

Town hall gardens are a growing attraction

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By KEN LAMB
Special to The Champion
 The town hall gardens — a growing attraction for Milton residents and visitors — were officially opened by Mayor Gord Krantz Sunday.

At the same time, the Milton and District Horticultural Society, whose members have been working on the gardens for the past three years, celebrated its 80th anniversary.

"I am very pleased with the excellent work done on the gardens," said Mr. Krantz. "They're becoming very popular with visitors. Whenever I'm showing anyone around the town hall, I make it a point to include the gardens. They have also become a favourite spot for taking wedding photos."

Roses are featured in the outer garden. Mixed annuals and perennials surround the lawn in the inner space — the former jail yard.

The mayor said he hoped the Society would extend its work to Victoria Park. "We have already started a project to restore the Victorian atmosphere to that park and we knew the Society could help us."

Jennifer Mirosolin, Society vice-president, welcomed the opportunity.

"In co-operation with the Town, we plan to add gardens outside the

walls. We also want to install a sundial and herb garden on the 'jail yard' lawn."

Society president Mary Stout described some of the projects undertaken by the Society since its first meeting in the Royal Templars Halls (then on Mill Street) in 1910.

In addition to countless hours of volunteer work at the town hall and elsewhere, the Society has funded scholarships, donated trees and plants, bought books for schools and libraries, and contributed to Milton District Hospital.

A good part of its money comes from the annual plant auction held at the Steelworkers Hall on Pine Street in early May. The past two events have raised a total of \$3,500.

During the Sunday celebration, former Society president Dorothy Gould helped the mayor unveil a plaque that describes the role of the garden group in planting and maintaining the gardens.

Marjorie Powys, president of the Society from 1979 to 1981, cut the 80th anniversary cake. She was representing the Ontario Horticultural Society.

The local group has about 150 members. It meets the third Monday of the month at 8 p.m. in Hugh Foster Hall.



Photo by JOHN WARREN
 Holding the ribbon at the official opening of the town hall courtyard gardens are Milton and District Horticultural Society members Marjorie Detlor (left) and Jennifer Mirosolin. Performing the familiar task of cutting the ribbon is Mayor Gord Krantz.

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