



OHA District 2 *Three River Valleys News* April 2025 – Vol. 12, No. 2

1. MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dear District 2 Society Members,

Since our last newsletter, the OHA declared District 2 to “Not Be in Good Standing” due to actions the District 2 (D2) Board took on November 8, 2024, to replace the appointed, interim District Director. The action taken by the D2 Board was to appoint two (2) District Directors, the rationale being that the more experienced Director would mentor the Director with fewer years' experience as a member of OHA. The objective was to facilitate the transfer of knowledge to the next generation of D2 leaders. The OHA disagreed with our action and interpretation of the OHA By-Laws and appointed Susan Ramsay, the OHA North and East representative, to conduct the business of District 2. This resulted in a series of emails and a meeting on February 8, 2025, between District 2 and OHA executives. At that meeting, three D2 board members resigned. After some discussion and, at the request of the D2 board, one of the individuals reconsidered their decision and remained as a D2 director. These four (4) directors continue to remain in the positions they have held since May 4, 2024.

We have worked diligently to address the concerns of the OHA Executive. On April 9, 2025, we sent a letter to the OHA Executive outlining what we have done to get back into “Good Standing”. This has involved hundreds of hours of effort by your four Board members. We await the decision of the OHA Executive, and once we have received a decision, will inform you via a separate e-mail.

Please read the article on the upcoming By-Law and Constitution updates. This is part of the process of getting back into “Good Standing”. We need you to register for the Zoom meeting to review these documents. **We do not yet have a quorum to proceed with these meetings.** Please contact Ruth Anderson, D2 Secretary, at district2news@gmail.com to participate.

We hope to see everyone at our Annual Meeting in Pakenham on May 3, 2025, where we will celebrate the Pakenham Horticultural Society's 100th anniversary as well as elect a new D2 Board of Directors!

Here's hoping for good weather to allow us to get our hands dirty!

Ruth Anderson, Darlene Bourne, Anne Harbord, and Cindy Zorgel

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2. UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
<p><u>April 21:</u> last day to order OHA supplies with no shipping fee</p> <p><u>April 27:</u> D2 Constitution and By-law review, Zoom meeting</p> <p><u>April 30:</u> D2 Young Gardeners Grant Application deadline</p>	<p><u>May 3:</u> D2 Annual Meeting, Pakenham</p> <p><u>May 14:</u> D2 Constitution Review, Zoom meeting</p> <p><u>May 31:</u> Deadline to request D2 Young Gardeners Grant</p>			D2 Summer Flowers and Edibles Show TBD



3. D2 CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS REVIEW

As part of the process for the operation of the D2 Board to return to “Good Standing” with the Ontario Horticultural Association, we will hold the following virtual meetings to review and approve changes to the D2 Constitution and By-Laws:

April 27th at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom – to review and approve the revised D2 By-Laws; and

May 14 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom – to review and approve the revised D2 Constitution.

If you are interested in participating, please let your Society president know as soon as possible.

4. D2 ANNUAL MEETING – Pakenham, May 3rd

The District 2 Annual Meeting* is being hosted this year on May 3, 2025, by the Pakenham Horticultural Society on the occasion of their 100th Anniversary. Two key-note speakers will take us into the world of Sustainable Gardening. Information has already been sent under separate cover to all Societies. For further event information, please email the registrar, Paul L'Arrivée, at 2025D2AGM@gmail.com.

*The meeting is now called an Annual Meeting in accordance with new ONCA provincial legislation.

5. OHA SOCIETY PRESIDENT'S HANDBOOK

The district has many new presidents this year (thank you!) who may not be aware of the *Society President's Handbook* which is produced by the OHA. This (along with other valuable resources for society presidents and directors) can be accessed through this link:

https://gardenontario.org/wp-content/uploads/OHA-President-Quick-Start_Manual-September-2024-FINAL.pdf

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6. GARDEN TOUR CHECKLIST AND INCIDENT REPORTING

With the upcoming busy season of plant sales and other events hosted by societies, now is a good time to remember that the OHA provides liability insurance for societies under the provincial Association's insurance plan with Co-Operators Insurance.

