



# DISTRICT 15 NEWSLETTER

April, 2021.

## **DISTRICT 15 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

SATURDAY, MAY 15, 2021, 1:00 PM – via ZOOM

The District 15 Secretary, Lucia Rostirolla, has sent out an email to all society Presidents with information about Registration and the Publications Competition.

We are preparing a Power Point presentation which has previously been shown during our AGM lunch break. This year it will be part of the District Director's report. *Please send to Barb O'Malley, one photo of an activity that your society held or did in 2020, or 2019 if there is no photo for 2020.*

## **PUBLICATIONS COMPETITION**

This year we are having only one category, with two classes:

Newsletters – 10 page and under – emailed

Newsletters – 11 pages and over – emailed

The full schedule with the Rules and Judging Criteria is attached to this Newsletter, and was also sent with the email from the Secretary.

## **NEW BY-LAW**

At the AGM, a new By-Law will be proposed, which will allow the District to hold Virtual meetings.

*By-law – Section 1, C. All meetings may be held at an in-person venue or may be held via electronic means*

*provided such means allows all in attendance the ability to hear and also the opportunity and ability to have voice and to vote.*

## **DISTRICT 15 DUES**

At our first Zoom District Board meeting on Nov. 24, 2020, the board voted to reimburse societies for the 2021 District 15 dues. We hope that this will help the societies maintain their funds, so that they can continue to operate and contact their members.

Dorothy Wood, the District Treasurer, will be sending out Invoices to all societies for their records, but no payment is required.

## *IN MEMORIAM*

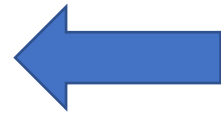
*There will be an In Memoriam at the Annual General Meeting. If any of your society members passed away in 2019 or 2020, please send their names to Lucia Rostirolla, the District Secretary.*

### **NOMINATIONS**

The District Board needs **one or two more Assistant Directors!**

We are a fun group – join us to continue the District activities!

Please contact Barb O'Malley, the District Director, if you're interested in participating in the larger OHA organization.



### **OMAFRA REPORTS FOR 2020**

All societies should have received the email from OMAFRA, with the information needed to complete the OMAFRA Annual Report for 2020, which is due by December 6, 2021. Please complete the form as soon as you can, if you have the information needed.

### **ONTARIO HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION**

#### **May 28, 2021 – OHA Special Meeting – 7:00 pm via Zoom**

This meeting has been called to approve a new By-Law which will allow the OHA to hold virtual meetings, as well as in-person meetings. An email has been sent out to all societies with Registration and Proxy information. Please try to have your society represented.

If your society did not receive the information, or if you have any questions, please contact Barb O'Malley, District Director.

#### **July 16 – 18, 2021 – OHA ANNUAL AGM & CONVENTION – Virtual/Online**

There will be competitions, speakers, vendors, etc. Please check the OHA website, [www.gardenontario.org](http://www.gardenontario.org), for more information as it becomes available. Just click on Conventions at the top of the home page.

It sounds very exciting, and we hope that many of you will attend.

## **News from Richmond Hill**

Richmond Hill has been having general meetings with guest speakers via Zoom since May 2020. We are fortunate to have David Biensch look after setting up and monitoring the Zoom meetings for us. At most of these meetings, we charge guests a nominal fee of \$5 to attend. Susan Biensch is our dedicated website guru. Through our Wild Apricot website platform, Susan sets up events both for members and non-members. During the early part of 2021, our Program team has held a 4-part vegetable growing webinar as well as a worm compost webinar, all free to both members and non-members. Through this, we have been able to gain 22 new members which is substantially more than we typically get in that time period. Our efforts of growing plants from cuttings have continued at a local high school's greenhouse. Although there are restrictions on how many of our members can be working in the greenhouse at a time, we have managed to have enough plants to offer for sale to our members on a rotating basis. A new Online Store feature has been added to our website, and members can make a purchase based on the photos of plants that have been posted. In the first 4 hours of the sale, we had 18 sales with a total value of more than \$1000. Curbside pickups of purchases are being made in the parking lot of a local church. Our members just have to pop open their trunks and a volunteer will put their purchases inside. We will also be having our first ever virtual flower show season with the first one scheduled to be judged for the May 4<sup>th</sup> general meeting.



### **Our Society's Online Store**

In lieu of a Plant Sale at the McConaghy Centre, we are selling plants and other gardening items, like worm compost, online, as available, and exclusively to our members - at least, initially. All items will be available for pickup at specified locations in Richmond Hill, on specified dates and times. Step-by-step instructions for Online ordering are illustrated in a handy **How To** document ([click here](#)).

