

District 6 Fall Breakfast Meeting, Sept, 14, 2019

Hosted by The Oakville Horticultural Society

Attendance - 74

1. 9:00 am Welcome, Paula Clayton and Wendy Funk-Death introduced themselves as the OHS Co-presidents and thanked delegates for attending the breakfast meeting and the OHS members for setting-up and providing refreshments.

Paula introduced Grace Moores, a member of the Milton and District Horticultural Society, and her new company sales table "Jolly Bark". A percentage of her sales of garden-themed tee shirts, tote bags and coffee mugs will be given to District 6 as a thank-you for hosting her fund-raiser.

Paula announced that the OHS is holding a raffle to raise funds, a garden-themed original painting, a handmade raffia tote and a hand crafted plant pot are offered as prizes.

Paula and Wendy informed the meeting that the OHS had taken up Cat's challenge to the District societies to "plant a tree each year" A Tulip tree (*Tulipifera liriodendron*) will be planted in the St. Simon's church yard following the meeting. All were invited to attend.

Paula introduced the head table:

District Director, Catherine McGill,

District Secretary, Marie Decker

District Treasurer. Barbara Bell

The chair was handed over to Cat McGill, District Director, and the business meeting started at 9:12 am with greetings from Cat to the District members.

2. Minutes

Moved by Barry Catley (Bronte), seconded by Catherine Kavassalis (Oakville) the minutes of the previous District Breakfast meeting, held February 23, 2019 in Flamborough, were moved accepted as presented with the amendment that the Flamborough Horticultural Society had not offered to host the 2020 Spring Breakfast meeting. Carried

3. Financial Report

Treasurer Barbara Bell presented the budget and took questions. She reported that our cash was down due to the lack of a substantial fund-raiser this year. She also explained how the expenses and receipts from the 2019 AGM had been recorded. Please see the budget appended to the end of these minutes for details. The AGM turned a profit of \$57 in 2019. The District is significantly under budget currently as the fall dinner costs and Add mileage claims have not yet been submitted. A motion was made by Lianne Krane (Milton) to accept the budget as presented. Carried. Details are available from Barbara. See the budget appended to the end of the minutes.

4. Upcoming Meeting Dates

2019

- Fall Dinner - Nov. 23, Acton. Tickets - \$30, send only one cheque per society, deadline - Nov. 9.

2020

- Spring Breakfast meeting - Feb. 22, Bronte

- Spring AGM and Flower Show - April 18, Gellert Centre, Georgetown
- Fall Breakfast meeting - Sept. 19, Simcoe
- Fall Dinner - Nov. 14, Haldimand

2021

- Spring Breakfast meeting - Port Dover & Woodhouse
- Spring AGM and Flower Show - Milton
- Fall Breakfast meeting - Stoney Creek
- Fall Dinner - The Norfolk Societies of Waterdown, Simcoe, Port Dover and Delhi.

5. District 6 Event Guidelines:

The District Executive, with the help of Marian Heil's writing and organizational skills, has updated and clarified District Guidelines (including financial guidelines) for hosting the:

- Spring and Fall Breakfast Meetings,
- Spring Annual General Meeting and Flower Show and
- District Fall Dinner.

These guidelines will be made available on the District 6 Web site, are available from any district executive member and will be sent to every Society signed up for hosting a future event for the District.

Job descriptions have been up-dated for:

- District Director,
- Assistant District Directors,
- District Treasurer and
- District Secretary.

These job descriptions are also available from the executive and Barb is checking to learn if post they can be housed on the District website as well. The district Constitution and By-Laws are already posted on the web site as are the minutes from the last appropriate meeting.

6. Gardenontario Website

OHA webmaster, April Davies, has been correcting mistakes and glitches on the new site. She would like the societies to change and add new material often. Check the site regularly as this improves the site rating.

7. Proposed Fund-raiser:

Cat is recommending that ADD's have a magnetic sign, with the District website advertised, to put on their cars. This will generate interest in who the OHA is and what they do for their communities.

8. Invasive Species group - The district executive passed a motion to donate \$200 to help this small group print the "Invasive Species Booklet".

This motion was presented to the meeting by Catherine McGill, seconded by Veronica Heiderich (Oakville) and passed by the general membership.

