

Minutes – Draft

OHA District 1 Presidents' Meeting Saturday, October 21, 2023 – 10:00 AM Virtual Meeting – via Zoom (Maxville)

1. **Call to Order** - 10.07 Susan Ramsey welcomed all present.
2. **Roll Call** – Susan Ramsey (District Director); Louise Freeman (Assistant District Director); Ginny Blair (Secretary/Treasurer); Glenda Villeneuve, Vivian Franklin, Phyllis Van Egmond (Maxville); Louise Houle (Russell); Arline Rutter, Vicki Foerster (Kemptville); Susan Hanz, Elaine Beckstead (Martintown); Mandy Jeffreys (Vankleek Hill); Kyle Macrae (Seaway Valley); Candace Dressler (Gloucester); Lia Lindeman (Williamstown)
Regrets, EP Power (Assistant District Director); Bill Kingston (Cornwall); Pegi Holtz (Russell); Kim Martin (Seaway)
3. **Welcome to new District 1 Society**
Susan welcomed Seaway Valley Horticultural Society to District 1. The Society is in the final stages completing the work to become an OHA Society. Their first President of the Seaway Society is Kim Martin. Unfortunately, Kim could not connect to the Zoom call.
4. **Agenda** – review
Additions to the Agenda were:
 9. Other Business
 - d. Code of Conduct – Louise Freeman
 - e. District 1 Constitution and By Laws – Louise Freeman
 - f. OHA Vision and Mission – Louise Freeman
 - g. Using copyrighted material

Acceptance	- moved	Phyllis Van Egmond
	- seconded	Arline Rutter
5. **Minutes from October 22, 2022 Presidents' Meeting** – review
There were two corrections to the 2022 minutes
 1. Louise pointed out that in **10 (d)** the OHA Vision and Mission Statements were not correct. Louise will forward them to the Secretary who will include them in the 2023 minutes and email them to all the Presidents in a separate email for their reference.
 - 10. (e)** Change the year to 2023

Acceptance	- moved	Susan Hanz
	- seconded	Arline Rutter
6. **Treasurer's Report** – Ginny Blair – see page 5

Acceptance	- moved	Ginny Blair
	- seconded	Louise Houle
7. **District and Board Meeting Report** – Susan Ramsay, District 1 Director (Page 14)

8. Business Arising –

OHA Tree Grants –

- Martintown, Maxville and applied for and received the \$300 grant.
- **Other OHA Grants –**
 - Martintown received the OHA Special Grant of \$1000 to replace the Shrubs at the Martintown Community Centre. They only required \$778 of the Grant
 - Maxville applied for the \$100 Technical Grant and received it but a local business donated the work they needed so they declined the Grant.
 - Kemptville received a \$300 Community Gardening Grant
- **Constitutions and By-Laws re Auditors** – Has everyone reviewed theirs for compliance with the new ONCA regulations? All Societies must update their Constitution and\or Bylaws to reflect by October19, 2024. Regarding Auditors, the Constitutions and\or By Laws must indicate that their financials are audited or reviewed each year and the report presented to the membership at their Society AGM. Two reviewers are required and they must not be related to one another, or related to the Treasurer, or on the Society Board.

There was a brief discussion on the difference between an OHA Award and an OHA Grant. It was discerned that an Award is usually to an individual or Society group and doesn't always include a monetary amount. A Grant is given to a Society for a specific project and always includes a monetary amount.

Other Business -

a. 2024 District 1 AGM – Russell

Louise Houle, Incoming President of Russell, gave more information on the 2024, hosted by the Russell Society. The AGM will be held about the 2024 AGM hosted by the Russell Society. The AGM will be on April 13, 2024 from 8:30am to 3:00pm. It will be at the Camille Piché Community Centre, 8 Blais Street, Embrun, ON K0A 1W0. The theme this year is *“Leaping into Spring.”* The Photography Competition was sent out to Society Presidents this summer. The Flower Show Competition Schedule will follow soon. All Societies are asked to bring a display to the AGM. There will be a 6-1/2 x 2-1/2-foot table for each Society. It isn't clear at this date if electricity is available. Louise will let the Presidents know. It is a good idea for all Societies to bring an extension cord and a power bar.

b. Implementing the new ONCA

- i) Email has been sent out by Charles with items to be amended or added. Charles will forward this information to all Presidents.
- ii) Does anyone need help? Candace has volunteered to help Societies that she helped in the past.