Two important resources from the OHA are the following:

Garden Tour Checklist,

<https://gardenontario.org/wp-content/uploads/GardenToursCheckList.pdf> and

Incident Reporting Form which should be completed and sent in with a claim should an incident occur at a Society/District meeting or event.

<https://gardenontario.org/wp-content/uploads/OHA-SocietyClub-District-Liability-Insurance-Program-Incident-Report-Form-1.pdf>

7. KIDS GARDEN COMMUNITY RESOURCE

Although this is an American initiative, the *Kids Garden Community* is an on-line community supporting individuals, families, and organizations with the skills, tools, and connections to garden with kids and scale transformative programs:

- Ask questions
- Share advice
- Explore vetted resources
- Discover new events and funding opportunities
- Make connections

Join for free at <https://community.kidsgardening.org/home>.



8. D2 ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW

Unfortunately, there is no organizer for a District flower show in 2025 and going forward. There is still time to organize a show for August or September and, judging by the excellent participation at last year's show, there is interest from our members and the public.

The most recent hosts were:

2024 - Almonte Civitan with Almonte, Pakenham and Carleton Place

2023 - none due to Convention in Kanata

2022 - Ottawa City Hall - organized by D2 Judging Committee

2021 - virtual due to COVID

2020 - none due to COVID



9. JUDGING SCHOOL DETAILS



It's not too late to register for an upcoming School for Judges and Exhibitors in Floral Design and Horticulture hosted by OHA Districts 1 and 3 in Eastern Ontario. The first session will be held on August 16-17, 2025.



For more information and to register, please see the attached *Welcome Letter* and *Application Form*.

10. INVASIVE SPECIES CENTRE RESOURCE

Sign-up for the Invasive Species Centre newsletter at <https://www.invasivespeciescentre.ca/>
This Canadian organization is a wealth of information.

About the Invasive Species Centre

Our vision is a Canada where land and water are protected from invasive species.

Our mission is to connect stakeholders, knowledge and technology to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species that harm Canada's environment, economy and society.

11. FEEDING COMMUNITIES – A LOCAL INITIATIVE

Just Food is a local initiative with a focus on buying local, feeding communities and supportive food systems. Check out their website at <https://justfood.ca/>. Some issues on which they are currently focused are:



Growing Change: Front Yard Gardening Gets the Go-Ahead in Ottawa!

Front Yard Gardening Approved!
Exciting news! Ottawa City Council's Public Works and Infrastructure Committee has approved key policy updates that allow residents to grow food in their front yards and on residential boulevards. These changes will help to expand urban agriculture and food security in



Residential Boulevard Bylaw Updates coming March 27th

City Staff are presenting proposed updates to the Use and Care of Roads Bylaw at this coming Thursday's Public Works and Infrastructure Committee Meeting to address growing food in the residential boulevard. In preparation for this meeting, Peoples Official Plan Plant Strategy Working Group met

12. ANOTHER ON-LINE RESOURCE

Proven Winners is an American supplier of plant material grown by Canadian producers. This year, Proven Winners has supported the OHA and Canada Blooms. Their newsletter includes informative written and video content. The most recent issue describes “When and How to Prune Your Hydrangea”. Subscribe to the newsletter at

https://www.provenwinners.com/learn/care/how-prune-your-hydrangea#step_1

Ask for their 2025 booklet with lots of great ideas for garden plantings at your local garden centre that sells Proven Winners products.

13. OHA SUPPLIES

If any Societies need to order OHA supplies, Anne Harbord has offered to pick them up from the OHA Supply Co-ordinator, Rose Odell, when they are both at a meeting in Milton at the end of April. Please use this link

<https://gardenontario.org/submit-order-for-garden-supplies/>

to go to the online OHA Garden Shop and **place your order no later than April 21, 2025**. Let the supply co-ordinator know that Anne will pick up your order. This is a great opportunity to order free materials such as promotional materials without the incurring a shipping cost.

You are receiving this email as a member of a garden club/horticultural society of District 2 of the Ontario Horticultural Association. Comments, inquiries -- please email district2news@gmail.com.