Phragmites australis subsp. americanus, (also known as Phragmites communis, Arundo phragmites, Phragmites vulgaris) This noxious reed wipes out all other plant material and destroys animal habitat literally killing the landscape. The habitat becomes a dead zone. Thousands of seeds per reed tassel are spread around the landscape. The plant cannot be pulled out successfully as this causes the roots to

spread, it can be sprayed, burned off or cut down and removed before it produces seed. It is the number 1 most destructive, noxious reed (weed) in North America. Port Dover has undergone a multi-million dollar spray and removal program. Shirley Steedman reports that a local wildlife refuge has burned off all Phragmites and native plants are already returning to the landscape.. **WHAT ARE YOU AND YOUR SOCIETY DOING?** All horticultural society members are requested to write to their council members, mayors, and parliamentary representatives to demand that action be taken to control and destroy this reed.

Anne Eadie (Milton) requested that a form letter be written by the District that societies can adapt for their own local use. Cat asked Marie Decker, District 6 secretary, to formulate the letter. Marie will research the subject looking at whom (such as Ducks Unlimited, Hunters and Anglers Assoc. etc.) and how removals have successfully been accomplished, write the form letter, have it approved by the District Director, and sent to the societies for their use.

9. OHA 114th Annual Convention

The 2020 Convention will be hosted by District 10 in London, on July 17-19, 2020 at the Lamplighter Inn & Conference Centre, 591 Wellington Rd., London ON. Plan to attend.

ADD's attending Convention

It is recommended that all ADD's and Executive members attend the OHA convention.

Some societies support their delegates, some do not. This varies widely from society to society.

Barb Bell (Lynden) of the District executive made the following motion at the last executive meeting:

"District 6 will provide a subsidy for travel to ADD 's only, who attend Convention and act as a District ambassador. Members attending convention who are subsidized are obligated to report back to their society on OHA business either in person or in the society newsletter. The amount of the subsidy will be determined on a year by year basis depending on the financial health of the District." Seconded by Liz Chapple (Stoney Creek). Carried. For the year 2019 it was decided by the executive that a sum of \$200 would be divided evenly among those ADD"s who attended the 2019 convention. This motion was put to the assembled membership and passed.

Youth Groups - Catherine McGill is now in charge of OHA youth groups and will be encouraging groups in District 6 to participate in the youth competitions and activities.

This competition does not require the youth to attend the convention.

Currently District 6 has youth groups in Oakville and St. George. Check out the activities for the 2020 convention on line at gardenontario.org under "Convention"

10. OHA Awards awarded to District 6 at the 2019 Convention are:

- Award of Merit- Barbara Smith, Milton
- Honour Roll - Bob Wilt, Ancaster
- Adult Society Competition Award at Convention, A \$100 award. - Oakville Horticultural Society
- Community Improvement Award - Len Lee, Milton
- Tree Grant - Milton

Cat has asked every District 6 society to apply for at least one award each year. Applications must be in by February so pick a likely candidate (or more than one) and start writing your application now.

- a) Some award applications should be approved by your local society executive and sent directly to the OHA Awards Committee (Silver Medal Award, Trillium/Silver Fir Award, Award of Merit, Honour Roll Award),
- b) Others, such as The District Service Award, Community Service Award, Environmental Award and the District Appreciation Award should be completed and sent **to your District Director**.
- c) Still others are awarded and presented by your own local society (Horticultural Service Certificate, Judging and Exhibiting Service Certificate, Life Membership Award and Society President's Award.)

Cat has given a copy of the current awards booklet to every District 6 society. A new booklet will soon be out and also available on the gardenonatrio website. It will include a new youth grant. Look at all the awards and complete an application. Include lots of information in your applications.

OHA Grants are much underutilized. Apply for a Seedy Saturday/Sunday Grant, Special Projects Grant, Community Garden Grant, Tree Grant, Pollinator Project Grant or a Youth Help Program Grant. This grant money is up for the asking, apply often! Only 4 of 10 Pollinator Grants were awarded in 2019. The Canadian Wildlife Federation designates gardens as "*Wildlife Friendly*" and is trying to track all such gardens.

The Province of Ontario Volunteer Awards are available yearly. Apply on line.

11. District 6 Constitution and By-Laws

The District Executive reviewed the District Constitution and By-Laws and have recommended some changes to the By-Laws. These changes will be brought before District 6 members at the 2020 AGM for a vote. In the new year every society will receive copies of these proposed changes, and the rationale for the changes. The societies are expected to take these proposed changes to their local society meetings in January and February, 2020; discuss the proposed changes and come to the 2020 AGM prepared to vote on them.

12. Volunteer Hours

OHA volunteer hours last year totaled 49,9287.20.

To make collection of volunteer hours easier and more accurate, the OHA has the following suggestions:

- have each committee keep a form or an on-line record of hours that can be updated monthly or every second month.
- a template can be used to create the form.
- this will make collection of volunteer hours easier and more accurate.
- these volunteer hours are required when the societies complete their year-end reports for the OHA and for the OMAFRA report. These numbers must be the same in both reports.