- iii) Most Constitutions and By-Laws should be updated at this year's Society AGM or later at a Special Meeting if that is allowed in the Constitution. All Societies must be in compliance by October 19, 2024.
- c. **Candace Dressler** to introduce the societies to waveapps.com - a free platform for keeping our books. Candace informed the meeting about waveapps.com. It allows Society Treasurers to link their accounting data with their bank, generate documents, all online. If Presidents are interested in this online accounting system, they can contact Candace.
- d. **Code of Conduct – Louise Freeman**
The OHA is recommending all Societies implement a Code of Contact for their members. There are templates available from Susan Ramsay and Charles Freeman to help generate a Code of Conduct for each individual Society. They will be emailed to Presidents as soon as possible. It was suggested the Code of Conduct be written on the back of the Membership Registration form and must include a check box (that it has been read) and signed by all members.
- e. **Constitution and By Laws for District 1 – Louise Freeman**
Louise indicated that the District 1 Constitution and By Laws will be reviewed for ONCA Compliance. Candace, Susan Ramsay and Louse will look after this matter.
- f. **OHA Vision and Mission Statement – Louise** will send the long version.
Louise indicated the OHA Vision and Mission Statement in the 2022 minutes was inadequate. She has forwarded the document to Presidents.

OHA Vision:

To be recognized as the primary gardening and horticultural Association by inspiring, educating and supporting gardeners and affiliated Societies/Clubs

OHA Mission:

1. To provide board support and guidance, training, and administrative leadership, and to advocate on behalf of affiliated Horticultural Societies/Clubs.
2. to develop and support programs for all ages and skill levels encouraging gardening, community beautification, environmental stewardship, and conservation.

g. Copyrighted Images from the Web Used in Society Documents and Facebook/Email Posts

Susan Ramsay discussed the issue of taking copyrighted material from the internet and printed materials. You can be sued for using graphics and type off the internet or print material without permission. The only graphics to use are the ones that come with the software you have purchased or that you create yourself. Also be careful what you put on Facebook that may be copyrighted, it will stay here in perpetuity even if you take it down.

9. District 1 Society Reports for 2023 (see Page 6)

- **Cornwall**
- **Kemptville**
- **Martintown**
- **Gloucester**
- **Maxville**
- **Russell**
- **Vankleek Hill**
- **Williamstown**
- **Seaway Valley**

10. Other

1. OHA Seedy Saturday Grant is due on November 15, 2023
2. OHA District Service Award – The Nominations for the 2024 District Service Award must reach Susan Ramsay by January 20, 2024. Contact Susan for more information.

11. Adjournment – 12.30 pm

**Financial Position
OHA District
January 1, 2023 to September 30, 2023**

Beginning Balance January 1, 2023	\$654.50
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Revenues

2023 District 1 Dues	42.50
2022 OHA Calendar Sales	<u>25.00</u>
Revenues	<u>\$ 67.50</u>
Total Revenues	<u><u>\$722.00</u></u>

Expenses

2023 AGM Speaker Fee – Maxville	200.00
2023 AGM Prizes for Competitions – Maxville	200.00
Bank Service Charges (9 months - \$3.00/month)	<u>27.00</u>
Total Expenses	<u><u>\$427.00</u></u>

Ending Balance September 30, 2023(Books)	<u><u>\$295.00</u></u>
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Outstanding Cheques

Bank Reconciliation - September 30, 2023

Ending Balance September 30, 2023 (Books)	\$295.00	
Ending Balance September 30, 2023 (Bank)	<u>\$295.00</u>	
	<u><u>\$0.00</u></u>	

President's Report
Vankleek Hill - October 2023
Submitted by Mandy Jefferys

Presidents Overall this was a very good year for our society. We saw an increase of 34 new members bringing our membership to a total of 88.

Meetings in January and February were held via Zoom and it's likely that we will continue this way for the next year or two. We offered links for those presentations out to other Societies in district 1 but no one else joined us. However, a good number of our members supported other societies' speaker series. Our Executive meeting in February was to be our last Zoom meeting of the year and after that we resumed our monthly meetings in person.

