

## District 9 Annual Report

The highlight of 2012 for District 9 had to be hosting the OHA Convention, an event that was the culmination of four years planning. Over 450 delegates arrived and sampled some of the horticultural delights of our District. We hope delegates left understanding how important the horticulture industry is to our local economy since our produce and products are shipped throughout Canada and the USA. District 9 knows how to work together - 135 volunteers offered to don the green shirt. Hard work, countless hours, new friendships - priceless!

In 2012 our societies still managed to work in their respective communities and much was accomplished. Dunnville partnered with the students at the local high school to restore the floral clock to working order. Fort Erie, laboured on the gardens at Waverly Beach and the Douglas Seniors' Centre. The Grimsby Garden Club planted the downtown hanging baskets, and saw their membership grow by 18 %. Lincoln planted the 1812 roses at the Beamsville cenotaph and over 1000 daffodils at various locations in Lincoln. Niagara Falls had a huge volunteer presence at the convention and won many awards in various competitions. Niagara on the Lake continues to beautify Niagara on the Lake with their plantings, making floral decorations which were delivered to members who are now in nursing homes. They further horticulture by encouraging their members and partnering with St. Catharines Horticulture Society to attend such events as Canada Blooms. Pelham found time to plant new gardens at the Pelham Public Library and the Maple Acres Library Garden. Port Colborne worked with students from Lakeshore Secondary School, building and planting containers. Port Colborne was the recipient of the Bur Oak which was planted in the historic Doan Cemetery to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. Ridgeway continued to support the plantings at the local high school, held plant sales, hosted design courses and conducted flower shows. Smithville hosted a garden tour, a flower show at the local fair and assisted youth in planting containers with plants which were grown from seed. St Catharines Horticultural Society promoted their society at the Niagara College Spring Showcase. Over 30 members volunteered at the annual OHA convention. Thorold Horticultural Society planted a tree to commemorate the War of 1812, and still found time to organize and run the volunteer room at our convention. Welland Horticultural Society hosted a plant sale and the proceeds went towards the purchase of a bench. Members were involved in the convention.

District 9 donated \$1 000 to the Niagara Region Science Fair. A day was spent judging and five students received awards. We also gave out over eighty 25 yr. Membership pins. In addition, five 50 year pins were awarded. We sold over 1500 1812 Rose bushes, the original idea coming from our past director Marvin Myhre.

2012 was a very good year for District 9 and its member societies. The past year was indeed a busy one and our member societies can be pleased with what was accomplished, we truly did "Keep Ontario Beautiful".

Submitted by: Susan Lusted District Director