

## District 9 Annual Report 2013

Submitted By: Susan Lusted Director

Dunnville Horticultural Society has had a busy year in 2013. They were named Haldimand's volunteer group of the year. Over 80 trees, plants and shrubs were planted in town. Add to that the 200 flats of annuals, new planters to enhance the town fountain and the town of Dunnville did indeed look beautiful. Over 30 beds are maintained. A partnership has been set up with the high school in town. Students assist at meetings, two Adirondack chairs were made and raffled at the Home and Garden show. Membership continues to grow in this very busy horticultural society.

Fort Erie also partners with students at the local high school assisting them with a vegetable sale and worked with them in the greenhouse. Plans were finalized to install a rose garden at Gilmore Hall in spring of 2014. Members made centerpieces for an Advisory Council Dinner and the funds were donated to the high school. The memorial gardens at the Douglas Seniors' Center were replanted. The society website was upgraded this year. Members were in attendance at Niagara Seedy Saturday, and other District 9 functions.

The Grimsby Garden Club again won the Doris Lighthart award for the greatest increase in membership for the second year in a row. The club is actively promoted by the local newspapers, makes appearances at the local Farmers' Market, the Home and Garden Show. Talks were given at the local library. The members plant the hanging baskets which can be seen in the downtown area. Hands on demos are given at the Farmers' Market. Over 80 Trillium awards were presented in 2013. Floral arrangements were prepared for the 1812 house tour. The garden club presents two scholarships to students from both area high schools.

The Lincoln Garden Club and Horticultural Society has worked hard on strengthening their partnership with the Vineland Research and Innovation Centre. Work proceeds on rejuvenating and cleaning up the Millennium Forest. Last year, a new site had to be chosen for the annual plant sale with the demise of the local fairgrounds. Bursaries for local high school students and the Niagara School of Horticulture support local students. As you may have surmised, the Lincoln Garden Club & Horticultural Society is truly a team effort. No task or undertaking is successful without the helping hands and ideas of others – those on the executive committee and its members.

Niagara Falls Horticultural Society continues to be a strong influence in the community. Schools in bloom and Arbor Day are supported at the grade school level. Scholarships are given to students attending the Niagara School of Horticulture. The Flower and Garden show is in its 92<sup>nd</sup> year and the Vegetable Show its 60<sup>th</sup> year. This society has a flower show each month and boasts that one of its members, Barb Blythin is its most productive design and horticultural exhibitors. Flower beds at the Armoury and Fire hall were planted and maintained. Their annual garden tour continues to be their major fundraiser. Another very active group here in Niagara.

Niagara on the Lake is District 9's largest society. Members create and distribute flowers for seniors as a Welcome Spring celebration. Donations were made to the Willowbank Heritage garden and to the Niagara on the Lake community garden. Members visited Canada Blooms partnering with St. Catharines Horticultural Society. Trees were planted as replacements for those damaged by the 2012 storm. Over 300 floral arrangements were made and distributed to local nursing homes. Frames and plaques were provided for the 1812 Rose plantings. As you may have surmised, this society is very involved in the community.

Pelham took a trip to Whistling Gardens near Wilsonville and another to local gardens in Burlington. Each of their meetings had a guest speaker. Gardens were planted at the Maple acres library as well as the Legion. Garden magazine subscriptions were donated to the local library. Planning was put in place to participate in community garden in conjunction with a local Communities in Bloom group. Delegates travelled to Thunder Bay for the OHA 2013 convention.

Port Colborne has had a relatively busy year for their group. They carried on with our usual projects such as the flower shows, community planting and the May plant sale. This sale is our major fundraiser. A Bur Oak was planted for the Queen's Jubilee in the Doan Cemetery which is a heritage site. We always enjoy our meetings and we were fortunate to have some excellent speakers again. This group also hosts flower shows at their monthly meetings and is fortunate enough to have three judges as members. It is always a challenge to find new and exciting topics for the meetings, without forgetting those new members whose garden knowledge is more limited.

This year, Ridgeway's major fundraising perennial sale was held in May. A "spending trip" to Jack Kent's Potting Shed. We had excellent participation in flower shows and a Floral Design course was taught by members in the summer. Members were able to support the planting and maintaining gardens at Maple Park Lodge in Fort Erie. Ridgeway hosted the Fall Forum at the Niagara Parks School of Horticulture.

St. Catharines Horticultural Society hosted a successful plant sale at the Burgoyne arena. A well-attended garden tour in July was a huge success. Profits of \$7000 were realized from these two fund raisers. A donation of \$5000.00 was made to the Green Committee of St. Catharines for the planned Johanson Park on Glendale Ave. Rose Walsh who is the president was asked to speak at the annual city beautification awards where she presented three awards valued at \$600 to the city.

The Smithville Garden Club held a garden tour in July and September. Bursaries were given to a student entering the horticultural field to the local high school. A planter workshop was held and the club participated in the West Niagara Fair. Christmas urns were made at workshop. Though a small group, their membership is growing, they came in second in District 9 for growth in membership.

Thorold has had a busy year. A tree was planted to commemorate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the War of 1812. Their members updated and passed their constitution. This year, seven members' gardens were submitted for review to a Canadian gardening magazine. One of the member's gardens was selected and will be featured in the spring 2014 issue.

Welland Horticultural Society successfully redid and passed their constitution. Welland is the rose city and this year, the Annual Rose Show made a triumphant return. This longstanding tradition was a huge hit with the members, the public and the judges. Monthly meetings were well attended. Their annual plant sale was well run and provided most the society's funds for the year. 2013 was a successful year due to members' enthusiasm, participation, and friendship.

District 9 submitted over 17 000 volunteer hours. Its executive submitted an additional 4 000. We donated \$1000 to this year's Niagara Region Science Fair and awards were presented to five students. A donation of \$1000 was made to the Legacy Garden at the Niagara Parks School of Horticulture. Our Fall Forum took place at the school of horticulture. James Graham who is the president of the OHA gave a presentation on gardening in small spaces. Ted Kretz from Vermeers in Welland did a presentation on Fairy Gardens which was delightful. We felt that when Convention 2012 was over, that things would slow down but as you can see, it was another great year here in Niagara.

