

District 6 Annual General meeting, April 27, 2019

Hosted by the Burlington Horticultural Society on the occasion of their 100th anniversary.

East Plains United Church, 375 Plains Rd, East, Burlington, ON

Attendance - 104

1. Kate Sault, President of the Burlington Hort. Society (BHS), called the meeting to order at 9:15 am. She welcomed delegates, and introduced the head table:

District 6 Director - Catherine McGill

District 16 Director - Linda Forester

District 6 Secretary - Marie Decker

District 6 Treasurer - Barbara Bell

2. Kate welcomed the mayor of Burlington Marianne Meed Ward who brought greetings from the City of Burlington, expressed her appreciation for the close association of the city and the BHS. She noted that the BHS used to be an integral part of the Burlington City parks Department. She thanked the society for their input into city gardens, educational input to the citizens, providing a resource to the Burlington Public Library, and for the thousands of volunteer hours.

3. Mayor Meed read a proclamation to the Burlington Horticultural Society, stating that since their inception in 1919 the society has been responsible for beautifying street corners, helping at the city nursery, providing gardening information, donating time and plantings to city parks, for functioning as part of the Parks Board, for the continuing work in Maple Park, Central Park, other ongoing and for their continued dedication and service to the city. Mayor Meed declared April 27, 2019 as the Burlington Horticultural Society 100th Anniversary Day. (Pictures were taken to commemorate the occasion.)

4. Chair taken over by Catherine McGill who declared the District 6 Annual General Meeting open. She welcomed the members and noted that every society was represented.

She presented two anniversary awards:

Kate Sault, Burlington, 100 years

Helen Brulé Besner, Winona, 90 years

5. Catherine invited Linda Forester, District 16 Director from Orillia. to address the meeting.

Linda brought the following news from the OHA on behalf of OHA President, Katharine Smyth:

- The OHA Board unanimously passed the new Vision Statement, Mission Statement and Goals at the spring board meeting.

Vision: Inspire Ontarians to promote and inspire gardening.

Mission: The OHA is a volunteer, charitable organization that encourages interest in gardening and related issues with horticultural societies and like-minded organizations, by providing leadership and education.

Goals:

- Provide recognition, grants and wards throughout Ontario.
 - Develop and support programs for all ages encouraging gardening, community beautification, environmental enhancement and conservation.
 - Provide resources for horticultural societies.
 - Encourage the development of new horticultural societies.
- The new gardenontario Website launched April 27, 2019. Webmaster, April Davies sent out information to all societies in November 2018. The new website is a living site and changes will occur on an on-going basis. It is beautiful and user-friendly. If you have any problems, contact April at: webmaster@gardenontario.org
 - The OHA is opening an OHA store on Vista print. There will be items of apparel available with the gardenontario logo. More details to follow.
 - The "General Guidelines for Societies" pamphlet was updated and printed. Cat handed one of these to each District 6 ADD.
 - The Society Date Anniversary Committee brought the following recommendation to the Board (passed by the OHA Board) "The anniversary dates will be the founding date used in the 2019 OHA Annual Information Report. If there is no information available, there is an appeal process in place that can be brought forward to the OHA Officers. Historian, Malcolm Geast, will be contacted for any information that is available to him.
 - Harassment Policy
A harassment policy has been adopted by one OHA society. This policy will be sent to societies to use as an example. It was strongly suggested that a "code of Conduct", which includes harassment, be part of every society's Constitution and By-laws.
 - Two new OHA Committees
 - Youth Fund project and Youth Committee
 - Communications Committee (includes publicity, social media, publications and website.)
 - Highway of Hero's Program is on-going in its request for support from the OHA and its' societies.
 - Convention 2019:
Registration open, schedules up, speakers and tours confirmed, comp on website

6. Minutes of AGM 2018 were presented and moved approved by Marie Decker, (Oakville), seconded by Shirley Steedman, (St. George) and carried.

7. Treasurer - Barb Bell reminded the members that just-retired treasurer, Bob Wilt had presented the 2018-year budget at the Spring Breakfast Meeting. Any questions should be relayed to Bob Wilt. Barb Bell will be

assuming the position as interim District 6 treasurer. Report moved approved by Barb (Lynden) - seconded by Helene Brulé Besner (Winona), carried.

8. The 2019 District 6 Board Induction.

The following board members were installed by Linda Forester.

Catherine McGill - District Director

Marie Decker - Secretary

Barb Bell - Treasurer

ADD's: Marie Decker, Barb Bell, Sandi Remedios, Marian Heil, Elizabeth Chapple, and Lianne Krane. Jennifer Blunt.

