

**NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2020**

At the beginning of 2020, we hit the ground running with plans in place and 158 members registered – 28 of them being first time members. That was fantastic to have so many new members joining. The year 2020, though, proved to be a very challenging year for everyone (not just our society) with the Covid Pandemic. Who knew that all of the upcoming events that we had planned by the end of 2019 for 2020 would be cancelled by the middle of March. When Covid was first hitting us here in Ontario, I remember thinking that we may be inconvenienced for a month or two, but that this, too, shall pass! How wrong I was.

We were able to hold our January and February Members meetings with speakers Koral Wysocki who spoke about the importance of preserving Carolinian forests and Paul Zammit who delivered an informative and entertaining talk as only he can. Before our March meeting the community center had closed down due to Covid and restrictions were put into place. This, of course, ended our ability to meet in person in the spring.

Not only did it stopped us from meeting together but it also meant that we had to cancel our two major events and fundraisers, our plant sale and our Garden Tour. We were able to continue on with our 'Flowers For Seniors' program. In March and again at Thanksgiving, we delivered 350 plants to the 3 area Senior homes – Pleasant Manor in Virgil and Upper Canada Lodge and Niagara Long Term Care Residence in Niagara-On-The-Lake. The homes always look forward to the delivery of flowers to brighten their rooms.

During the summer months restrictions seemed to be lifting a little and we started planning again to see if we could be holding meetings. We had made arrangements to hold our September meeting outside the Community Centre in the garden. Once again, though, another lockdown was put into place and our plans had to be cancelled. At this point we decided to ride out the rest of the year and start making plans for 2021. We continued meeting as a board every couple of months by way of Zoom to try and keep up with the quickly changing ways of Covid.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the board for all their hard work during this year. It has been a great pleasure to work with each one of them. It is a very hard working committee and a joy to serve with them.

*Joanne Young
President
NOTL Horticultural Society*