

Trillium

Keeping Ontario Beautiful

Ontario Horticultural Association Newsletter

Summer 2011

**Come to Sudbury,
Ontario's Blueberry Capital,
for OHA Convention 2011.**

**Photo by
Aline Dupont**



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A Message from President Vickie

The weather this spring has been so strange. I understand some parts of southern Ontario are getting ready to float away. Here in North Bay we are becoming concerned that we are not going to have very many good sized perennials for our plant sale. Everything is very slow.

It hardly seems possible that almost a year has passed since you elected me as your President and that this will be my last message. It has been an interesting and very enjoyable year. The Board has worked diligently and been very supportive. We have had to deal with some challenges but that is what makes it so stimulating and rewarding.

Thank you for being so hospitable to the Officers and Past Presidents who attended your District AGMs. Some of the District Directors have now retired and their successors have assumed their duties. I would like to thank the outgoing Directors for their hard work. You will be missed.

I extend a warm welcome to the incoming Directors. I am sure you will enjoy this new experience. It is interesting to note that while DDs can stay in their positions for five years they must seek re-election each year. Consequently, at the District AGMs, the elected offices are declared vacant and elections are held.

Next month we will be gathering in Sudbury for Convention 2011 on July 15th to 17th. ***A Growing Experience – From the Ground Up*** is becoming more and more exciting. We have had a sneak peek at some of the painted pickets that will be part of the fence to be unveiled at the Convention. I have heard rumours that some people were so anxious to get a picket to paint that there were intense discussions about who could take one home. Some even decided to make their own pickets! They are turning out beautifully. I cannot imagine how long this fence will be but it should be quite impressive. If you don't attend the Convention you will miss it. I am sure no photograph will be able to do it justice.

I'd like to express my appreciation to Janet Moyser, our recently retired and amazing Secretary, as well as to our incredible Treasurer, Sharon Hill. We could not function without such caring and committed people.

It has been a great privilege for me to be the President of this family of horticultural societies which we call the Ontario Horticultural Association. As I have traveled throughout the province I have been very impressed with the dedication, enthusiasm, and friendliness that society members have shown me. Thanks to all of you for the volunteering you do in ***Keeping Ontario Beautiful***. The hours you put in are amazing! Last but not least my thanks to my husband who drove me wherever I wanted to go and supported me in so many other ways.

See you in July.
Vickie Wiemer, OHA President
Pollyanna38@sympatico.ca



The OHA joins with Anita, Rose, and Doug in
congratulating and celebrating their parents
President Vickie and Rupert Wiemer
on the occasion of their
50th Wedding Anniversary, May 20th, 2011.

*Marriage is like a garden ...
... with love and tender attention
it will flourish with abundant beauty!*



The important forms
and documents listed
at right are now posted on
www.gardenontario.org

OHA AGM Proxy Vote Form 1
OHA AGM Proxy Vote Form 2
Convention Question Form
2010 Financial Report
Youth Competition 2012

Nominating Committee Report

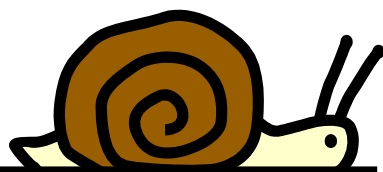
It is with great pleasure that the OHA Nominating Committee presents a full slate of officers for election at the upcoming convention in Sudbury in 2011.

CAROL DUNK, OHA 1st Vice President, has consented to let her name stand and move up the ladder to President.

JOHN SELLERS, OHA 2nd Vice President, has consented to let his name stand and move up to 1st Vice President.

At this time, one nomination has been submitted for the position of 2nd Vice President. The Nominating Committee is pleased to report that **JAMES GRAHAM** has been duly and properly nominated by his society.

Respectively submitted by **Kees Stryland**, OHA Past President and Nominating Committee Chair



Sharon Hill,
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Please Note:

Until further notice, Societies are asked
to direct all written correspondence to
Treasurer Sharon Hill.

This temporary procedure will be reviewed
at the October OHA Board meeting.

Secretary Jan Moyser Retires



*Tears and smiles mingled as the
OHA Board members bid
farewell and thanked Secretary
Jan Moyser at their March
meeting. The Executive and
Directors wish Jan the very best
in her gardening retirement.*

Introducing James Graham – 2nd Vice President Nominee



Once upon a time there was a little boy with big brown eyes and soft curly hair who lived in a world of natural wonders. Holstein cows watched him dance down country lanes and into the mature maple bush where trilliums bloomed in abundance and last year's leaves scrunched under foot. Then he passed out of their sight as he raced down the hill, through the hawthorns and beyond the clear spring where mice swam underwater and frogs croaked out a greeting. Down under the canopy of leaves he sped to the softly flowing creek whose course he followed to the pond where the willow brushed the mirrored surface.

Then it was on to the abandoned cemetery where lily-of-the-valley spread ever outward and lilacs made huge rings with a tent-like feeling in the bald centres. Paths lead past wild white roses to the apiary where the honey bees buzzed and the beekeeper shared their sweet treasure. The smell of chicken eggs incubating in a huge wooden box mingled with the fragrance of the honey.

