



OHA District 2
Three River Valleys News
December 2024 – Vol. 11, No. 5

1. CO-DIRECTORS' MESSAGE

Dear Members of District 2 Societies/Clubs,

Greetings after a long sojourn with our District 2 newsletter since last June.

First of all, we are pleased to let you know that we were appointed Co-Directors of District 2 on November 17, 2024. By now, you should have heard from us or one of the Assistant District Directors to confirm their attendance at your Annual General Meeting.

This newsletter will highlight some of the dates and deadlines for District 2 events and awards. Please read the Table of Contents carefully so you do not miss any of these critical dates.

We both wish to take this opportunity to wish you a most joyous Christmas season with your family and continued great community work in the New Year.

Best regards,
Ruth Anderson and Anne Harbord
Co-Directors, OHA District 2



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2. UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

DECEMBER	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
<u>Dec. 7:</u> Children's Planting Workshop, RONA Carleton Place @ 2:00 p.m. <u>Dec. 9:</u> OMAFRA Annual Intake Training Session <u>Dec. 9:</u> Deadline Tree Canada Grant Application <u>Dec. 14:</u> Last day to get OHA 50/50 tickets	<u>Jan 20:</u> Deadline D2 Service Award Nomination <u>Jan. 21:</u> OMAFRA Annual Intake Training Session	<u>Feb. 28:</u> Deadline for OHA awards and grant applications	<u>Mar. 3:</u> Last day to register for the Garden Club of Toronto Virtual Flower Show <u>Mar. 15:</u> Deadline D2 Photo Competition
			MAY
			<u>May 3:</u> D2 Annual General Meeting, Pakenham

3. CHANGE OF LEADERSHIP

As mentioned in the Co-Director's message, there have been some changes in the make-up of the District 2 Board. The following are the members of the new Board:

- Ruth Anderson, Co-Director and D2 Secretary
- Anne Harbord, Co-Director and Past Director
- Darlene Bourne, Treasurer
- Val Collins, Assistant District Director, Upper Ottawa River Basin
- Greg Laws, Assistant District Director-at-Large
- Cindy Zorgel, Assistant District Director, Mississippi River Basin
- Vacant, Assistant District Director, Rideau River Basin

Your Board members may be contacted by sending an email to district2news@gmail.com. If anyone would like to join the Board from the Rideau Valley area, please contact Ruth or Anne.

4. OHA PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Sharlene Desjardins, OHA President, issued her Fall Letter in October. The letter is attached.



The flyer features the GardenOntario logo at the top left. The main title is "Member or Family Member Scholarship Program". Below the title is a photograph of a young woman in a graduation cap and gown. At the bottom left, there is a section titled "Invest in Your Future With Our Program" with a small photo of a group of people. To the right of this is a "Details of the Scholarship:" section with bullet points. At the bottom right, there is a green box with white text that says "Don't miss this opportunity. Check out the application for all the details and how to apply. Deadline to apply is June 30th." The URL <https://gardenontario.org> is at the bottom.

Member or Family Member Scholarship Program

Invest in Your Future With Our Program

We are thrilled to announce our Scholarship Program, designed to empower ambitious individuals like you to achieve your academic goals in a horticultural related field. Let's create a better tomorrow through education!

Details of the Scholarship:

- Member, Child, Stepchild, Grandchild or Step-Grandchild
- Up to \$1000 Scholarship Awarded Yearly
- For attendance at Post Secondary Education Institute in Ontario
- Minimum of 2 Year Program

Don't miss this opportunity. Check out the application for all the details and how to apply. Deadline to apply is June 30th.

<https://gardenontario.org>

Of interest is the new Family Scholarship for attendance at College or University in a field related to horticulture, the environment and/or conservation. This includes members, their children and grandchildren. The value is \$1000. The OHA Family Scholarship will open March 1st, 2025 with the application deadline being June 30th each year. An application form will be online shortly.

