



The P&G plant in Brockville (photo property of P&G)



The team out transforming a flower garden



Painting the grandstand at the fairgrounds



A job well done – the team and the finished garden



Breaking for lunch – a chance to catch up on what’s been done and how much is left to do



Straightening headstones at the cemetery

END OF PROCTER & GAMBLE BROCKVILLE TEAMS’ DAYS OF CARING

By Lorraine Payette

For more than 35 years, Procter & Gamble has operated a manufacturing facility in Brockville. They are known not only for their production of Swiffer Dusters, Swiffer WetJet, Downy, Bounce and Gain fabric softener sheets, and Tide to Go pens, but for being Brockville’s largest employer. They have received a prestigious manufacturing excellence award (the highest recognition among P&G manufacturing facilities) as well as best-in-class results for manufacturing and culture. They are #1 in North America across P&G facilities.

In addition to all of this, they are very involved in the local community, and shut down one day a year to hold a “Day of Caring”. On that day, employees form into teams of different sizes and go out to volunteer in different places where their help is most needed.

However, the Brockville plant will be closing in 2020, while they expand the facility in Belleville. With this closure will come the end of the Days of Caring for this area.

“We’ve been coming here for many years to help the village and the Fair Board,” said John Elasser, team captain for P&G working in Lansdowne. “For this 2019

event, we’re repainting all the kitchen up at the Lansdowne Fairgrounds – the whole building on the inside and doing the picnic tables as well. We have a lot of work that needs to be done there, so we’re really concentrating on it.”

Over the six years that they have come to the village, they have performed many tasks, helping them to keep up with maintenance which might not have been possible otherwise.

“Procter & Gamble chose one day per year to give back to the community in the form of labour to complete community projects,” said Donna Dempsey of the Lansdowne Association For Revitalization. “As a member of our community, I have always been truly grateful for the opportunity to have some work accomplished by these hard working individuals.”

Among the tasks with which they have helped out have been painting at the Fairgrounds as well as helping finish the interlocking stone walkway; assisting with the care, maintenance, and planting of municipal gardens (including building and installing stone planters at the Railway Garden); raising and straightening

headstones at the Lansdowne Cemetery; and any other tasks that could use a cheerful, helping hand.

“P&G have helped us many times,” said Peter Christie of Lansdowne Association For Revitalization. “These jobs have always made a tremendous difference. Over time the P&G crew have done a lot of rock work, they’ve helped us put in gardens and taking gardens out, cleaning them up, trimming trees, they put their hands to painting fences – all sorts of things. We’ve been really lucky to have them here. They’re very generous people and we couldn’t have done it without them.”

Everyone is sad to be losing the P&G team. Volunteers can be found to do the different tasks, and things will get done, but it just wouldn’t be the same.

“I would like to express our appreciation to the P&G workers who have come to do community service each year,” said Dempsey. “They have completed a lot of projects for all of us. We are very impressed with their work and wish them well. We know we would never have been able to get as far as we have without their generous support.” LH