

District 9
13 Societies

**Just waiting for
the right
temperature**



District Nine's 13 Societies encompass the whole of Niagara, north & south and the south east part of Haldimand. Our website is now in full swing, many thanks to Assistant Director Susan Lusted. All Societies held plant sale and garden walks as fundraisers.

Dunnville: Once again our work with the youth in the community was good. Schools were visited, and donations made to groups such as Guides and Boys & Girls clubs. Our own youth club was very active. The Society was active in the community (non youth) by continuing projects that began prior to 2007. As well as the usual fundraisers Dunnville had local business sponsorship, held a garage sale and received a donation from the Mayor's Charity Golf Tournament.

Fort Erie: The Society held a bake sale and four flower shows. Members worked towards beautification of the city through planting and maintaining gardens at public buildings and schools. The new project for 2007 was to create a memorial garden to honour members recently deceased.

Grimsby : This Society received a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation for electronic equipment that is making it easier to continue giving talks to neighbouring horticultural societies and other community groups on the subject of making 'Hypertufa Pots', earning enough to cover our scholarship fund costs. Planting seeds in May with a local pre-school was enjoyable. A

new activity was a 'Garden Walk' .

Lincoln: This group continued to support the Niagara College and the Beamsville District Secondary School horticultural programs, to embark on new projects, e.g. mature tree plantings at Senator Gibson Public School, and to carry on with our regular work with the community and the Millennium Forest.

Niagara Falls: Society members began the year in grand style by celebrating their 90th Anniversary with a salute to all of our Past-Presidents. Major events included a Rose and Flower Show, a Flower & Vegetable Show and a Garden Walk. Civic projects are maintaining three city fire hall flowerbeds and the new Armory flowerbed. The Society provided financial sponsorship of the Schools-in-Bloom competition, Trillium Awards, and a student bursary, and funded a new flowerbed in the city's Fairview Cemetery.

Niagara-on-the-Lake: As a Society we participate in a popular 'Garden of The Week' contest, hold a Rose & Flower Show and Garden Tour as the major fundraising events. The Society provides plant material for three nursing homes and the local hospital, and supports a bursary for a Niagara College Student in the co-op program.

Pelham:

In 2007 civic plantings were done at the Fonthill branch of the Royal Canadian Legion and both branches

of the Pelham Library. Donations were made to the Niagara College Tree Fund and to the secondary school horticultural program. Potted plants were donated at Easter and Christmas to both branches of the Pelham Library, as were garden magazine subscriptions.

Port Colborne: Community events were the planting of a tree in a city Park for Earth Day, and holding a contest for design ideas for one of the beds maintained by society volunteers. They continue to supply subscriptions of gardening magazines to the libraries in the community and provided a \$200 bursary to a local high school graduating student pursuing a career in horticulture. The Society conducted a Basic Flower Arranging Course, taught by a Master Gardener from our Society, for members and guests from the community and provided potted plants for a tearoom.

Ridgeway & District: 2007 saw the beginnings of two new local school beautification projects. Community events were workshops, for members and the community, and a Garden Walk. Flowerbeds and hanging planters were maintained. Other activities were visits to schools, and donations to groups such as Guides, Boys & Girls Clubs. A Community Garden where children can learn to garden along side parents and other adults is being planned.

Smithville: The Society brings horticulture and gardening to the community by holding a Rose Show and workshops. For beautification efforts, there are barrels at the train station, and raised flowerbed were planted. Funds are provided for the purchase of hanging planters downtown and plants for the Legion garden. Prizes for the fall fair flower show were provided as well as financial support for a bursary for a student entering an agricultural course at a college.

St. Catharines: Society members celebrated their 150th Anniversary! A history book of the years since incorporation was published. Jack Kent, of the Potting Shed, hybridized a day-lily exclusive to the Society. Funds were provided for public plantings to the Niagara College library and monetary awards presented to horticultural students at Kernohn Secondary School and Niagara College. As well money was added to the Society endowment fund also at Niagara College.

Thorold: Flowerbeds were planted at the Public Library, Historical Museum, the Community activities Group and Tourist Bureau. Shrubs were also provided to Elementary Schools and a memorial tree was planted. Scholarships and book prizes were given to students at the Secondary School and Niagara College as well as donations to the Public Library, Mel Swart conservation Area, the St John's Outdoor Study Centre and the Secondary School horticultural program. The Society held a gardening workshop in the spring at the Library.

Welland: The Society began 2007 with a landscape seminar open to the community. In June we held our 89th annual Rose Show that is a part of the Welland Rose Festival. Each year the society presents Merit Awards to reward churches, businesses and apartment (rentals) for their beautification efforts. The society partners with a local nursery to do this and provides the winners (1st, 2nd, 3rd) with certificates, pictures (with a plaque) and a gift certificate at a public ceremony. The society also provides two scholarships to students at Niagara College in the Horticulture course and provides plant material to local Nursing Homes.

Marvin Myhre