



# OHA District 2

## *Three River Valleys News*

### December 2025 – Vol. 12, No. 4

## 1. DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Society and Garden Club Members,

Well, its that time of year where our gardens have been put to bed for the winter. Now we can spend the winter months planning for next years blossoms.

I want to thank all the delegates and members who participated in the District 2 Fall Advisory. A great big thank-you goes to the Almonte Horticultural Society for hosting this year's event. Special thanks to Sandy Jackson, Carol Alexander and Cindy Zorgel for all their planning. Vicky Culbert, President OHA, travelled to Almonte not only meet with the District Board but to also attend our meeting that weekend.

I would like to encourage everyone to participate in the 2026 Annual Meeting on April 18th, which is being hosted by Nepean Horticultural Society. As well, our 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Flower and Edibles Show is scheduled for June 13, 2026. It is going to be a spectacular event. Please feel free to enter, as I know that there are a lot of talented individuals within our District. Both events are a wonderful way to get to meet members from other Society/Garden Clubs within our District.

Lastly, this Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, the OHA is hosting an online presentation on how to retain members which sounds very beneficial. Details are included below.

The Board and I want to wish everyone a wonderful holiday season and prosperous New Year. We look forward to seeing everyone in the new year.

Happy Holidays  
Kindest regards,

Ruth Anderson, Director, District 2



Photo credit: G. MacQuarrie

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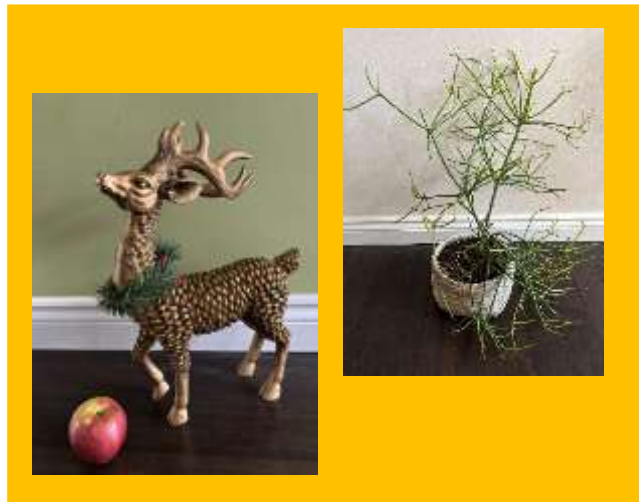
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## 2. UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

DECEMBER	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
<p><b><u>Dec. 5:</u></b> OHA Webex Presentation – <i>Recruitment, Retention &amp; Succession Planning</i></p> <p><b><u>Dec. 31 :</u></b> Deadline OMAFA grant for society/club anniversaries</p>	<p><b><u>Jan. 8:</u></b> Zoom Planning Meeting 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual D2 Flower &amp; Edibles Show</p> <p><b><u>Jan 14:</u></b> OMAFA Annual Return and Grant Program Training Webinar</p> <p><b><u>Jan. 20:</u></b> Deadline for D2 Service Award Nomination</p>	<p><b><u>Feb. 1:</u></b> Deadline OMAFA Annual Society Returns Submission</p>	<p><b><u>March 15:</u></b> Deadline D2 Photo Competition</p> <p><b><u>April 18:</u></b> D2 Annual Meeting</p>

### 3. DECEMBER SILENT AUCTION

Watch social media – Facebook and Instagram – for the link to our 32Auctions fundraiser this month. Some of the great donations include plants and festive decorations. This is a fundraiser for the 2026 Flower and Edibles Show.



### 4. D2 2026 FLOWER SHOW – Zoom Planning Meeting

Thank you to everyone who has participated in the Zoom planning meetings for next year’s District Flower & Edibles Show. Anyone who would like to participate is welcome to join the next Zoom planning meeting on Thursday, January 8, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. We will be finalizing the show schedule at this meeting. We are beginning to plan the **youth activity** for the public – if you have any ideas for this activity, please don’t hesitate to join the meeting. For more information, contact the show chair, Gay MacQuarrie, at [CommunicationsDistrict2@outlook.com](mailto:CommunicationsDistrict2@outlook.com).



