



## ***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.