

Keeping Ontario Beautiful

Trillium

Ontario Horticultural Association Newsletter

Winter 2007/2008



Rural Ontario Winterscape
Photographed by Hermina Hubert

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Editor:

Linda Hugli

181 Garson-Coniston Rd.
Garson, ON
P3L 1G3

Phone: (705) 693-2476
Fax: (705) 693-5057

E-mail:

editor@gardenontario.org

Message from the President

Here it is, almost Christmas, and I can't figure out where the time has gone since our last convention. There are cards to send, gifts to purchase, and of course, I haven't even made out my wish list yet! The nearby societies have graciously invited me to many potluck dinners and I'm now wondering if I'll have any clothes left that fit me when the big day does arrive.

Although these potluck dinners I'm attending are deliciously wonderful, they are also a time of change for many of the societies with the election of officers. This is the time when each society should be thinking of the February 1st deadline for the OMAFRA grant submissions. If you do them immediately after your AGM and send them in, you'll receive your grant money earlier and be able to plan and budget for the coming year. While filling in the grant forms, why not take the time to fill out all of your forms, including those required by the OHA? It's so much easier to do them all while you have the information at your finger tips. Then, just before mailing them off, check twice to make sure you are sending them to the proper places. Each form will tell you where it is to be mailed.

This is a good time of the year to remember to thank your District Directors for all their guidance, leadership, and time. When you see them, give them a big hug, send them a card or email, or just thank them in person for all the many hours spent on your behalf.

As your hearts are now filled with the joys of the holiday season, it's probably a good time for each board to dig out and dust off their copy of the Awards booklet. Look through it, and decide if you have someone in your society who deserves recognition. There are many, many awards from the society level right up to the provincial level. Then, why not think about applying for one of the grants from the OHA itself? There is the \$500 Tulip Fund Special Projects grant plus the \$100 Tree Planting Fund that are there just waiting for you to apply. Both of these grants from the OHA have been doubled in the number of recipients this year! Information on these grants appears elsewhere in the Trillium.

I'm totally excited! The 102nd Annual Convention is being held in Brampton at the Sheridan College on August 22-24, 2008. The District 15 volunteers have been eagerly planning this event and you won't believe all they have in store for you at this upcoming convention! Check for Brenda Heenan's article on page 7 and you'll be excited too! This is one convention you'll not want to miss!

My holiday wish for everyone is a safe and happy holiday season and may you have visions of a spectacular garden or floral design dancing in your head.

Jim Mabee, OHA President
president@gardenontario.org (519) 842-9829

From The Secretary's Desk

Fall is the time of year when we watch the leaves change colour and the sunset becomes more enchanting. It is also the season for closing our gardens and preparing for winter. The weather throughout the province has been varied and as gardeners we try to cope with what Nature presents to us. Challenges are never ending and still, there is a routine that happens. It is the knowing of what to expect that allows us to prepare for the future.

Likewise, your Association District Directors and Executive Officers have been busy planning for next year's events. Societies are also making their plans for the new year and Districts are working on their AGMs. The inserts in this mailing include the following information that requires attention:

Enclosed are the adult competitions for floral design, horticultural specimen, art, photography, Society newsletters/brochures, the webshell competition, and poetry, as well as our special youth competitions.

Also enclosed is information for the Special Project programme, a form for resolutions to be presented at the convention, and the Volunteer Hours form. Last month Societies received the form from OMAFRA that is to be completed and returned to them. Please note that the deadline for this form is February 1, 2008.

Enclosed is a form Societies can use to award a deserving person of a valued Service Certificate to acknowledge their contributions to your Society. Please forward this form to your District Director for approval and allow six weeks for processing. On page 3 is a notice about the OHA Tree Planting Award and Nominations for Association Awards that are presented during the Convention. Societies are encouraged to nominate a deserving person for these various awards including the Community Improvement Award, the Environmental Award, and Honour Roll.

Once again we are enclosing the Society Annual Report that is to be completed and forwarded to your District Director no later than February 1st, 2008. Your District Director is required to send part of this form to the OHA Secretary no later than February 7th.

A reminder that the OHA Convention will be held at Sheridan College, Davis Campus in Brampton on August 22, 23, 24, 2008 and the theme is *Sharing our Diversity*. Registration information will be provided in our Spring Trillium.

I close with wishing everyone a safe and happy holiday season. May your household be filled with joy and laughter and friendships that last a lifetime. Merry Christmas and good will to all.

Marlene Bruckhardt, OHA Secretary
secretary@gardenontario.org 519-648-2172

Plant a Tree!



The Ontario Horticultural Association is continuing its Tree Planting Special Project Award, whereby a Society or District may apply for up to \$100 for a special tree planting. A total of **12 projects** are available for these funds in 2008.

Although there is no formal procedure for applying for this funding, a letter must be sent via Canada Post outlining what tree is to be planted and indicating if this is a special event for the Society/District. These requests are to be sent to the Association Secretary, Marlene Bruckhardt, P.O. Box 7, Breslau, Ontario, N0B 1M0.

These awards are granted on a *first come basis* after January 1, 2008. Any society or district that receives this funding cannot apply again for five years. Awards are announced to the Directors at the spring board meeting and no further awards are given for the year. Once approved, payment is made upon submission of receipts. **Receipts must be received before the end of December, 2008.**

Nominations for Association Awards

The Ontario Horticultural Association sponsors a number of Awards which are presented annually during the Convention. Each society should have an Awards Booklet available to inform the members of the awards available and the procedure to follow to place a nomination for an award. This information is also on the website for downloading by societies.

Awards presented at the convention are:

- **Silver Medal Award**
- **Trillium Award**
- **Silver Fir Award**
- **Award of Merit**
- **Community Improvement Award**
- **Environmental Award**
- **Youth Leader**
- **Honor Roll**

Nominations, with supporting information, should be sent to the Association Secretary, Marlene Bruckhardt, P.O. Box 7, Breslau, Ontario N0B 1M0 by February 28. The Secretary will forward the nominations to the Awards Committee for selection of the winning recipients. The Awards Committee is composed of the President (chair), Immediate Past President, Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, and Chair of the Past Presidents' Council. Please give serious consideration to selecting people who would be worthy recipients of these prestigious awards.



Nominations

The election of the Ontario Horticultural Association President, as well as First and Second Vice Presidents, is an important part of the Annual Convention. Usually, there is a normal progression into the President's chair. It is essential to have continuity in the flow of these offices.

To be eligible for a position, one must be a past or present District Director or a past or present executive member of the Ontario Horticultural Association Board of Directors for a period of not less than two years. This person must be willing to serve and consent must be obtained before nominations can be considered.