Such was my life as a child. Without being aware of it I was educated in some of the current interests of horticultural and naturalist groups ... invasive plants, pollinators, pollution of waterways, woodland plants. All it took to round out the experience was a package of pumpkin seeds, kindly-given gardening advice, and amazing success with perennials, annuals, bulbs, and vegetables. Today I am just as excited by the first shoots of green in the spring, the taste of yellow beans, and the stately beauty of gladioli as I was many years ago.

I often refer to myself as a small boy from rural Ontario because I still have that same child-like passion for all things horticulture. That passion now includes the Horticultural Societies of this province. We are just ordinary people but we are doing something that, while benefitting ourselves, also benefits others and even the Earth upon which we live.

The OHA is a recognized voice for the collective good of the societies and as it changes and evolves its focus must ever relate to the members of the societies. These societies make up the districts of the province and ultimately the Ontario Horticultural Association so being in touch with the people in a society is essential.

When I first became involved with the local Hort Society I had no idea the importance it would assume in my life. Likewise when I became a District Director I had no idea what would unfold. Somewhere in Northern Ontario is a gentleman whose name I don't know who told me that I should be on the OHA executive. I have grown to see the OHA as a vehicle to express the passion of that little boy and indeed the passion of all members province wide. We have a lot to offer as we move into a new era of appreciation for the finite resources of this planet and our relationship to the flora and fauna with which we share the Earth. The OHA continues to change and, like water coursing across dry land, it continues to seek new routes to reach new shores.

Together we can do amazing things.....

James Graham

The Waterloo Horticultural Society has nominated James for the position of OHA Second Vice President. According to their submission, James has been an active member and leader of the Waterloo Horticultural Society for 20 years. For four years he led the group as their President. Under his leadership, the Waterloo Society's membership increased dramatically.

For the past three years, James has served as District 19's Director. During that time, James developed and implemented a District Speakers List and a District Judges List.

The members of the Waterloo Horticultural Society are honoured and proud to nominate James Graham for the position of OHA Second Vice President and wish him the best of luck in this new endeavour.



Resolutions to be presented at Convention 2011:

Resolution 11/01

Be it resolved that: the Ontario Horticultural Association express appreciation to the Province of Ontario for the assistance provided to Horticultural Societies and to this Association by means of grants and by the continued review and implementation of policies aimed towards the promotion of interest and participation in horticulture.

Resolution 11/02

Be it resolved that: the Ontario Horticultural Association convey to the Minister of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs, her Deputies and Staff, our thanks for the support, assistance and co-operation accorded this Association by Ministry Personnel.

Resolution 11/03

Be it resolved that: the Ontario Horticultural Association extend its thanks to the Director, Assistant Directors, Societies and members of District 13 who worked to plan and conduct the 2011 Convention and to all others who had any part in contributing to its success.

Introducing OHA's New Awards Coordinator - Grace Esposito

I retired from Kodak Canada in 2003 after working as an administrative assistant for the past thirty years. One of my duties was organizing the yearly Quality Day event at Kodak. This organizing experience led me to the Events Coordinator's position at Michaels until 2007. I have always enjoyed working with my hands and have knitted and crocheted blankets, doilies, and scarves. One of my greatest accomplishments is getting my university degree in 2000 after taking night school courses for eleven years.

Besides crafts, my other hobby is indoor and outdoor gardening. My husband and I enjoy gathering seeds from vegetables and flowering annuals and growing them in our greenhouse. This spring, we have over 500 tomato seedlings to give away to friends and to sell at our Woodbridge Garden and Horticultural Society plant sale. My husband and I have been members of the Woodbridge Society for over ten years. I am presently managing the yearly membership as well as organizing the garden tour for our society.

My new role as OHA Awards Coordinator involves receiving requests for tree, special projects, and youth grants. I will be handling all OHA anniversary certificates, horticultural service certificates, and district service plaques. I will also chair the Awards Committee meeting in March where all the nominees for awards - Community Improvement, Youth Leader, Environmental, Award of Merit, OHA Honour Roll, Silver Fir/Trillium, and Silver Medal - will be discussed and winners chosen. My role then would be to notify all applicants to inform them if their request was approved or denied, and to notify societies on the status of their award nominations. Then at the convention in the summer, the recipients of awards will be honoured at the banquet.

I am looking forward to this Awards Coordinator position and learning more about the OHA.

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Introducing Two New Directors

Sharon Nivins **District 8 Director**

I have been an active member of the Lucknow and District Horticultural Society for just over ten years. I was President for 3 years and have looked after our Soup and Sandwich fundraiser for the last five years.

My husband Jim and I cash crop farm with our four children David, Matthew, Rachael, and Rebecca. I love to garden, with Irises and Daylilies as my favourites. I also like making garden art and furniture out of different and unusual things. I have successfully completed the judging course and have judged many flower shows in District 8. I have also spoken at an number of society in District 8 about garden art.