We moved the location of our monthly meetings to another venue but this entailed a hall rental charge. Rather than increase our membership fees we asked our members for an entrance fee of \$2 to offset the cost and coffee fund. There were no objections.

This year's speakers all gave excellent presentations on a good variety of topics. For example, we had a representative from OMAFRA give an interesting talk on plant diseases, another presentation was on Monarch butterflies, and not surprisingly the most attended meeting was the one at our local winery where we learnt about growing grapes.

Our monthly meetings, whether held in house or at another venue were generally attended by half our membership.

The highlight of the year was our Garden Tour held in partnership with one of our local churches. The day was such a success and the feedback so positive that we have decided to repeat the event in two years time. We could not of course have achieved this without the unwavering support of our membership who as always stepped up to the mark when called upon.

14 of our members attended the D1 AGM hosted by Maxville and we had 7 representatives from our society attend the OHS convention in Kanata.

Gloucester Society came to visit our district in August and we were delighted to share with them 3 of our host gardens from the Garden Tour plus the delights of our local brewery.

We continued to work in the community maintaining flower beds in our local park and at the four township signs.

We donated two trees and some plants to local organizations. We also gave out free packets of seeds at a community event to promote our society, and to the library with who we partnered with for the annual children's competition. Our annual plant sale saw a significant increase in sales for the second year in a row.

Looking ahead, we have new members waiting to sign up for 2024, a full slate of nominations for the executive and many plans for the year ahead. Our society is in a positive position, is thriving and looking forward to the coming year.

President's Report (Revised)
Williamstown - October 2023
Submitted by Lia Lindeman

February ended with a welcome back Pot Luck. Everyone brings their own place setting to help reduce dishes. We meet upstairs at the Williamstown Arena, usually on the last Monday of the month. We had a busy year: a grape pruning workshop in situ by Bob Humphries in Bainsville, where he treated us to pizza and a wine tasting. Some of us went home with cuttings too. Our monthly meeting was Water Features by Mary Anne Van Berlo. April saw us at Maxville's centennial hosting the District 1 AGM. Rebecca Last told us about 10 Veggies You Can Grow in the City. May brings our ever-successful annual plant sale; this year we made new posters. This summer we had informative times with Owen Clarkin for 2 walks: The Trees of Note in South Glengarry and Summerstown Trails walk, even in the mist, it was still well appreciated. July was busy for our group of volunteers who do the 6-week children's program in conjunction with the Nor'Westers and Loyalist Museum and the township. Garden strolls are always well attended and the highlight of the summer. One hostess gave plant gifts to all who attended. I am so excited to try my hand at growing a hibiscus. After a couple of years not having it, we had our Flower Show and Victorian Tea. Door Prizes were plentiful and the trophies given to the members were well earned. Some of us spent lots of money at Mike Cooney's lily gardens, and some of us went to the OHA convention in Ottawa. To show our volunteers appreciation, we had Iced Tea and Games and Croquet on the Lawn. We tried dressing for the occasion, as we appreciated a well-kept lawn. Our September meeting was our most popular yet, with lots of members answering questions from the floor and telling us about each other's gardens. We look forward to Judith Cox presenting Into the Night Moonlit Garden at the end of October. This will be followed by our Annual General Meeting wine and cheese and a talk by our Vice President Nicole Weistra on Garden Installations Around the World.

Notes: We plan to change our fiscal year end from October to September 30th. Attendance is usually around 8-15 people for workshops/walks, out of 92 members. Our club has a majority older retired members. The highest attendance is for garden strolls: around 50 people went to one or both sites. Meetings average 35-45 attendees, so a little less than half of the members.

**President's Report
Cornwall - October 2023
Submitted by Bill Kingston**

February 28th - hosted our first meeting of the year. We did a social where members were selected by draw and sat together and were given questions about gardening. The format of not having a guest speaker for the first club meeting was well received. Launched our first fundraiser, Make It Sow. We will try this fundraiser again in 2024.

March 14th - CDHS meeting went "on the road" as we met at hydroponic operation ZipGrow to tour their facility.

April 11th - Photography in the Garden with Sixth Sense Imagery (Photo Contest). Spoke about enhancing your photos and different techniques for more creative shots.

May 9th - meeting heard guest speaker Alicia Cook from the Akwesasne Wholistic Health & Wellness Program's Traditional Medicine Unit. She spoke about medicinal herbs.