GardenOntario 50/50 Raffle: The GardenOntario 50/50 Raffle is still going strong. Tickets are on sale for the current raffle which ends on December 14th. Please visit <https://www.raffle-box.ca/raffle/3ntario-ha> to buy your tickets today!

5. AROUND THE DISTRICT

Pembroke Horticultural Society 100th Anniversary Gala

On November 14th, the Pembroke Horticultural Society held a Black-Tie Gala to celebrate their 100th Anniversary. Anne and Roger Harbord were invited as special guests. Also attending were Audrey Gravelle and Lois O'Brien of Petawawa Horticultural Society. Sharlene Desjardins, OHA President and a member of the Society, presented a special 100th Anniversary Certificate from the OHA to Co-Presidents Cathy Hugli and Ellen van der Sleen. Later in the evening, the Co-Presidents each received recognition from their Society for their efforts in overseeing the special 100th Anniversary projects and Gala.

Whitewater Gardeners 65th Anniversary Dinner

On November 23rd, Anne Harbord, Ruth Anderson and their spouses attended a wonderful evening with the Whitewater Gardeners Society for their 65th Anniversary dinner held in Westmeath Community Hall. Attendees were greeted with a guitar duet playing music of the Ottawa Valley. An incredible awards ceremony recognized well-deserving recipients. District 2 presented Whitewater Gardeners Society with a 65th Anniversary Certificate. A delicious meal, a silent auction and a photo booth were the main attractions. Society President Laura Cleversley sourced beautiful centerpieces for the tables using repurposed containers which were then auctioned. The membership table was very busy, with eight new members signing up. Other guests attended from Petawawa and Eganville Horticultural Societies. Congratulations Whitewater for your dedication and endurance!

2024 District Flower Show

A huge thank you to the Almonte, Carleton Place and Pakenham Horticultural Societies which hosted the 2024 District 2 Flower Show in August in Almonte. Photo. And thank you to all the volunteers and exhibitors who made the show a great success.





Photo Credits: G. MacQuarrie

6. CARLETON PLACE YOUTH INITIATIVE



The Youth Committee of the Carleton Place and District Horticultural Society is partnering with **Rona in Carleton Place** to offer a holiday planting workshop for children on **December 7, 2024 at 2pm**. Children will learn how to plant and care for amaryllis bulbs, festively decorate a pot, and plant an amaryllis bulb to take home. They would also welcome another volunteer or two to join us on December 7th. If you are interested in volunteering, please email Bri Logan at cpdhsyouth@gmail.com.

7. CLEMATIS WEBINAR

The [International Clematis Society](https://www.internationalclematisociety.com/) is hosting a Dec. 9th webinar which is open to the public.

TOPICS: Growing Clematis from Seed with Mike Miller – US

Mike will discuss: how to identify viable clematis seed; different methods of sowing the seed (peeling vs. not peeling, cold stratification requirements, etc.); growing on the germinated seed to maturity; results from species seed vs. hybrids; and the International Clematis Society's Seed Exchange Program. AND

Getting Clematis to Rebloom

With a Panel of Experts: Deborah Hardwick – Ohio US, Susan Toler – Oregon US, and Fiona Woolfenden – UK

The panel will cover: when, how, and what not to prune back in summer to get a fantastic rebloom of clematis later in the season; when and what fertilizer to use to promote rebloom; deciding on a watering schedule; which types of pruning should be used on various groups of clematis.

Listen to these experts to hear what they do in their gardens to extend flowering time or to schedule clematis to flower at a specific time.

