



Keeping Ontario Beautiful

The Iris

**Gilford & District Horticultural
Society**

<http://gilfordhort.org>



President's Overview of 2013

Another successful year has passed for the Gilford & District Horticultural Society. Our membership was up to 119 with 13 new members joining us. Our members participated in more entries in the flower show this year, a good omen for 2014. The topics were wide ranging and varied from Growing Vegetables in containers, learning how to grow roses and attracting birds to our yards using plants and shrubs among others. We were awarded the District 16 Helen & Earl Cox trophy for our new Woodland garden in the arboretum using mainly native plants. Our thanks to all involved. Next year will be our 35th Anniversary and we are working on our celebration for this milestone. My thanks goes out to all my executive and to those other members who helped throughout the year making it a good one.

Annual General Meeting Awards

President's Award: Judith Matchett and Art Harper
Recognition Certificate: Mona Rea and Bill Hubbard
Original Painting Award donated by Kathryn Bury: Judith and Glenn Rogers for their work at the South Innisfil Arboretum.



Flower Show Award Winners

Most Points in Floral Design "A": Jenni Murrell
Most points in Flower Design "B": Lucy Valente
Overall Points for Rose Shows: Victor Foster
Most Points for Vegetables: Mario Rea, Eveline Teras
Overall Points in House Plants: Jenni Murrell
Best King Alfred Daffodil: Jenni Murrell
Best Iris: Judith Matchett
Best Peony in show: Judith Matchett
Best Oriental Lily Award: Brenda Wauchope
Best Rose Memorial Award: Victor Foster
Annual Rose and Flower Show, Most Fragrant Rose Award: Victor Foster
Best Gladiolus Award: Judith Matchett
Largest Spanish Onion Award and \$50 Gift Certificate: Mario Rea

The 2013 Photo Competition results are on the GDHS website and will be listed in the 2014 yearbook.

2014 Photo Competition Categories

- 1 A Fall Wreath
- 2 Bird on the Wing/Branch
- 3 A Pile of Compost
- 4 Unusual Tree Bark
- 5 Spring Iris
- 6 June is -
- 7 A Diversity of Colours in the Garden
- 8 Dew Drops on a Rose
- 9 Bench, Chair in the Landscape or Garden
- 10 Unusual Flower/Flowers
- 11 A country Road or Lane
- 12 A River Stream including Flora

Dr. Ives Bursary Fund

A reminder that applications for this award available to students residing in Simcoe County can be found on the OHA District 16 website.

Arboretum Report

The gate was opened on April 5, 2013 and the usual start-up and spring cleaning was done. Winter debris collection, including the pick-up of garbage and branches etc. was carried out. All of the equipment was checked and after some minor issues addressed, everything was in order.

The resident beavers have still been active causing some clean up from them to occur from time to time. The water flow through part of the property can be a challenge but perhaps we should be willing to let nature take its course.

The Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority has been contacted about the beavers but they are not concerned as fish population is not affected.

A complaint was made by someone to the town regarding the beavers and the Roads Department will be handling this.

A second picnic area was added behind the grass garden. The area is somewhat secluded yet with a nice view of the garden and surrounding trees.

The perennial bed behind the gazebo was tackled this year with the perennials removed and the bed shortened. A Master Gardener drew up a design for a low maintenance woodland garden to be created. Shrubs and naturalizing native plants were put in.

The Parks & Recreation Department were again helpful with providing staff members to trim and weed. They also installed a water outlet for our use.

Although we seemed to have an abundance of rain this year, part of the summer was dry and several trees and gardens had to be watered by hand.

The new water source provided will eliminate the task of drawing water from the pond, which is labour intensive.

The gazebo, a structure seen first by visitors was freshened up by a group of ladies who stained it.

As the Town of Innisfil is taking over the arboretum July 1 of 2014, we stopped sponsoring trees July 1 of this year since we can only guarantee them one year from purchase.

The Parks & Recreation Department have been extremely supportive of the arboretum and we are thankful for their help. They are counting on our support in a small way when they assume the operation of the arboretum next year.

Glenn Rogers

Cheer



☘Get Well to Doreen Statsiuk, Frank Wice, Shirley Richards and Johanna Chudzinski

☘Sympathy to Lucy Valente (mother-in-law & father-in-law), Kathy Bury (brother), Mona Rea (father)

☘Thinking of you to Joy & Pat Morley, Agnes More (her mother has had a stroke)

The first meeting of 2014 will be on Monday, March 10.

Membership fees are due that night and if you receive the Iris by email, the form will be included with the February newsletter and mailed to those without computers.

Let's all bring a friend to a meeting next year and help our society grow.

☺ Have a safe and happy holiday! ☺