

## **2008 COMMUNITY CORNER AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE**

City of Elliot Lake

Project: Food Share Gardens

The purpose of this project is to construct and operate a community garden whereby the food grown is given to support the efforts of the Elliot Lake Emergency Food Bank in providing emergency assistance to people in need. The objectives are to provide a source of fresh vegetables to those who need them and to provide an opportunity for citizens to get involved and contribute to the community and assist their fellow citizens. The community garden will be about one acre in size and will be easily accessible for everybody including the handicapped with trails, water and lighting.

City of Niagara Falls, Parks in the City Committee

Project: The Armoury Garden

In the spring of 2006, the Niagara Falls Horticulture Society proposed a two year, two phase project to landscape the front grounds of the Niagara Falls Armoury. Material was chosen for seasonal interest, low maintenance, native species & hardiness. Each spring, daffodils and tulips provide an amazing display of colours, followed by poppies and then grasses. Fresh mulch, pruning and weeding continue by the volunteers, with additional varieties of flowers being added to the garden. The Armoury Garden is an oasis on Victoria Avenue and provides a positive example of greening and beautification in the on-going revitalization of our urban spaces.

City of St. Catharines

Project: Merritton: Heritage Bin Project

Large green metal trash drums line our city street. The Merritton Community Group (MCG) determined that these could be improved upon, undertook a plan that would convert these trash containers to works of public art to enhance our streetscapes while promoting Merritton heritage. Two St. Catharines high schools agreed to partner with the MCG. The students depicted historical events, people, buildings or related icons.

City of Woodstock

Project: Highway 401 Gateway

After five years of intensive discussions with Ontario's Ministry of Transport, approval was finally granted. Thirty-two community-minded groups participated in some capacity on the Gateway project. This project, to be completed in 2008, is the culmination of years of work by a collection of community groups, who collectively see the signage as a "chance to make a good first impression" to all visitors entering Woodstock from the east or west at a significant entrance because of its proximity to the juncture of highway 401 and 403.

City of Woodstock  
Project: Ironsides

Ironsides was designed and created in 1967/1968 by students at Cass High School. Ironsides is an eleven foot one inch statue that was to stand guard over the entrance to the Friendly City and welcome all who passed by. After being removed in the late 80s due to deterioration, Ironsides was refurbished in 2007 as a donation to the City of Woodstock by JDS Welding & Fabrication of Woodstock.

City of Woodstock  
Project: Via Rails Car Art Project

Visitors and residents of Woodstock arriving or departing by Via Rail are treated to a colorful, light-hearted look at the history of Woodstock, artistically portrayed on a three-box-car mural permanently resting on a section of track opposite the station's platform. Woodstock's CiB Committee, looking for additional ways to greet visitors and promote the city, recognized train travel as providing yet another gateway to Woodstock. Both CN and the City of Woodstock were behind the project and donated funding and materials to the project.

Community of Strathroy-Caradoc  
Project: MacKinlay-Paul Park

MacKinlay-Paul Park, located in the heart of Strathroy, represents the achievement of a number of community groups working together to restore a heritage park to its former splendor. In 1871 the park was "enclosed with a handsome fence with a view to its being made into a public pleasure ground." As a result of successful fundraising efforts, the cement work for the fountain, garden pathways and main patio was completed in 1996. In 2005, the park was enlarged and its shape transformed.

County of Frontenac/Fairmount Home  
Project: North Garden

Fairmount Home is a 128-bed long-term care home owned and operated by the County of Frontenac. The 1 North garden is a garden area for residents on a secure unit. When the Home was built in 2004, the garden was intended to be low maintenance with a hardy ground cover, some bushes and trees but by the end of 2004 the ground cover had died and weeds taken over. The Frontenac 4H Garden Club and County Pines volunteers work with the Residents socializing, planting, watering, weeding and caring for these gardens.

