



Ontario Horticultural Association District 15 News You Can Use

Welcome to our First Edition of D15 News You Can Use

The purpose of this newsletter is to share OHA and D15 news with our Society leads rather than sending a plethora of emails to you all month long. Please reuse the articles to let your members know information that they would be interested in.

Quick update: The Honour Roll binder is now archived. Why? The binder was kept up-to-date then stored each year so no one really got to see it other than the person updating it. Future recipients will be given a pin and can choose from 2 styles. Past recipients may buy a pin should they want one.

Fall Advisory Meeting Announced

Oct. 15th 1:30pm to 4pm. (Pls arrive starting at 1pm)

Our Host is the Nobleton & King City Garden Club. We'll be meeting at the Laskay Community Hall which is at 2920 King Road in King City on the site of the King Heritage & Cultural Centre. It is on the north side of King Rd just east of Jane. Parking is available in front of the buildings but also at the back behind the west most building.

Please register the names of the folks who will be attending from your Society with [Lucia Rostirolla](#). Here's the number of votes (and maximum attendees) each Society has based on your Feb. report of 2022 data on the OHA site: Brampton 3, Caledon 2, Chinguacousy 2, Cloverleaf 3, Credit Valley 2, Etobicoke 5, Nobleton & King City 2, Parkdale & Toronto 4, Richmond Hill 4, Roselands 2, Schomberg 2, Streetsville 2, Swansea 2, Thornhill 3, and Woodbridge 2. Note; If you send less people, you have less votes. Why? The D15 by-laws/constitution does not allow proxy voting at this time. Each of your delegates in attendance may vote. These numbers will also keep attendance at a number which will fit the venue. ie) 40 Society reps max, D15 board of 7, and some folks helping to host. Please only register to send up to the maximum of people you are allowed. The agenda will be sent soon—it's format will be a meeting with time for socialising and refreshments.

Future Meetings: Are YOU the host? We will have a table set up for you to check the attendance sheet, etc. The file box is also there so you'll have tent cards. On the "Meeting Hosts" sheet, please note when your society/club is expected to host an upcoming meeting. Please review and confirm your dates. If your club can not host when listed, it is your responsibility to find a replacement and notify the District Director.

Aug – Sept
2023



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D15 News You Can Use

is our D15 bi-monthly newsletter

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100th Anniversary Celebrated by Woodbridge

On April 15th, the District mentioned that Woodbridge was celebrating its 100th this year and soon afterwards, on April 25th, the board of the Woodbridge Horticultural Society (WHS) along with some members also attended a celebration at Vaughan City Hall, where Mayor Steven Del Duca and council recognized our Society's 100th Anniversary contribution to our Community with cake and good cheer.

And then on July 17th, we held our 100th year celebration for the Society to which all of the members of the WHS as well as past members and past presidents (or their family) were invited. Some local political dignitaries were invited including Local Councillor Adriano Volpentesta. *Pictures of the event were taken by Enza Lucivero, one of our members (from Vaughan and Beyond).* — Article by John Mazzella.



WHS Celebration Banner—made for the event! The walls were decorated with other banners and posters of events throughout the years. Below: WHS Executives.

Cutting the Cake: L-R: Tony Carella, Deb Schulte, Sue Fava, Councillor A. Volpentesta and President John Mazzella. Below: Guests enjoying treats,



Speaker (Master Gardener) Colleen Jones spoke on the 3 best plants for shaded areas.



A great overall picture of room and the attendees.

OHA Membership and Volunteer Hour STATS (As of year-end 2022)

YE 2022 Membership		
# Societies	# Members	Increase from YE 2021
264	24,851 New = 18.24% Youth = 1.27% Life = 4.78%	1,513 = 6.48%
Volunteer Hours		
Societies/Clubs	378,207	This is an increase of 35.64% from YE 2021.
OHA Officers	11,046	
District Director & Exec	17,244	
Total OHA Volunteer Hrs	406,497	

About our volunteer hours. If the government had to pay minimum wage for all the beautification and betterment of the communities that was received by way of the OHA affiliated Societies/Clubs and Districts volunteers, it would cost \$6.3 million dollars.

The OHA, Districts and Societies/Clubs are truly *Keeping Ontario Beautiful*[®].

THE OHA BOARD Answers Our Questions

Clarification of Calendar Year for Society Reporting:

Doreen requested clarification from the OHA Board on what the reporting year is for the annual information reported by each Society/Club by Feb 1st. It was noted that the financial year is chosen by the Society/Club. It could be Oct 1st to Sept 30th, as an example. OMAFRA had suggested a few years ago that the fiscal year be moved up to an earlier end of fiscal date to provide time for financial reviews to occur giving the Society/Club time to submit their report by the Feb. 1st deadline. Note: this means you report by Feb. 1st using whatever your fiscal year is. ex) If your fiscal year is Jan 1st to Dec 31st, report that. If it is Nov 1st to Oct 31st, report that.