**Sorry - no deliveries.**



[Aptenia cordifolia variegata \(Ice Plant\)](#)  
\$4.50



[Aptenia cordifolia variegata \(Ice Plant\) - Hanging Basket](#)  
\$8.00



[Beaverlodge Slicer Tomato](#)  
\$3.50



[Begonia](#)  
\$3.50



[Citronella \(Pelargonium 'Citrosa'\)](#)  
\$7.00



[Coleus - bright pink centre with green border](#)  
\$3.50

## NEWS FROM SWANSEA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The Swansea Horticultural Society has been adding “social time” to our virtual meetings by using the Zoom breakout room function, and so far this has been working very well. We have a break after the speaker has finished, and while the members are getting their own cookies and beverages of choice, the host sets up breakout rooms of a size that allows conversation. Zoom can assign people to groups, or the host can do it. We learned the hard way to schedule meetings with more than enough time to allow this, otherwise Zoom cuts off abruptly.



# Schomberg

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



IN SUPPORT OF THE HOPE IS GROWING CAMPAIGN . . .

This year we are encouraging the residents, businesses and community groups of King Township to plant

## YELLOW FOR HOPE

in their flower and vegetable gardens, their planters, their orchards, on their boulevards and in their public spaces.

For more information on the hope movement visit [www.hopeisgrowing.ca](http://www.hopeisgrowing.ca)



### PLANT YELLOW FOR A CHANCE TO WIN \$25 IN GIFT CARDS

FROM LOCAL BUSINESSES

BY SUBMITTING A PICTURE OF THE FOLLOWING TO

[SHSHOPEGARDEN@GMAIL.COM](mailto:SHSHOPEGARDEN@GMAIL.COM) BETWEEN MAY 1 & AUGUST 31, 2021:

- YELLOW VEGETABLES • YELLOW FRUIT • YELLOW NATIVE PLANTS
- YELLOW PERENNIAL & ANNUAL FLOWERS • YELLOW GARDENS OR PLANTERS • ETC.

*Include your name and address along with the common and scientific name of the plant.*

One entry per household. Contest is open to all King Township Residents.



**The Thornhill Garden & Horticultural Society continues to be a very active and sustainable group despite the continuing COVID-19 pandemic and the ever-changing Government and Public Health guidelines and restrictions in place since early 2020 and which remain in place in 2021.**

Our Board of Directors and the Chairpersons of our numerous committees continued to meet and plan activities and events which could take place during the pandemic. Our Hort members have greatly supported the Board of Directors and have actively participated in all of our scheduled events.

Communication with our members continues via our Newsletters, emails, our website and our Facebook page. We also resurrected our Telephone Committee in 2020. Each of our Board members has a list of members to call on a regular basis to see how they are coping during the pandemic and to advise them of upcoming activities. Our members greatly appreciate the personal calls from the Board members.

In 2020, our main activities included

- planting and maintaining all of our Civic Improvements' sites.
- mini plant sales in May and a scaled-down plant sale for members and guests in September.
- a virtual garden tour.
- expanding our Thornhill Front Garden Recognition programme which had 8 teams of members placing "Winner" signs at nearly 300 beautiful front gardens throughout the community.
- purchasing ZOOM and having 2 ZOOM meetings later in the year. Members of the Richmond Hill and the Markham Hort Societies were invited to attend these meetings free of charge.

Smaller fundraising efforts were held, including the sewing of face masks by one of our Board members who then sold them to members and the general public, with all of the proceeds (over \$1,100) donated to our Hort.

In 2021, we have continued to schedule several activities, including those noted above as well as

- a Virtual Seed Swap held earlier this year for Hort members and other participants of our Facebook page.
- 3 Virtual Photo Competitions (Spring, Summer, and Fall) for members only. Entries will be on our website, in the Members' only portal where winners will be determined by popular vote. Winners in each Class will be awarded small prizes.
- a Virtual Marketplace which was originally planned for later June but will now be active in mid to late May as our plant sale and yard sale cannot take place. Plants, garden-related items, and other donated articles will be sold from the Marketplace, with all proceeds going to our Hort.
- a Members Only Virtual Art Exhibition which will be on our Website in later June.
- monthly (January to November) ZOOM general meetings, each with a great Speaker and Presentation Topic.
- creating and printing Note Cards, some of which will feature photos from the winners of our Photo Competitions. The boxed cards will then be sold as a fundraiser to members and the general public.
- "Bring a Guest" to our May and July ZOOM meetings.