Nominations for any of the above offices must be received on or before February 28. Please send the nomination to the Association Secretary Marlene Bruckhardt, Box 7, Breslau, ON, N0B 1M0. This nomination must be sent by Canada Post as there must be an original signature on the nomination.

Nominations must be proposed and seconded by a horticultural society that is affiliated with and in good standing with the Association and must be on society letterhead. The society **MUST** have the consent of the nominee and include a resume with qualifications and past or present offices held.

OHA Development Officer Report, September 2006 August 2007

*This is a summary of my activities and results from the past year, as I reported to the Convention delegates in August
As always, please contact me directly for more information about OHA's fundraising work*

Results:

1. OHA Fundraising Plan

I drafted the plan in fall 2006, in collaboration with the Social Marketing and Long Range Planning Committees, for presentation to the Board in March 2007. OHA needs to adopt a fundraising plan to guide and assess its fundraising work, and to fulfill the requirements of the contract with the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF).

2. Training: Developing Your Fundraising Skills

I created and delivered **Developing Your Fundraising Skills** in April at D15's AGM and at the Convention. OTF funds the delivery of two fundraising workshops each year, usually at the Convention. If you're interested in having the workshop delivered in your district, please contact me.

3. Heritage History Book Project

I managed the Heritage History Book Project, in collaboration with the Social Marketing Committee. Volume 1 is complete, with the books available through the website. Volume 2 is well underway, with publication scheduled for 2009. Malcolm Geast, District 5 Director, is the author, and Marjorie Harris has written the introduction.

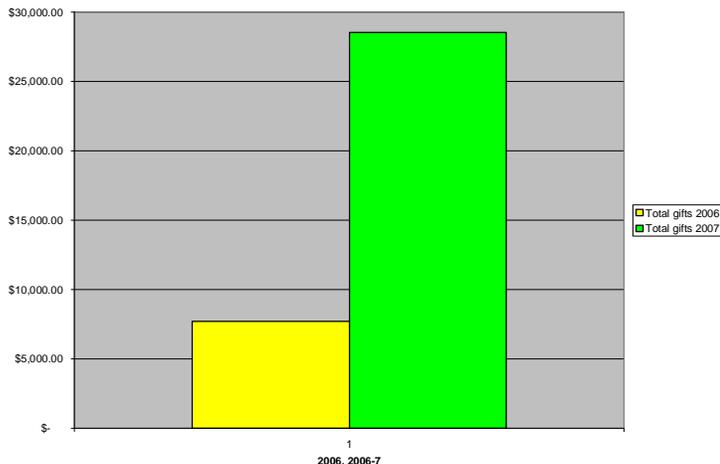
4. Fundraising: Sept. 2006-August 2007

Total donors: 41
Total gifts: \$28,964

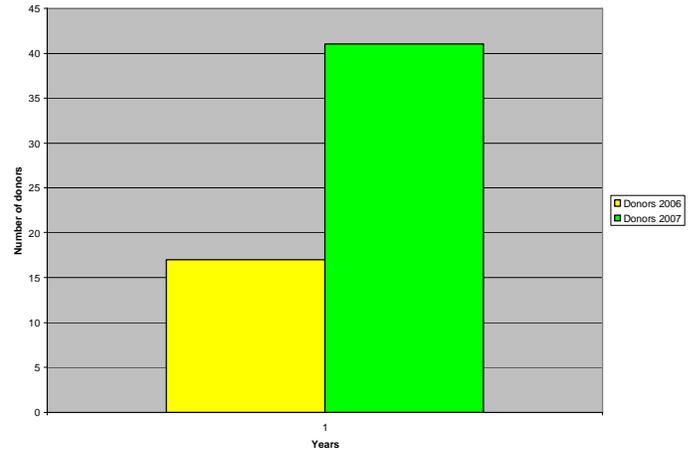
Heritage History Book Project: \$3,650
2007 Convention: \$16,797
OHA, other projects: \$8,527

Comparison to previous year:

Total Gifts



Total Donors



Conclusions:

- OHA is successful at attracting designated gifts. Donors are more willing to make gifts tangible projects with results that can be assessed, rather than undesignated gifts for OHA to use at its discretion.
- The Convention is particularly attractive to donors.

Future growth:

- OHA has excellent potential to keep existing donors and attract new ones.
- Much of that potential can be realized as OHA works to increase awareness of its achievements, vision and goals, both within OHA and outside OHA.

Challenges to future growth:

1. **Stewardship** is crucial to OHA's success to attract and retain donors. Stewardship means building relationships with donors through thanks, recognition and information about the difference their gifts are making. In the last year the number of donors has more than doubled: that means that the stewardship work has more than doubled.
2. Although OHA's thank you protocol and donor recognition are in place, as of August 2007 OHA was not providing donors with information about the results that their gifts make possible. I developed OHA's first Report to Donors in Sept. 2007 and mailed it to all OHA donors. It will be published in my next development column for your information.

3. **Time devoted to fundraising:** Development Officer hours, as contracted with OHA, are declining: from the initial 75 hours/month, to last year's 62 hours/month, to 60 hours/month for the current year. That means it's time for OHA volunteers to get involved. A motion was passed at the March Board meeting to create a fundraising committee. Ideally, more work can be accomplished if more people are involved and working together to accomplish OHA's fundraising goals.
4. **Broaden the donor base.** Currently OHA is relying almost exclusively on corporate donors, with a few special projects to attract individual donors largely from within OHA. OHA can achieve a more solid financial basis and increase the potential for larger gifts by developing annual and major giving programs.

Margaret Turner, OHA Development Officer
partners@gardenontario.org
 519-824-7342



OHA Prize Awarded



At the University of Guelph's spring graduation ceremonies, Andrew Taylor accepted the Ontario Horticultural Association Award on behalf of this year's recipient, Matthew Crooks. Harry Wyma presented the award at the Ridgetown campus convocation. For many years, the OHA has been recognizing an outstanding horticultural student with this annual prize.

Designing with Grasses

Piet Oudolf is an internationally acclaimed Dutch garden designer whose naturalistic planting style is shaking up traditional notions of border composition. Oudolf has brought his innovative ideas to many public gardens in North America, most recently to the Toronto Botanical Garden, where he has partnered with landscape architect Martin Wade on a design for the Entry Garden Walk and Arrival Courtyard.

Descriptively wild and spontaneous, naturalistic gardens succeed through careful selection and placement of plants. For Oudolf, grasses are an essential element that can create harmony, rhythm and excitement.