May 13th - Bark and Compost Day held at the local landfill (we raised \$531.00).

May 26th - Bridge box planting

May 27th - Our annual plant sale on the front lawn of RCAFA Wing 424. The club raised \$1082.25. We were also able to find some plants to supplement our BBBS project.

June 6th - Fields of Gold (Local Sunflower Farm). Spoke about their operations and plans for the farm.

July 15th - A small group did a Tour of Rideau Woodland Ramble (Nursery and Show Gardens)

August 8th - our summer barbeque. Hamburgers, chicken burgers, hot dogs and chicken dogs with all the fixings. + Radical Roots Spoke to us about Seed Bombs, what they are and how they benefit the environment.

August 18th - Updated the flower beds at BBBS with the help of a few of their volunteers

August 28th - The executive did a voluntary tour to check out our new bench in Lamoureux Park and also the bridge boxes at the Seaway International Bridge to review planting and see if any adjustments need to be made.

September 12th - our last meeting at our home at the RCAFA Wing 424. CDHS member Fred Deschamps spoke about collecting seeds for future planting.

October 10th - Our first meeting in our new home at Ste. Therese Hall on 13th Street in Cornwall. Director Julie Leroux spoke about orchids and orchid care. Members are impressed with the new facilities for our club. Another fundraiser launched for Christmas cactus and poinsettias.

**President's Report
Russell - October 2023
Submitted by Pegi Holtz**

- Over 160 members so far
- Events organized or participated in:
 - Living Locally Fair
 - March-It-On-Out
 - Plant sales (May & June)
 - tree planting with S. Nation Conservation
 - OHA convention (7 attended)
 - 1 AGM (12 attended)
 - 3 mini flower shows
 - 1 big spring flower show
 - 1 junior late summer show
 - 4 workshops
 - garden tour
 - day trips (sunflower farm and U-pick flower farm)
 - clean-up after late winter storm in the park with the Scouts for Earth Day
 - community garden
 - seed swaps

Speakers

- Cathie Moreau Clarke – African Violets
- Tracy Clint-Chapman – Attracting Birds to Your Garden
- Chris Craig – Native Plants and Reconciliation Garden
- Cindy Cluett – What's New in the Garden Centre
- Danielle Monroe – Growing Ranunculus
- Debbie Cournyea – Vermi-composting demo

Successful Grants – from the Russell Police Village Fund and from Russell Township for upgrades to McDougall Park

Donations made – for Russell's 125th celebrations and for the planters and hanging baskets in town

Things produced – Yearbook, bookmarks, "business" cards with our motto, web page upgrades, Facebook postings, doorknob hangers to acknowledge beautiful gardens.

President's Report
Kemptville - October 2023
Submitted by Arline Rutter

Our January 18th & February 15th meetings were held in person/virtually for the first time. Both proved equally successful. Molly Shannon from Canadian Succulents was the January speaker & the colourful TV personality Paul Gellatly "The Tattooed Gardener" spoke in February. A community Garden Project commenced in March at the Kemptville Campus, we were able to initiate a \$500 grant from OHA. Our guest speaker in person in March was Odette McIntyre on cold frames & cold weather vegetables. Also in person in April was Steve Roberts of the Barking Bee Company teaching us about bees & honey. In June we learned about Paverpol, with a demonstration by Lorraine Delangis of LD's Creations. April 15th – 4 members were happy to attend the D1 AGM in Maxville. In May our plant sale was held at KCAT greenhouse & raised a total of \$1,431 for the Society. The Spring Flower Show was held with excellent participation by members. One of our members gave us a presentation on trees in forests & woodland gardens. The Society assisted Kemptville District Hospital with a giant garage sale known as Hey Day & our volunteers raised a total of \$1,657. July and August was our summer break when we participated in garden strolls every week through member's gardens & other venues of interest. A day trip was also organized to Sealey's Bay to visit a private garden with lunch at the newly renovated Opinicon Resort. August – the Municipality was enrolled in the Communities in Bloom initiative & the judges visited Rotary Park, which is maintained by our Society members, & they were extremely impressed with the work carried out by our volunteers. In September we were treated to virtual presentations by 2 of our members on "pie shaped garden design" & travels in Kenya & Uganda, in addition to the Fall Flower Show. September 30th is also our year end. We were saddened to learn of the death of one of our Life Members, Jean Sears. October 18th is the culmination of the year with our Awards/Social Night with a catered meal and door prizes. November is the AGM & elections, membership enrolment which will be followed by a demonstration on constructing Xmas wreaths by Amber from Riverwood Gardens. This year we find it necessary to increase our membership fees to \$20 from \$15 due to increased rental costs for our meetings.

