

## Pumpkin Faces, Floral Bouquets, and Native Plants

Ontario Horticulture Association District 7 Director Kathy Bouma welcomed 100 members and guests to the District 7 fall meeting held Saturday, October 26 at the Royal Canadian Legion in Shelburne. The room was decorated with a Hallowe'en theme.

Shelburne & District Horticultural Society president Wayne Hannon was pleased to host the event with the assistance of the Grand Valley Horticultural Society. He introduced Dufferin County Warden Darren White who looks for inspiration from the Society members who take such pride in their homes and the community. He appreciated the singing of O'Canada to begin the meeting.

Kathy Bouma read a report from OHA president Katharine Smyth noting the financial review, a plan to entice members, dues, donations, new mission and goals, website, upcoming fundraiser, membership ideas, and the July 2020 convention in London.

Kathy Bouma is hoping Societies will submit their year-end reports in a timely fashion, think of people who could help on the District 7 Board, and take a look at grants available through the OHA.

Guest speakers Viki Reynolds and Ian Payne of Not So Hollow Farm listed the ten top reasons to plant native plants in your garden including they produce food for pollinators and wildlife, adapt and thrive in local conditions, and are essential for a healthy planet.

International Show Judge Roland Craig remarked that an excellent job was done by all who entered the competitions. Jane McDonald announced there were 32 floral designs and 24 horticultural entries. Jean Yenssen won the Judge's Choice award. Other winners were Irma Baumlisberger, Debbie Williams, Dorelene Anderson, Jean Gordon, and Michelle Goff. She hoped everyone would enter at least one item for the Spring annual meeting.

Rhonda Besser, Rose Lyon, and their helpers served a hearty delicious luncheon of lasagna, Caesar salad, and garlic bread with generous portions of pie.

Guest speaker Amber Swidersky of Petals Flowers Co. shared some interesting tips on how to create a bouquet of flowers from your own garden to bring happiness into your home. She taped a grid pattern to the top of a clear vase and positioned greenery to overlap around the edge, put centre

greens facing each other, added a focal flower, then smaller flowers, added intrigue with twisty willow, and a small gourde for a seasonal effect.

Wayne Hannon shared a workshop idea and his recipe for creating stepping stones and turning stuffed toys into statuary for your gardens. A lady shared tips on how to spray paint hydrangeas. Society prizes and door prize winners were chosen before adjourning for the day.

The annual meeting will be held Saturday, April 18 hosted by the Orangeville & District Horticultural Society.