When: Monday, December 9, 2024

12pm US/CA Eastern Standard Time

Zoom Link to the Webinar: <https://swarthmore.zoom.us/j/81003066243>

8. OMAFRA Annual Intake Training Sessions

Please find the registration links, dates and times for the OMAFA Annual Intake Training Sessions for annual reporting. No registration is required for the December 9th session, however, registration is required for the January 15th session. The December 9th date will be a drop-in Zoom session (no registration required), during which clients can pop in and ask questions. This will allow those working on their applications to talk to OMAFRA. The Zoom information is listed below. ***Any questions about these sessions can be directed to Carole Boucher at carole.boucher@ontario.ca***

December 9th 2024

Time 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81835850592?pwd=czJVyo9mj42Fgsn4dL1Ydcpxbcfj83.1>

Meeting ID: 818 3585 0592

Passcode: 500108

January 15th 2025

Time 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88625259017?pwd=L4E0pLxa7Ov4okFVVLsQo1X2pvb7ZU.1>

Meeting ID: 886 2525 9017

Passcode: 940398

9. YOUNG GARDENERS GRANT

Again this year, District 2 will be offering ten (10) grants of \$100 each to our 19 Societies. The first ten applications will receive the grant. Your application can be sent to Ruth Anderson at district2news@gmail.com no later than June 1, 2025 with your proposed program outline. Upon completion of your program, picture evidence is to be submitted to Ruth Anderson at district2news@gmail.com so payment can be arranged.

10. D2 PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

The theme for the 2025 District 2 Photo Competition is *Valley Views*. The coordinator for the competition is Ruth Anderson. Please send the information below to Ruth at district2news@gmail.com to receive an Exhibitor Number.

2025 District 2 Photo Contest Registration Form

Name:
Society Name:
Email Address:
Phone Number:

Once you receive your Exhibitor Number, use the number to name your digital photos along with the Class Number and send to Ruth at district2news@gmail.com. The deadline for entries is **March 15th**. The categories for the 2025 photo competition are as follows (Note – these categories replace those previously published):

- Class 1: Shades of Spring – A photo of all the wonderful blooms of spring, showing the wonderful blast of colours popping up all over.
- Class 2: Fabulous Flowers of Summer – A photo displaying multiple summer blooms.
- Class 3: Glorious Fall Colours – A photo displaying all the glory of our trees' colour change.
- Class 4: Winter Wonderland – A photo displaying the wonders of winter snow scenes in trees and forests.
- Class 5: After the rain – A photo displaying rain drops on flowers or plants. Any season is allowed in this class.
- Class 6: Birds and Bees in Your Garden – A photo displaying a bird or a bee on a flower or plant in your garden.

11. VIRTUAL DESIGN COMPETITION

The Garden Club of Toronto has been busy organizing a Virtual Floral Design Competition to give our local floral artists as well as any other interested floral artists from around the globe a chance to share their creativity. The theme of the competition is 'Now Featuring', referring to Movie titles. The Show Schedule is attached. Questions? Contact:

Ellen Clark, ellenclark005@gmail.com or

Rosemary Passafiume-McLean, rosemary.passafiume.mclean@gmail.com

Register by **March 3, 2025** with Lil Taggart, liltovey@hotmail.com

12. GARDENING CALENDAR

A great resource for promoting your club events is the <https://gardeningcalendar.ca/>. If you aren't already getting the Calendar from your hort society, contact care@gardeningcalendar.ca to get up-to-date information on the events direct to your Inbox.

13. D2 SERVICE AWARD

This award is an engraved wooden plaque provided by the Ontario Horticultural Association. One nomination may be made each year by each OHA Affiliated Society/Club, in good standing, within a District 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. The name of the recipient and the date of presentation are to be submitted to the Association Awards Coordinator by the District Director 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 20th** to Ruth Anderson at 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. The nomination form is attached for your convenience.

14. D2 FLOWER SHOW 2025

We had a wonderful Flower Show in Almonte this past summer. Unfortunately, we do not have host Societies for 2025 and 2026. Could you please consider hosting a District Flower Show this Summer or next? Perhaps join up with another local club and share the load. Please contact Anne Harbord at anneclark.flowers@gmail.com if you would like to discuss this opportunity.

15. TREE CANADA GRANTS

Check out Tree Canada's website:

<https://treecanada.ca/grants-awards/community-tree-grants/?bblinkid=281881843&bbemailid=56411841&bbejrid=-1176197476>

Grow Your Community's Green Spaces with a Tree Canada Grant!