Here is the link for the next D2 Flower Show planning meeting:

Topic: D2 Flower Show Planning Committee

Time: Jan 8, 2026 01:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84464552949?pwd=Fx2zoBL1Yl2hubNTBkivHD0txx-hlop.1>

Meeting ID: 844 6455 2949

Passcode: 891967

## 5. 2026 PHOTO COMPETITION

The theme for this year’s district photo competition is “O Canada”. Here are the classes and instructions on how to submit your digital photos by March 15. The winners and all entrants will be acknowledged at the D2 Annual Meeting in April hosted by Nepean Horticultural Society.

### PLEASE READ EACH CLASS DESCRIPTION CAREFULLY

Class No.	Theme	Required Elements in Photo
Class 1	<b>Canadian Red and White</b>	Any type of flower or plant that is red or white in colour, highlighting Canada's diverse blooms
Class 2	<b>Canada in the Spring</b>	Depiction of a typical Canadian spring
Class 3	<b>Our Maple Leaf</b>	Display of the glory of our nation’s Maple tree by high-lighting the beauty of the leaf in either spring, summer or fall
Class 4	<b>Canada in the Winter</b>	Show the beauty of Canada’s trees or shrubs in the winter
Class 5	<b>Canadian Summertime Garden Visitors</b>	Capture any visitor to your garden during the summer – either an animal or a bird or any type of insect

#### All Photos must contain:

**40% Horticultural Value** – *Each photo should contain at least 40 percent plants, fruits, vegetables, flowers or ornamental plants/trees.*

**40% Photographic Value** – *Each photo shall have a good exposure, clarity, focus, lighting and resolution (2mb or more). Please note that not all phone cameras take high resolution photos. Please check your settings.*

**20% Appearance & Impact** – *Each photo should produce a memorable experience with the viewer.*

Please note all entrants must register first and obtain a registration number to use when submitting their entries. Please complete the following form and email it to [District2news@gmail](mailto:District2news@gmail.com) to obtain your registration number.

#### 2026 District 2 Photo Contest Registration Form

Name:
Society Name:
Email Address:
Phone Number:

#### Rules:

1. Exhibitors must be a member in good standing of a Horticultural Society within District 2.
2. All photos submitted must have been taken between 2022 – 2026. (some phones do attach a date onto the photo. Please check the properties of the photo.)
3. Entries will be accepted in digital format only.

4. Please provide entries in .JPG format with a high resolution of **2MB or more**, photos less than 1MB may be disqualified.
5. Photos may be adjusted for lighting and colour balance or cropped but should not be enhanced through advanced editing.
6. Two entries per Class.
7. Take care to ensure photos are entered into the correct class. Identify your entries as follows:  
**RENAME** your photos using the following format:  
**Your Registration number\_Class1\_1 or 2 ie: 000001\_Class1\_1.jpg**
8. Please **ensure that you provide your photo as an attachment in your email or on a thumb drive as a jpg.**
9. Submit your photos to: [District2news@gmail.com](mailto:District2news@gmail.com) by March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Please send one photo per email. Please state in the subject line "D2 2026 PHOTO COMPETITION". You may also submit your entries on a memory stick and mail this to Ruth Anderson, 168 Station Road, Smiths Falls, Ontario K7H 4S4. Please enclose a self addressed stamped envelope for the return of your memory stick.
10. Winning photos from a previous District 2 competition will not be accepted.
11. Please do not enter photos with a date or name on them. They will be disqualified.
12. Photos will be submitted to an external judge and their decision is final.
13. Photos will be presented on a slideshow presentation at the District 2 2026 Annual Meeting.
14. The Best in Show winner of the D2 Competition will be presented with a framed print of their photo.

## 6. INVASIVE PHRAGMITES CONTROL

Here is a link to the [Invasive Phragmites Control Fund – Which is a Green Shovels Collaborative.](#)

[The request for proposals is currently open!](#) It is highly recommend that those who are interested, apply. The Fund supports phragmites projects that range from \$2,500- \$25,000.

What are *phragmites*?

Invasive Phragmites (European Common Reed) is a non-native, invasive plant causing damage to Ontario's biodiversity, wetlands and beaches. Invasive Phragmites is a perennial grass that has been damaging ecosystems in Ontario for decades. It is not clear how it was transported to North America from its native home in Eurasia.



