



## OHA District 2 *Three River Valleys News* January 2025 – Vol. 12, No. 1

### 1. CO-DIRECTORS' MESSAGE

Dear District 2 Society Members,

Yahoo! The days are getting longer and we are one day closer to gardening season. In the meantime, there's no time like the present to pour over those gardening catalogues. We have so many great suppliers in Canada who know Canadian growing conditions.

In this issue of *Three River Valleys News*, we have several reminders. The cold weather isn't over, yet you can feel the warmth of summer by combing through your digital photos from the last four (4) years. No doubt, there are some lovely pictures in your collection, so don't hesitate to contact Ruth to get a registration number and submit your pics. All entries will be on display at this year's AGM.



Building on our District's ongoing commitment to get young people interested in the benefits of gardening, we are, again this year, offering grants of \$100 to societies to offset the expenses for a youth activity.

Calling all aspiring horticulture and design judges. Districts 1 and 3 of the OHA are planning a judging school starting this year. Based on the large number of entries at last year's District Flower Show, we have several members who might be interested in furthering their knowledge by becoming an OHA certified judge.

Please curl up in a comfy chair with a warm drink and enjoy this issue of *Three River Valley News*.

All the Best in 2025!

Ruth Anderson and Anne Harbord

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## 2. UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	MAY	JUNE
<p><u>Jan 20:</u> Deadline D2 Service Award Nominations</p> <p><u>Jan. 21:</u> OMAFRA Annual Intake Training Session</p>	<p><u>Feb. 1:</u> OMAFRA Report deadline for submission</p> <p><u>Feb. 28:</u> Deadline for OHA awards and grant applications</p>	<p><u>Mar. 3:</u> Last day to register for the Garden Club of Toronto Virtual Flower Show</p> <p><u>Mar. 15:</u> Deadline D2 Photo Competition</p>	<p><u>May 3:</u> D2 Annual General Meeting, Pakenham</p>	<p><u>June 1:</u> Deadline Young Gardeners Grant</p>

## 3. D2 SERVICE AWARD NOMINATIONS

Dear Society Presidents\*

The deadline of January. 20, 2025 is fast approaching for the submission of nominations for the District 2 Service Award. Currently, we have not received any nominations. Please look at your members again. There must be some hard-working volunteers in your Society who would be suitable candidates for this prestigious award.

We have attached the Nomination Form for ease of access. Please take some time to consider at least one deserving member of your Society to be put forward for this award. The completed form should be sent by midnight this **Monday, January 20th**, to the D2 Co-Director, Ruth Anderson, at [district2news@gmail.com](mailto:district2news@gmail.com).

Do not hesitate to contact any of us, if you need assistance:

The D2 Service Award Committee

Gay MacQuarrie – [gardens.gay@outlook.com](mailto:gardens.gay@outlook.com)

Ruth Henderson – [district2news@gmail.com](mailto:district2news@gmail.com)

Anne Harbord – [anneclark.flowers@gmail.com](mailto:anneclark.flowers@gmail.com)

\* As there have been several Board changes in recent weeks, and if you are not the intended recipient of this newsletter, we ask that you please forward this message to the appropriate person in your Society and copy us on that e-mail.

#### 4. OMAFRA REPORT SUBMISSION

The deadline is only a few days away for submitting your Society OMAFRA Report. If you need more information, please contact Ruth or Anne or OMAFRA directly.

**Deadline is February 1, 2025.**

#### 5. OHA AWARDS SUBMISSIONS

The OHA provides many awards and grants to recognize the volunteers within your Societies and improve your local communities. On the GardenOntario website under “Resources”, you will find the latest OHA Awards and Grants Booklet. There are awards at the Society, District and OHA level which provide opportunities to recognize many of the wonderful volunteers or projects within your Societies. Please have a look at what you could apply to receive in 2025. If you would like any assistance in formulating your submission, Anne Harbord would be pleased to assist ([anneclark.flowers@gmail.com](mailto:anneclark.flowers@gmail.com)). Several grants are on a first-come basis. Please ensure you apply for those as soon as possible. The District Service Award nominations are due to your District Co-Directors by January 20, 2025. A separate e-mail has gone out on this item.

