



**District 7 Annual General Meeting
Wednesday, September 16, 2020
10:30 a.m. by Webex**

Kathy Bouma, District 7 Director began the meeting shortly after 10:35 am by welcoming and thanking the participating members who had registered and joined the first virtual District 7 AGM. A special welcome was made to the OHA President – Katharine Smyth. The Orangeville Horticultural Society was to have hosted the AGM in April 2020, but due to Covid-19 pandemic restrictions, the April meeting was cancelled and now rescheduled in September by Webex. Kathy reported that this is a year of many “Firsts” and a new format was required to present an AGM meeting. To simplify matters, she advised the participants, that when a motion was made - to vote only if one was against the motion. Also, the District 7 Board has predetermined who is making the motions and seconding them to make the procedure smoother. Any questions, were to be typed in the chat area.

Approval of the Agenda: A motion was made by Laurel Strachan and seconded by Connie Bienia. No one against the motion. Carried.

Roll Call: Arthur - 3, Clifford – 1, Elora/Salem – 4, Erin – 1, Fergus – 4, Grand Valley – 3, Guelph City – 3, Guelph Twshp – 2, Harriston – 3, Hillsburgh – 2, Moorefield – 2, Mount Forest -1, Orangeville – 5, Shelburne - 1
Guests – 2 Total 36

In Memoriam 2020: Frances Bouma read a poem to honour the members.

Arthur – Ian Turner, Clifford – Barb Harris, Marion Wylie, Gary Schaus, Ethel Whitehead, Gladys Zimmerman, Fergus – Joan McWilliam, Jim McCartney, Helen Barton, Arnetta Black, Chris Ecclestone, Guelph City – Halina Winn, Guelph Township – Kay Martin, Elwood Tosh, Harriston – Mildred Charters, Moorefield – Hendrik Timmerman, Ken Campbell, Mount Forest – Dorothy Reid, Orangeville – Betty Douglas (founding member), Charlie Hogben, Marie Welling, Shelburne – Helen Galbraith, Ann Kendrew, Cathy Brown
A bouquet of flowers was shown during a moment of silence of remembrance.

Approval of Minutes of April 13th 2019 AGM, in Mount Forest: A motion was made by Vic Palmer and seconded by Connie Di Pisa. Amendments made: the full Memoriam list was not in the printed minutes and a correction was made; Jude Dowling is from the Elora/Salem Society. No other errors or omissions. Carried.

Treasurer's Report: Kathy Bouma presented the report made by Treasurer, Debbie Williams. Society dues were based on 1591 members paying the fee of 50 cents each. There was great attendance and good raffle sales at both the 2019 meetings. After all income and expenses, a net profit of \$535. There is \$7,135 in bank account and a \$5000 in a GIC. The motion was made by Debbie Williams to accept the 2019 Financials, seconded by Julia Dimakos. No one against. Carried.

2020 Budget: A budget that was prepared originally in March prior to Covid-19 was presented. Although the budget is now totally irrelevant due to no meetings, therefore few expenses and only our collected Society dues as income, no changes will be made at this time. Debbie Williams made the motion to approve the budget, seconded by Laurel Strachan. No one against. Carried.

2020 Financial Reviewers: A motion to appoint Sandra McGarry and Karen Dowler as reviewers for the District 7 books for 2020 was made by Vic Palmer, seconded by Julia Dimakos. No one against. Carried.

Kathy introduced Katharine Smythe, President of the Ontario Horticultural Association who joined the AGM from her home. She commented that this meeting by Webex is a "First" for most and welcomed the opportunity to participate in joining the District 7 first virtual AGM.

Highlights from OHA President's Report: Due to the cancellation of meetings and the resulting decline of membership for 2020, OMAFRA has agreed to use the number of members reported for 2019 to process the upcoming grant applications. At this time, although the invoices for the OHA Society fees have been sent out, the OHA does not know what the insurance costs will be. She urged that all societies report any changes to the OHA secretary, Kelly Taylor. The Autumn edition of the Trillium Magazine will soon be published and she encouraged each society to share the wealth of information with their members. There are many reports from societies who have found ingenious ways of meeting during the pandemic. She reminded everyone to visit the Garden Ontario website, find a society near you and continue being involved with activities planned by other societies. She also urged each society to keep their website page updated as there are many new gardeners who are interested in joining a horticultural society. The website also offers many unique gift ideas such as

beeswax wraps and mesh care bags from the Garden Shop. OHA supplies, pins and certificates are also available and custom printed items can be ordered from Vistaprint.