President's Report
Maxville - October 2023
Submitted by Phyllis Van Egmond

This has been an exciting year. We began celebrating our 100th Anniversary, starting with our special addition yearbook. Then we put together a collection of archived history to displayed at the District 1 AGM, which we hosted in April, and at the Maxville Fair in June.

Our Executive got busy early in January, planning activities and events. One of our Society members designed a new banner also in celebration of our Anniversary year.

In February members joined a zoom presentation with guest speaker, Julianne Labreche, talking about "Gardening for Birds"

March 15th meeting and potluck supper welcomed Members. Annual dues are collected and yearbooks handed out. Guest speaker was Hugh Metcalfe, introducing us to "Native Plant gardening." A proposal submitted to Township of North Glengarry for a Grant, was awarded to our Society and the creation of a new Highland Pipe began.

A sunny "Spring in the Glens" day on April 15th, welcomed 123 members to District 1 AGM.

This was a wonderful day, with amazing feature speakers Owen Clarkin and Kenneth Brown, a fun Easter Bonnet parade, photo and flower competitions and lots of prizes.

April, General membership meeting we enjoyed Michael Mazur's talk on "Pollinators and Mason bees".

Our plant auction was a great success again this May. 100 tree seedlings ordered from South Nation Conservation were delivered to members. Early June, members get planting beds, boxes and urns around the village. The hanging baskets and Tartan banners go up. Two bursaries were presented to local graduating students.

In July members enjoyed a pleasant day touring two lovely gardens with water features. We also had photography instructions from Lindsay McIntosh-Mainville and ice cream at MacIntosh's Ole Sugar Barn.

An official dedication was held on July 13th to present our new Highland Piper, MAX. Many representatives from the Township of North Glengarry joined with members including Ivan Coleman, crafter, creator. Three of us attended OHA Convention in Kanata.

A beautiful sunny August 16th, members enjoyed a lovely garden tour and President's Tea Party. Potted mums and gift cards given to the three hosts and a large chrysanthemum and smaller ones were presented to Past-Presidents.

At our September meeting and potluck supper, we invited Lyla (8 years old) and her parents to share their story of the creation of Lyla's Pumpkins.

October brings fall and clean up. Our Memorial Bench and tree project has been completed. A plaque was placed by the tree and photos taken with Society members and Cemetery board members. Thanks to OHA tree grant and special donation from Scotia Bank.

General membership meeting we enjoyed a very interesting presentation by Cathie Moreau-Clarke, of the Ottawa African Violet Society.

We still have our fall decorating contest and photo contest to complete. And now we are preparing for our November AGM and Christmas dinner. Elections for 2024 Executive and Directors.

Pleased to announce we reached 102 society members. (Includes 6 Life members)

President's Report
Martintown - October 2023
Submitted by Ginny Blair

Our 2023 Horticultural year started with a St Patrick's Day Potluck on March 1st. Our April General Meeting speaker was Anne Leggat on Zoom. Anne is a specialist in Clematis or "the Queen of Flowers." At end of the month, members of the Williamstown Green Thumbs joined our members for a Walkabout of the greenhouses at Marlin's Orchard and Garden Centre. Our speaker in May was Chris MacDonald who spoke to us about, "The Secrets and Science of Cannabis." The Saturday of the long weekend in May was our Annual Plant Sale, Bake Sale and Recycled Garden Treasures Sale. It was a great success. We held a Peony Competition in June with many participants. Our speaker in June was Leslie Macdonald of Munro Mills Flower Co. Leslie talked to us about growing cut flowers. She inspired many members to plant a cut flower garden this past summer. July was a busy month! We were invited by the West Island Horticultural Society to tour six of their gardens. They were all beautiful and a contrast to the country gardens we are used to viewing. We will reciprocate next summer and have invited them to our garden tour. It was also the time of our Annual BBQ at the beautiful home of Betty and Louis Rielly. Instead of a speaker in August, our members gathered at Fraser Farm for a delicious Pizza night. The speaker at the October Meeting was Jim Henry an expert on, Native Trees and Shrubs. We held a Fall Decorating Contest in October. November 1st will be our Annual General Meeting and Christmas Potluck. In December, we will judge the floats in the Annual Santa Claus parade and put-up lights on the bridge, in the windows of the Mill and install the Christmas Wreath on the Mill.

