

## **District 9 2009**

Haldimand, Niagara

*District Director - Marvin Myhre*

District 9 has thirteen societies and held two meetings, the Spring AGM in Grimsby and Fall Forum in Niagara on the Lake. Each had wonderful flower shows that were enjoyed by all.

**Dunnville** held workshops on judging, hand held bouquets, forcing bulbs, heirloom vegetables, and had a rose draw. They hosted garden walks, gave Trillium Awards, held a yard sale and the flower and vegetable show. Their biggest project was the refurbishing of the heritage anchor in Wingfield Park. Once again it is an asset to the town.

**Fort Erie** replanted and tended the Memorial Garden. They held a pasta dinner, bake sale and plant sale as fund raisers. Members teamed with special needs students at Fort Erie High School growing plants, funding their endeavours, working beside them in their greenhouse during the winter and co-hosting a plant sale.

**Grimsby** held a successful Fundraising Gala for McNally House which will become a biannual event. Members planted the baskets downtown and maintained the Elm St.beds. They held a plant sale and a flower show, and gave a record number of Trillium awards. A 'Hypertufa' workshop continues to delight audiences. The Society donated time and money to students, senior citizens, and the local medical community, and awarded scholarships to both secondary schools and instituted a new scholarship program.

**Lincoln** donated money to the horticultural department at Niagara College and established a permanent endowed bursary. Daffodil plantings at the Vineland woodlot and Vineland library were completed and the Society continued maintenance in the Millennium Forest and the Stand By Me program.

**Niagara Falls** held a Garden Walk and plant sale which continue to be major fund raisers. The Rose and Flower Show and the Flower and Vegetable Show had many entries and great public turnout. The Society established a bursary with Niagara College, an ongoing award to the NPC School of Horticulture, undertook sponsorship of the Trillium awards, and provided funding for the Communities in Bloom reception as well as funding for flowerbed maintenance with the city. Volunteers looked after three Fire Hall flowerbeds, the Armoury garden and the Museum flower boxes.

**Niagara** on the Lake held a Garden of the Week Contest, hosted a garden stroll, participated in the annual tree planting with the Town, and had a Garden Tour. A donation was made to Niagara Parks School of Horticulture to assist students 35

in obtaining wireless Internet access. The Society provided 300 arrangements for three nursing homes and a hospital, and donated funds and bags of food to a food bank.

**Pelham** planted at three civic gardens, two students received scholarships, and special events included a plant, lawn and bake sale, an evening garden walk, and a Flower and Vegetable Show. The Society linked its website to the Town's site to give information both to members and the public.

**Port Colborne** celebrated its 80th anniversary by presenting the city with 80 daffodil bulbs. The Society held a successful plant sale and a flower show and tea. Money was given to the Library for native plants for their new front garden. Members planted a Kentucky Coffee tree at Lock 8. Flowerbeds were planted and maintained at the museum, legion, and hospital, and two native trees and a front flowerbed were planted at the Habitat for Humanity home.

**Ridgeway** supported Memory Park in Stevensville and a nursing home with plant donations and worker bees, and provided financial support for summer flower baskets going to local towns. Their plant sale was a huge success and they participated in the Stevensville Springfest and the Ridgeway Summer Festival.

**Smithville** held a successful plant sale and a rose and flower show, conducted a floral workshop and a Christmas workshop for youth using natural materials, donated books to libraries, a hanging basket to the town, hoes for community gardens and cherry tomato plants for clients of food banks. They also provided a bursary. Members planted four barrels and a raised bed at the train station, and supported the Fall Fair Flower show.

**St. Catharines** held a plant sale and a garden tour which were well received by the public. They continued student awards, made a donation to the Niagara College Library and to the endowment fund (College), sponsored Trillium Awards, used beautification money to partner with the Green Committee and others to create a meditation garden at the city's only National Historic Site, the British Methodist Episcopal Church. This church is an important link in the Underground Railway.

**Thorold** celebrated its 80th anniversary. They planted a tree in Memorial Park and collected recipes for a keepsake cookbook, hosted a plant sale and a large Rose show, maintained flower beds around the Library and the Historical Museum, gave scholarships to students at Thorold High and Niagara College, and provided shrubs and books to local schools. The Society donated plantings at three local parks.

**Welland** joined with the Hamilton Burlington Rose Society for the Rose Show, held a plant sale and garden walk, and established an outdoor classroom at a Welland School.

Horticultural Information Sessions were held at the Welland Library. 125 Welland Roses were sold. An OHA Special Projects grant of \$500 was used for renewal of the Extended Care Courtyard garden. Plants were given to nursing homes and Extended Care, and scholarships went to Niagara College.