The impacts of Invasive Phragmites:

- crowds out native vegetation, thus resulting in decreased plant biodiversity;
- generally, provides poor habitat and food supplies for wildlife, including several Species at Risk;


- grows very quickly thereby causing lower water levels as water is transpired faster than it would be with native vegetation;
- increases fire hazards as stands are composed of a high percentage of dead stalks; and
- can affect agriculture, cause road safety hazard and impact recreational activities such as swimming, boating and angling.


## 7. OHA PRESENTATION

### *Recruitment, Retention & Succession Planning*

The Ontario Horticultural Association is thrilled to invite all Districts, Societies, and Clubs to an inspiring presentation on **Recruitment, Retention & Succession Planning**. Registration not required.

 **Date: Friday, December 5, 2025**


 **Time: 7:00 PM (Login at 6:40 pm)**

 **Via Webex:** <https://gardenontario.webex.com/gardenontario/j.php?MTID=mc7b36f215f92ee7f092bdb6a740e8f81> (session will be recorded and shared with Societies/Clubs after the event)


How can Horticultural Societies/Clubs attract and keep more members?  
What will happen when your current leaders can no longer carry on?

Join us for an insightful and practical session with Lily Viggiano from Volunteer Canada, as we explore how Societies/Clubs can position themselves for a vibrant and sustainable future.

#### **This session will cover:**

 Proven strategies to recruit and retain members

 Tools for building leadership succession plans

 Ideas to strengthen your Society/Club's long-term resilience

Whether you're a Society/Club Officer, Volunteer, or Passionate Gardener, this session offers valuable guidance to help your Society/Club thrive.

Let's plant the seeds of tomorrow—together.



## 8. WEBINAR – OMAFA Annual Return & Grant Program Training

Please note the next session for the OMAFA Annual Return and Grant Program Training is a webinar hosted by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness (OMAFRA) on **January 14, 2026**. The webinar will walk participants through the submission process and answer questions.

**Registration Link:** [2025 Annual Return and TPN insights for Horticultural Societies](#)

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF OMAFA ANNUAL RETURNS IS FEBRUARY 1, 2026.** Late submissions may result in the Society/Club NOT receiving their grant for the year. [AHOA.Admin@ontario.ca](mailto:AHOA.Admin@ontario.ca)



## 9. OMAFA GRANT FOR SOCIETIES CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OR MORE

New in 2025, the Province of Ontario is providing a one-time, \$1500 grant to horticultural societies celebrating their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary or for societies that have already reached their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Regulation 16 (O. Reg. 554/24, s.1.) was amended and reads as follows:

- 6.(2) *A centennial grant of \$1500 may be paid to a horticultural society if the society,*
- (a) has existed for 100 years;*
  - (b) has constructed a permanent commemorative structure commemorating the society; and*
  - (c) has not previously received a grant under this subsection. (Source: OHA announcement)*

How to apply:

OMAFRA contact email is [AHOA.admin@ontario.ca](mailto:AHOA.admin@ontario.ca)

- Make your plans and be prepared to have completed the plans by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025
- Contact OMAFA with the following information:
  1. Tell them your Society/Club is celebrating and commemorating its 100<sup>th</sup> (or more) anniversary
  2. Society/Club name
  3. Year in which the Society/Club was incorporated
  4. What is the Society/Club planning to do or doing to celebrate and commemorate 100 years or more of serving the community
  5. How will it benefit the community

6. Refer and include this link <https://news.ontario.ca/en/backgrounder/1006131/regulations-and-statutes-in-force-as-of-july-1-2025>

## 10. UPDATE: CHANGES TO NON-PROFIT TAX REPORTING REQUIREMENTS DELAYED

The Federal Budget 2025 has confirmed that changes to tax reporting requirements for non-profit organizations has been delayed and will not take effect in 2026 as originally proposed. The federal government has deferred the implementation date to January 1, 2027, or later, as it continues to review stakeholder feedback and finalize the details. Therefore, no action is required at this time, and your society will not be subject to the new reporting requirements for the 2025 or 2026 fiscal years. Once the government releases the finalized rules, we will provide further updates. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to the OHA Treasurer, Joy Cosmas Osiagwu, [treasurer4oha@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer4oha@gmail.com).  
 Editor’s NOTE: The treasurer is a member of the Manotick Horticultural Society.