Susan Lusted **District 9 Director**



I have lived and/or taught in the town of Grimsby since 1978. Prior to joining the Grimsby Garden Club the extent of my gardening was my vegetable garden. I attended a meeting of the Grimsby Garden Club to purchase spring flowering bulbs and just kept coming back. I became involved in the executive when our former Director Eloise Schumacher was installing the executive and there was no one on the slate for secretary. I asked what was involved and soon became secretary.

Since that time, I have served on the executive of the Grimsby Garden Club in every position except treasurer. I came onto the executive of District 9 again at the urging of Eloise Schumacher, replacing an ailing secretary in 2000.

I have also served as Assistant Director and this spring took over as Director. In District 9 there are 13 societies, some of which have been established for some time. The year 2012 in Niagara will be a busy one as our District is hosting the Convention in 2012 at Niagara College. We look forward to meeting members of the OHA at the convention here in Niagara and showcasing this area. We have many events planned, one, the 1812 Rose. We are excited about the rose and soon will be marketing it to the OHA members.

Along the way, I have become a Master Gardener and now am a member of Master Gardeners Niagara. In addition to gardening, I love to quilt and find this hobby very relaxing. My husband and I are involved in the Hamilton Chapter of the Studebaker

Drivers Club and the Canadian Avanti Owners Association and own three restored Studebakers. We attend many car related events in this area as well as across Canada and the United States.

I am pleased to have been selected as Director of District 9 and look forward to getting to know the other board members.

OHA's 19th Annual Successful Gardening Show

International Centre, Mississauga

Why do we do it – stage and enter flower shows? Is it the sense of accomplishment a successful show brings, the recognition and prize money of a winning entry, the camaraderie shared with like minded people in a spirit of friendly competition, or something else entirely? A flower show is a lot of work after all. The schedule must be set, staging organized, judges arranged. You need publicity, volunteers, and of course entries, hopefully lots and lots of entries. Personally, I think the best reward is the pleasure and excitement expressed by the novice exhibitor holding an Honorable Mention ribbon as if it were a Best in Show rosette.

Following the loss of our Chair, Liisa Wolfgram, to cancer in early February, show committee members, Lotte Brunner (Cloverleaf), Wendy Gay and Dawn Teal (Roselands), Gera Koster and Cathy Faber-Rowlands (Etobicoke), Barbara O'Malley and Heinke Thiessen-Zemancik (Credit Valley), and Celia Roberts (Oakville) were determined to ensure that this year's show was one Liisa would have been proud of. The call went out and 37 exhibitors answered, including both novice and experienced exhibitors.

This year's theme *Just About Time* inspired some wonderful designs including a pineapple princess (pictured above) created by Jennifer Arnott in the fun class, *Once upon a Time*, a decorated fruit or vegetable. Helene Selemidis-Hill's fabulous 6' tall interpretation of a My Fair Lady poster, placed first in the Invitational class. Best in Show for design was awarded to Heinke Thiessen-Zemancik and Judge's Choice to Bette Hall. Julie Forbes was the top prize winner in the horticultural classes showing her talent in growing some outstanding tropical and cacti/succulent plants. Cloverleaf Garden Club was awarded 1st in the Society class, a Plants & Flowers exhibit.

This show would not be possible without the support of Showcase Marketing President Paul Newdick and all his staff. We extend a thank you for 2400 square feet of space, skirted tables, curtains, carpeting, special lighting,



ribbons, and printed material. We also thank Showcase Marketing for hosting our judges' luncheon and extend our gratitude for \$2792.00 in exhibitor prize money and demonstrator honoraria.

We recognize and thank the publicists, Linda Crane Communications and Kim Graham & Associates, for including us in the press packages and arranging interviews with Rogers Daytime Television, Breakfast TV Live, and CP 24 Live.

The two demos presented daily were well attended and received. Helene Selemidis-Hill (Aurora H.S.), Marie Decker (Oakville H.S.), Janice Schmidt (Milne House, pictured below) and Elizabeth Schleicher (Burlington H.S.) created 'Simple and effective floral designs for your home'. Edel Schmidt (Cloverleaf G.C.) and Heinke Thiessen-Zemancik presented 'How to create your own spring planter'.

The show committee thanks all the volunteers and exhibitors and congratulates them on a job well done. Next year, we hope more of you will participate. This is a wonderful opportunity to share your love of all things horticultural as well as ideas and experiences. See you at the 20th annual show April 12-15, 2012.

**Heinke Thiessen-Zemancik,
Acting Show Committee Chair 2011**



It's a Growing Experience – From the Ground Up!

District 13 members have been diligently working since 2009 to organize this year's upcoming 2011 Convention being held **July 15th-17th** at the **Radisson Hotel in Sudbury** in Northern Ontario. We have less than two months before we gather again from the far reaches of our province to share what we have learned, promote what we have initiated, and cultivate friendships, both old and new. It is also the time to have fun!