13. OHA District Boundaries Clarified

As of the 2019 OHA Convention resolutions, Haldimand is now officially included in District 6.

Although the physical boundaries have not changed, our part of Haldimand used to be included in the written description for District 9. As of 2019 Haldimand Wards 1, 2, 3 and 4 are included in District 6, while Haldimand Wards 5 and 6 are included in District 9. This motion passed, in part due to the successful collection of almost all proxy votes in District 6 (the highest percentage in all OHA Districts.)

Catherine will propose a new form of collecting proxies to the OHA Board at their October meeting. The new idea involves the District Director acquiring written permission from societies to allow her or him to vote the proxies for their Society if that society does not attend the convention.

14. New District ADD's and/or a Treasurer needed

Bob Wilt and Jenny Blunt are retiring. Thank-you from District 6 for their service.

Two new ADD's are needed. While the District will accept ADD's from any society Cat noted that we are especially short of ADD's from the western part of our district. As the workload is too heavy to be both an ADD and the Treasurer, Barb Bell feels she can competently do only one of these two jobs at one time so, if anyone would like to take on the treasurer role please let Cat know.

Bob Wilt, Ancaster, took time to describe the role of ADD as he experienced it. Lianne Krane from Milton, added a few words. An ADD job description is available from The District Director, Secretary or the ADD's for anyone interested. Barb Bell is in the process of finding space to add the job descriptions to the District 6 web site where they can easily be accessed by members.

15. Facebook- 85% of persons have a page. This provides free advertising. You also can be part of Facebook

16. Tree Challenge

Cat repeated her "Tree Challenge" to every society in the District - *Plant a tree every year and let Cat know when, where and how many.* Cat would like to know how many trees District 6 plants each year so she can take this information to the OHA Board to challenge other Districts to do the same.

Suggestions:.

- approach the Township, County, or City Council for tree donations
- plant a tree for every member of your society who passes during the year.
- include trees in the plant sale. The City of Hamilton has donated trees that can be sold and planted. Perhaps other cities and towns will as well. Ask.
- 1000 trees - It is financially better for a developer to buy 1000 trees instead of 50 or so and give those unused to Horticultural Societies to sell. Contact developers and City Councils.
- Consider a separate sale for trees only.
- Winona held a tree sale at the Peach festival.

17. Society Potluck dinners and Holiday Get-togethers.

The time is just around the corner. This year invite the next door societies to bring two people to your event instead of just the presidents of those societies. You will learn how other societies do things, get to know them better and, perhaps, borrow some of their ideas and traditions to make them your own.

18. Ontario Judging and Exhibiting Standards (OJES)

The 2019 edition of OJES has been published and is available at \$10 per book from the District, from your societies or on-line at the OHA. All new flower show schedules should be written using the 2019 edition OJES. All flower shows will now be judged using OJES 2019. If your society needs any OHA

supplies, give Cat a list and payment before the October OHA Board Meeting. Cat can bring you back supplies and save you the shipping cost.

19. OHA Year-End Reports

Society year-end report forms will be available on the gardenontario website in early October with a user-friendly format. You must be a registered gardenontario user to access them. The reports must be completed digitally on line but they can be printed off to work on prior to submitting the completed forms digitally. **Emailed or mailed reports will not be acknowledged.**

20. Society Contact Information Collection Form

A form has been created by Marie Decker for use by every District 6 Society to update their executive contacts immediately they hold their new executive installations. This form will prevent the contact list from being out-of-date.

Each society was handed this contact list collection form at this meeting. All ADD's will bring this blank form to every society installation of executive officers that they attend.

Please fill these out at inductions/installations.

21. Speaker

Wendy Funk Death introduced Catherine Kavassalis, Information Technology Expert (Oakville), who walked the members through an interactive navigation and use of the new gardenontario website , including navigating the shopping site, VistaPrint. Cathy encouraged anyone who was experiencing difficulty to contact April Davies, the OHA webmaster at:

webmaster@gardenontario.org

April is approachable, easy to work with, and responds quickly. Cathy also recommended that everyone should navigate the web site often to get used to using it and to make use of it for gathering, posting, and sharing information across the Province.

Attendance 74.

22. Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.

23. Tree Planting

A Tulip Tree, (*Tulipa liriiodendron*) was planted after the meeting with lots of photo opportunities. These pictures will n be submitted to the District 6 Dirt and the OHA Trillium.

md/Sept 14/19

