

OHA District 2
Three River Valleys News
March 2024 – Volume 11, Issue 2

1. Director's Message

Dear Members of District 2 Societies/Clubs,

I believe Spring is here in the Ottawa Valley. We have crocus and snowdrops blooming in the woods and in a few raised beds. Daffodils are pushing up their leaves. Lilacs trees are budding. The Red-Wing Blackbirds and Robins have returned and the mating calls of the Spring birds are in the air. Our pair of Mallards are back on the pond. We have even had some uncommon visitors this week, liked Ruffed Grouse, Song Sparrows and House Finch, along with over 100 goldfinches every day. Their songs in the air are amazing.

It is almost time to start planting seeds in our indoor greenhouses. Tomorrow I will plant eight Dahlias in pots and put them in my sunny dining room to get ready for planting at the end of May. Extra seeds have gone to Seedy Saturdays around the District. I hope to get to one this weekend. Reports are that several Societies have attracted 15 to 22 new members at these events.

Our next big event in the District is the Annual General Meeting being hosted in Perth on Saturday, May 4th. Full details of the agenda and other material will be sent shortly. The big part of the AGM will be the approval of a new Constitution and By-laws for District 2. We have a requirement from the OHA to prepare these documents for approval by our District Societies. The final draft will be sent in the next few days for your review prior to the AGM.

This year will see me stepping down from the Director role. Being the District Director when we were also hosting the OHA Convention was a challenge but with the great volunteers within District 2, we put on a great show. It is time for a new person to come on board and provide direction for the District. We do have one candidate at the moment. David Archer is heading up a concerted effort to obtain nominees for all open positions. Please see article ?? for full details of the open positions.

The March winds were howling yesterday and the April Showers will soon be greening up the fields. Get your inside work done now, as soon we will be outdoors enjoying planning and planting our 2024 gardens.

Anne Harbord

OHA Director, District 2

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Director’s Message
2. Upcoming Events Calendar
3. District 2 AGM - May 4, 2024 Perth
4. D2 Constitution. and By-Laws
5. D2 Board Nominations – Due March 20
6. Earth Day Celebrations - April 22, 2024 in Eganville
7. OHA Convention and Competitions - July 12 - 14, 2024
8. D2 Summer Flower and Edibles Show – Aug 17, 2024 in Almonte
9. Canadensis Fall Celebration - Sept. 28, 2024

2.UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

FEB	MARCH	APR	MAY	JUNE
<u>Feb 8 and 22:</u> CGO Judges’ Council Webinars	<u>Mar 1:</u> Deadline OHA <i>Trillium</i> magazine submission	<u>Apr 30:</u> Deadline Young Gardeners Grant Application	<u>May 1:</u> Deadline to enter OHA Photo Competition	<u>June 1:</u> Deadline OHA <i>Trillium</i> magazine submission
<u>Feb 16-19:</u> Great Backyard Bird Count	- <u>Mar 15:</u> Deadline for D2 Photo Competition		<u>May 1:</u> Deadline to enter OHA Publications Competition	- <u>June 1:</u> Deadline to enter OHA Arts Competition
<u>Feb 28:</u> Deadline for many OHA Awards and Grants	<u>Mar 20:</u> Deadline for Nominations for the D2 Board		<u>May 4:</u> D2 AGM, Perth & District	- JULY <u>July 12-14</u> OHA Convention Guelph
				AUGUST <u>Aug 17:</u> District 2

				Flower & Edibles Show, Almonte & District FALL Advisory Council, Petawawa, Date - TBD SEPT Sept 28 - Fall Celebration. Experimental Farm Canadensis OCTOBER Oct 19: Deadline Society Constitution & Bylaws to OMAFRA
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3.D2 AGM - May 4, 2024 Perth

The Perth and District Horticultural Society will host the District 2 AGM in Perth on Saturday, May 4, 2024 at Glad Tidings Church on Wayside Drive. The keynote speaker will be Lorraine Johnston, author of several books on Gardening. Her talk will focus on Native Plants and Shrubs.

The day will include the results of the D2 Photography Competition, a raffle, lunch, local vendors and door prizes. The new D2 Constitution and Bylaws will be reviewed ready for approval. The new D2 Board will be elected and installed. The new OHA fundraiser with Dubois Agrinovation will be presented by one of their representatives.

There will be lots for everyone to see and hear. A full package is being finalized at the moment. Please share this date with your members and the information when it arrives shortly. We are looking forward to seeing many members from across the District.

