Park, on Regent Street - a park is dedicated to commemorating the Town's Black History and marks the 225th Anniversary of the Act to Limit Slavery in Upper Canada. .

We also donated money towards adding gardens at the 3 entrance points to the Upper Canada Heritage Trail. The Trail was established in 1854 as part of the Erie & Ontario Railway linking NOTL, the first capital of Upper Canada, with Niagara Falls and the Great Western Railway. It was responsible for breathing life into the Town of Niagara following the years after the War of 1812 by attracting tourism and commerce. Rail operations ceased in the mid 1950's with the corridor being formally abandoned in 1969. For 50 years, the trail has been used by cyclists, equestrians, runners, walkers, cross-country skiers and others. Over the years the trail has deteriorated but a group has come together to bring the trail back to a proper state. A plaque has been placed at the John Street entrance, noted the society's contribution.

Some of our members played a role in the Garden Of The Week contest (a Community In Blooms initiative) this summer by being judges.

Some members volunteered to help decorate the town for Christmas and we donated money towards some of the decorations including the six large evergreen trees. Another town project that we have donated \$2000 towards is the new "Adopt A Park Program" helping with the purchase of a trailer and tools. We have officially adopted the William St/Nassau St Gardens. We also made donations again to the Peach Pickers Picnic and Newark Neighbours. We also donated \$500. to Niagara College.

Pelham Garden Club

The Pelham Garden Club continues to cultivate partnerships with the community through representation on the town of Pelham Beautification Committee, meeting with the Pelham Public Library to develop a seed library and learning opportunities for gardeners and assisting the Pelham Art Festival organizers in the plant and floral displays at their annual spring art show. The club is supporting the Library through the development of a community vegetable garden to be started in 2020.

Club members have met with the Director of Wellspring, a regional cancer support centre, who have recently completed a new building with a vision of creating healing and meditation gardens in the upcoming years. Club members also augmented a community garden at the Fonthill Library by extending the bed and adding perennial plants. The club continues to maintain the library gardens throughout the year. Club members enjoyed a local garden tour, a summer picnic and demonstrated successful projects at the August Flower and Vegetable show. Several members attended the District 9 spring forum held in Grimsby and the fall forum in Dunnville. For the third consecutive year the Pelham Garden Club won the Eloise Schumacher award for attendance.

We also held fundraisers. We held a May plant, bake and lawn items sale; members and local growers contributed a variety of plants to sell to public. Members also contributed baked goods and gently used lawn and garden items to sell. At the local April home show, the club sold plants that had been donated or bought from local suppliers.

The Pelham Garden Club is proud and honoured to have such a committed and energetic membership that strives to build a presence in the community and develop skills and activities for all members and volunteers.

Port Colborne Garden Club

This year was our 90th anniversary as a horticultural society. We had a celebration at our June meeting with cake and punch, and received a framed certificate of congratulations on our 90th from the City presented by the councillor for that ward. We also planted a Serviceberry bush in honour of our 90th in a new community garden downtown (acquired and developed by the Anglican church across the street).

We enjoyed a great program at our regular meetings. At our movie night in February we showed "The Forgotten Wisdom of Trees" with Diana Beresford-Kroeger, a lifelong nature and tree lover who explained the critical role of trees in nature and their benefits for all life. Then we heard a lively talk on tips for successful vegetable growing from a lifelong grower. Next, a representative from Natural Insect Control, a nearby business, spoke on "Superheroes of the Yard", the beneficial bugs that help maintain a natural balance in the garden. In May a long-time manager at the Niagara Butterfly Conservatory told us about butterfly lifecycles and how they raise them for release into the public conservatory. The next month a local design judge demonstrated "simple spectacular designs" using all natural materials. In September, members were treated to a great demo by a local designer on "porch pots for all seasons." She showed us how to create a pot for fall and for the winter season, also showing examples for other seasons on projected slides. Finally, a local nursery owner talked about "little known garden gems", trees and shrubs with different desirable traits for our area. The last meeting in November was our AGM and holiday dinner with turkey and trimmings prepared and served by Port Colborne High School culinary students.

In the good weather, we did some community gardening. One member planted and cared for the gardens at the hospital and the Legion planter downtown. The president cared for and managed the 10 garden beds at the Museum grounds. In addition to the serviceberry in the new community garden, we acquired, paid for and planted all the mainly shrub plants in the west bed, also in recognition of our 90th. The president also gave the church advice on plants and soil amendments, and helped them plant the rest of the beds.

