

## **Wingham and District Horticultural Society**

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APR 17 2017

**North Huron Council  
Budget 2017**

**TOWNSHIP OF NORTH HURON**

For over 50 years, Wingham and District Horticultural Society members have been volunteering their time and labor looking after Wingham's parks and flower beds. For more than a decade, we have devoted over 1000 member hours each year with a variety of gardening projects, plus fundraising each year approx. \$2000.00 ourselves to beautify Wingham. Our fundraising is done through an annual bake sale and a raffle draw.

We have shown our appreciation of the \$750.00 donated to us by North Huron each year with a Thank you card explaining what their donation was used for. In 2016, we replaced the shrubs (that were 24 years old) with 20 new shrubs.

Over the years, the Wingham and District Horticultural Society has fundraised and paid out thousands of dollars, with the building and maintaining of both the North and South end "Welcome to Wingham" signs and The Alice Munro Garden ( our only tourist attraction). Cruickshank Park was in a deteriorating condition when we took on cleaning it up, removing dead trees, paving the path entrance way , providing benches, planters and garbage receptacles. We have since had the pergola built, added a wheelchair accessible pathway to the pergola, added a flagstone sitting area. We work hard every year to make this main street park a place where people can stop and enjoy. The Mary Lloyd Trail was planted and is maintained by our group also. It is a wonderful place to walk, bike or sit on the benches and enjoy the flowers, shrubs and trees along the way. Many people use it.

We also used your donation of \$750.00 for several years to purchase Christmas decorations and lights for the park to attract people to Wingham to shop.

## Wingham and District Horticultural Society

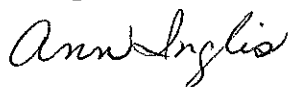
This year, we envision red and white plantings in all the gardens and planters we maintain in Cruickshank Park to celebrate Canada's 150th year. We will also add some new plants to the Mary Lloyd Trail and both the North and South end signs.

We have always prided ourselves in what we have done to beautify Wingham. We are disappointed to know certain councilors do not either appreciate or understand the money saved by the value of volunteers.

Balancing your budget by cutting off donations to groups such as ourselves doesn't seem like a thank you for our efforts. Do council members believe that for \$750.00 per year, they can buy plants, shrubs, trees and hire someone to plant, weed, water, mulch, maintain (pruning, raking, dividing) Wingham's parks and gardens?

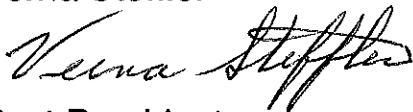
If you do not value what we are doing for the town and community, we can always devote our volunteering to other causes.

Ann Inglis



President

Verna Steffler



Past President.

*April 18, 2017.*