Here is the latest dirt on this year's Convention plans:

- The **Early Bird Registration date** is coming up quickly. **After May 30th**, registrants will have to pay an additional \$10 fee so get your registration forms filled out and submitted without delay to Barb O'Malley, our Convention Registrar. Forms are available on the **OHA website** www.gardenontario.org and the **District 13 Convention website** www.agrowingexperience.ca
- **June 30th is the last day to order meals at the Radisson Hotel.** If you are planning to attend the **Friday night dinner that features the Silent Auction and Entertainment or the Saturday night Banquet**, be sure to complete the meals portion of your Registration form and pop it into the mail.
- **Hotel accommodations** have been organized at the Radisson Hotel and four other downtown hotels: Days Inn, Quality Inn, Best Western, and the Howard Johnson. The Radisson is fully booked so choose one of the other four hotels without delay as there are other events going on in Sudbury during our Convention weekend. Rates and information can be found on the websites listed above. **We have arranged for shuttle buses** to visit these hotels in the morning, afternoon, and evening to pick up Convention registrants and bring them to the Radisson for the Plenary sessions, speakers, workshops, bus tours, and evening activities so you will still be able to park your car for the weekend and leave the driving to us!
- **There are still spaces available for those who wish to take part in the Bus Tours and the specialized workshops.** Be sure to indicate your preference on the Registration form and submit your payment without delay.

Don't Forget!

- Painted pickets for the **Paint the Picket Fence Project** are to be submitted to your District Director who will in turn submit them to the Convention Committee on **Thursday, July 14th**. The decorative fence will be assembled and ready for display on Sunday, July 17th.
- Members who wish to participate in the **Convention Seed Exchange** are encouraged to bring up to 10 labelled seed packages to the Convention and drop them off at a designated area in the hotel lobby where they will be picking up their registration packages. Participants will then receive tickets that can be exchanged for other seed packages in the Seed Swap area.
- The **In Memoriam** this year will be featuring members' **photographs** that will be projected onto the audiovisual screens during the ceremonies. Please be sure that your District Director has **jpeg images** for your Society members who we will be remembering at that time in the program. Directors should forward these photographs to Linda Hugli at editor@gardenontario.org no later than **July 10th**.
- **Convention Kickoff: On Thursday, July 14th at 9 pm** interested members will be meeting outside the front door of the Radisson to take part in a **Guerrilla Gardening Event**. We will be committing some "random acts of beauty" by planting up a few areas in the downtown area of Sudbury. Be sure to bring some "play clothes" for getting down and dirty and don't forget your trowel! If you have any surplus drought tolerant perennials you would like to donate to the cause, please bring them along!

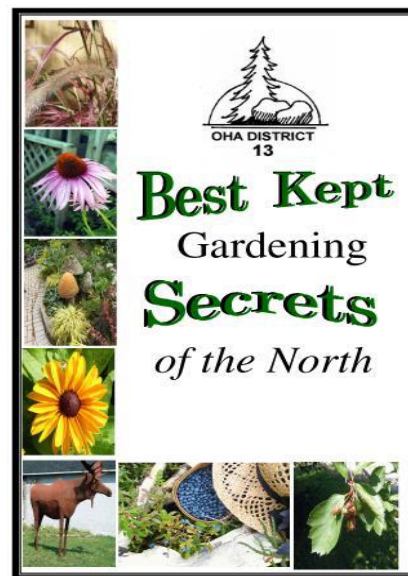
OHA Youth Camp at Camp Falcona

District 13 is excited to announce that due to generous donations from a variety of sponsors, the cost of registration for this year's Youth Camp which is being held July 15-17, 2011 at Camp Falcona has been significantly reduced from \$135 to \$95.

In addition, the first 15 campers who register by June 15th will pay only \$50!!! Youth who have already registered will receive a refund. Camp Falcona is operated by the YMCA and is located on Nelson Lake in a well-protected bay, approximately 1 hour from the Radisson. **Information about this year's camp and the registration package are available on both the OHA and Convention websites.**

Last but not Least

District 13 will have copies of their latest booklet **BEST KEPT GARDENING SECRETS OF THE NORTH** for sale at the low price of \$5.00. This 150 page spiral bound book will feature the inside scoop on where to visit sites of botanical interest and where to shop for the best plants and hard to find gardening supplies. Most importantly, it will share practical gardening tips on how to deal with various garden challenges that relate to site conditions, short seasons and wildlife. Help support District 13 in its efforts to keep Ontario beautiful!



Convention T-shirts are available for sale as well. They feature our "A Growing Experience" slogan and graphic of a seedling. They are \$15 each, including HST. Advance orders for the Convention 2011 T-shirts will be accepted until June 15th. Orders must be accompanied by a cheque payable to OHA District 13 and mailed to Wayne Hugli. Order forms are available on the Convention website www.agrowingexperience.ca. The T-shirts may be picked up at the Convention Registration desk on Thursday evening or Friday morning.

To listen to District 13 Director Suzanne Hanna's interview with Markus Schwabe about the 2011 Convention, go to www.agrowingexperience.ca and click the CBC Radio logo.





A Gardener's Thank You

Give thanks for the bounty of friends...

For children, who are our second planting, and though they grow like weeds and the wind too soon blows them away, may they forgive us our cultivation and fondly remember where their roots are.

Let us give thanks...

For generous friends, with hearts and smiles as bright as their blossoms.

For feisty friends, as tart as apples.

For continuous friends, who, like scallions and cucumbers, keep reminding us that we've had them.

For crotchety friends, sour as rhubarb and just as indestructible.

