

*Happy
New Year*

- Arthur & District
- Elora & Salem
- Erin
- Fergus & District
- Grand Valley & District
- City of Guelph
- Guelph Township
- Harriston & District
- Hillsburgh
- Moorefield & District
- Mount Forest
- Orangeville & District
- Shelburne & District

District 7 Newsletter January 2026

PLEASE CIRCULATE TO ALL MEMBERS
And feel free to discuss at your meetings!

As busy people we are constantly assessing the urgent items on our To Do list. Your Society or Club probably has already begun the plan for planting and gardening in the areas that you tend as well as many events for fun and learning in 2026.

As OHA members, I hope that you include the following in your plans:

1. Leaders, to complete reporting requirements to OHA and OMAFA by Feb 1st. -see training opportunity on page 5
2. Consider joining the District 7 Board of Directors see page 2
3. Plan the year with your Board and create your Year Book so that you can bring 15 copies to the AGM (or at the very least, a list of activities with information so that others can attend if desired)
4. Plan to attend the District 7 AGM meeting on **April 25** in Moorefield **Page 6, 7, 8.**
5. Plan to attend the Information Meeting by zoom on **April 13**
6. Plan to attend Convention on **July 24-25-26 in Oshawa Page 3**
7. Plan to watch the Recruitment, Retention and Succession Planning webinar, perhaps as one of your Society meetings. **(link on page 2)**

WISHING EVERYONE A WONDERFUL 2026

Doris cassandoris@hotmail.com

UPCOMING DISTRICT 7 INFORMATION MEETING

April 13 2026

7:30 pm Via ZOOM

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84726963099>

- Please try to have two people attend to represent each society

Topics:
Fundraising Ideas
Code of Conduct

NEXT DISTRICT 7 MEETING

Also District 7's Annual Meeting

Saturday, April 25, 2026

Moorefield Community Centre

9:30 am to approx. 12:30 pm

Come and help celebrate

Moorefield Horticulture's 100th anniversary

Guest Speaker Vicky Culbert

President of Ontario Horticultural Association

2025-26 DISTRICT 7 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
WE WILL NEED ONE NEW DISTRICT DIRECTOR AS OF APRIL 2026
 as Connie Bienia completes her term on the Board. Talk to us if interested!

	Position	Society Membership
Doris Cassan	District Director	Arthur, Moorefield
Jude Dowling	Secretary	Elora and Salem, Fergus
Liz Doherty	Treasurer	Mount Forest
Kathy Bouma	Director	Fergus, Elora and Salem
Cheryl Yuill	Director	Fergus
Connie Bienia	Director	Hillsburgh, Erin
Sally Andrade	Director	Harriston



We would like to keep the Board as representative as possible, so when Connie leaves, we would really like representation from one of the following societies/clubs: Hillsburgh, Erin, Guelph, Guelph Township, Orangeville, Shelburne or Grand Valley.

What are the expectations of a member of the District 7 Board of Directors?

- Three or four board meetings per year. Currently they are virtual meetings but we may try to have one of those four as a live meeting in good weather.
- Two District in-person meetings per year. Some duties will be assigned at those meetings such as registration, door prizes, etc.
- Two Information meetings per year, virtual.
- Possible work on sub committee or ad hoc committee of the board.
- There is potential for leadership experience as the District Director, Assistant District Director, Secretary and Treasurer positions are regularly changed.
- You will be part of many decisions made for the District, both financial and others.



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5TH AT 7 PM VIA WEBEX

How can Horticultural Societies and Clubs attract and keep more members in their Society/Club?
 What will happen when your current leaders can no longer carry on?
 Join Lily Viggiano from Volunteer Canada, to learn how Societies/Clubs can position themselves for the best tomorrow.
No registration required.

TALK HIGHLIGHTS:

- ✔ Strategies to increase recruitment
- ✔ Retention goals and how to achieve it
- ✔ Succession Planning for the Future

www.gardenontario.org



Did you miss the December 5th webinar about **Recruitment, Retention & Succession Planning?**

GOOD NEWS! It was recorded! You can access the recording at the GardenOntario (OHA) site

<https://gardenontario.org/recruitment-retention-and-succession-planning-2/>

This would be a great meeting for your Society/Club, to watch together.



Our Immediate Past District Director Kathy Bouma was out walking the River Trail in Arthur when she came upon the bench installed by the Arthur & District Horticultural Society a few years ago on their 100th Anniversary. It is still holding strong! As is she!

Did you know that Kathy has been a hard-working member of the District 7 Board since 2012 and has never missed a Board meeting? Now that is dedication! Thank you, Kathy!

2026 is the year to GO to Convention!!

