

## History of Carleton Place Horticultural Society

Karen Finkler dreamed of having a garden club or equivalent in Carleton Place. She persued this dream by investigating possibilities through the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, and by measuring the level of interest among her friends and neighbours. In 1988 Karen organized a founding committee of herself, Margaret Lenny, Judy Stone, Anne Tokaruk, and Margaret Clegg. The first four women committed themselves to seeking out possible members and to serving on the first executive. Margaret Clegg, a member of the Organic Growers, offered support, ideas, and encouragement. Margaet Lenny offered to have a garden party at her home to test for interest. The response was very rewarding, so we decided to press on.

Karen spent many hours preparing a draft constitution and by September we were ready to begin. Our first meeting was held at Carleton Place Canoe Club in October 1988 and the room was filled to overflowing. Jean Riddell from the Ministry helped us to elect the first executive. A special guest at our meeting was Mervin Morris who had been treasurer of a former CP Horticultural Society in the early 1930's. That society had disbanded before WW 11.

During our first year we had many things to learn, We decided that our major civic project would be to create a garden at the grounds of the Victoria School Museum. This building is on a large lot and is owned by the Carleton Place Historical Society. Their members have been cooperative in planning and implementing the garden. Pat and Agnes Iveson have prepared a plan for the entire lot, but we began working on one-quarter as Phase 1. Since we started on a cinder base the challengs was great. At present the garden exsists around the front and both sides of the building.



Now beginning our third year, we have become accustomed to the rhythms of the Horticultural Society Year. We are members of OHA and attend regular district advisory committee meetings. Last June the President and Vice-President attended the OHA Convention in Toronto. A Junior Horticultural Club has been formed. This produced 16 entries in a garden competition - two were District 2 winners! The society has sponsored two public flower shows, bus tours, perennial plant sales, compost demonstrations, a tour of six local gardens, and a float in the parade to commemorate the town's centennial. An annual bursary for a student graduating from CPHS to further studies in horticulture, floriculture, or agriculture has been established. Reports of our meeting and activities appear each month in The Canadian, our local, under the byline "The Bloomin' News". Our society enjoys a high profile in the community and is widely supported throughout the area.

Anne Tokarek