For handsome friends, who are as gorgeous as eggplants and as elegant as a row of corn, and the others, as plain as potatoes and so good for you.

For funny friends, who are as silly as Brussels sprouts and as amusing as Jerusalem artichokes.

For serious friends, as unpretentious as cabbages, as subtle as summer squash, as persistent as parsley, as delightful as dill, as endless as zucchini and who like parsnips and can be counted on to see you through the winter.

For old friends, nodding like sunflowers in the evening-time, and young friends coming on as fast as radishes,

For loving friends, who wind around us like tendrils and hold us, despite our blights, wilts, and withering.

And finally, **for those friends now gone**, like gardens past that have been harvested, but who fed us in their times that we might have life thereafter.

For all these we give thanks.

A gardener's best friend is:

- A) Mulch
- B) Manure (organic fertilizer)
- C) Xeriscaping
- D) Architectural garden elements
- E) Friends who garden
- F) All of the above

The only possible answer for me is F - All of the above. All are essential to my gardens and to my appreciation of them.

A) I could not garden successfully without mulch - my number one defence against weeds. It almost eliminates the need to water, except in extreme summer temperatures or drought. I like to use about four inches of composted hardwood mulch throughout my gardens. It eventually breaks down into soil and needs to be re-applied every couple of years, but the new layer of mulch is just the thing to refresh the look of an older garden.

B) Living on a farm with two horses and an ass provides me with lots of wonderful manure. Each spring a new pile is created when the barnyard is cleaned up. Four year old manure is fantastic both spring and fall as a soil tonic, a supplement added to enrich soil around plants. Yes, there are weed seeds that sprout and need to be pulled, but that is the only down side. Note: household compost is also excellent!

C) Who can argue with xeriscaping? This water-efficient approach to gardening minimizes the need for watering and creates a sustainable garden that helps plants survive dry periods on their own. Choosing the right plants that are not heavily reliant on water lessens my work and this is a huge benefit. My Ligularia, Actaea, and other moisture-loving plants now have well established deep root systems and are almost self-sufficient.

D) I love my many arbours and ponds. My split rail fences, large stumps, logs, and driftwood create lovely backdrops for plants. Chunky stones, trees, shrubs, and outdoor art all provide year round garden interest. These items represent architectural elements, giving structure to gardens and making them more interesting than plants alone.

E) Gardening may be a solitary act, but it doesn't have to be lonely. Join a gardening club or horticultural society. For a small annual fee, you will enjoy monthly meetings with expert speakers, instructional workshops, plant sales, and garden tours. But the best part is sharing the love and knowledge of gardening with a community of like-minded folks. What a great resource!

Denise Sheedy, Vice President of the Georgina-Brock Garden Club denise@living-landscapes.ca

Create a Pollinator Patch



Every day we hear of another environmental issue on our planet. Sometimes it seems that the problems are so big that the actions of one or two people won't have much effect, but there is something you can do. Our native bees need help, and you can provide habitat for them with very little effort. Consider creating a **Pollinator Patch** this year.

Begin right now by hunting for a site – along a roadside, in an unused patch of ground in your town, or even in your own back yard. Look for a spot about 3m by 6m (10 ft by 20 ft). That's all the space you need to start making a difference. If you're planning to plant along the side of a road or on public land, find out who has jurisdiction over the patch of land and ask for permission to plant a pollinator patch. This part of the project is not as hard as you think, and it gives you the chance to meet some pretty obliging public officials.

Prepare for your project by finding a source for lots and lots of newspapers and for about four cubic yards of scrubby old soil. You'll be planting native plants and providing a home for some native bees. Neither is too fussy about having amended soil. Triple mix is definitely not needed. Something akin to roadside soil is just fine.

Research the native plants you'll use and find a nursery that can provide them. To sustain the natural biodiversity of your area, find a source of plants grown from seed harvested near your area --the closer to home, the better. I suggest that you use plants instead of seeds to increase your success rate substantially.

Plan a patch-making day. Weed-whack the area, lay the wet newspapers, and apply the soil, plant, and water. And that's it for the creation of a patch. It took four of us one morning to prepare the patch and about an hour to plant.



Maintenance for the first season must be steady. Your new plants will need watering and the occasional removal of a weed or two. A weekly visit would be about right unless there has been an especially dry spell.

Check out the **Guide to Creating A Pollinator Patch** at <http://conservation.gardenontario.org> (the Ontario Horticultural Association's Conservation web site) for a watering idea and more information.

By creating your Pollinator Patch, you've assisted some of our native bees and you've helped to sustain the natural plant biodiversity in your area of the planet. If you have access to the 'Guide', read the last page. One person *can* make a difference. With the efforts of one and one and one and one and so on, what a big difference we could make to our planet!

Carol Dunk
Conservation and Environment Committee

Nativars – Cultivars of Native Plants

I love the *Story of the Apple* by Barrie Juniper. In his book, he describes how apples evolved from the small, tart, bird-distributed fruit of 20 million years ago to the modern eating apple. It is believed that a wild apple, *Malus sieversii*, became isolated in the Tian Sian Mountains of Western China, an area with a large number of bears. By selecting the largest sweetest fruit, over time the bears transformed the ancient apple, producing large sweet ‘cultivars’. These are the direct progenitors of our modern eating apples.