Who can do Society elections and installations:

Doreen also asked for clarification of those allowed to perform Society elections and installations of officers. There is no policy on this but this is what was stated by the OHA Executive. **For running the elections process**, anybody who is not running for election can be the chair of the nomination committee or the chair of the election process itself. Thus an Assistant District Director or Society executive or director can perform the election of a Society even if they are a member of the Society UNLESS they are running for office in that club. If they are being acclaimed to office, then they can run the elections. **For the installation portion of the election**, it is always good to have an opportunity to have the District represented by using an Assistant District Director or the District Director. If this is not possible, then you can consider using a District Director from another District, a Past President or a former Assistant District Director, who is not the sitting Past President. Using a Mayor or Registrar of the Society's City, Town, etc. is also acceptable.

Do we need to call for more nominations three times?

Yes. This is something the OHA requires of us when doing elections and installations regardless of who does them for your Society. Of course, I will provide a script to each person doing election and installations that is tailored to your Society's AGM, so that should be helpful. You'll need to tell me who is expected to be on the board in the upcoming year a few weeks in advance of the meeting.

OHA Convention 2023 “Rock Your Garden World”

So much to do at the OHA Convention with choices of activities at every turn. I loved it. It was my first time attending and I can't wait to go to the one next year which will be in Guelph. Here's a hint of the activities:

Thursday, July 20th:

- OHA Board meeting for those on the OHA Board plus a post-meeting board meeting on Sunday after the convention closed. Interesting meeting in which I got questions answered and met my colleagues.
- Pre-convention bus tour —a full day trip which featured the Bonnechere Caves, lunch at the Granary Schnitzel House in Eganville, a visit to the geological trail and Temperate Garden Centre then finishing with a stop at the Beryl Pit to dig for gemstones.

Friday, July 21st: This was a “regular” day of the convention and started with introductions, announcements and an hour or so of the OHA Annual General Meeting (AGM). We heard about issues raised and the motions that had been made to effect the new or revised rule. All convention attendees who were designated voters or held proxy votes were able to vote during this time. The OHA AGM went more quickly than planned and all the motions were covered in two days instead of the three planned! The AGM time slot was followed by a speaker on various topics. Each of these “plenary” speakers were interesting and held you attention. On Friday, Akosua Asare talked on the Future of Urban Framing. In the afternoon, there was a choice of eight speakers (you could attend two each day) as well as four different bus tours each day! So no excuse to claim boredom although many felt the need for a quick nap before dinner! On Friday night we were entertained after dinner with an “Ottawa Valley Celidh” - an Irish evening featuring several vocal and/or dancing groups. It was a lot of fun.

Saturday, Jul 22nd: This day lined up much like Friday with a few exceptions. Saturday night was the Banquet with Award presentations and a special speaker—Michael Runtz, a Professor at Carleton University who titled his talk “Sex, Lies, and Tasty Bribes—The Life of Pollinators”. Captivating speaker with award-worthy photography! RHGHS's Norman McMullen introduced the speaker and told them about Gladys McLatchy and the fund she bequested to RHGHS which pays for the OHA's banquet speaker every year. Great job Norman!

Sunday, Jul 23rd: They finished the OHA AGM which was then followed by a great plenary duo of Alide Burke & Nick Halverson talking about their new business “Growcers”. Look it up online as it is a great concept!

Everyday you could walk through the competitions room and check out the flower show and contests (publications, creative writing, art, youth & photography). I did look at all the entries more than once, but it seemed to me that our District mainly entered the publications competition. Congrats to all of our winners.

- Class 3: Yearbook (Full letter size) - 3rd prize for 2023 Yearbook, Richmond Hill GHS (RHGHS).
- ◆ Class 7: Special Event Flyer (Min. letter size) – 3rd Prize Richmond Hill HS.
- ◆ Class 8: Special Event Brochure/Pamphlet/Flyer. 1st Prize + Best in Show: Chinguacousy GC for Plant sale Flyer. 3rd Prize. Schomberg GHS for Garden Tour Flyer.
- ◆ Class 10: Newsletter (Cover mainly photographs) –1st Prize for Sept/Oct '22 & Nov/Dec '22 Issues. RHGHS
- ◆ Class 11: Newsletter (Cover mainly computer –generated graphics) - 1st Prize. Chinguacousy GC.
- ◆ Class 14: Promotional Partnership. 2nd Prize, Schomberg GHS for Garden Tour Flyer.
- ◆ Class 15: Show Schedule (from the current year). 1st Prize, RHGHS for Flower Show Schedule Richmond Hill GS; 3rd Prize, Chinguacousy GC.

Lots of vendors, a silent auction, and “rock garden” centrepieces that were door prizes, early bird prizes each morning to be sure we got to the meeting in time. And we each got a hand-painted rock painted by the D2 Societies to take home to help us remember this terrific event.

Help Wanted: Please and Thank you!

Need someone to update our D15 website

Would anyone like to take over the updating of the District 15 website? It is a fairly small and limited space within the OHA site. This site does not require the skills of a formal website as most content is predefined as to what is allowed to be posted. A little creativity and some writing would be necessary for the job. It would be ideal if the person was one of our D15 team but we are open to have a person from one of our Societies do this task. And if they are willing and interested, we'd welcome them to the D15 Board. If you are interested, please let Doreen Coyne know.