Some tips on designing with grasses:

- Ø Grasses work best in combination with their natural companions, such as other hardy, non-invasive perennials, most especially meadow flowers and prairie plants, such as: Bee balm (*Monarda didyma*), black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia fulgida*), burnets (*Sanguisorba* spp.), coneflowers (*Echinacea* spp.) and great masterworts (*Astrantia* spp.)
- Ø Playing with form and texture is more important than devising artful colour combinations (Grasses have a harmonizing effect on otherwise discordant hues). A typical naturalistic pairing might contrast the spiny, round flower heads of globe thistle (*Echinops*) with the soft airy clouds of tufted hair grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*).
- Ø Grasses can evoke different moods. Repeating one type of grass throughout the garden creates a calming rhythm; planted in uniform blocks, the same grass makes a powerful impression. Grasses planted in loose drifts are reminiscent of the countryside and impart an informal nostalgic feeling.
- Ø In the fall, the burnished blades of grasses blend with the jewel-tone late season perennials such as asters, sedum, and Joe-pye weed.
- Ø In the winter, grasses such as *Calamagrostis*, *Deschampsia* and *Miscanthus* shine through the frosts.

Kees Stryland,
OHA 2nd Vice President

OHA History Book Update

In February, I started working on Volume II of the OHA History Book, with the goal of having it ready for the 2008 convention in Brampton. The first volume was originally conceived of as a project to mark Canada's centennial but took a few years longer to complete than originally anticipated, and ended up including the early 70s. The second volume is also a centennial project, but in this case, it marks the 100th birthday of the OHA. And as with the first book, Volume II is taking a little longer than expected to complete.

Sometimes the initial rush of enthusiasm when we begin a project blinds us to the reality of the job before us. Gathering information from OHA annual reports, newspapers, and various official archives is a lengthy task in itself, but to have a proper account of the past 35 years, I need to know about the activities of the individual clubs and societies. And that's something that can't be done as quickly as I had originally (perhaps naively) expected. As a result, the publication of the book has been put back to mid-2009, in time for the convention in Peterborough. As a result, the publication of the book has been put back a year, in time for the 2009 convention.

Many thanks to those societies who've already sent me yearbooks, histories, and photos. But to make sure that I hear from as many of you as possible, early in 2008 I'll be sending each OHA society a letter requesting information about the society's history. (I'm waiting until that time in order to make sure that all of new board transitions have taken place.) I'll be giving more details at that time, but I can tell you now that what I'm looking for are stories about interesting and notable events, histories, and photos. These can be sent via regular mail, but they can also be emailed to me. In order to have the best quality pictures in the book, please try to make sure that any digital versions of photos have a resolution of 300 dpi or better. My mailbox has a very large capacity (2 GB), so don't worry that your files are too big. Whether you're sending photos via email or Canada Post, if possible please identify them with dates, places, associated events, and people's names. If you decide to send original documents, please contact me by email or phone first.

Every year, among the forms that OHA societies are asked to fill out, is the *Society Annual Information Report*, which includes a Summary Report with highlights of the previous year. This year's summary reports will be used to help put together a brief *snapshot in time* of the OHA as it began its second century.

You can email your information or send it by mail to:



Malcolm Geast
10 Dustan Crescent, East York, ON, M4J 4G5
ohahistorybook@mac.com
416-429-4719

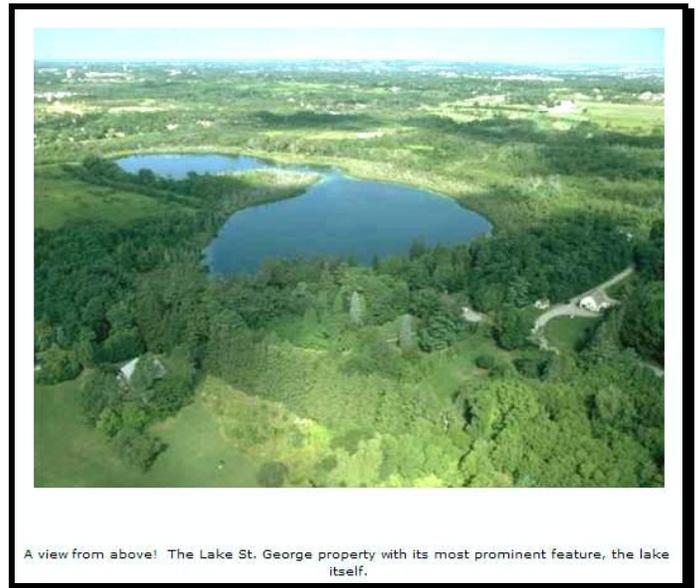
Lake St. George Field Centre, sight of Convention 2008 Youth Camp



Marjorie's Blog

The foreword for Volume II of the OHA History Book will be written by Marjorie Harris, one of Canada's leading garden writers. With an extensive background as an author, columnist, and editor,

Marjorie has recently ventured into another medium, with the addition of a gardening blog to her website. As she recounts many of her daily experiences in and out of the garden, it's interesting, and somewhat reassuring, to see that we all encounter similar problems and pleasures. You can find her thoughts and experiences at www.marjorieharris.com/blog.



A view from above! The Lake St. George property with its most prominent feature, the lake itself.



Youth Camp at Convention 2008



District 15 has organized a Youth Camp at the Lake St. George Field Centre for OHA members between ages 7 and 17. The campers will depart from the Convention site on Friday morning, August 22, 2008, and return after breakfast Sunday morning, August 24, 2008. The fee per camper is \$150. Application forms are available through your District Director and on the website - www.gardenontario.org/site.php/district15.

Lake St. George Field Centre

The field centre is located on a 120 hectare site on the ecologically significant Oak Ridges Moraine in the north part of Richmond Hill, at the headwaters of the East Branch of the Humber River. Lake St. George is a beautiful kettle lake in the centre of the acreage. The property features trails, meadows, mixed forest areas, reforested areas, and wetlands in which campers can pursue a wide variety of field activities.

What to Expect

Lake St. George Field centre is managed by the Toronto and Region Conservation Association (TRCA). TRCA field centres provide accommodations, food, and all of the necessary basic equipment for the programs. Participants will need to bring appropriate clothing, bedding, and personal items. TRCA staff will lead morning, afternoon, and evening programs each full day at the field centre. Programs are professionally designed to maximize hands-on outdoor learning, to connect learners to their environment through fun and meaningful exploration of local systems, and to offer a safe learning environment for our visitors. Many programs can be adapted to meet specific requirements and take into consideration the various ages and abilities of our guests.

How to Register

Space is limited to 30 campers who will be registered in the order their applications are received. Complete an application form and mail to 95 Sherin Court, Bolton, ONTARIO L7E 3T6, along with 2 cheques payable to OHA District 15: \$100 deposit due with application and \$50 balance post dated to June 4, 2008. More details are in the application package.

OHA Adult Leader Participation

Co-ed groups require supervision by both male and female adult leaders while in residence at the centres. Leaders are expected to accompany participants during the programs to assist in the supervision and organization of the programs. If you are interested in being one of the OHA camp leaders, please contact District 15 Director Brenda Heenan, 95 Sherin Court, Bolton, ONTARIO L7E 3T6 Phone: 905-857-4741 Email: district15@gardenontario.org

Get Involved!