The Martintown Society planted the shrubs in the beds surrounding the South and East sides at the Community Centre when the building was completed eleven years ago. It was time to dig them out and plant again. We applied for the OHA Special Grant and received it. By mid-July, the old shrubs were removed and all new native shrubs planted in their place. By next summer, the Community Centre gardens should be blooming abundantly.

Our Society plants memorial trees in the Ken Barton Park behind the Community Centre for our members who have passed away. This project was put off during Covid so this was the year to plant the trees for members who had passed from 2019 to 2023. Again, we applied for the OHA Tree Grant and received it to cover the cost of the three trees which were planted in early October in the Park.

Seven years ago, in conjunction with the Martintown Goodtimers and the Township of South Glengarry, a plan was developed and implemented by a local Landscape Designer to create a passive park in Ken Barton Park at the Community Center. Most of the trees and shrubs are native plants. Thirteen beds of different sizes were created and planted. Unfortunately, over the years the beds have been neglected because of staffing and budget cuts at the Township. We were informed this spring by the Township if we didn't step up and maintain the beds they would be bulldozed. Don't say that to a gardener! We immediately went into action, found willing members and community volunteers to work on the beds and by mid August they were back to their pristine beauty. The Township has mulched the beds and we will continue to maintain them.

**President's Report
Gloucester - October 2023
Submitted by Candace Dressler**

2023 was an interesting year for Gloucester with lots of changes

At the beginning of the year, we found out that the Madonna Nursing Home where we had planted our demonstration Native Garden was being closed down and we needed a place to move to.

Our search for a suitable home also continued. We started meeting at the Pineview Community Hub in fall 2022 but we soon realized that the space although very well located was just too small for our group. In April we moved to the Pat Clark Community Center for our meetings and they have also given us garden space to move our garden from Madonna. Our volunteers came together and the garden has been successfully moved. We have continued our support of the gardens at the Riverview Alternative School. One of our members has also installed a micro native garden in front of the Gloucester branch of the Ottawa Public Library, with plants primarily donated by the Fletcher Wildlife Garden.

Our plant sale exceeded our expectations giving us a \$3000.00 profit. We brought in native saplings to add to our sale, they were very well received and we were able to sell the few that were leftover to the Master Gardeners to sell in their sale.

Our speakers were

January	Kristen Martyn	Gardening for the birds - Zoom
March	Jonathan Bruderlein	Soil Analysis - Zoom
April	Stephen J Stephen	Photography – Pat Clark CC
May	Robert Glendinning	Pruning - At the Arboretum
September	Member discussion about propagation	Pat Clark CC
October	Rebecca Last Things I Learnt in My Garden	Pat Clark CC

We have decided to continue with Zoom meetings in January and February for 2024.

Over the summer we had two events: A garden tour to share ideas and gardening advice; A road trip to the Vankleek Hill area. Both had about ¼ of the membership turn out.

We had 5 members attend the OHA Convention. The Society paid the registration for our voting members and gave \$50 each to other attendees.

We had 16 members attend the OHA D1 AGM. The Society paid \$10 of the \$30 registration fee for each attendee, to sponsor the education portion of the meeting.

We were able to give a \$1000 scholarship to a student from Lester B Pearson High School who will be attending Carleton University- Bachelor of Engineering- Environmental

Membership has increased slightly with 46 Single, 23 Family, 1 Student and 8 Life Members as of Sept 10.



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT October 2023



OHA FALL BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS AND INFORMATION

As Societies and Clubs around the province prepare for their Annual General Meetings, I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for all your hard work each and every year as well as each season for keeping your communities and Ontario beautiful.

The weekend of September 29th to October 1st saw the Board of Directors gather together to conduct necessary business for the benefit of all. I would like to share some of the results of the meeting as we continue to move the Association forward.