ONTARIO HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION
2026 ANNUAL MEETING & CONVENTION
Hosts: Districts 4 & 17



This year it is at Durham College in Oshawa

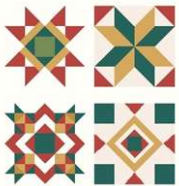
<https://gardenontario.org/convention/auto-draft/>



NO Zooming..... just rooming!
NO outagesjust outings!
NO log-ons.....just get your glad togs on!
NO glitches.....just us Gardeners

Don't forget to enter the **competitions** at Convention
Schedules for Art, Creative Writing, Publications, Photography, Flower Show and Youth, are now on the OHA website

<https://gardenontario.org/convention/auto-draft/>



WINTER IS A TIME FOR LEARNING AND SHARING KNOWLEDGE

Some examples of Winter Workshops at the Arboretum in Guelph

<https://arboretum.uoguelph.ca/educationandevents/workshops>

IN PERSON

Stargazing, Thurs 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm November to May
Introduction to Animal Tracking Sat Feb 7 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Winter Tree Identification Sat Feb 21 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Restoring Fruit Trees Tues Mar 10 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

ONLINE

Winter Tree Identification Thurs Jan 15, 22, 29, Feb 5
Garden Fundamentals Tues 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm Jan 27 to Mar 10
Creating Healthy Soil Tues 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm Mar 17, 24, 31

March 7th Seedy Saturday, Erin United Church

March 21st Seedy Saturday, Wellington County Museum
536 Wellington County Road 18 between Fergus and Elora

January 31 to April 6 Royal Botanical Gardens, Bloomland in Oz

<https://www.rbg.ca/things-to-do/by-season/special-events/winter-exhibit/?on=2026-01-31>

Guelph Master Gardeners Annual Event



A Day In The Garden 2026: Plant Wisely, Grow Abundantly, Support Wildlife

By Robert Newman [Follow](#)

Victoria Park East Golf Club
Feb 22 from 9am to 3:30pm EST

CA\$75
Feb 22 · 9:00 AM EST

[Get tickets](#)

https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/a-day-in-the-garden-2026-plant-wisely-grow-abundantly-support-wildlife-tickets-1977673194763?aff=erelexpmlt&fbclid=IwY2xjawOzVZpleHRuA2FlbQIxMABicmlkETEwaFI2MWZLeWp6eXM4a043c3J0YwZhcHBfaWQQMjlyMDM5MTc4ODlwMDg5MgABHkQ5FQdXegncdAk-WObNhAi8vR9HdPombxa6ohRzXL8UPU0Bs8Ej1NpuinJN_aem_mOaZNG4A6t9ceCeIPGkbIA



District 7 Ontario Horticultural Association

16 followers · 1 following



<https://www.facebook.com/OHADistrict7>



Call For Artists

Pollinator Portraits: Native Flowers and Their Guardians

The Ontario Horticultural Association is inviting submissions from its members for a unique commissioned art opportunity. We are producing a therapeutic and educational colouring book titled *Pollinator Portraits: Native Flowers and Their Guardians*. We're seeking talented artists to bring this vision to life through 30 original line illustrations. We welcome applications from artists of all backgrounds

About the Project

This colouring book will celebrate the rich biodiversity of Ontario's native plants and their essential pollinators—bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, and more. Designed for adult audiences, the book will pair detailed line art with informative captions to promote environmental awareness, inclusive engagement, and nature appreciation.

What We're Looking For

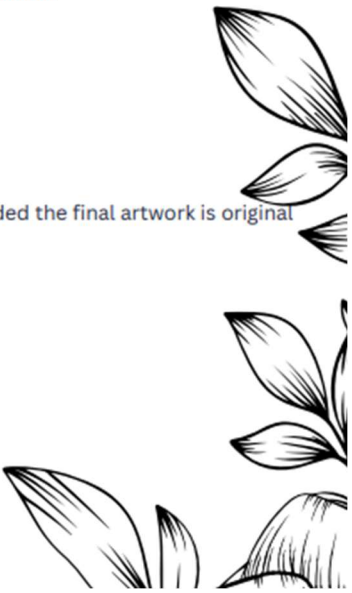
- An original black-and-white line drawing
 - Drawings must include native Ontario flowers and their pollinators
 - Style must be botanically accurate, clean, and suitable for adult coloring
 - Artwork should reflect clear lines and thoughtful composition
- Artists may use AI-assisted tools (e.g., Canva) to support their creative process, provided the final artwork is original and meets project standards

Eligibility

- Open to OHA members who are emerging and established artists
 - If you know an interested artist, they can apply by joining your society.

How to Apply

Please submit the following to Alison Dunn adunn56@uwo.ca

- Portfolio or sample illustrations (PDF or website link)
 - Brief statement of interest and description of drawing
 - Your society's name and district
- 

Deadline extended to January 9th, 2026

Webinar: **TPON training** January 14, 2026 7pm to 8:30 pm

Please register in advance using the following link: 2025 Annual Return and TPON insights for Horticultural Societies

link: [2025 Annual Return and TPON insights for Horticultural Societies](#)

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF OMAFRA ANNUAL RETURNS IS FEBRUARY 1, 2026. Late submissions may result in the Society/Club NOT receiving their grant for the year.

What is the purpose of the District Board?