Apply for a Community Tree Grant and bring your community's vision for greener spaces to life. Schools, community groups, Indigenous communities, and municipalities across Canada can **apply for up to \$10,000 in funding** to enhance their local environments through tree planting and stewardship initiatives.

Applications are open until **December 9th**.



As well, Tree Canada offers free e-lectures, in partnership with the [Canadian Institute of Forestry](#), exploring the theme “Inspiring Community Action, Connection and Stewardship: How Can Civic Involvement Support Canadian Urban Forests?”.

16. OTHER RESOURCES – Free Seeds

There are many great organizations in Ottawa doing wonderful things. Here are a couple you may want to check out: i) Ecology Ottawa and ii) Ottawa Wildflower Seed Library.

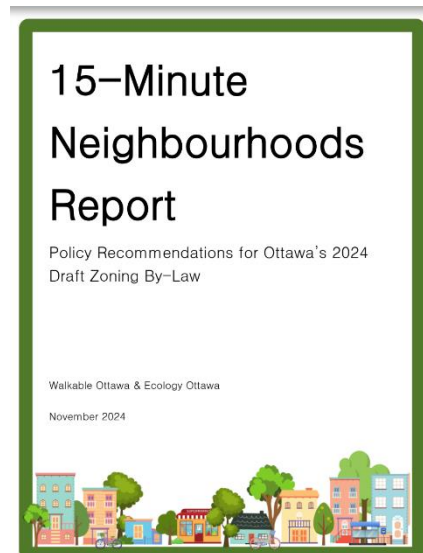


15 Minute neighbourhoods: Report and video

This year, we invited Ottawans across the city to share their neighbourhood story – and you had a lot to say! From the joys of easily accessible greenspaces in walkable communities to the challenges of living sustainably in a car-centric city, Ottawans shared what they love about their neighbourhoods and what they think can be improved. Watch the full video [here](#).

We were inspired by your passion for and commitment to building vibrant, livable neighbourhoods. We also heard your call for more green spaces, better transit, and safer streets for cyclists and pedestrians. But how do we make these desires a reality? One significant opportunity is the Zoning By-law Review – with the review of [Draft 1](#) taking place throughout this month. This is a critical moment to shape our communities for the better. Read [our report](#).

We're calling Council to commit to bold changes that support the development of 15-Minute Neighbourhoods. Sign the [petition](#) and email [your councillor](#). Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to creating a greener, more accessible Ottawa!



EVENTS

Free Clothing and Item Swap

Dec 8, 1:30pm –

4:30pm  [275 Elgin St](#)



The Ottawa Wildflower Seed Library is holding native wildflower seed giveaways! Visit [their website](#) for dates and times: <https://wildflowerseedlibrary.ca/events/>

Seed mailouts

If you are unable to join us at our seed giveaways, you can place an online order to receive seeds in the mail. [Orders](#) for seed mailouts will open on **December 26, 2024**. We will begin mailing on December 27.

**December 7, 2024,
Tom Brown Arena**



1-3 pm at 141 Bayview Station Rd.,

Hintonburg

[Facebook event](#)

**December 21, 2024,
Beaverbrook Centre**



1-3 pm at 1002 Beaverbrook Rd.,

Kanata

[Facebook event](#)

17. COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM – Theme 2025 and Grant Opportunity

Looking ahead to 2025, Communities in Bloom is excited to reveal their new *Theme of the Year: Edible Gardens!*

As food insecurity continues to impact communities, this theme shines a light on the many benefits of growing your own food. From vegetable and herb gardens to fruit-bearing plants like berries, tomatoes, and peppers, edible gardens are a powerful way to encourage sustainability, support local ecosystems, and foster community connections. By nurturing these spaces, we nurture ourselves and our environment.



Scotts Canda is pleased to be partnering with Communities in Bloom to offer an exciting grant opportunity to Canadian communities in partnership with Plant -Grow – Share a Row and Nutrients for Life. For further details on the *Gro for Good* program, please visit: <http://www.grofor-good.ca> Questions can also be directed to communication@cib-cef.com

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