This camp is organized by District 15 and financially supported by District 15 and the Ontario Horticultural Association. We welcome your support for this amazing opportunity for OHA Youth members! To get involved or to make a gift to support the camp, please contact District 15 Director Brenda Heenan at the contact info above.

OHA Convention 2008 Reminder

August 22 - 24, 2008

**Sheridan Institute of Technology & Advanced Learning
Brampton, Ontario**

Have you booked a room yet?

Are you planning to attend the 2008 convention being held in Brampton? Don't delay booking your 2 bedroom air-conditioned housekeeping suite at the Sheridan college residence. At publication date, some suites were still available at under \$75 per night (includes continental breakfast). Phone toll free 1-877- 225-8664 and ask for the Brampton location. Convention program information is posted on our District website www.gardenontario.org/site.php/district15 which is updated every week. For people who like to read the news in print, the next issue of the Trillium will have all the details, including registration forms and alternate accommodation information.

ONTARIO HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

BUDGET 2008

REVENUES		
Membership Fees		96,250
Insurance	Liability	20,848
	Directors & Officers	31,920
Retained Earning from Conv07 Profits		4,000
Projected profit from Conv08		2,022
Sale of OHA Supplies & History Books		8,050
Advertising/Shows		275
Web space/partner sales		370
Newsletter		1,200
Donations	General	6,200
NET OPERATING REVENUE		171,135
<i>Special Project & Memorial Tree Revenue from Reserved Funds</i>		<i>6,200</i>
TOTAL REVENUE		\$ 177,335

EXPENSES		
Meeting Expenses - Board Meeting & Convention Expenses		51,400
Other Meeting Expenses	Committees	16,650
District Expenses		8,000
Professional Fees		5,000
Bank Charges		900
Insurance	Liability	20,860
	Directors & Officers	32,770
Mailing Costs/Printing & Stationery		2,200
Secretary	Honorarium & Office Expenses	7,300
Treasurer	Honorarium & Office Expenses	7,200
Awards & Prizes		1,000
Scholarships/Bursaries/Awards		500
Membership in other organizations		25
Special Projects	Oak Grove Dedication	1,000
OHA Supplies	Supplies	3,000
	Admin- Postage etc.	1,050
Newsletter/Youth Newsletter		5,850
Annual Report		1,000
Education/Promotion/Publicity-Internet Expenses		1,300
Exhibitions Incl. storage		3,490
Donor Recognition Reception		600
NET OPERATING EXPENSES		171,095
<i>Special Project & Memorial Tree Expenses</i>		<i>6,200</i>
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$ 177,295
NET INCOME (LOSS)		\$ 40



Introducing Registrar Barb...

I was born and brought up in Verdun, Quebec, a suburb of Montreal. My maternal grandmother, who was from England, and my mother taught me about gardening from a very early age. I remember helping in the garden (and have pictures) at the age of four or five. The love of gardening has continued to this day.

When I moved to Toronto in 1971, I lived in an apartment for several years, and found myself working on the beds around the building, just to be able to do some gardening! I found a house as soon as possible. Now, living in Mississauga with my husband, Tom, I have the good fortune to have lots of room to garden, and if I want to put in more plants, I just make a new garden.

One day about 15 years ago, while I was shopping at Sheridan Mall, I happened upon a plant sale being held by the Credit Valley Horticultural Society. I joined immediately, and the rest is history. The following year, while attending a workshop, I helped put stamps on the newsletters to be mailed out, and after being told they needed a newsletter editor, I volunteered. In 1997, I became President, and now I am the Treasurer. I am also currently the Treasurer for District 15. I have attended at least eight conventions, and have enjoyed every one. The first one was an amazing experience, as I realized the extent of the OHA throughout the province. After that, I was hooked.

It will be exciting and interesting to take part in the convention as the Registrar. I look forward to this new challenge with great anticipation.

Barbara O'Malley

Escape to paradise





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BOTANICAL
GARDENS**
www.rbg.ca




Best wishes and holiday greetings from Royal Botanical Gardens

Membership at the Gardens helps us sustain and nurture the Gardens. Thank you for your membership support:

- Ancaster Horticultural Society
- Brampton Horticultural Society
- Credit Valley Horticultural Society
- Grimsby Garden Club
- London Horticultural Society
- Lynden Horticultural Society
- Mount Hamilton Horticultural Society
- Oakville Horticultural Society
- Paris Horticultural Society
- Stratford and District Horticultural Society
- Winona Horticultural Society



BECOME A MEMBER

To learn more about the benefits of your association becoming a Royal Botanical Gardens' member, please call 905-527-1158 (1-800-694-4769), ext. 290.

RBG CENTRE, 680 PLAINS ROAD WEST, BURLINGTON/HAMILTON



Kudos for Kingston!

The **Kingston Horticultural Society** of District 3 has been honoured by the province with the **2007 June Callwood Award for Outstanding Achievement In Voluntarism**. Selected from a list of 168 nominated individuals and organizations, Kingston's society was one of 14 to receive this prestigious award.

The society was nominated by the City of Kingston's Mark Fluhner, Director of Culture and Recreation. The nomination was recognition from the city of the Society's many years of support. This year that volunteer support was in excess of 11,000 hours!

The society members have accomplished a great deal to enhance the quality of life in this Eastern Ontario community. The community has benefited from member care in maintaining public spaces, renovation of public space, supporting the Lung Association Garden show, and generous support of the Communities in Bloom program, as well as establishing a grant to assist in funding community improvements. Support from eager and skilled volunteers culminated this year, not only with the June Callwood Award, but also with a win for the City of Kingston in their division of the Communities in Bloom program.

The June Callwood award was established by the province and administered through the Ontario Honours and Awards Secretariat in Toronto. The criteria for selection are not for any one individual accomplishment but for establishing a history of volunteer gifts to the community. The award was formally presented to representatives from the Kingston Society at a ceremony held on June 21st at the Ambassador Hotel in Kingston. It was a thrill to be there and be able to see the faces of a group, both past and present, who give so generously of their time and talent as well as sharing their passion for growing.

Dave White
President
Kingston Horticultural Society

District Two Remembers...

Unfortunately, due to an oversight, District 2 In Memoriams were not announced during the Memorial Tribute at the 2007 Convention in Owen Sound.