Ridgeway & District Garden Club

In the Summer of 2019 our club planted a substantial sized pollinator garden on the Fort Erie Conservation Club's grounds.(33"x 50") We applied for and received a \$4000.00 grant from Trillium, Ontario. The process included rototilling the area and laying down a small patio in the middle with 55 patio stones. We then planted more than 2000 native plant plugs. Our goal is to use this garden to educate the young people of our area through school trips and inviting youth groups such as cubs, brownies etc.to utilize this garden. We will be their guide and have a hands on demonstration. We need to tie in to the School's current curriculum and work with them to achieve our goal. We hope for things to be up and running by the summer if 2021. We also donate to 4 different city beautification projects and maintain a fair sized garden for Community Living Fort Erie.

We have a big Annual Plant and Yard Sale every year held on the May 24th long weekend. Our club raised \$2390.00 this year. This is our only fundraiser as it meets our yearly financial needs.

This year was a learning curve for me as a new president. With the support of the executive I feel we did a notable job. We continued to support our area towns with donations to beautify their areas. We partnered with Community Living Fort Erie to maintain one of their biggest gardens at a group home. A new partnership was formed with Fort Erie Conservation Club to plant a new pollinator garden in the hopes of educating our youth about native plants and the importance of pollinating insects to our environment. Our annual fundraiser was a great success and eliminated any need for further fundraising events. We had some very interesting speakers this year and look forward to next year's line up.

Smithville Garden Club

The Smithville Garden Club fulfilled its mandate to promote gardening and natural habitats by organizing the following meetings for the Community: Herbal first aid - Using common plants for burns, scrapes, insect bites; Bee-keeping - understanding the habitat of the honeybee; Creating Awesome Colour Combinations in Container Plantings; Vermicomposting - improving our soils with the use of red wigglers; Garden Photography - how to appreciate and preserve your garden and surroundings through photographs.

We also held several flower shows and a garden tour. We gave a student scholarship to Smithville Christian High School of \$175.

Thorold Horticultural Society

In February we requested that Thorold Council designate June 15th as Thorold Horticulture Day. To this end on a blustery, wet and cold, spring day with a proclamation by Thorold's own Town Crier, Tony Vandermass, Mayor Ugolini, members of Council and our membership met to cut the ribbon at the newly renovated Richmond Street Parkette and unveiled the plaque devoted to our 90 years of service to our community.

In March, at the 2019 Greater Niagara Region Home and Garden Show at the Scotiabank Convention Centre in Niagara Falls, we provided George Scott, Niagara Beeway, as a presenter on their centre stage to discuss the plight of our important pollinators. We also manned a booth for the three-day event and talked to hundreds of people who attended, raising our profile in the regional community.

In April our members donated and decorated the hall for the Annual Cancer Tea in Thorold with daffodils galore from their home gardens. As usual it was a great success and our membership are pleased to play our role for this yearly event. This month we also received a note congratulating our society on its 90th anniversary from Queen Elizabeth II.

May was a busy month with our fundraising TRIVIA for ALL and our solemn Tree of Life ceremony in honour of the passing of Don Measner, former President of this society and Jean Dennis, mother of Barb Tedesco, one of our Executive directors.

Welland Horticultural Society

We enjoyed last year's AGM with creating Christmas swags, then enjoyed a very social evening at MT Bellie's in December. In January we had video night with many different how-to videos, including those from Garden Ontario YouTube channel. In February, we learned about Essential oils for home and garden. The hands-on workshop at Rice Road Greenhouse in March was pushed back to April, but we had a great time making our arrangements. Then later in the month we learned about Little Known Garden Gems in the garden. Also in the spring, we donated \$500. for a scholarship to Niagara College.

In May, we learned about creating a parallel design from our own Wendy Somers. Then, we had another successful Plant Sale. June was a busy month We first helped organize the Flower and Photography competition for the Niagara Regional Exhibition. Then we held our own Rose and Flower Show, and afterwards participated in the Welland Rose Festival's downtown extravaganza.

In July, the president went to the convention on behalf of the society and gathered lots of good ideas. In August we enjoyed a potluck at Sandra Black's home. In September, we heard about Nifty Natives from Sean James, and to finish the year we heard about different Creative Gardening Solutions.

