

# News



## Garden Grand Opening a Big Success!

The Grand Opening for the Garden was held September 13 with seventy-eight donors and dignitaries enjoying the official ceremony at 4 p.m. at the Garden and a reception at 5 at Mr. Mikes on Fourth Avenue. The event was MC'd by Clarice West Hobbs Garden Chair Eric Jones (*a full copy of his remarks on Clarice and Garden are included in this issue*) along with Rotary Club President Annette Marchionda, who delivered welcoming remarks on behalf of the Club.

Attendees included a broad cross-section of people involved in Clarice's former activities and endeavours. The City of St. Catharines was well-represented

by Deputy Mayor Bill Phillips, delivering greetings from the City, as well as Councillors Joe Kushner and Matt Harris. The hospital Community was also very much in evidence with Niagara Health Foundation CEO and President Andrea Scott delivering thanks from the Foundation and Hospital supported by Matt Harris, Shannon Shamus and Rachel Kleiman. We were also pleased to welcome Niagara Health Pastor Donna Hollands-Hurst, who regularly uses the etched "Labyrinth" at the centre of the Garden as a part of the Mental Health Program at the St. Catharines site.

## Grand Opening Covered by Cogeco YourTV



The Grand Opening event was covered by Cogeco Your TV with a resulting 4 minute segment running on The Source.

[\*\*Click here of a direct link to the video\*\*](#)

## Text of the Grand Opening Remarks by Garden Chair

For those unable to attend, here is the text of Clarice West Hobbs Garden Chair Eric Jones' remarks from the Grand Opening Ceremony.

*I would like to give you a bit of background on Clarice and how the Garden came to be. Many of you here knew Clarice but you may not be aware of all she accomplished in her life: Here is a quick re-cap:*

- *Worked as an educator in various provinces and countries, including Scotland, for over 30 years - finally for the District School Board of Niagara.*
- *Led the Lincoln Women's Teacher Association, winning their humanitarian award.*
- *Was on the governing board of the Ontario College of Teachers.*
- *Following retirement, was very active with Retired Teachers of Ontario (RTO), Retired Women Teachers of Ontario, and Canadian Association for Retired Persons (CARP).*
- *Chair of the Mayor's Advisory Committee for Seniors.*
- *Member of Steering Committee and Volunteer Chair for the Ontario Senior Games 2004.*
- *Member of the Y.M.C.A. Board of Directors*
- *Member of the Welland Canal Parkway Task Force.*
- *Long-time member of the Rotary Club of St. Catharines Lakeshore (over 20 years) and Chair of the World & Community Service Committee.*
- *Twice recognized as Paul Harris Award Winner, the highest honour a Rotary Club can bestow for outstanding service to the Community.*



*It was Clarice's dream to have a Garden at the St. Catharines hospital – like the one she saw in Niagara Falls while she was a patient there. With her untimely passing in 2020, the Club decided to support her dream by developing The Clarice West-Hobbs Contemplative Garden. The site is far from the high traffic entrance and parking but is on the walkway, heavily used by patients, visitors and staff alike.*

*Over two phases covering 2021 and 2022, the Club created the Garden you now see along the western side of the hospital. The plan by Gauld Nurseries emphasized drought and salt resistant, yet colourful, hardy perennials and bushes all supported by a drip irrigation system. The Garden was also designed to take advantage of the existing sidewalks, lights, trees and most importantly, enhance the etched Labyrinth used by Mental Health for their patients. The Club has added six unique Sitting Rocks, installed by Landscapes by Bill Nieuwenhuyzen, to augment the benches.*

**Continued on Page 4**

## To Donate

Donations in any amount are welcome!

Tax Receipts will be provided for all donations over \$10.



Please [click HERE](#) to donate via Credit Card in support of the Clarice West Hobbs Contemplative Garden.

If you would prefer to e-transfer the funds, please send your e-transfer to the Rotary Club of St. Catharines Lakeshore at:

[treasurer.rotarylakeshore@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer.rotarylakeshore@gmail.com)

## The Grand Opening in Photos



The Garden Committee would like to thank the Niagara Health Foundation personnel who were invaluable in getting chairs, podium and microphone set up for the ceremony. Thanks also to Rotarian Randi Dyck for the decorations and Linda Jones for the directional signage as well as all of the Rotary Club members who assisted in running the event. Finally, thanks to Victoria Ayotte, Front of House Manager, and all of the staff at Mr Mikes for an outstanding job with the reception.

*(Continued from Page 3)*

At the end of the day, the budget approached \$50,000. The Rotary Club and its members contributed a substantial portion of that amount BUT without the support of those of you gathered here today – Donors all – we could not have completed the project. I can't recognize all the individual donors but I would like to mention the organizations that gave so generously .

- RTOERO, both District 14 Niagara and provincial body
- The Retired Women Teachers of Ontario
- Friendship Force Niagara
- The Delta Bingo Sponsors Association of Niagara
- And from our Rotary Community locally, the Rotary Club of St. Catharines Lakeshore was joined by:
  - The Rotary Club of St. Catharines
  - The Rotary Club of St. Catharines South
  - The Rotary District 7090 Foundation Committee

The greater Hospital Community also gave unqualified support right from our first discussions back in 2020.

As Garden Chair, I would like to thank them personally on behalf of the Club:

- BGIS (the company managing the hospital building)
- Niagara Health St. Catharines Site
- Niagara Health Foundation
- Precise ParkLink

I also have to mention that every one of the suppliers involved in this project also donated back to the Garden fundraising effort:

- Gauld Nurseries Ltd.
- Rain Your Way Lawn Sprinklers
- Landscapes by Bill Nieuwenhuyzen
- Digitall Graphics (who did all the signage)

Finally, I have to recognize everyone here. Every donation made a huge difference so let's have every one give yourselves a round of applause. Thank you all. We couldn't have done it without you.

## Thanks to our Donors!

The Rotary Club of St. Catharines Lakeshore thanks the following donor organizations, as well as the many individuals, who have contributed to the Campaign :

