

# Local green thumbs celebrate 35 years

By Chris Simon

Success can be grown.

At least that's what members of the Painswick Horticultural Society will suggest. Since the society was formed in 1972, its membership has grown to over 100. Members annually participate in a wide variety of projects, which aim to beautify Innisfil and the southern end of Barrie. The society has become an institution for green thumbed residents in the area, many of whom will celebrate its 35th anniversary with a potluck dinner at the St. Paul's Church hall Nov. 15, said secretary Donna Wice.

"We are the oldest society that focused on the (beautification and) enhancement of Innisfil," she said. "We're all about taking note of areas around. If only we could do just some little bit."

About 60 people attended

the inaugural meeting of the society on November 29, 1972. By 1988, its membership eclipsed at 400, due mostly to interest from Sandy Cove residents. The society established its own bi-monthly newsletter, the Daisy Doodle, in 1974. The newsletter has since received an Ontario Horticultural Society award.

The society has hosted several fundraising projects and events, including rummage sales, flea markets, fall bazaars and 50/50 draws. During those events, everything from pickles and jams to cards and quilts have been sold.

They also started the Innisfil home beautification contest, which encourages residents to grow the best lawns and front and back view gardens in the town. They've used government grants to beautify the area, planting trees and shrubs in Painswick and Bayshore

parks, and at Warnica Public School.

The society has also laid plant beds in Stroud, Innisfil Park, Churchill and at Sunnybrae Public School. Recently, society members designed an irrigation system at the Knock Heritage Site, tended the gardens at the Innisfil Public Library's Lakeshore branch and created an environmental awareness award for Nantyr Shores Secondary School students. Each year, society members spend 400 hours planning, planting and maintaining plant beds across Innisfil, said Wice.

"We have a number of beautification projects on the go," she said. "The heritage garden at Knock is a real eye catcher, the Stroud Parkette is another big project we've worked on in the last few years. At the lakeshore library, we've been enhancing the garden.



Submitted photo

Several past presidents of the Painswick Horticultural Society recently celebrated the club's 35th anniversary. Pictures above are first president Joan Misch,

left, Mary Neely, Linda Lewer, district director Carol Dunk, Ron Flood, Ray Carder, and Mona Boyd. The society will host a potluck dinner Nov. 15.

The money (earned through fundraising) goes back into beautification or education projects."

The society has even

overseen the establishment of junior horticultural clubs at Warnica, Sunnybrae and Goodfellow Public School, and held planting workshops

for area students.

"One of our mandates is to promote the appreciation of horticulture in our youth," said Wice.

## Trillium Foundation honours United Way

United Ways of Ontario was honoured for the impact it has made in communities across the province at the Ontario Trillium Foundation's 25th anniversary Great Grants Awards last week. Held at the MaRS Centre in Toronto, the evening highlighted the achievements of 25 not-for-

profit organizations from the more than 10,000 groups that received OTF funding over the past 25 years. These organizations have exemplified excellence, innovation and leadership in their community and volunteer work.

"2007 marks the 25th anniversary of grantmaking

for OTF and we are delighted to celebrate the success of United Ways of Ontario and their role in building healthy and vibrant communities across the province," said Helen Burstyn, chair of the OTF's board of directors.

Early in its history, OTF recognized that the UWO and the foundation were inextricably linked in every community. A strong United Way movement in the province greatly complemented OTF's goals of building healthy and vibrant communities.

In 1983, OTF made a substantial grant of over \$6 million over five years to UWO, to help strengthen technological and administrative capacities. The grant also provided funding that created individual stabilization funds for each local United Way in the province. The partnership between United Ways of Ontario and OTF has remained one of the most significant the Foundation has ever formed. UWO continues to be a vital force of strength and support to the voluntary sector all across the province.

"We are honoured that the foundation selected United Ways of Ontario to receive this special award on its silver anniversary," said Gayle Metson, United Ways of Ontario council chair.

## New paramedic program saving lives in Simcoe County

In response to recent studies demonstrating the benefit of emergency angioplasty for heart attack patients, the County of Simcoe Paramedic Services has teamed up with Southlake Regional Health Centre, Royal Victoria and Stevenson Memorial hospitals to launch a new program that ensures individuals suspected of having a heart attack receive the best possible care available.

The project involves transporting eligible Simcoe County residents with suspected heart attacks, as determined by the paramedics, directly to Southlake in Newmarket, where they can immediately undergo an emergency angioplasty procedure.

During a six month pilot program, nine patients were triaged and assessed by paramedics and transferred directly to Southlake. Following their procedure, patients were transferred to their local hospital to rest and rehabilitate with family and friends.

"Paramedics took a leadership role in pushing this program forward," said Andrew Robert, the county's chief of paramedic services. "We are extremely pleased with the success of this partnership, and the county believes this is a great example of how paramedics can make a significant

difference in emergency medical care.

"This is a partnership of pre-hospital health care and in-hospital health care which has already proven to be highly valuable and meaningful to the patient. (It) also achieves efficiencies in the overall delivery of health care. With paramedics capitalizing on their training and technical abilities to bring a higher level of care, this is a partnership that enables better care now as well as hope for future partnerships."

A heart attack occurs when blood flow is blocked by an artery clot.

As a result, the heart muscle is deprived of oxygen and begins to die. Immediate restoration of blood flow to the heart muscle is crucial, as irreversible damage can occur within minutes. Emergency treatment, such as angioplasty, can significantly decrease the extent of damage to the heart, if performed in a timely manner.

"Recent studies have shown that angioplasty, a procedure that reopens blocked arteries, is the best emergency treatment for the survival of heart attack patients when performed in a timely manner, particularly for patients who have had pain for more than three hours," says Warren

Cantor, an interventional cardiologist at Southlake. "This program allows us to provide the best practice standard of care that is crucial in limiting overall damage to the heart muscle. As a regional centre and leaders in cardiac care, we are pleased to partner with our surrounding hospitals and paramedic services to ensure that all patients are able to receive this lifesaving treatment."

Before this project began, patients suffering from heart attacks were taken to the emergency department of the nearest local hospital, where they were treated with drugs to dissolve clots and reduce the amount of heart muscle damage.

However, research findings have shown these drugs are not always successful in restoring blood flow, especially when the artery has been occluded for more than three hours. Patients who receive immediate angioplasty experience higher survival rates and lower rates of stroke and a repeat heart attack.

To be eligible for the program, paramedics must determine that the patient has been experiencing signs and symptoms consistent with a heart attack for over three hours.

Patients must also be within a 45 minute drive of Southlake.

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