

CODE OF CONDUCT

Approved by the Board November 12, 2019

Board members, volunteers and members of the Belle River and District Horticultural Society (hereafter referred to as the BRDHS), and by their affiliation with BRDHS are members of the Ontario Horticultural Association (hereafter referred to as the OHA). As such, they are required to conduct themselves in a professional, respectful and meaningful manner. Depending on the level of involvement with the BRDHS and by extension the OHA, differing degrees of duties are expected of each group of individuals.

BOARD MEMBERS

As a Board Member of the BRDHS, I will:

1. Support the objectives of the BRDHS and OHA.
2. Serve with the overall best interests of the BRDHS and OHA.
3. Bring credibility and good will to the BRDHS and OHA.
4. Respect the principles of due process, fair play and confidentiality.
5. Ensure that the Board and organization does not permit any discriminatory activities in any form and that respect for all is a guiding principle.
6. Respect and give fair consideration to diverse and opposing viewpoints. Then support, in a positive manner, all discussions and actions taken by the Board, when duly voted upon, and passed with quorum, even when I am in a minority position on such decisions and actions.
7. Attend meetings consistently, demonstrate due diligence and dedication in preparation for such meetings, and participate fully in order to fulfill my fiduciary duties to BRDHS and OHA.
8. Demonstrate good faith, prudent judgment, honesty, transparency and openness in my activities on behalf of BRDHS and the OHA.
9. Ensure that the financial affairs of the BRDHS are conducted in a responsible and transparent manner with due regard for all fiduciary responsibilities.
10. Avoid real and perceived conflicts of interest between my position as a Board member and my personal/professional life.
11. Adhere to the Constitution and By-Laws and the Policies and Procedures approved by the Board.
12. Accept responsibility and share power in order to work as a productive, cooperating member of the Board.
13. Encourage a positive environment in which individual contributions are encouraged and valued.
14. Be accountable to OMFRA, District 11, and the OHA for competent, conscientious and effective accomplishment of any of the above noted organizations obligations.
15. Be responsive to the BRDHS membership and the Town of Lakeshore community regarding plans, projects, and initiatives undertaken by the Board, including, when necessary, timing plans and financial updates.
16. Not accept payment nor benefit financially through BRDHS or OHA involvement, save for the reimbursement of out of pocket expenses or other payments as approved by the Board.
17. Refrain from trying to influence other board members outside of board meetings that might have the effect of creating factions and limit free and open discussion.
18. Not act in any manner which may be perceived as, or is actually, harassment or abuse.

VOLUNTEERS and MEMBERS of BRDHS

As a member of BRDHS, I will:

1. Refrain from trying to influence board members outside of board meetings that might have the effect of creating factions, sway action from properly executed Board decisions and limit free and open discussion.
2. Not act in any manner which may be perceived as, or is actually, harassment or abuse.
3. Participate in and support a positive environment in which individual contributions are encouraged and valued.
4. Bring credibility and good will to the BRDHS and OHA.
5. Respect the principles of due process, fair play and confidentiality.
6. Ensure that I do not partake in any discriminatory activities in any form and that I conduct myself in a respectful manner towards fellow members, volunteers and Board members.
7. To the best of my ability support the initiatives of the Board and when applicable, honour any volunteer commitments I undertake.
8. When serving as a member of a BRDHS Committee, respect the direction and decisions of the Chair of the Committee.
9. Respect rules around refunds for activities when approved by the Board and properly advertised.
10. Conform to any decisions made by the Judges, Board Members or Committee Chairs/Committee Members around Flower Show Submissions, Prizes, Deadlines or other such events.
11. Honour any financial obligations that I have entered into with BRDHS including but not limited to the purchase of plant sale items, event tickets, membership dues, etc.
12. Treat any property of BRDHS with respect and use it/them in an appropriate and safe manner for properly sanctioned BRDHS events.
13. Not speak on behalf of or conduct business on behalf of the Board of BRDHS without the express permission of the Board.

Any Board Member, Volunteer or member of the BRDHS who disregards any part of this Code of Conduct may be asked to leave the meeting or function they are attending and may have their membership with the BRDHS revoked or be removed from the Board of Directors, if applicable.