Need another Assistant District Director (A.D.D.)

We find ourselves in need of at least one more A.D.D.. They'll be a part of the D15 Board and the duties include being assigned two or three Societies that they'll keep in contact with providing them with information and understanding any issues that come up. They'd also run the elections and installations from a scripted sheet prepared for them. Those are done between October and January depending on the Society/Club.

THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERING THESE OPENINGS!

CHANGES REQUIRED: ONCA —the doorway to the OMAFRA grant system—has released new requirements for groups like ours in order to secure the OMAFRA grants. Their changes will require every Society to make and approve changes to their By-Laws and/or Constitution before Oct. 19, 2024. Find out more at the upcoming Advisory Meeting. *Please check your in-box for Kelly's email on this topic.*

— Trees For Life —

ORDER DEADLINE IS AUGUST 31

This is your last chance to buy a native tree for only \$30. The fourteen (14) types of trees available including maples, oaks, birch, cedar, service berry, a hackberry and a Tulip Tree. These have been selling to selected Districts starting in June and you have until August 31st to place your orders.

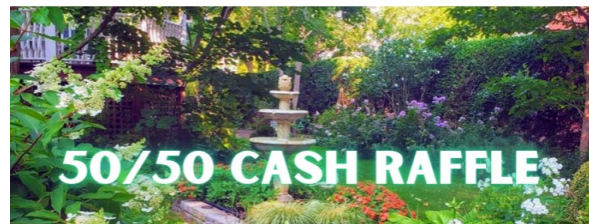
The trees will be delivered to us in Etobicoke in September—date tbd. Most of the trees will come as one and a half foot to six foot saplings and the bare roots will not be bagged or potted. So you might want to bring a few larger bags or pots with you to put your trees in when you come for pickup. The trees are all grown in a 1 gallon special root pruning pot. The spruce, cedar and pine are all short compared to the deciduous plants which is normal. The soilless medium that the trees are grown in will not support worms of any kind; therefore jumping worms are not an issue, and the grower let us know that there has never been any jumping worms on their nursery.

How to order? Simply go the webpage which was built for the purpose of selling trees to us by [CLICKING HERE](#) or use this link in your browser: <https://www.treesforlife.ca/estore>. For planning purposes, the pickup location is in Etobicoke, three blocks south of Royal York subway stop on the Bloor line. It's about a 10 minute drive from the 427 or QEW exits and about 15-20 minutes from the 401 via Weston/Royal York. Our D15 lead is [Roberta Jennings](#).



Photo from the Oshawa Garden Club's website.

Reminder: OHA 50/50 RAFFLE WITH EARLY BIRD PRIZES



A new draw started on July 22nd and will run until Nov. 21st.

The OHA's proceeds support education for youth and adult members, environmental programs, awards, grants, community beautification, and post secondary scholarships. The last winner received approx. \$3,682!

Ticket Prices are: 200 for \$75; 80 for \$40, 30 for \$20, 10 for \$10. Tickets will only be available online at: <https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/ontario-ha> For more information, please [see this link](#).

Note: You must be 18 years or older to purchase a ticket. You must be within Ontario when purchasing a ticket. Tickets will be sold using an electronic raffle system supplied by Rafflebox Technologies Inc.

NEW: SPECIAL INSURANCE DISCOUNT OFFER FOR ALL OHA MEMBERS

Did you know Ontario Horticultural Association members (that means all Society members!) get preferred rates with Co-operators Group Home and Auto insurance program?

When you get a Home or Auto insurance quote, you'll get a chance at a \$10,000 prize*. Along with exclusive savings, Co-operators coverage offers exceptional features. Even if you already use Co-operators you are eligible for this discount. Or if your extended family or neighbour could use a discount, have them get a quote and sign up as a member! Ready to see how much you can save? Call Co-operators today 1-800-387-1963 or connect with you local Co-operator's rep! [Check out the website for all the details.](#)

CHECK IT OUT. YOU MAY BE ABLE TO PAY LESS!

Upcoming News You Can Use Content Deadlines

Issue	Deadline Date	Issue	Deadline Date	Issue	Deadline Date
Oct/Nov 2023	Oct. 1, 2023	Dec/Jan 2023/4	Dec. 1, 2023	Feb/Mar 2024	Feb. 1, 2024
Apr/May 2024	Apr. 1, 2024	Jun/July 2024	June 1, 2024	Aug/Sept 2024	Aug. 1, 2024

Do you have Society news, an original article, poem, or creative writing piece of a horticultural nature to share with our District 15 societies? "What worked or didn't and why" articles are great to share. Please *write it up and send it in*.

Articles should be in Word format. Photos and other graphics should be attached as separate files or can be emailed as attachments. Photos should be high resolution with places and names of people identified, as well as the name of the photographer. Copyrighted material from 3rd party sources will not be accepted without the original author's written permission.

Submissions may be used in the upcoming issue of *News You Can Use*, saved for use in a future issue, or used for additional D15 authored purposes. Usage of all submissions is at the discretion of the editor.

Thank You! *Doreen Coyne, Your D15 News You Can Use Editor*