



- 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 June 2025

## A MESSAGE FROM DORIS CASSAN

I am honoured to be the incoming Director for District 7 of the Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA). Thankfully, Kathy Bouma is staying on with the Board to support our District and help me learn the ropes. After seven years in the Director position, Kathy has set the standard high. Thank you for your service, Kathy.

Welcome to Sally Andrade, a new Director on the District 7 Board.

It is nice to have representation from Harriston!

Congratulations to Jane McDonald and Jean Gordon who received awards at our AGM in April. See more about that further on in this newsletter.

Thank you to those who completed the survey at the AGM and as a result, we are reinstating Information Meetings: the first will be on Monday September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7 pm via Zoom. Information meetings will provide more time to discuss issues and ideas.

Be sure to register for the OHA AGM July 19<sup>th</sup> 2025 via Zoom.

We were all sorry to see Clifford Society dissolve. The effective recruitment and retention of members, and thoughtful succession planning, are key to the survival of any volunteer group.

I plan to see you at your Society meetings and AGMs as much as possible.

I would also appreciate if you could send me your minutes when you send them to your members so that I can learn what is going on through the District.

I look forward to working with you all. Happy Gardening!

*Doris* cassandoris@hotmail.com

## OHA AGM July 19, 2025

This year the OHA AGM will be virtual (by Zoom) with no In-Person gathering. **Registration is open**, and when you register, you must indicate if you are voting and if you are carrying proxy votes, so you need to know that ahead of time. If you do not plan to attend and use your votes, please remember to use the proxy form to allow someone else to vote for you.

Registration <https://gardenontario.org/2025-annual-general-meeting/>

Most recent proxy form

<https://gardenontario.org/wp-content/uploads/OHA-Proxy-Form-2025-2025-06-04-1.pdf>

There will not be any virtual competitions this year but the Competitions Committee is looking at that for 2027 which will again be a virtual AGM.

### UPCOMING DISTRICT 7

#### Virtual INFORMATION MEETING

Monday September 22 at 7 pm

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81566553838>

### UPCOMING DISTRICT 7 MEETING

October 18, 2025 Fergus Legion

9:30 am to approx. 12:30 pm

In person

## District 7 AGM April 2025

The AGM in Grand Valley was attended by 95 representatives from all our societies and four guests. We were entertained by speaker Bonnie Sitter who co authored a book called Peach Fuzz and Onion Skins, about Farmerettes in Ontario during World War II. The book was made into a successful play at Blyth Festival Theatre. We also had a real live former Farmerette in attendance, now aged 98 years and sharp as a tack. She was in the Farmerette program for three years during WWII.



Bonnie Sitter,  
Jean the Farmerette and Kathy Bouma  
Photo by Jude Dowling

## CELEBRATING OUR MEMBERS

Kathy Bouma presented the Trillium/Silver Fir award to Jane McDonald of Guelph Township Society for her exemplary contribution to the horticultural world. Only two are given each year by OHA. Thank you, Jane, for beautifying the community for many years. Jean Gordon was unable to be at the meeting to receive her District Service Award. Kathy was able to catch up with Jean to give it to her. **Photos below courtesy of Jude Dowling**



Jane McDonald and Kathy Bouma



Kathy Bouma and Jean Gordon



# 2026 Convention

July 24, 25, 26, 2026

Durham College, Oshawa

Competition schedules have been posted for Photography, Publications and Art.

Please see them at <https://gardenontario.org/convention/auto-draft/> for complete rules.

You have over a year to work on your entries!

## Photography Classes

1. A Winter Scene – Remembering last year’s garden
2. Still Waters – Reflections in water
3. The Beauty of Decay – Photographer’s interpret’n
4. Majestic Trees - Photographer’s Interpretation
5. Leaves of a Different Shape (and Size) B/W
6. Roadside Flowers. Time for a country drive
7. In the Beginning. Germinating Seeds. Macro.
8. Living City. An urban planting

## Publications Classes

Lots of rules in this category so check the list.