Ottawa Horticultural Society  
Project: Plant Recreation Centre Garden

The corner of Somerset and Preston streets in Ottawa is busy, noisy, and ugly. The south-west part of the corner had been chosen several years earlier as the site of a memorial to the Vietnamese boat people. The memorial was built on land belonging to a famous Ottawa heritage building, the Plant Bath. The area between the memorial and the Plant Bath, however, had become a wasteland. In spring of 2006, three community organizations, the

Ottawa Horticultural Society (OHS), the Plant Pool Recreation Association (PPRA) and the Vietnamese Canadian Centre (VCC) decided to join forces to reclaim the vacant, ill-used land and turn it into an urban oasis, with shade and sun gardens, new shrubs, benches, and proper paths.

The Junction – Toronto

Project: The Solstice Walk

The Junction, named for its location at the crossroads of Toronto's main rail lines, is in the thick of a community renaissance in the centennial year of its original existence as a city. The newly formed Communities in Bloom committee chose to celebrate the community spirit that has been growing over the last few years and organized a lantern walk on the Summer Solstice. The CiB Committee is excited for next year, the centennial of the Junction's amalgamation with the city of Toronto, when they hope to start the lantern walk with the burial of a time capsule containing stories and artifacts from the Junction's rich history.

The Rotary Club of Bracebridge

Project: The Rotary Centennial Gardens

The Rotary Club of Bracebridge chose to develop a destination garden, named the Rotary Centennial Gardens. The gardens are located next to a long term care facility providing a much needed relaxation area for family members and residents to use to enjoy the fresh air. The Gardens also provide a tranquil area for local residents. The gardens were opened in 2005 on a two acre unused pine tree lot. Wheelchair accessible pathways link over 35 individual perennial gardens which have been created and are being maintained by 28 individuals or organizations.

Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury

Project: Elizabeth Gwillim Simcoe Statue

Celebrating the sesquicentennial of Bradford, a bronze statue was commissioned of Elizabeth Gwillim Simcoe, wife of the first Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada. Placed near the statue is a bronze historical plaque approved by the Ontario Heritage Trust. Surrounding flowerbeds are being developed into native plant gardens, highlighted by a coach lamp and heritage street signage.

Town of Carleton Place

Project: Creating a Green Screen

Based upon the previous years' suggestions made by the visiting CiB Ontario judges, a decision was made to create a partition between the community garden beds and the floral displays located at the rear of the Victoria School Museum Garden. A cedar hedge flanking a lovely gated cedar arbour was created. Now, visitors are drawn through the historic gates at the street into the garden, over to the heritage horse trough now serving as a planter, and through to the lovely new 20th Anniversary arbour.

Town of Prescott

Project: Prescott Heritage River Trail

Prescott is a town of approximately 4,200 people on the north shore of the Saint Lawrence River in Ontario, Canada, directly across from Ogdensburg, New York. Mike Laking and Jo-Anne Beckstead had a vision to create a dream “garden”, now the Prescott Heritage River Trail, in Fort Fields. Funds were raised to build a walking trail and install gardens and benches on the old abandoned rail yards located in front of Fort Field. In the fall of 2002, a contest was held to re-name the Millennium Pathway and Fort Field. A number of entries were submitted from which the name Prescott Heritage River Trail was chosen.

Township of North Huron/Wingham

Project: Historical CNR Bridge & Walking Trail Trestle

The Town of Wingham now has a beautiful walking trail with a Historical CNR Walking Bridge. Previously, this area was a neglected parking lot with a small sign pointing to the walking trail. Through a Community Builders Grant, a large red cedar trestle archway was constructed along with new signage using historical colors placed at the entrance to the parking area.

And the winner of the prestigious Communities in Bloom, 2008 Award of Excellence is.....

**City of St. Catharines-Merritton    Project: Heritage Bin Project**

This award will be presented at the Landscape Ontario Congress Show on Tuesday, January 6, 2009.