District 7-8 will be now hosting the OHA Annual Convention in 2022. Hopefully, the Convention in London that was cancelled this year will take place in 2021. She concluded her report with wishes of staying safe and healthy.

Highlights from District 7 Director, Kathy Bouma's Report

She started her report by commenting how much everything has changed with the Covid-19 pandemic in all our communities as there has been no meetings, no speakers, no flower shows and no door prizes or raffle tables. She had attended at least one meeting from all 14 societies of District 7 as well as 8 Society AGMs during the past year (2019.) She commented that an Annual General Meeting is usually a summary of the previous year but this is now September 2020, this AGM is about activities that are Societies are able to do or not do this year.

Kathy stressed the importance of attending another Society's meeting as we can share and learn from the activities presented at their meetings. As a member of your own Horticultural Society, you are welcome to all Society meetings and she urged that each Society welcome visitors by introducing themselves and making the meeting a welcoming place.

Kathy announced that The Guelph Township Horticultural Society nominated Jane McDonald for a District Service Award which is for an individual who has given effective, long service to a Society or District for a minimum of 15 years in horticulture, exhibiting or judging. She has been involved in all aspects of the Guelph Township Horticultural Society and has served on the District 7 Board for many years, including 5 years as District Director. Jane McDonald was awarded the District Service Plaque at her workplace by Kathy Bouma, Sylvia Grant, Jean Gordon and Frances Bouma the previous week.

The Elora/Salem Horticultural Society celebrated their 170th Anniversary with a special commemoration ceremony. The Orangeville and District Horticultural Society had their 50th Anniversary which was to be celebrated at the April 2020 AGM. Both Societies have submitted articles to the Trillium and Kathy encouraged all members to visit the Garden Ontario website to view Society news and the abundant resources and information about gardening.

OHA Convention: July 15-17 2022: "The Heartland of Gardens Growing and Rivers Flowing"

District 7 along with District 8 will be hosting the 115th OHA Convention in 2022 since the 2020 Convention in London has been postponed until 2021. Planning stages will resume soon and Kathy reminded the members that their support and assistance would be required to make the Convention a success. Kathy thanked Laurel Strachan for designing the logo incorporating the motto: The Heartland of Gardens Growing and Rivers Flowing

District 7 Board News

The District Board is always looking for new members and this was a difficult year as no one was able to visit and talk to society members. Mildred Francis of Mount Forest has retired from the board and Kathy thanked her for her 5 years of service. Connie Bienia, President of The Hillsburgh Horticultural Society has now joined the board and Kathy welcomed her to her new position.

Kathy congratulated those societies who are continuing with activities such as plant sales, virtual meetings and outdoor gatherings. She concluded her report by thanking all of those who attended this virtual AGM and encouraged all to look to the future and to accept the changes due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Installation of District 7 Board, 2021

Katharine Smythe conducted the virtual installation of the District 7 Board

District Director: Kathy Bouma

Assistant Directors: Connie Bienia, Julia Dimakos, Connie Di Pisa, Vic Palmer, Jane McDonald, Laurel Strachan

Treasurer: Debbie Williams, **Secretary:** Frances Bouma

Questions from the Members:

Yearbooks: Some societies are publishing a new Yearbook for 2021, while others are using the 2020 version with the previously scheduled speakers and flower shows.

After the OHA Virtual Board meeting on the October 3-4 weekend, Kathy will have more information regarding the procedure for the installation of Society Boards. She will be sending out a report in regard to Society AGMs.

Kathy concluded the meeting by stating that this AGM was a positive experience using Webex. She invited the members to e-mail comments to her regarding the virtual meeting.

A motion was made to adjourn by Frances Bouma.