## 11. D2 SERVICE AWARD NOMINATIONS

The District 2 Service Award is an engraved wooden plaque provided by the Ontario Horticultural Association. One nomination may be made each year by each District 2 society/club and submitted to the District Director in a letter giving full details of the nominee’s qualifications. From these nominations, the District Executive will select one award winner per year (nominees from 2025 will be considered for the 2026 award). The name of the recipient and the date of presentation are submitted by the D2 Director to the OHA Association Awards Coordinator at least four months before the award is to be presented. The nominations from District 2 Societies for the D2 Service Award are due by **January 20, 2026** by emailing [district2news@gmail.com](mailto:district2news@gmail.com). A member may only receive this award once in a lifetime. There are so many deserving members in our District – we hope all Societies will nominate a member.

Link: [OHA-District-Service-Award-Nomination-Form-Oct-2023.docx](#)

**\*District 2 Service Award Winners - 1976 (first year of the award) to 2025**

2025 Mary Vallières de St. Réal – Manotick	1999 Judy Shedden - Ottawa
2024 Judy Fine – Nepean	1998 Doreen Bell - Stittsville
2023 Cindy Zorgel	1997 Callie Basham - Ottawa
2022 Lori Ray	1996 Mary Harris - Manotick, Ottawa
2021 David Archer – Perth	1995 Helen Halpenny - Almonte
2020 Judy Sauve – Eganville	1994 Gwen Kidd - Beachburg
2019 Sheila King - Manotick	1993 Mimi Edmondson - Pakenham
2018 David Hinks - West Carleton	1992 Hugh Stewart - Kemptville
2017 Madeline Archer - Perth	1991 Lenore & Arthur Fentiman - Kanata March

2016 Marion Thompson - Deep River	1990 Farrell & Margaret Chown - Pakenham
2015 Jeff Blackadar - Ottawa	1989 Christine Temple - Kanata March
2014 Debby Lytle - Carleton Place	1988 Anstance Esmond-White - Kemptville
2013 Pat Kitley - Kemptville	1987 Joe Rawson - Perth
2012 Marilyn Snedden - Almonte	1986 Gladys Skuffam - Almonte
2011 Gaston Tessier - Gloucester	1985 Trevor and Brenda Cole - Ottawa, OVRGHS
2010 Lee Boltwood - Stittsville-Goulbourn	1984 Harvey and Bernice Fraser - Pembroke
2009 Fran Dennett - Gloucester	1983 Maurice Marshall - Ottawa
2008 Jane Anderson - Manotick	1982 Frances Lemke - Pembroke
2007 Margo Fulford - Perth	1981 George Rossow - Pembroke
2006 Brian Carson - OVRGHS, Manotick	1980 Helen Groskopf - Kemptville
2005 Hazel Hawthorn - Beachburg	1979 Betty Aspinall - Deep River
2004 Anne Tokaruk - Carleton Place	1978 Mary McGrogan - Gloucester
2003 Eva Gallagher - Deep River	1977 Clarence Brown - Ottawa
2002 Owen Munn - Manotick	1976 Sandy Cavaye - Ottawa
2001 Ken Fink - Beachburg	
2000 Sylvia Giroux - Pembroke	

## 12. YOUTH GRANTS 2026

Again in 2026, District 2 will be offering ten (10) grants of \$100 each to our 19 Societies for their youth activity. The first ten applications will receive the grant. Find the application at the D2 web page on the OHA website – scan QR code here.



The deadline for applying for the grant is June 1, 2026. Include your proposed program outline and, upon completion of your program, please submit digital picture(s) of the activity to Ruth Anderson at [District2news@gmail.com](mailto:District2news@gmail.com) so payment can be arranged.

### [OHA Awards and Grants Booklet](#)



You are receiving this newsletter as a member of a garden club/horticultural society of District 2 of the Ontario Horticultural Association. Comments, inquiries -- please email [District2News@gmail.com](mailto:District2News@gmail.com).