District 2 In Memoriams, as announced at the District 2 Annual Meeting, May 5, 2007, were as follows:

Beachburg	Doreen Wouda
Eganville	Verner Felski
Perth	Herbert Buehler
Gloucester	Mary McGrogan, Robert Cadieux, Emilia Dawson, Jenny Voden
Nepean	B.C. Szabo
Pembroke	Gunter Zadow
OVRGS	Shirley Tindall
Manotick	Art Dozois, Dorothy Clapp, Ada Cornish, Angela Aiken

Jane Anderson
District 2 Secretary



A Christmas Guest

A couple of weeks before Christmas a neighbour girl was putting up her family's outdoor lights. In her eavestrough, she discovered a frozen butterfly. Thinking my granddaughters would like to see him, she brought him over to me. I placed him on a window sill over my sink. I was very surprised the next morning when I saw him stretching his wings. I thought he must be near the end of his life cycle and wouldn't last long. The children delighted in the little guy when they came over. On the window sill he lived until I noticed that he was gone. Unfortunately, I found him under a pile of dishes in the sink! I put him back on the window sill and imagine my amazement when the next day he was exercising again.

I thought I'd better move him to a safer place so he went up to the bathroom to live on a long vanity. He made a lovely display sitting on half oranges. He never moved from his perch. When I thought he was truly expired a week later, I moved him to the Christmas tree. He had to be put back into the bathroom when the girls again noticed he was stretching his wings. Finally he truly passed and went on the Christmas tree again. Now he is on top of the television. It was lovely to have him as a guest in the house. It was like having a bit of summer. In some countries keeping butterflies as pets is popular. I can see why – they are cheery little friends.

Patsy Ingoldsby
Thorold Horticultural Society

Meet the New Directors

Sheila King, District 2

Greetings from Grenville, Lanark, Ottawa-Carlton and Renfrew Counties. I was fortunate to be born with two green thumbs, inheriting a love of growing flowers from Mum and growing food from Dad. By the time I married, had two small children and left England behind for Canada, I had a very good general hands-on knowledge of gardening. All this without the help of books and computers!



Arriving in Montreal in 1974, I got off the plane clutching my mother's hand trowel and the following day joined a horticultural society - a great way to make new friends and discover how to help tender plants survive harsh winters. After twenty years of volunteering with horticultural societies in Quebec I moved on to Ontario and another twelve years of serving in my community societies. I have been one of those Loblaw horticulturists in the local garden centres in my Ontario time too, where of course I spent more than I earned!

I do enjoy attending the OHA conventions, learning about the host area, and creating new friendships while revisiting old. As part of the organization team of the OHA Centennial 2006 event here in Ottawa, I experienced a lot of hard work but was also much rewarded. Now I find I have the honour of representing the second largest district in our beautiful province at the OHA Board table. It has been a whirlwind time so far, learning who is who and who does what! There is so much more to absorb, but I look forward to continuing to be a better informed link between members within my district and the OHA Board.

Although I have gardened all my life, along with my other passion, art, I do realize one never stops learning and today we are so fortunate to have so many resources literally at our fingertips. I still have that treasured and much used hand trowel, thanks to Mum. From seed to blossom, I will try to keep Ontario beautiful.

Marvin Myhre, District 9



I was actually trained as a chemist, not as a horticulturalist. In the early 1970s, I became interested in gardening as my wife and I had moved into a house for the first time. I had little knowledge of plants or anything else about gardening and therefore joined the Oakville Horticultural Society. I was a member of that society for 20 years (now a life member). I was a member of the executive for a number of years before becoming the President of the Oakville Society.

After moving to the Niagara region, I joined the Welland Horticultural Society. I have been a member for about 15 years and attained the Presidency there as well. After five years as the President I was asked to consider becoming an assistant District Director. I am now pleased to serve as the new District 9 Director.

What I Did Last Summer

My elementary school teachers always had us tackle this topic when we returned to school in September. We would all dutifully groan, although truthfully we didn't mind the assignment all that much. There was always a chance to outbrag one of our peers or to shock the teacher with one or more of our summer adventures. So - what do you do when you have a lot of brush and otherwise coarse materials that your husband would like to burn because he does not wish to pay to have someone haul the stuff away or to have it chipper-shredded? You, in turn, do not wish to burn it because everything is dry and although there is no burn ban on you think it is too risky.

*What do you do? You build a **hugel**. This is an old German technique that I discovered when I was perusing a book on Companion Planting several years back (**Great Garden Companions** by Sally Jean Cunningham). I read and then forgot - until last summer. Cunningham's recipe for this horticultural sandwich is to build with layers - starting with newspaper, then brush, then leaves, then straw, finally soil or compost. My recipe is 'anything that comes to hand'. My hugels this year are being fed lots of branches, twigs, leaves, and in general any coarse plant material. I also throw in a bit of compost and well-rotted manure from time to time.*

Each time I add a layer or two I trample the whole lot down. It feels a lot like bouncing up and down on a trampoline and is almost as much fun. Both my hugels are less than three feet high and yet a huge amount of material has gone into them, and of course there is more to come before we put away our garden tools for the winter. Finally, here is the experiment for next year or perhaps 2009 - plant some of our squash in the hugels. Cunningham planted the very next year - perennials.

*Edythe Falconer, Provincial Field Advisor
Master Gardeners of Ontario*

OHA has initiated annual reporting to donors. The purpose of reporting to donors is to show them that their gifts are making a difference to the work of OHA. Reporting to donors is an important aspect of stewardship and accountability. The following Report to Donors was sent to all Garden Circle donors in September.



Ontario Horticultural Association Report to Donors - September 2007

The Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA) has a 101-year history of environmental stewardship and volunteer public service. With your support, the volunteers in our 287 member horticultural societies are keeping Ontario communities beautiful and livable by protecting the environment, sharing knowledge, planting trees and gardens, and promoting the study and practice of horticulture. In 2006 volunteers devoted 317,000 hours to horticultural work in their communities.

OHA launched a systematic fundraising program in 2006 with the support of the Ontario Trillium Foundation. Gifts to OHA from September 2006 to August 2007, cash and in kind, totaled \$28,514 and were designated to the 2007 Annual Convention, the Heritage History Book Project, and other OHA projects.

Convention 2007, Visions of Our Future, was both well-attended and well-supported. Our most environmentally-friendly convention ever, the event showcased excellent speakers on climate change, sustainable gardening practices and native planting, as well as tours to outstanding local gardens and 100 Mile Meals served on china or biodegradable plates and utensils.

Support for the annual convention is valuable to OHA, since the event enables our volunteers to network with their colleagues from across the province, share experience and expertise, and recognize and celebrate the dedication of the many thousands of members who are keeping Ontario beautiful. As well, we celebrate the commitment and generosity of our Garden Circle donors at the Donor Reception during the convention, where donors are thanked personally by the OHA Board and have an opportunity to see their gifts at work. As well, all donors are listed on the OHA website (www.gardenontario.org, then follow the links to Supporters, then Garden Circle).