Sadly, several of our older and long-time members passed away, last year and earlier this year, due to pre-existing health issues.

On a positive note, we welcomed several new members to our Hort.

We all look forward to the time when we will be able to meet again in person.

Thanks to the continued support of all of our members, the OHA and OMAFRA, our Society remains strong and financially firm.

## **NOBLETON & KING CITY – 25 YEAR PINS**

### **25 YEARS SERVICE – KATHY BALL**

Kathy joined our Society in 1991. She had a small garden and wanted to expand it and learn from our Society. Her daughter joined the Club the following year and together they expanded their garden with the addition of many perennials. This encouraged them to both enter the Flower Shows. In 1994, Kathy's name was engraved on the Olive Nelson Cup. In 2007 her mother, Vera Richardson also joined our Society. Her son Dennis also joined in recent years and his help was much appreciated on the Set-Up Committee. This is what you call a "Family of Gardeners". Kathy continued learning, growing and showing specimens from her gardens and received the Nobleton Womens' Institute Cup in 2001. She also served in various capacities on the Board from 2008 to 2018. Kathy volunteered on the Meeting Set up, the Show Book and Flower Show Committees for many years. As Show Convenor she welcomed and guided new competitors to participate. Since I joined the Society, I remember Kathy overseeing Social. She always was quietly in the background setting up the refreshments and was quick at tidying up. In recognition for all her hard work and contribution to our Society, Kathy was the recipient of the President's Award in 2007. Today, we would like to present to her the 25 years' Service Pin. Thank you, Kathy, for your many contributions to our Society over these past 29 years.

### **25 YEARS SERVICE - CAROL FIELD**

Carol joined in 1993 and served as our President for 5 years, and became a Life Member in 2006. During her years on the Board, she served on many committees, such as the programme, awards and parade committee and also served as Treasurer. She worked hard on the planting of the barrels that lined the main streets of Nobleton. She was also part of the naturalization project at the Sr. Public School in Nobleton. Over the years, Carol has been awarded both the President's Award and the Service Award. Many years ago, Carol had the pleasure of taking a Garden Design Course at Humber College. She attended the course with another member of our Club, Susan. The other students were much younger and all designed fanciful "dream" gardens. We wanted to design and install our own practical home gardens at very modest cost. She spent several years making the improvements and implementing her successful design into the lovely gardens that she has enjoyed on her property for many years. Well done Carol and thank you for all your hard work and dedication to our Society for the last 27 years.

### **25 YEARS SERVICE - MARIA PEDERSEN**

Maria joined our club in 1995 and won the Novice Cup the very next year, the Women's Institute Cup 4 years later, the President's Award twice and the Service Award twice. She served on the Board for 9 years and has been a pillar of the plant sale for many years, sharing her vast knowledge with everyone. Maria was at the heart of our Garden Tour for 11 years! Each tour takes a lot of work to organize...selecting gardens, dealing with garden hosts, safety, advertising, ticket sales, signs, and volunteers. For many years she led a small team that maintained the 4 Corners Garden in King City. Occasionally, her husband would drop by with some well-deserved refreshments. Just think of the thousands of folks who enjoyed it every day! Thanks for being such an inspiration and working so hard for us for so many years and congratulations on this 25 Years Service Pin.



HERE'S A CARD THAT CHINGUACOUSY SENT OUT TO THEIR MEMBERS!



### SPRING FLOWERS & NATIVES QUIZ

Thanks to Heinke Thiessen of Credit Valley for preparing this Spring plant identification game. Below are the names of the plants in alphabetical order by botanical name. The pictures are on the next page. How many can you identify? **Try it without looking at the names first.**

*(The answers will be emailed out to you separately in a few days!)*

*Amelanchier sp.*

*Cercis canadensis*

*Claytonia virginica*

*Dicentra cucullaria*

*Erythronium americanum*

*Hepatica acutiloba*

*Jeffersonia diphylla*

*Magnolia acuminata*

*Mertensia virginica*

*Polemonium reptans*

*Sanguinaria canadensis* f. *multiplex* 'Plena'

*Uvularia grandiflora*

Serviceberry

Eastern Redbud

Eastern Spring Beauty

Dutchman's Breeches

Trout Lily

Sharp Leaf Hepatica

Twinleaf

Cucumber Tree

Virginia Bluebells

Creeping Jacobs Ladder

Double flowered Bloodroot

Large-flowered Bellwort

**Can you identify these spring flowers & flowering trees? Which are native plants?**



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



10



11



12