Outgoing ADD's, Mel Osborne, Louise Hammond, were thanked for their service and presented with a gift bag.

9. District 6 Event Hosts:

2019

Fall Meeting - Oakville, Sept 14

Fall Dinner - Acton, Nov. 23

2020

Spring Meeting - Bronte

AGM - Georgetown, May 2

Fall meeting - Simcoe

Fall Dinner - Haldimand

2021 A clip board was passed with the following results:

Spring meeting - Flamborough

AGM - host still needed

Fall meeting - Stoney Creek

Fall Dinner - Delhi, Port Dover and Woodhouse, Simcoe, Waterford (Norfolk societies)

10. Catherine requested that every society visit the new OHA website and get one person sign in and register to manage the site on behalf of their society. Website - this will require a log id (administrator). To return to the home page from anywhere on the site to home - click the flower. For now; there will be one administrator per. Once in - it is easy. Cat demonstrated use of the site at the meeting.

11. Gardenontario week will now become Gardenontario Summer. This will allow for more postings from societies. Postings can be sent in directly to OHA or sent, updated and managed by the society administrator. Gardening is a free webpage that goes out across the province; sends out weekly events.

12. OJES - delayed, until April due to an emergency with the printer. It is still not available. Whenever the books are ready Catherine will pick them up in Cambridge and get to societies as soon as possible. The delay has nothing to do with the OHA but to an issue with the printer.

For current judging and entering of flower shows this will not be an issue as all currently printed schedules used and named the 2003 version of OJES as the resource for the schedule.

12. Cannabis is legal, societies can hire speakers. Amount to grow is limited to three plants. It is important to add a note to all flower show schedules that cannabis cannot be shown as an exhibit in any section of the show, because, while it is legal to grow cannabis, it is illegal to transport any size of plant unless you are a licensed vendor.

13. OHA awards are under used. Read the awards booklet, apply to or request more information from Sharlene Desjardins, awards@gardenontario.org, grants have deadlines, suggested that all societies assign a couple of people to go over the awards book every January and check what awards their society might qualify for.

14. Be welcoming if you want to increase your membership. Appoint a welcome person to greet persons at the door.

15. For Men - create a men's section or award in a flower show, encourage more men to join, make up a side group to set-up, put away and publicly recognize what they do. Make them feel included, acknowledge what they do, have a Father's Day competition, preceded by a demo. Create a "Men's Committee. "

16. Abuse insurance - The \$25 paid for coverage will be credited back as this insurance will now be included in general insurance. Remember to get police checks yearly for those working with youth or at-risk persons.

17. Convention proxies - Do not choose specific voting requests on proxies as this makes the votes unusable if the vote changes in any way. Sign them over to a club member you know is going, to your ADD or DD but not to the OHA secretary (for the same reason as stated above.)

Convention July 19-21, 2019, in Windsor.

Some competition categories can be sent in by mail - May 1 deadlines.

Flower Show - schedule is out. Catherine encouraged everyone who could to go to convention! Friday night attire will be zoom suits and bootleggers. D6 hopes to have a social time in a room at convention. Bring your travel mug, save on paper cups.

Convention 2020 will be held in London July 17-19.

18. The Ontario society with highest percentage of growth based on membership of last year: Ancaster - 99.39% up from 1961. Award handed to Susan Suter on behalf of Ancaster HS.

19. Volunteer hours - 41,303 hours in 2018 - still not likely all there. Remember to count and record volunteer hours. The continued government grant depends on it. The OHA volunteer sheet is updated every three months. Use categories rather than "other".

History of OMAFRA grants: Started 1992. OMAFRA grants were lost in 1990 but returned., after it could be shown what the Value of volunteer hours was to the government - \$19, 000. A second attempt to remove the grants was thwarted in 1999 by counting the dollar value of the thousands of volunteer hours. Historian Malcolm Geist.

Example of volunteer hours amassed - St. George largest Lily Garden in Canada - 1000 volunteer hours were recorded at a value of \$116, 000 per year.

OHA 500, 000 economic dollars.

20. The 2018 District Service Award was presented to Catherine McGill by Sharon Slack Haldimand President, and members of the Haldimand Horticultural Society.

Speaker: Dr David Galbraith RBG, History of OHA, Collections

If you think you have information suitable to be kept in the archives - contact David

Speaker: Claudette Sims, Master Gardeners of Halton

The Future of Gardening: "The ever-increasing threat of invasive plants and species extinction."