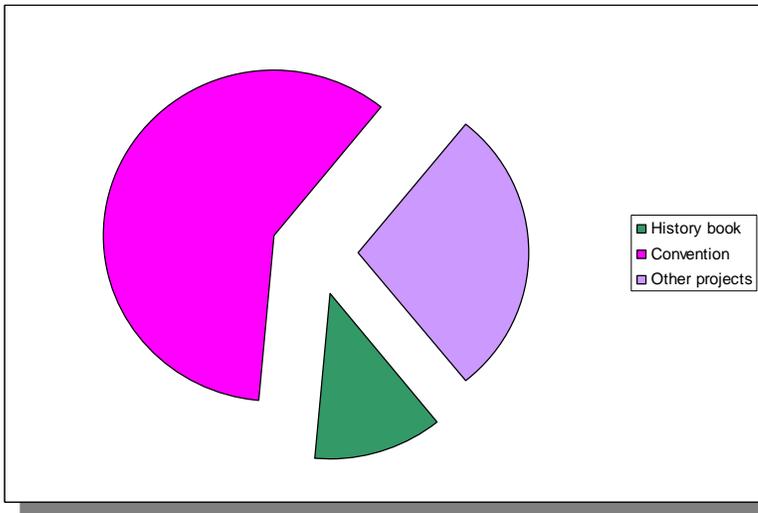
OHA's Heritage History book project continues successfully with volume 1 published in fall 2006 and available through the OHA website. Volume 2, written by OHA's Malcolm Geast and introduced by Marjorie Harris, is scheduled for launch at Convention 2008. Based on archival materials, the project is a valuable documentation of OHA and its member societies, and of horticultural and cultural history in Ontario.

Gifts to **other OHA projects** include website programming and maintenance, reprint of the OHA judging standards book, advertising, and exhibit space at garden shows.



Ria Grummett, representing PPG Canada Inc., accepting the thanks of Ken Fink, OHA 1st Vice President, at the OHA Donor Reception in August 2007

Designation of Gifts to OHA, September 2006 to August 2007



This year's activities and projects are well underway, with training offered to volunteers in society and volunteer management, as well as in fundraising, and increased support for community projects. The upcoming Convention 2008 in Brampton, Sharing Our Diversity, promises an exciting line-up of speakers, tours, and events.

Thank you for your interest and support—we couldn't do it without you!

Garden Circle Donors

Cottage \$5000+

Loblaw Companies Limited
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Scott's Clay Products Inc.
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What is HVX?

Hosta Virus X is a relatively new virus that infects hostas.



WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW:

- o Because it can take years before an infected plant shows symptoms, HVX has been spreading around the world since it was first identified in 1996.
- o The virus is permanent and will be with the plant until it dies.
- o HVX is now the most common hosta virus. So far it has only infected hostas.
- o No hostas should be considered immune at this time.

HOW IS THE VIRUS TRANSMITTED?

- o This virus is transmitted primarily when infected sap comes in contact with a healthy plant such as can happen if a cutting tool is not disinfected between plants.
- o In nurseries, some propagation methods can cause infections in thousands of plants.
- o At home, dividing hostas, removing bloom scapes, removing leaves, stepping on them, even accidentally running the lawnmower over them can spread this virus.
- o An infected plant without symptoms is still infectious.

HOW HARMFUL IS THE VIRUS TO THE PLANTS?

- o Eventually, some deterioration in the health of the plant may occur, but a plant can survive for many years after being infected.
- o The expression of virus symptoms can disappear, but this does not mean the plant is cured. The virus is still present in the plant and still able to infect other plants.
- o If we ignore the presence of Hosta Virus X in our gardens or nurseries, it will continue to spread to the point that the number of infected plants could increase beyond any hope of eliminating the virus.

HOW CAN I TELL IF MY HOSTAS ARE INFECTED WITH HVX?

- o If a plant does not show symptoms only scientific testing can determine if it is infected with the virus - there is no way for the gardener to tell.
- o If you have not added new hostas to your garden over the last few years, yours are more likely to be virus free, providing your tools were not used in other gardens.
- o Symptoms can vary considerably with the same virus, and different strains of a virus may cause different symptoms. They include mottling, darker coloured lines along veins ("inkbleed"), sunken green areas, thin and wrinkled leaf tissue, leaf distortion. The virus can also make the infected plant more compact.



Symptom areas burn more easily



Inkbleed symptoms



Mottling symptoms

WHAT SHOULD I DO TO MAKE SURE I DON'T HAVE THE VIRUS IN MY GARDEN?

- Thousands of virus-infected hostas have already been sold at the retail level, so many gardens could now harbour this disease. All gardeners should be aware of HVX and be careful to avoid spreading it to other plants and to other gardens.
- If you suspect one of your plants is infected, you should remove the whole plant.
- Plants should be dug carefully to get as many roots as possible, and the spot should not be replanted with hostas until any remaining roots have died and rotted away. Plants that have been dug out should be left to dry in the sun before disposing of them. HVX survives only in living plant tissue.
- When you cut hostas, do it safely by cleaning your tools thoroughly with bleach or ammonia after each plant. Get in the habit of also washing your hands after getting hosta sap on them and before touching other hostas. Wearing garden gloves might make it more difficult to avoid transferring hosta sap between plants.
- Keep string trimmers and lawn mowers away from hosta leaves.
- Some hosta cultivars have natural colouring or striping, so it is important to know what is "normal" for a given cultivar. Do not buy plants from batches that show even the slightest suspicious markings on even one plant. If you have these plants from such batches, dispose of them immediately.
- It is best that you buy hostas only at nurseries and only after asking the owners how confident they are that their stock is virus-free.

Some varieties may have actually been named for the virus symptoms they display.

Before this virus was widely known, some infected plants were thought to be new varieties of hosta and were given names. All plants with the following cultivar names are thought to be infected and **purchase of these is not recommended:** Breakdance, Eternal Father, Leopard Frog, and Lunacy.

Each of the following cultivars is also thought to be an expression of HVX symptoms and best left out of your garden for now:

Blue Freckles, Dotted Fantasy, Kiwi Dreadlocks, Kiwi Watercolours, Pamela Ann, Parkish Gold, Strip Show, and Tye Dye.

Cultivars that have a high percentage of infected plants in the marketplace and that should be

closely inspected and investigated before purchase: Birchwood Parky's Gold, Blue Cadet, Corona, Gold Edger, Gold Standard, Golden Tiara, Goldrush, Honeybells, Royal Standard, So Sweet, Stiletto, Striptease, Sweet Susan, Sum and Substance, Undulata Albomarginata, *H. ventricosa* (species), and Venucosa.

