



## Mount Hamilton Horticultural Society Annual Report 2017

We celebrated a very important milestone in 2017, the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our Society. In addition to our regular Society activities, we planned frequent and special events where we honoured our past, shared our present and a looked to our future.



In **January** we revealed our new logo and banner. Although the previous banner served us well for over 60 years, we felt it was time to modernize our identity and hopefully attract new and younger members. Our banner was unveiled for the first time at our January General Meeting, and it made its first public appearance at Seedy Saturday in February. (See photo)

### February

We held our usual Brown Bag contest, but this year we asked members to design their bags to reflect the year we were established, 1927. Bags were decorated with flapper girls, old cars and many other interesting things that represented the period.

### March

At our March General Meeting, we honoured lifetime members Kay and Tad Suzuki, Jake vanMII, and John R. Smith with a special certificate acknowledging their contributions to the Society. Lifetime members, Wilf and Isabelle Pugh, Betty Garrett, and June Hurd were also acknowledged for their contributions, although they were unable to attend the meeting.

### April

Eighteen members attended a special design workshop conducted by Elizabeth Matheson, a valued member and professional flower designer. Members made a spring arrangement using tulips and grapevines which could be used as a centrepiece for their Easter table.

### May

Kathy Renwald, a columnist for the Spectator, did a special story touching on our past, highlighting a member's garden, and acknowledging the ongoing work at Jason's House. The article was published the day before our Annual Plant Sale, and it helped to promote our plant sale to a wider audience.

### June/July

Nine members participated in the Hamilton Spectator's Open Garden Week. The public and our members were invited to visit the beautiful and varied gardens of our members. A few people who visited these gardens later joined our Society.

## August

Members enjoyed an evening tour of William Dam Seeds.

Also, Gord Bowes, a columnist for the Mountain News, did a special article about our Society and our achievement in continuing to thrive for 90 years.

## September

Two major events were held in September. We completed a beautification project at the Norman 'Pinky' Lewis Parkette on Sanford Ave. North, and we hosted the District 6 Breakfast.

Through a Clean and Green grant from the City, and one from Ward 3 Councillor Mathew Green, our members created a place that people in that north-end neighbourhood can enjoy. The project was conducted over two days: cleanup on Saturday, Sept. 9, and planting on Saturday, Sept. 16, 2017.

A handful of hard working volunteers cleaned out the island-bed of weeds, over-grown bushes and garbage on the first Saturday, and on the next Saturday, the volunteers returned to replant the island. New plant material was purchased with grant money, and the City supplied topsoil, mulch, the Community Clean trailer and a beautiful 240-foot yellow hose so the garden can be watered by one of our members.



The money we obtained from Councillor Matthew Green bought some incidentals for the first project, and the balance will be used to replant an area along a fence at the north side of the parkette with hydrangeas. This part of the project will be completed in 2018.

The Society reported back to Clean and Green about the success of our endeavour by showing a power-point presentation at their meeting in November 2017. A picture from that presentation will be used on a Clean and Green Committee brochure for 2018 to encourage others to apply for a grant.

The District 6 Breakfast was held on the fourth Saturday in September at the Church of the Resurrection at the corner of Garth and Mohawk Rd. W. Members from across District 6 attended the meeting and shared a lovely breakfast prepared by our members. We also enjoyed specially prepared spiced, carrot-cake cupcakes and coffee at the break. The cupcakes were arranged on a table to spell out 150 for Canada's birthday and 90 for our Anniversary. Rob Howard, one of our members, gave a talk on Garden Walk Buffalo.

## October

In October, we held our 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Dinner on the first night of the MUM Show at the Gage Park Greenhouse. The Gala was very well attended and the theme of the MUM Show, "Under the Big Top", lent so much to the celebratory atmosphere. We had a beer or sipped a glass of wine in the 1919 building,



moved into a beautifully decorated room for a delicious sit-down meal, followed by a dessert buffet.

Each guest received a small grab bag that included a ticket for a chance at a door prize. The prizes were donated by members of the executive and the program committee. When the meal was over, Stephen gave an excellent retrospective of our Society's history, and then people were free to tour the spectacular MUM Show.



### November

And finally, at our awards night meeting, our members shared a special 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary cake in celebration of this special year.

In addition, a new and special "Lifetime Achievement Award", named after one of our esteemed members, John R. Smith, was created, and the first recipient of the John R. Smith award was Jake vanMil for his lifelong contribution to our Society. Jake has been a member for over 50 years and is still a dedicated and active volunteer. He will be 93 this year. In the future, the John R. Smith award will be given to a member who has shown outstanding dedication and commitment to our Society over a long period of time. Current members and those from our past will be honoured.

