



***District Nine***  
***District Director - Diane Kiers***

**Dunnville** proudly celebrated their Diamond Jubilee or 75th Anniversary and hosted the Annual Spring Forum where everyone was given their emblem flower, a red geranium. The youth group were awarded the Lemke OHA Youth Garden Award for 2004. Civic activities included flower beds and participation in Dunnville's Home & Garden Show. Repairing the town's floral clock is in the planning.

**Fort Erie** won top honors in the Communities In Bloom competition for 2004 and look forward to 2005 at the national level. They kept busy with a plant sale, garden walks, bus trips, a seed exchange, three flower shows and fund raisers. In 2005 they will host the District Fall Forum with a BBQ and noted speaker Frank Kershaw.

**Grimsby** will host the District Spring Forum with speakers Earl Walker, OHA Past President, and Charlie Dobins of HGTV. The 213 members plant flowerbeds on Elm Street and provide town flower baskets. They organize, judge and present town Trillium Awards. They had floral design courses, a workshop on creating herb baskets and discussed how to become a Master Gardener. Bus trips included Canada Blooms and Strong Daylilies.

**Lincoln** continues to maintain the Millenium Forest Project in Vineland, assist the students of Beamsville High

School, provide support to Niagara School of Horticulture/Glendale Campus, take part in Niagara College open house and maintain a park at Albright Manor. They have a garden tour, potluck supper, plant sale and participate at Beamsville Fair.

**Niagara Falls** tends the firehall flower beds, funds a Trillium Award for 'Best Neighbourhood', and gives a scholarship at the Niagara Parks School of Horticulture. Projects included an arbour at the Ontario Early Years Children's Centre Garden, donations to "Project Share" and the "Community Kitchen" and they plant the library. They hold flower shows, garden strolls, plant exchanges, bus trips and flower design workshops.

**Niagara-On-The-Lake** plans to introduce their 'Sunshine Club' which will assist seniors with the upkeep of their gardens. Activities include bus trips, garden tours, workshops and their Rose Show and Flower and Vegetable Show.

**Pelham** planted at the Fonthill Legion and the Fenwick flagpole. They participate in the Niagara College Open House, sit on the Pelham Communities in Bloom committee and volunteer at the Flower and Garden Show. They donate to the Niagara College Tree Trust Fund, E. L. Crossley Secondary School horticultural program and

Ridgeville Communities in Bloom project. They launched their website, [www.pelhamhortscity.com](http://www.pelhamhortscity.com)

**Port Colborne** celebrated its 75th Anniversary and life memberships were presented to Helen Tanaszi and Loretta St. Louis. A Meritorious Service Award went to Marci Lunt, seven Volunteer Awards and eight Beautification Certificates were also given. They donate to two libraries and a scholarship was presented. They have flower beds, placed a bench at the Chamber of Commerce and planted in Rose Shimansky Park. They have a June rose show and a fall flower show.

**Ridgeway** participated in the Niagara College Open House, the first Niagara Garden and Flower Show and did civic plantings at Stevensville Memorial Hall and Library, and Crystal Ridge Library. A contribution was made towards the flowering baskets in Crystal Beach. In 2005 they look forward to helping plant the new 65 acre Shag Bark Nature Trail.

**Smithville** enjoyed a trip to Canada Blooms, participated in the fall fair and made aprons to wear at club events. They promoted their club with a display at the Smithville Library, planted and maintained the 'Flower Barrel Garden' at the train station and donated books to two libraries. They support the South Lincoln High School 'Memory Garden', give a scholarship, encourage youth at the fall fair and hold garden and flower arranging workshops for them.

**St. Catharines** will miss Past President Guy Bridgestock and MG Lydia Szukis who have passed away. They celebrated their 147th Anniversary and dedicated a garden at Church and Niagara Streets to honor

volunteers. They hold monthly flower shows, a garden walk and plant sale. Donations were made to Community Care, Community Harvest Day, Niagara College Library, City Trillium Awards, Collegiate, and bursaries at Niagara College and Kernahan Park Secondary School.

**Thorold** celebrated their 75th Anniversary with a dinner and awards evening. Plantings were at the tourist centre, library, Historic Museum and Richmond St. Park. With the youth, they did Arbour Day plantings. A high school bursary plus donations to the St. Johns' Learning Centre and The Mel Swartz Park were given. A plant sale, Rose & Flower Show and a Fall Flower and Vegetable Show rounded out their year.

**Welland** were proud of their beautiful rose show and successful garden walk. They participated in Community Days, and donated to city flower beds and senior's facilities. Merit Awards were given for beautification to city residents. They also sponsor their youth in the "The Bud Club" at Vermeers.

### At a Glance

District 9 has 13 societies in Niagara South, Niagara North and Haldimand.

The Spring Forum will be hosted by Grimsby on April 30th and the Fall Forum by Fort Erie on Sept. 17, 2005.

Dunnville, Port Colborne and Thorold all celebrated 75th Anniversaries!