Cultivars for which there have been some infected batches in the marketplace:

Abby, Diamond Tiara, El Nino, Ground Master, Guacamole, Janet, June, Katherine Lewis, Krossa Regal, Minuteman, Night Before Christmas, Pacific Blue Edger, Patriot, Paradise Joyce, Regal Splendor, Revolution, Sagae, Sun Power, Sugar and Cream, *H. tardiva*, Yellow Splash Rim.

YOU CAN HELP STOP THE SPREAD OF HVX

- Inform friends and neighbours if you see plants with HVX symptoms in their gardens. Point them to more information and photos if they are not convinced.
- HVX is still new and some nursery people may still be unaware of it. If you notice any plants on their premises that are possibly infected, you could advise the owner or manager on duty. Inform them about the virus and point them to places where they can receive more information about it.

PLEASE DISTRIBUTE THIS INFORMATION FREELY TO OTHER GARDENERS
Researched and written by Monique Pare, Ottawa-Carleton Master Gardeners
Reviewed by the Ottawa-Carleton MG Editorial Committee

Photos : courtesy of the Hosta Library at <http://www.hostalibrary.org/firstlook/HVX.htm>

2008 Trillium Deadlines



Please take note of the
'drop dead' dates
for submissions to the
2008 issues:

Spring – February 21st
Summer – May 21st
Fall – August 21st
Winter – November 21st

Carolinian District Milestones

On November 3, 2007, the Simcoe and District Horticultural Society did a fantastic job of hosting our Carolinian District Six Fall Dinner.

During this annual event, our district had the pleasure of honouring our two centenarians, Julia Miloknay from the Burlington Society and Iola Phillips from the Flamborough Society. Special certificates and a gift were presented to Iola and Julia in celebration of these special milestones.

Also, some anniversaries were celebrated with three societies being presented with Ontario Horticultural Association Special Recognition Award Certificates. The Delhi & District Horticultural Society - 25 Years, Waterford & District Horticultural Society - 50 Years, and Mt. Hamilton - 80 Years. Earlier this year, the Oakville Society was presented with their certificate for 50 Years.

Congratulations to all!

**Donna Hussey, Assistant Director
OHA Carolinian District Six**



The Chinguacousy Horticultural Society is very proud of Youth member, Danika Gordon, who placed third in Section C (Artistic Creativity), Class 6 - 'What Am I?' at the 2007 OHA Convention. Danika was mistakenly identified as a Scarborough Society member in the Fall Trillium.



The Night Before Christmas (for Horties)

Twas the night before Christmas and all through our town,
Not a creature was stirring, no one was around.
The tools were all hung in the garage with care,
In hopes that the springtime soon would be there.

The bulbs were all nestled snug in their beds,
While visions of sunshine danced in their heads.
And I in my flannels and grey woollen throw,
Had just settled down for a nice garden show.

When out in the driveway, there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from the couch to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the curtains and threw up the sash.

The moon on the breast of the new fallen snow
Gave the lustre of springtime to objects below.
When what to my wondering eyes did I look,
At the postman out there, with my spring seedling books.

I ran to the mailbox as fast as the wind,
Tore open the package, just sat there and grinned.
Oh iris, oh lily, oh tulip and phlox,
Beebalm and aster, pansy and 'hocks.

Roses, herbs, grasses ... each made to enthrall,
Order them, order them, order them all!
And though winter seems long, spring's sure to arrive.
We'll again be amazed at how our plants seem to thrive.

So with pencil in hand, the order I wrote,
Dreaming of the garden and the time I'll devote.
On with the stamp and off to the mail,
I tossed in the envelope, and down it did sail.

And I swear it exclaimed, as it fell out of sight...
Merry Christmas to you! May your garden be bright!

**Cheryl Losch
President
Strathroy – Caradoc Horticultural Society**





Calling All Photographers...

Now is the time to start taking all those pictures to enter in this year's photo competition. I am very pleased to hear that some societies are holding photo contests based on the theme of our 2008 convention. What a great way to participate! What makes a winning photo? Originality, focus, and composition. Cameras and gardeners just go together!

Ray Clement

Save Your Rain for a Sunny Day

Water has been called the 'liquid gold' of the twenty-first century. In many areas of the world, water demand is reaching or exceeding the sustainable supply, prompting concerns of a global water shortage, and drawing attention to conservation as a way to reduce water use and eliminate waste. Canadians, blessed with an abundance of water, are the second highest users of water in the world.

Did you know that 30 - 40% of the water used during the summer months is used for lawn and garden maintenance?

Harvesting rainwater for use during dry months in a container of some form or another is an ancient practice whose time has come - again. Historical records show that rainwater was collected in simple clay containers as far back as 2,000 years ago in Thailand, and throughout other areas of the world after that. With the rising price of municipal water and drought restrictions now facing much of our province during the summer months, more and more homeowners should be turning to the collection of rainwater to save money and protect this precious natural resource.

Just look outside your window next time it rains and imagine all the water that's running off your roof or down the driveway, being put to beneficial use in your garden or home. Rain barrels can be part of the solution. Collecting rainwater from rooftop runoff provides an ample supply of free soft water containing no chlorine, lime or calcium. It tends to have fewer sediments and dissolved salts than municipal water, making it ideal for watering plants or even washing the car or cleaning windows.

Did you know that for every inch of rain that falls on a 1000 square foot roof, 600 gallons of water can be collected?

Once you have made the decision to purchase a rain barrel, there are some points to consider:

- If you have children...a child proof lid would be in order.
- Screening...helps prevent leaves and debris from entering, as well as adult mosquitoes.
- If you're still concerned about mosquitoes, 3 or 4 drops of dish soap or a couple of guppies or a goldfish will solve the problem.

Rainwater collection will enable you to:

- lower your water bill.
- reduce the strain on your well and the municipal water supply.
- reduce the volume of water flowing to sewer treatment facilities.
- protect the environment and watersheds, thereby ensuring the future of our water supply.



***All this for the price of a barrel under the downspout. It's a 'no brainer'... so make a resolution for 2008 ...
Install a Rain Barrel!***

**Philip Kennedy
Director, District 3**

Creemore Horticultural Society Branches Out

In recent years, the Creemore Society has moved away from more traditional horticultural programmes in order to broaden our outlook and become more aware of our surroundings, more sensitive and responsive to environmental and social issues. Last year our theme was *Beyond the Borders*. We started with a bang when we invited a local farmer to tell us about the marketing practices that were responsible in making it necessary for him to bury sixty thousand dollars worth of apples. The *Creemore Echo* picked up this story and subsequently won a national award for news reporting. This apple story ultimately made its way to TV and Toronto papers.