OHA Family Scholarship/Bursary:

We are in the process of developing a Family OHA Scholarship/Bursary that would be available to members and their families, as well as grandchildren pursuing an education in the field of horticulture or horticulture related studies. It is our hope that this will be available by Fall of 2024.

Cooperators Insurance Quote Incentive:

Cooperators Insurance is running a home and auto insurance incentive offer for all OHA affiliated members from October 16th to November 27th, 2023. Anyone receiving a quote during this time period will receive a \$20 e-gift card. Please ensure you let them know that you are with the Ontario Horticultural Association to be eligible for the offer.

OHA at the CNE:

The OHA held a booth at the CNE to answer questions and provide information to the public on the Association, its Districts and Societies/Clubs. More than 2000 visitors stopped by to chat with us! We have been invited back to host a booth at the 2024 event as well.

2024 Colour of the Year

Communities in Bloom has announced the Colour of the Year for 2024 to be **Orange**. Get out your seed catalogues and talk to your nurseries about getting in some orange perennials or annuals for you to add to your garden for the Spring and Summer.

Benefits of Belonging to the OHA:

A Benefits of Belonging document has been created and is currently being updated to showcase all the wonderful things the OHA provides to its members. We are much more than just insurance.

OMAFRA Annual Report Sessions:

There will be two upcoming information sessions run by OMAFRA on completing your annual reports for them. As soon as the dates of the sessions are known they will be relayed to all Societies/Clubs.

OHA Strategic Planning and SWOT Analysis:

The Association is currently following our SWOT, S(strengths), W(weaknesses), O(opportunities), T(threats) template and working on ways to improve the Association. We have several goals we are working on and have added a couple of new ones.

OHA Convention Surveys:

The results of the 2023 convention survey as well as results from a more general survey that was sent out in the Spring were reviewed. Suggestions will be compiled and considered for upcoming conventions. The 2024 convention will be held in Guelph on July 12th to 14th with the 2025 convention being a virtual Annual General Meeting only.

OAK WILT:

A letter was received from the Canadian Inspection Food Agency asking for our help to get the word out about Oak Wilt. This disease has been found in Canada and specifically in the Province of Ontario. The CIFA is strongly advising arborists and landscapers NOT to prune Oak trees until November to help prevent the spread of Oak Wilt and not to prune between the months of April and November each year to keep our Oak trees healthy and thriving.

OHA 50/50 Draw:

The OHA 50/50 raffle is in full swing for another draw right before Christmas. The early bird prize of \$500.00 will be held on October 21st and is sponsored by D. Culbert Ltd-Ontario Land Surveyor.

The final draw will take place on December 16, 2023. Information can be found on the GardenOntario website under the News tab. Please share this information with your friends and family and perhaps your Facebook page as the proceeds from these draws benefit all members of the OHA.

Updated Constitution and Bylaws and Code of Conduct:

The OHA is once again encouraging all Societies/Clubs that do not yet have a Code of Conduct to create one and have it approved by your general membership at your AGM or a special meeting called for that purpose if your Constitution/By-laws allow it. Please also consider reviewing your Constitution/By-laws and amending or creating them if necessary. They must be approved by your membership with the minutes of the meeting reflecting the approval. Districts must have their Constitution/By-laws approved by the general membership. A District Code of Conduct need only be approved by the District executive. A good rule to follow is that your Constitution should be your outlying document and items that change more frequently should be held in your By-laws.

OHA Silent Auction:

A new silent auction for the OHA will be taking place from November 10 to 24, 2023. Some of the items include a tea basket with a book on tea gardening, a gourd birdhouse and a gardeners basket including gardener's pants with knee pads built in. The auction will be posted on the GardenOntario website as well as the GardenOntario Facebook page. Please pass the information along to your friends and family.

OHA Awards Committee News:

The Awards Committee will be bringing you all new certificates for 2024. As well, we are developing a new grant related to the development of an accessible garden such as raised beds or sensory gardens as well as a new award geared towards the technical side of things such as web work, social media, background IT work, etc. All forms and scoring sheets are also being updated.

I hope everyone enjoys a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends. Take some time to get outside and enjoy the weather and all the beautiful Fall colours and take care of each other.

Yours in gardening,
Sharlene Desjardins,
OHA President