Helen MacPherson was this year's recipient of the President's Award for her significant contributions to our Society in 2017. Volunteer Awards went to Diane Naiker, Lizzy Matheson and Stephen J. Kostyshyn.

And finally, a special column was created in our newsletter to highlight stories about our history. This column will continue in future newsletters.

Submitted by  
Claire Kostyshyn  
President

### Flower Committee

February 17<sup>th</sup> - Brown Bag Contest. Eight entries were submitted and judged by our members using marbles to submit their vote.

March 17<sup>th</sup> Arts and Crafts Show , " Expressions of Creativity". Ten members brought in their work for the members to enjoy.

April 8<sup>th</sup> A special design workshop "Looking for Spring ' Eighteen members participated in the workshop at a cost of \$30 each

April 21st Mini Flower Show "Celebrating 90 Springs". Eight members brought in 16 entries which were judged by our member, Elizabeth Matheson, at no cost to our Society.

June 16th Major Flower Show "Box of Delights" – Twelve members submitted 126 entries. This show was professionally judged at a cost of \$100.00

Sept 15th Mini Flower Show "Garden Delight"— Six members submitted 13 entries. The show was judged by the Society members. Photography Contest. The winning picture was used on the Society's Christmas card.

Nov 18th Mini Design Flower Show 'Cup of Cheer'. Six entrants submitted their designs which were judged by the Flower committee (In 2016 there were 11 submissions.)

Number of Members who participated in 2017 = 24 (31 in 2016)

Total # Entries for 2017 = 179 (204 in 2016)

Budget given for 2017 = \$400. Committee expenditures for 2017 = \$223

Report submitted by

Kathy Spiwak

Flower Committee Director

### *Program*

The Program Committee met four times in 2017, to discuss ideas for speakers, to book speakers and to organize events for the regular meetings. We also held an extra meeting specifically to wrap door prizes for the gala dinner. We bought thank you gifts for installation and special door prize baskets and society awards for the year end. We organized a seed exchange, indoor plant sales and found objects to sell. We coordinated with the social committee and put on the strawberry social in June. We notified the caretaker before each meeting on how we would like the tables set up. This was a rewarding year, and we are looking forward to another year of exciting events. Volunteer hours : 90 hours

Report submitted by

Diane Naiker

Program Committee Director

### *Outreach*

1. Planted and maintained flower beds at Chedoke Presbyterian Church.
2. Planted and maintained the garden at Jason's House. Twenty-five volunteers contributed approximately 120 volunteer hours.
3. Rita Bailey, Dini Balych, Margaret Verbeek and Helen MacPherson wrote the Growing Green columns for the Mountain News
4. Betty Park made the arrangements for the delivery of 80 plants to Meals on Wheels program at Easter. Plants were purchased from Holland Park.
5. Sponsored planting of city flower island at Upper James and Regina
6. Donated \$500.00 to the green Angels program at the RBG
7. Donated \$250.00 to Hamilton Victory Garden
8. Using a grant from the City's Clean and Green Committee and another from Councillor Mathew Green, a beautification committee headed by Lennox Toppin, and assisted by Stephen and Claire Kostyshyn, refurbished and planted an island at the Norman 'Pinky' Lewis Parkette. The rest of the project will be completed in 2018.

Report submitted by

Helen MacPherson

Outreach Program Director

### *Social*

Although, “dollar wise”, Social shows a small deficit for 2017, “event wise” the year was a huge success. Throughout the year our meetings were always well attended, and our volunteer bakers were very generous with their contributions of cakes, pastries and squares.

Of particular note were the special events, the Strawberry Social, the District 6 Breakfast Meeting, and a special 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary cake at our year end meeting in November. Thank you to everyone who helped in the kitchen preparing, serving and cleaning up at the meetings. Your assistance made the work go smoothly and quickly. Many, many thanks .

Submitted by  
Jeannette Zavitz  
Social Director

### *Plant Sale*

The Mount Hamilton Horticultural Society Plant Sale was held on Saturday, May 20, 2017 at Chedoke Presbyterian Church with set up taking place on Fri. May 19, 2017. The sale featured herbs, vegetables, annuals, perennials and some woody plants. The vast majority of plants sold were donated by our members who generously grew them from seed and/or divided plants from their own gardens. Some additional annual plants were purchased for the sale. In addition to plant offerings, there were horticulture, design and home décor related items including a vendor who sold teapot bird houses and feeders. Over 45 members volunteered their time and efforts during the planning and execution of the sale which was our most successful sale on record, and it contributed a significant portion to our annual operating budget for the year. Congratulations and thank you to all who participated.

Submitted by  
Dini Balych and Helen MacPherson  
Co-Chair Plant Sale