While the apples of the Tian Sian only became cultivars when humans recognized them as special and began propagating them, their creation by bears involved the same process of selection over time that we use to shape plant varieties to our preferences. Mind you, we have developed some very sophisticated methods for engineering plants that are quite unnatural. In general, however, cultivars are not ‘unnatural’ and reflect the same kind of selection processes that have shaped the evolution of plants for millennia.

We define a cultivar as a plant selected by humans and “clearly distinguished by morphological, physiological, cytological, chemical, and or other characteristics. When reproduced, they retain these characteristics. That is, their traits are heritable.” (Kujawski, J. & Ogle, D. 2005. “Not your grandpa’s cultivars” *Native Plants Journal*. 6(1) pp. 49-51). Their naming is regulated by the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature. The term nativar is not a technical term but is attributed to world renowned horticulturist, Dr. Allen Armitage from the University of Georgia. It simply means a cultivar or hybrid of native plants. Thus, a marigold cultivar may be considered a nativar in Mexico, but certainly not here in Ontario.

Many native plant aficionados advise against cultivars because these plants may transfer their heritable traits to wild populations interfering with the local gene flow. Though pollen movement is relatively short range, this should always be considered if gene conservation of wild populations is an issue. Unless sourced from local populations, native species coming from who knows where are equally likely to interfere with the genetics of wild populations. On the other hand, use of cultivars may have benefits.

Nativars may offer improved disease resistance, e.g. a mildew resistant bee balm. Nativars may have better habit, fruiting, or flowering for ornamental, agricultural, or conservation usage. Frankly, as much as it is possible

for a nativar to introduce deleterious genes to wild populations, they may equally offer improved viability to fragmented wild populations. Finally, nativars that perform better may encourage greater use of native species and thereby support native wildlife while providing regional character to our landscapes.

For example, the USDA Plant Materials Centers recommend cultivars with well-defined performance expectations for critical area conservation work. They have developed hundreds of cultivars of conservation plants with predictable traits. The USDA Material Center in Florida, for instance, offers a floriferous beach sunflower to stabilize sand dunes. The centre in Bismark North Dakota offers a beautiful Red Prairie hybrid plum as a windbreak which “furnishes both good habitat and food for wildlife.” Different ecological goals are met by the cultivars and concerns of gene flow are considered secondary. The USDA does note however that for “specific ecological restoration or enhancement projects,

locally collected, source-identified plant materials may be preferred to preserve and promote the genetic pool of nearby wild plant populations”. (Kujawski. 2005).

In another example, the US National Wildlife Federation has partnered with *American Beauties* and *North Creek Nurseries* to develop native cultivars to encourage the general public to use

native species to benefit wildlife. North Creek offers a mildew resistant cultivar of *Monarda fistulosa* called ‘Claire Grace’. (Monrovia has also developed ‘Peter’s Purple’.) While these introductions would come from gene pools distant from Ontario’s wild monarda, the plants will support local pollinators and be more attractive in mildew prone gardens. Depending on the goal of the garden and its placement with respect to natural lands, this type of cultivar may be a healthier alternative.

Nativars can have a role to play in native gardens depending on the goal of the garden. From gorgeous moss phlox cultivars to well behaved New England asters, there are many beautiful nativars for our region. As Armitage says, “For native plant purists, cultivars just sully up the game plan. For breeders of baptisias, monarda, and phlox, purists are nothing but collectors. Don’t get into arguments, find your comfort level, use or don’t use nativars, but understand one thing—the gardening-as-lifestyle movement is here to stay.”

Catherine Kavassalis



From the Ground Down



We had a group of youth attend our recent AGM for District 4 held on April 16th, 2011 in Grafton. There were 10 in total. They received a box of creative activities labelled **From the Ground Down**. They were welcomed by the members present and then sent off for their learning activities at 10:00 AM. They returned at lunch and had pizza, brought in for them, and then went back to their learning. They returned at 3:00 PM and made a presentation of what they had learned.

They had taken soil samples and done tests on it. They made volcanoes from plates, foil, plasticene, and a mixture of household ingredients to make the foam. They coloured pictures, answered questions about the earth, and were also able to plant seeds and seedlings from the local greenhouse where most of their activities were held. One of their highlights was making origami treasures from a variety of coloured sticky note pads.

Thank you to Bev Silk and her group in Grafton who organized the day and the youth who attended from the district. Thank you to Betty Morrison, our OHA Youth Leader, for making this program available and giving us the means to bring youth to our meetings, as well as the ladies who ran the youth programme, Susanne McKenzie and Joanne Wilson. I think this will be a regular happening at our future AGMs.

Rose Odell, District 4 Director

Everything that slows us down and forces patience, everything that sets us back into the slow circle of nature, is a help. Gardening is an instrument of Grace.



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Honouring Ann Finlayson



On April 30th, District 8 Director Ann Finlayson (Grey, Bruce and Huron) retired, turning over the leadership of District 8 to Sharon Nivins of Lucknow. At the AGM, Ann was presented with a District Service Award for her effective long service.

