



Keeping Ontario Beautiful

The Iris

**Gilford & District Horticultural
Society**

gdhs.gardenontario.org
southinnisfilarboretum.org



Greetings from the President

We are saddened to announce the passing in March of one of our beloved Past Presidents. Bill Markwick was a delightful Irish gentleman who always had a smile to bestow on anyone he spoke to. He gave of his time generously whether in the running of our Society or working in the Arboretum. Even with his aging years he still supported us and he will be sadly missed.



Photo from J. Murrell

Our society this month donated \$50.00 to The Killarney Beach Public School towards their playground fund. We also donated \$100.00 to the Thunder Bay Horticultural Society towards the hosting of this year's convention.

You have until July 2013 to sponsor a tree at the arboretum in memory of a loved one or as your family tree. Please contact Jenni Murrell or go on the website.

Remember that Saturday, May 25 is our major fund raiser and it is only as good as it's participants.

We need you to make it a success.

Donations of baked goods and potted perennials are needed for the sale. Be sure to name plants and note their colour on a tag. If you cannot make it to the arboretum to drop off baking and plants, they can be delivered to me in Alcona, Judith Matchett in Lefroy or Lucy Valente in Gilford.

Marilyn Elliott



The Welcome Mat is out for:

Sylvia Carey, Beryl Karmel, Lisa Murrell, Steve O'Rourke, Sharon Reeves, Sue Sessford, Julie Speelman, Mike Valente.



Cheer

- ☘Sympathy to Phyllis Caulton (sister)
- ☘90th birthday wishes to Oda Barlow
- ☘Sympathy to the Markwick family

Congratulations to these members!

At the District 16 Annual General Meeting on April 27 in Collingwood, a flower show competition was held for the first time in many years.

It was put together by the two judging school principals to give the students experience and was open to all members of the societies.



Jenni Murrell placed first with her April Showers design.

Marilyn Elliott placed second with her Warm Days design.



In the Horticultural Division, Marilyn Elliott placed 2nd, Eveline Teras 3rd with an HM to Joy Morley.

Judith Matchett placed second in the Houseplant Foliage.

Tracking the Red Lily Beetle

Naomi Cappuccino from the Department of Biology at Carleton University is requesting the help of Ontario gardeners to track the dreaded red lily beetle.

The red lily beetle likes any lily species, lily of the valley, Solomon's seal and fritillaria and when an infestation is heavy, they will also eat the flowers, seed capsules and stems. The beetle overwinters as a pupa in soil and

debris to emerge in early spring as an adult to mate. The female lays 200-300 eggs on the underside of leaves in rows which incubate over a period of 5-10 days. Newly hatched larvae feed on the underside of the leaf while mature ones have moved to feed on the upper surface of the leaves. This larval stage lasts 16-24 days and they are hard to distinguish as they are covered with a shielding case of their own slimy black excrement and resemble bird droppings to us, and any predators. The larvae bury into the soil to pupate in a protective cocoon and emerge as adults after about three weeks and in Ontario there can be two to three generations a year. The adult is easy to see and identify; the bright red wing covers are candy apple red with contrasting black antennae, eyes, head, legs and underside. It is 6-8 mm long and can escape swiftly or will drop quickly to the ground when it senses movement.



Cappuccino has created a new website that is easy to maneuver and has lots of great photos of the stages of this beetle. The Lily Leaf Beetle Tracker can be found at

<http://lilybeetletracker.weebly.com/>. The primary goal of the site is to map the North American distribution of the lily leaf beetle. The site has a Google map that the biology department hopes to populate with input from gardeners growing lilies everywhere.