There are 272 Horticultural Societies and Garden Clubs who belong to the provincial organization known as the Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA). Those societies and clubs are organized into 19 Districts. Members of some of the societies and clubs are members of the Board of Directors for their District. The Board of the OHA is comprised of the Directors of the 19 District Boards.

Societies pay dues, to the District (currently \$1 per member) and to OHA (currently increasing by 50c each year until it will be at the \$6 per person level by 2028) plus member insurance and bond insurance.

District fees pay for District activities and administrative costs.

At the provincial level, it pays for some activities, member insurance and the administration costs of maintaining the OHA.

From the Constitution of District 7

Article III: OBJECT The object of the District is to provide support to horticultural societies in District 7 affiliated with the Ontario Horticultural Association, primarily through the provision of **communications, co-ordination and District meetings**, so that the affiliated societies may more effectively instruct the District Director and carry out the objects of their own local societies.

Nuggets from the gardenontario.org website

OHA Accessibility and Inclusion Statement

In fulfilling our mission and in alignment with our vision, the Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA), also known as GardenOntario, strives to provide access in a manner that respects the dignity and independence of people with disabilities.

GardenOntario is also committed to ensuring that all individuals have an equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from OHA programs and services.

<https://gardenontario.org/oha-accessibility-and-inclusion-statement/>

downloaded 24 November 2025



District 7 Spring Meeting & AGM 2026

April 25, 2026

9:30 am to 12:30

Moorefield Community Centre
15 Ball Avenue, Moorefield ON, N0G 2K0
hosted by Moorefield and District Horticultural Society
"Mapleton Buds and Blooms"
Celebrating 100 years of making Mapleton beautiful!



\$10 per person

register through your Society

registration desk open 8:30 am to 9:25 am



Esteemed Guest Speaker

Vicky Culbert

President, Ontario
Horticultural Association

Flower Show

Show schedule attached. Please place entries from 8:30 to 9:15 am

Each Society to bring a door prize value of approx. \$25

Morning coffee and mid-morning break provided by hosts

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DISTRICT 7 Meeting
Society Registration
BLOCK CAPITAL PRINTING PLEASE



Date of Meeting _____ April 25, 2026 _____

Society Name _____

Contact Name _____

Contact Email _____



	Attendee Name BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE	Payment
1		
2		
3		
4		
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9		
10		
11		
12		



Total Number Attending _____ x \$10 = _____

Cash or cheque made out to District 7 Ontario Horticultural Association, at the door please

Please email Doris Cassan with registration names and numbers
and Memorial information by April 19th
at cassandoris@hotmail.com

Spring 2026 District 7 Flower Show - April 25, 2026

Moorefield Community Centre, 15 Ball Avenue, Moorefield N0G 2K0

Entries must be placed from 8:30 - 9:15 a.m. Judging starts at 9:30 a.m.

- Division 1 – Horticulture*** **Points- 1st-6, 2nd-4, 3rd-2** **Prizes- 1st-\$5, 2nd- \$3, 3rd- \$2**
- Class 1. **Hellebore/Helleborus** - 1 stem/spray
- Class 2. **Any Spring Flowering Bulb** - 1 stem/spray, named
- Class 3. **Flowering Branch**** – max. 75 cm (30 inches) including container, named
- Class 4. **House Plant, Cacti/Succulent**, 1 pot – under 20.3 cm (8 inches) in diameter
- Class 5. **Bedding Plants** – cell pack, one cultivar, grown from seed, named (min. 4 plants)

Most Points in Horticulture- Prize donated by Guelph Township Horticultural Society - \$10.00

- Division 2 - Design:** **Points- 1st-8, 2nd-6, 3rd -4** **Prizes- 1st-\$7, 2nd- \$5, 3rd- \$3**
- Class 6. **Tendrils** – a small design***
- Class 7. **April Showers** – a water-viewing design****
- Class 8. **Spring is Busting Out all Over**– your interpretation
- Class 9. **Mother's Day** – Design in a teacup
- Class 10. **NOVICE ONLY******* First Try (or Second Try) – **Spring bouquet**

Judge's Choice - Prize donated by Guelph Township Horticultural Society- \$10.00

* Two entries per class are permitted in Horticultural division only but must be from different cultivars. House plants and garden plants must have been cared for by exhibitor for at least three (3) months or have been grown from seed or a cutting by exhibitor. Judging in accordance with Ontario Judging and Exhibiting Standards, 2019. Substandard entries may not necessarily receive a prize.

** Branch can be forced

*** **Small Design:** A design from 14cm to 25.4 cm (5.5 inches to 10 inches) and which must not exceed 25.4cm (10 inches) in height, width, and depth, including any container, base, and/or accessories. (page 150, OJES 2019)

**** **Water-viewing Design** –a traditional line design, adapted in Canada in the 1960's, with a dominant line of plant material and great use of space in a shallow container with ½ to 2/3 of the container surface showing water. (Page 156, OJES 2019)

***** **NOVICE ONLY – less than 2 years design experience showing.**

Bouquet – A design artistically created by grouping plant material, with or without accessories, using their own stems, May be inserted into a holder or container. (Page 132, OJES 2019)