The presenters were Carl Preus (Neustadt), Assistant District Director of Grey, and Betty Bone (Lucknow), Assistant District Director of Bruce.

District 14's *The Great Outdoors*



May 2011 saw the **Atikokan Horticultural Society** celebrate its 30th anniversary with Alana Rechlin who has been president for 30 years! The Atikokan Horticultural Society's **District 14 Annual General Meeting**, held April 29th to May 1st, was a huge success! The theme for this weekend event was ***The Great Outdoors***. On Friday night we were entertained by Atikokan Native Friendship Centre members with their customs, dances, and beautiful regalia. The AGM started Saturday with greetings from Mayor Dennis Brown of Atikokan, events, draws for the silent and loonie auction, and a luncheon. Carol Dunk, First Vice-President of the OHA, spoke on 'Alternatives to Pesticides'. Attendees were also offered two workshops: creating a pine needle picture frame or creating a watercolour card of a floral study.

On Saturday evening the hall was transformed into a night club atmosphere at which all enjoyed a delicious turkey dinner with all the trimmings, finishing with the 30th anniversary cake made by Barb Ragg and served by Alana Rechlin and Carol Dunk (see photo). After dinner, A Murder Mystery Theatre, 'Digging up the Dirt' concluded this most enjoyable evening. Sunday morning attendees were treated to breakfast, followed by a choice of three tours - Atikokan Fish Hatchery, Alpaca Farm, or the Centennial Museum.

Thank you to all our members who contributed so generously of their time and effort to make this a very successful event – a reminder that volunteers are the backbone of any organization. The Legion ladies also deserve credit for putting on the weekend's meals. Our membership boasts over 200 and our workshops are well attended whether held in the spring, summer, or fall. We have a *Digging Up the Dirt* column in our weekly newspaper, where we keep members informed of upcoming events. We are an enthusiastic group and welcome newcomers!

Myrtle Main
Atikokan Horticultural Society



Trillium

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Correction:

The cover image for the Spring Trillium was taken by talented photographer and gardener Richard Toivonen. The electronic Trillium with the correctly credited cover is available on gardenontario.org. My apologies, Richard!

Streetsville's Heritage Garden

Originally formed in 1913, **Streetsville Horticultural Society** (SHS) thought it only fitting that they should volunteer to plant the garden at the City of Mississauga's newest museum, The Leslie Log House. Back in 1937 SHS decided on a beautification program on the century-old cemetery in the centre of town and it was our plan to continue to care for historical and horticultural properties as SHS had way back then. SHS petered out in 1954 and was re-established in 1972.



The **Leslie Log House** is one of the oldest remaining log homes in the province, built in 1826 by John Leslie, for whom Leslie Street and Leslieville are named. The house was moved in 1994 from the bank of Mullet Creek, near Winston Churchill Blvd. and Derry Rd., to its current location on Mississauga Rd. and has been vacant since. The Log house was placed on part of the old Pinchin farm whose 23 acre orchard contains apple trees with varieties such as Red Gravenstein, Talman Sweet and Old Style King David that exist nowhere else in Canada. The property also has its own small herd of deer, several coyotes, foxes, wild turkeys and a plethora of birds of every kind and borders the Credit River.

When SHS heard the building was to be renovated and turned into a Museum we were quick to volunteer to plant up heritage gardens around the perimeter of the house. The budget for the renovation was \$400,000, which was to include housing the Streetsville Historical Society's archives, a stone fireplace, heritage garden, and also a split rail fence around the house.

Of course the project went over budget and so two of our members approached a local nursery for donations of perennials and shrubs. SHS volunteers have cleaned up all the litter from the property and are presently waiting for the fence to be installed before we start planting the plant material generously donated by Sheridan Nurseries.

The grand opening was held on May 14th and descendants of the original Leslie family were on hand for the celebration along with City Councilors and other dignitaries. The Leslies presented a plaque to the Historical Society honouring them for preserving the Leslie Log House. We are patiently awaiting better weather when we will also install a mini shed which will look like an old fashioned out-house complete with half-moon on the door and will house our tools and hoses.

Carol Ashford
Streetsville Horticultural Society

The Dirt on Soil



Easy-to build raised beds can cure soil problems and give your back a treat. Raised beds make it easy to improve your soil. Here are some down-and-dirty tips for doing your own soil makeover. Adding soil to a raised bed is a lot like making cake batter: the more you mix it all up, the better the results. So as you add new soil, keep vigorously tilling and working the old and new soil together.

To make your own soil, here is a good basic recipe; one-half top soil, one-fourth compost and one-fourth composted manure. Do not use fresh manure, as too much nitrogen can burn plant roots. Blended topsoil for flowerbeds is a good choice.

Soil Preparation: Do not blow your landscape budget on plants; spend a portion on doing everything possible to add lots of organic material to really improve the soil, then top with mulch. It will pay off in the long run in the health of your plants. Speaking of which, buy a decent size of one or two specimens for show, but remember, trees and shrubs 'take' better and grow more quickly if planted when they are small. However, it is worth investing in larger size containers of really slow-growing plants such as yews and climbing hydrangeas.