Deadline to submit to the OHA Awards Co-ordinator is **February 28, 2025.**



Photo credit: G. MacQuarrie

## 6. D2 PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

Just a reminder that the 2025 Photo Competition "Seasons of our Three River Valleys" registration is still open until **March 15th, 2025**. Attached are the class descriptions and copy of the registration form. Please send your completed registration form to Ruth Anderson, [District2news@gmail.com](mailto:District2news@gmail.com).

2025 District 2 Photo Contest Registration Form
Name:
Society Name:
Email Address:
Phone Number:

## 7. D2 YOUNG GARDENERS GRANT



Just a reminder that the 2025 Young Gardeners Grant Program is open for registration. The deadline for registration is June 1st, 2025. The registration form is attached and completed forms can be sent to Ruth at [district2news@gmail.com](mailto:district2news@gmail.com)

Photo credit: G. MacQuarrie

## 8. DISTRICTS 1 AND 3 JUDGING SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENT

Please be advised that Districts 1 and 3 are planning an OHA Judging School in 2025. The offer to join has been extended to District 2 Society members. Please forward the attached letter to your members so they are aware of the opportunity. If interested, ask them to please send their name, email and phone number to either Penny Stewart at

[pssloves2garden@gmail.com](mailto:pssloves2garden@gmail.com) or Lezlie Miller at [lezliemiller.55@gmail.com](mailto:lezliemiller.55@gmail.com). Once logistics have been arranged, more information will follow.

## 9. D2 BOARD NOMINATIONS

A Nomination Committee has been set up to find new people to come onto the Board to fill upcoming vacancies. If you are interested, please contact Anne Harbord, Chair, Nominating Committee at [anneclark.flowers@gmail.com](mailto:anneclark.flowers@gmail.com) no later than **March 15, 2025**.

We are seeking people with an interest in Assistant District Director positions, or Secretary. Job descriptions for these positions are below. Candidates should have a computer or laptop to be able to attend virtual Board meetings. The ability to use spreadsheets is also desirable. Night driving will also be required to attend Society Annual Meetings which occur between October and February. Come on-board and see all the exciting projects that are underway in our great District.

**Assistant District Director** (one for each River Basin - Mississippi, Rideau and Upper Ottawa) and Director-at-Large (any number) – approx. time required, 10-12 hours per month  
Your responsibility will be to assist the District Director in every way possible. Should the District Director be unable, for any reason, to preside at society or other meetings, you may be asked to take his/her place. Co-operation between Assistant Directors and other members of the Executive is most important for the smooth operation of the District.

- Attend District 2 meetings – Spring AGM Meeting, Summer Flower and Edibles Show and Fall Advisory Meeting.
- Attend Executive meetings when called to address District issues.
- Attend the Annual General Meetings for Societies and preside over the installation of the society's officers if the District 2 Director is unavailable.
- Attend society monthly meetings at least once a year.
- Provide assistance to societies in completion of annual reports by deadlines.
- Research and provide assistance to societies needing information regarding OHA Awards, District Awards, etc.
- Report to District Director on any District needs and organizational concerns.
- Member on the District Awards Committee to help decide District 2 Service Award.

**Secretary** – approx. time required, 6-8 hours per month

- Keep an accurate record of the proceedings of all meetings, both of District 2 and the Executive.
- Prepare minutes of meetings and read minutes at the next meeting or send in advance.
- Receive and dispatch all correspondence of the District promptly and efficiently.
- Send all notices of meetings in advance.

- Co-operate with other members of the Executive at all times.
- Perform analysis of District information as requested.
- Provide minutes of the previous Fall Advisory at the AGM for review and comment. Revise if necessary and present at the next Fall Advisory.
- Provide minutes of the previous AGM at the current AGM for review and approval. Send out minutes one month in advance.
- Maintain updated list of all Societies with the main contacts (President, Secretary and Treasurer).
- Maintain a list of all Society AGM dates and locations.
- Update District 2 Brochure as required for use at major shows (Canada Blooms, CNE, etc.).
- Maintain “In Memoriam” information (from April 1 of previous year to March 31 of current year) and prepare niche with the information for the D2 AGM. Also complete the information in the D2 In Memoriam Book. Send information to the OHA Secretary by required deadline.
- Support the District Director as the need arises.
- Responsible for liaising with outgoing Secretary and incoming Secretary, re: transfer of knowledge including digital documents, forms, etc.
- Responsible for safe storage of all archival material for the District whether in digital or hardcopy form.

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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](mailto:district2news@gmail.com).