1. Yearbook Cover
2. Yearbook
3. Special Event Poster
4. Society Brochure/Pamphlet
5. Newsletter 10 pages or less
6. Newsletter 11 pages or more
7. Bookmark

## Art Classes

1. A Child’s Garden: a painting: oil, acrylic, watercolour.
2. A Community Garden A pencil or charcoal drawing
3. The Colours of the Garden A fibre art of any type e.g. quilted or appliqued or embroidered fabric, needle-felting, crochet, knitting, macrame.
4. The Changing Light in the Garden A glass art of any type, e.g. stained-glass panel, sculpture from glass objects, glass mosaic
5. The Music of the Garden A metal art, e.g. sculpture, signage, wind chimes, wind vane.
6. Birds in the Garden A paper art, e.g. greeting card, folded paper, bookmark, notepad, stationery.
7. My Garden Memories: a piece of handmade jewellery of any material.
8. Flora and/or Fauna of the Forest A wood art of any type, e.g. carving, intarsia, abstract.
9. Perennials A painted or wrapped rock.

## Medical Emergencies at Horticultural Events

I was at a gardening talk recently where one of the vendors experienced a medical emergency.

Fortunately she was beginning to stabilize by the time the ambulance arrived. I hope she continues well.

This incident made me think of what preparation would help in these situations.

One thing for sure, it is important to identify who will take a leadership role in an emergency.

What else can you do? This might be a topic for discussion amongst your Event planning committee.

## 2025-26 DISTRICT 7 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Have you ever considered being on the District Board? Talk to us!**

	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



**Give your tree its big break by entering Ontario's tree pageant and be eligible to win up to \$500 in prize money.**

Take your best shot by sending us a flattering photo of a tree you love along with a few words about why it's so special.

**All contestants will take the stage on Tree Trust's website.**

Contest closes August 15th, with winners announced in the fall.  
**Have questions? Contact us at [ppalmer@treetrust.com](mailto:ppalmer@treetrust.com)**

Sponsored by: Enter: <https://treetrust.ca/tree-pageant/>

### Duo Vendor Insurance

Give your vendors access to preferred partner pricing on short-term coverage by registering your events with Duo by Co-operators.

1-day policies starting at:

**\$15.58**

plus tax

Event organizers will automatically receive a **Confirmation of Insurance** when vendors purchase (or cancel!) their policy. Plus, Duo's digital platform allows exhibitors to purchase vendor insurance **online in minutes**.

**What's covered?**

**\$2 or \$5 million in liability**  
(Bodily injury and property damage)

**Tenants' legal liability**

**Medical payments\***

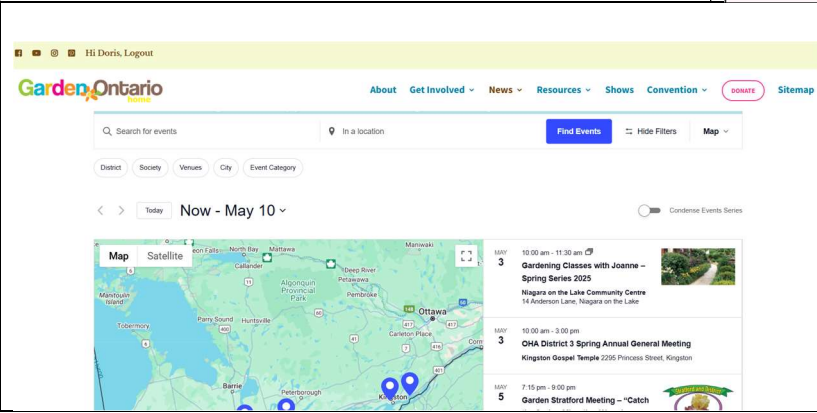
**Products-completed operations**

\*We offer limited coverage for medical expenses incurred. For more detailed information on what's covered, please refer our policy.

Registering your events is quick, easy and can be done up to a year in advance!

To register your events today, head to [duo.ca/register-your-events](https://duo.ca/register-your-events).

Terms and conditions apply. Duo insurance products are offered, underwritten and administered by Co-operators General Insurance Company. Not all products are available in all provinces. In Quebec, Co-operators General Insurance Company is registered with Autorité des marchés financiers as a Damage insurance agency (Reg.#514163). Please contact us for advice about your insurance needs.



If you are looking for some horticultural education, there are many opportunities on the Events calendar on OHA's website. Another place to look is on each Society's page. Please try to keep your page updated and enter your events on the calendar for sharing.

<https://gardenontario.org/events/>.