Other programmes included:

- *Water Trends in the Mad River*. The Conservation Authority representative spoke of the necessity of a variety of wetlands and their importance to the health of our river.
- The presence of *Alvars* in our district and how they are home to unique wildlife and plants.
- The *Environmentally Friendly Garden*, which included the use of grey water, bio-degraders, whose by-product can be used to nourish gardens, and the importance of water barrel use in a time of changing climate patterns.
- Local market growers spoke on *growing organic food* and their importance in our diet.
- We also had our rose speaker talk about beautifying the country-side with *rugosa roses* which can and have been used for the prevention of soil erosion.

This year we combined programmes on *Miraculous Plants* with healing societies and their floral emblems. We looked at the role plants play in healing body and soul and included short presentations by representatives from local health groups. Some of the pairings included:

- *Trees Under Stress* - Lung Association (pink tulip) and Creemore Tree Committee
- *Aroma Gardens* - CNIB
- *Spirit-Lifting Arrangements* - Canadian Cancer Society (daffodil) -using our own garden flowers in a simple way when visiting those ill or in hospital
- *Attracting Birds and Butterflies* - ALS Society (annual bachelor buttons).
- Our spring show was enhanced by a *piano recital* in the garden by our own Ontario champion, Matthew Walton.
- Planting and Caring for *Fall Bulbs* was impressively taken care of by Dugald Cameron and paired with the Parkinson Society (red tulip).
- The season will finish with Frank Kershaw presenting *Weird, Wild and Wonderful Plants* for other invited societies and the Mental Health Association (forget-me-not) and of course, the wonderful Poppy and the work of the Canadian Legion.

For the past three years we have expanded our fall flower show by organizing *Floral Day in Creemore* which included selling flowers at the local market, having a piper-led parade of children dressed as flowers, fruit and veggies with treats in our Horticultural Park downtown, artists painting in members' gardens or working with flower arranging teams made up of our members. Local businesses helped to beautify the town and many produced creative goodies for visitors to eat and drink. As an added attraction our members had fun doing their versions of jam jar bouquets, while the children added the finishing touches to their sidewalk chalk art.

We would like to be regarded as a Society that cares about environment both in our gardens and in the world around us. We hope that this kind of programming will attract others who have like interests. Did we mention that next year's theme is *Recycling in Our Gardens?*

Diane Hutchings and Dorothy Shropshire
Creemore Horticultural Society, District 16



ROYAL
BOTANICAL
GARDENS

RBG Horticultural Judging School

The April 2008 dates have changed since we first announced the school. These new dates are booked at RBG as of August 2007 and are one week later than originally planned. All other dates remain the same. For further information contact Lil Haworth, ljhaworth@sympatico.ca.

2008 New Dates:

Monday, April 28th

Tuesday, April 29th

Wednesday, April 30th

Liisa Wolfgram

Horticultural Judging School

Committee liisaw@sympatico.ca

Oops!

My sincere apology to Sheila King of the Kemptville Horticultural Society for my unfortunate error on page 14 of the Fall Trillium newsletter. The first place entry in Class 64 (Design Division) on page 14 should read **Sheila King, Kemptville**. Sheila's winning entry, *Down By The Bay*, is pictured below... lh



Denise Edwards
Agriculture Organization Specialist
 Ontario Ministry of Agriculture,
 Food and Rural Affairs
 3rd floor NE, 1 Stone Road,
 Guelph, Ontario N1G 4Y2
 Phone: 519-826-3115
 1-888-466-2372 ext 63115
 Fax 519-826-3254
 Email: denise.edwards@ontario.ca

Norfolk County Societies Celebrate



Special refreshments were served at this year's annual meeting of the four horticultural societies located in Norfolk County. For over 20 years, OHA District Six's **Delhi & District, Port Dover & Woodhouse, Simcoe & District, and Waterford & District Horticultural Societies** have met. This meeting is a great opportunity to share fundraising ideas and to re-cap the societies' events and special achievements. To celebrate their anniversaries, Presidents Donna Hussey and Lyn Poole were pleased to show off and serve the group their anniversary cakes.



Donna Hussey (left), Delhi & District and Lyn Poole, Waterford & District



Newsletter Subscription

\$15.00 per year (4 issues)

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Make your cheque payable to the *Ontario Horticultural Association*, and mail to the OHA Treasurer, Sharon Hill, at PO Box 595, Bracebridge, ON P1L 1T8
 Tel./Fax: 705-645-3552

Note: Please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope if you wish to receive a receipt.

Insurance Queries?

Contact:

Brian McCartney
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 14900 Yonge Street
 Aurora, ON L4G 1M7
 1-800-529-2235
oha@lawbrokers.com

2008 OHA Supplies List & Order Form

Item #	Item Description	Price	Quantity Ordered	Total
01-01	Youth Member Card	free		
01-02	Youth Service Certificate	\$1.00		
02-01	Society President Certificate	\$1.00		
02-02	District Appreciation Certificate	\$1.00		
02-03	Life Member Certificate- w/card	\$2.00		
03-04	Note Pad (4.25" x 5.5 ")	\$1.00		
04-01	Pin- President	\$5.00		
04-02	Pin- Past President	\$5.00		
04-03	Pin- Judge	\$5.00		
04-04	Pin- District Director	\$5.00		
04-05	Pin- Past District Director	\$5.00		
04-06	Pin- Secretary	\$5.00		
04-07	Pin- Treasurer	\$5.00		
04-08	Pin- Member	\$5.00		
04-09	Pin- Youth Leader	\$5.00		
04-10	Pin- Life Member	\$5.00		
04-11	Pin- Assistant District Director	\$5.00		
04-12	Pin- Vice President New	\$5.00		
05-01	Notecards, 5 per pkg, with envelopes	\$5.00		
05-02	Notecards, 5 packages	\$20.00		
06-01	Decals, static cling	\$1.00		
06-02	Gardenontario Bookmarks	free		
07-01	Needlepoint Pendants	\$5.00		
07-02	Ontario Judging & Exhibiting Standards (Publication 34)	\$5.00		
07-03	History of Ontario Horticultural Societies 1854-1973 (soft cover)	\$9.99		
07-04	History of Ontario Horticultural Societies 1854-1973 (hard cover)	\$14.99		
08-01	Golf shirt, green (logo) - small	\$8.00		
08-02	T-shirt, white - X large only	\$6.00		
08-03	Sweat Shirt, cream - medium	\$25.00		
08-04	Sweat Shirt, green - medium	\$25.00		
09-01	Society Manual binder - includes Youth Leader Manual and Volunteer Toolkit	\$40.00		
09-02	Society Manual CD - pdf format includes files for OHA colour ads, bookmarks, and new brochures	\$5.00		
			TOTAL	

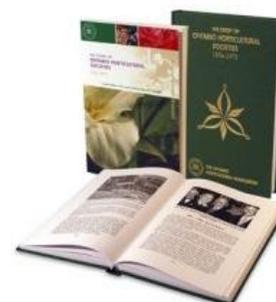
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