4. D2 Constitution and Bylaws

Since December, a Committee of Volunteers has been examining the new Provincial Act that covers Non-Profits re: Constitution and By-law updates. We are sending out a final draft in the next few days for your review and comments prior to the D2

AGM. Please ensure that you are also updating your Society/Club Constitution and By-laws to have them approved no later than Oct. 19, 2024.

5. D2 Board Nominations due March 20, 2024

Nominations for the D2 Board are due on March 20. We currently have a candidate for Director and one for Secretary.

David Archer, ADD for Rideau River Valley Basin, is co-ordinating getting nominations from District Societies. Please contact him at dai4morrow@gmail.com or by phone at

We still need candidates for the following positions:
Assistant District Director (ADD), Upper Ottawa Valley River Basin
Assistant District Director, Rideau Valley River Basin
Assistant District Director-at-Large
Treasurer

Please consider standing for these District 2 positions or nominating someone from your Society. Please note that ADDs for a specific River Valley Basin should reside in that area.

6. Earth Day - Eganville April 22, 2024

A very special event will happen in Eganville for Earth Day at the Legion on Monday, April 22, 2024.

Don't miss Jane's Birthday party

April 3rd, 2024 is Dr. Jane Goodall's 90th birthday and she is still working.

We wanted to use this opportunity to celebrate her contributions to science, society and the environment.

Dr. Jane Goodall, as UN PEACE AMBASSADOR has been the recipient of numerous honours, most recently the 2022 [Stephen Hawking](#) Medal for Science Communication. She advocates for women in science and conservation while also inspiring kids to learn more about green careers, and how they can protect the planet. Jane Goodall's latest book, 'The Book of Hope: A Survival Guide for Trying Times' aims to inspire youth to be more hopeful about fighting the climate crisis. What better way to celebrate a celebrated environmentalist, then to celebrate her birthday on Earth Day.

Our Program

This year **The Eganville and Area Horticultural Society's is moving our monthly meeting one week later to celebrate Earth Day, April 22, 2024.**

We have a wonderful program shaping up with a special twist this year.

Dr. Jane Goodall will welcome the audience, virtually, officially opening our Earth Day Meeting. As she speaks to us, Jane will appeal to those who tend the earth to organize and be her planters.

We are thrilled to host local environmental groups, projects, unique initiatives that have been moving us towards a more resilient society. They will be showcasing their ideas with, not only our membership, but the evening will be free for everyone, so come to learn from us and enjoy the benefits of this community fellowship.

Mark the date:

APRIL 22nd , Monday, EARTH DAY

From 6:30 to 9:00pm

At the Eganville Legion, [62 Veterans Way](#)

THERE WILL BE CAKE

More information will be sent to all Societies in early April.

7. OHA Convention and Competitions - Guelph July 12-14, 2024

Only four months until the OHA Convention begins in Guelph. Our hosts, District 7 and 8, have great speakers and tours planned. If you want to stay in the Convention Hotel, book now and let them know you are with the Convention to obtain the \$159/night rate.

The schedule for Competitions can be found at <https://gardenontario.org/convention/>. The deadline for entries for Photography and Publications is May 1st.

If you have never been, it is well worth the experience.

8. Summer Flower Show Almonte August 17, 2024

Mark the date in your calendars. This is going to be a wonderful day.

If you are interested in entering the Design section of the show, you must pre-register. The schedule is on the District 2 web page and was sent with the last newsletter.

9. National Tree Day - September 25, 2024

In Canada, trees have two National Days - National Hug a Tree Day on May 16 and National Tree Day, which is always held on the Wednesday of National Forest Week. This year, National Forest Week is September 22-28 and National Tree Day is September 25, 2024.

We will look at doing an event as a District (more on this later) and would like to hear if you have anything planned for your Society in your Community.

In 2022, we planted a Bur Oak to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II. Last year, we participated in the Fall Celebration with Canadensis at the Experimental Farm.

Let's see what we can think up for 2024.

10. Canadensis Fall Celebration September 28, 2024

Canadensis will be holding another Fall Celebration at the Experimental Farm on Saturday, Sept. 28, 2024. We will have a tent for the OHA and D2. All Societies will be invited to participate. Nepean HS had a tent last year and enjoyed meeting many gardeners and potential members for their Society. As plans are finalized, I will share information with you in this newsletter and on our District 2 Gardeners Facebook page.

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 CommunicationsDistrict2@outlook.com