Kees Stryland, OHA Past President

Duties of the Judges' Chair and Registrar

The OHA system of registering judges began about 2006. Prior to this, OHA members would attend a Judging School, receive their certificates, and hope their names would be spread within the horticultural and agricultural communities so it would be known that they were available to judge horticultural shows. In 2006-7, the names of all of the known OHA-trained judges were collected. All of the people on these lists were sent a letter and an application form, requesting that they return the application, and a \$10.00 fee covering three (3) years, if they wished their names to remain on the OHA list. This list was then posted on the OHA website; www.gardenontario.org where the names could be found by societies searching for people to judge their flower shows.

When judges register and re-register, they pay \$10 which covers a 3-year interval. In future, some of this money should be used to help defray the cost of qualified instructors attending judging updates which are not held in conjunction with the convention, eg: If a district wishes to hold a judges update, up to \$300 of this money could be used to bring an instructor from another district, with the approval of the Board of Directors. Alternately, when a judging school is being planned, up to \$300 may be requested by the organizer to bring an instructor from another district.

When a new Judging School is completed:

- The school's Administrator will forward the names of all of the people passing the tests to the Judge's Registrar.
- The Registrar will revise the current list to include the new names in the proper district and send the revised list(s) to the webmaster for posting on the website.

When the Registrar is notified by the District Director or by a Judge of a change, whether name, address, phone number, or e-mail:

- Registrar will revise the current list to include the new information and send the revised list to the webmaster for posting on the website.

Two (2) months before the three (3) year period is completed:

- The Registrar will send a letter and Application for Renewal in Good Standing to each judge, who will re-apply, listing the show judged, where the exhibiting credits were received, and presentations/workshops, etc.
- When the application and fee are received, the judge's information will be revised and submitted to the webmaster.

District Directors should advise the Judges' Chair and Registrar that a judging school is being planned in their district. This will be for information and recording purposes until the school is completed. Also for information purposes, if you are notified that a district is holding a judges update, the Judges' Registrar may be able to inform judges in surrounding districts of this update.

Ann Finlayson



Congratulations, Eric!

On Tuesday April 5th Eric Hewison, past president of the Listowel and District Horticultural Society, received the District Service Award from Roland Craig, District Director from London. Each year, this prestigious Ontario Horticultural Award is presented to one worthy individual. As a Master Gardener, Eric has been recognized for his outstanding contribution to horticultural activities both locally and at the district level.

Junior Gardeners Enlighten Perth Volunteers

I dragged myself to my car, exhausted. My jeans were dirty and water stained. I bowed under the weight of two pails of planting soil, containers, remnants of plants, and ripped seed packages. I opened the back of my car and swept the remains of last week's cactus mix, pieces of opuntia, and the remains of rejected hens and chicks out onto the street. Moving piles of tuna cans, empty strawberry containers, and bags of seed potatoes, I made room for the detritus of my day and sped home for a well-earned cup of tea.

Am I the owner of a local nursery preparing for the spring onslaught or a landscaper in the midst of a construction rush? No, it's just another day in the life of the **Perth and District Horticultural Society Junior Gardener Program**.

Flashback to six weeks ago. I, along with twenty other volunteers, am sitting in the living room of Kathy Allen, VP of the PDHS, listening to the lovely English accent of Janet Cain, organizer of the PDHS Junior Gardener Program, as she outlines the six week program we are about to unveil to Grade 3 and 4 students. Over 150 youngsters are about to learn about flowers and vegetables, types of soil, cactus gardens, the rudiments of flower arranging, and the care of seedlings. I was worried. It seemed an ambitious program for children ages 8-9. How much would they comprehend, how interested would they be, and would they retain anything? For an hour and a half, once a week for six weeks, we would have to pique the interest and maintain the enthusiasm of classes of 25 to 50 children. It was a daunting prospect. I surveyed the scene in front of me: 150 white information booklets, 150 Plant Diaries, over 150 small potted indoor plants complete with common name and Latin name, tuna cans, strawberry containers, attractive pottery bowls, bags of seed and soil mix, seed potatoes, yogurt containers, watering cans, and sprayers. We would also be using flowers purchased wholesale from Sylvia's Plant Place. Janet divided us into teams and gave us our schools, our class size and teachers' names. She then outlined the program. Emboldened with enthusiasm and zeal we headed off into the unknown.

Week One: Place boxes of plants on the table. Present each child with a name tag, an information book, a plant diary, and a membership card to the PDHS. Explain the concept of the plant library – take a potted plant, name and describe it in the Plant Diary, take it home to look after it for a week then bring it back and exchange it for another one. Simple! Encourage discussion of plants and gardening.

Week Two: Oops - half the class forgot their plants at home. Little girl cries on learning she can't take another one until she brings the last one back. Note to self: Don't let them take the Plant Diary home – half of them have disappeared. Spitball sticks to sweater. We divide the class into six tables of five and put a bucket of planting soil on each table. Each child gets a strawberry container and a styrofoam meat tray, six marigold and six tomato seeds. We fly from group to group getting them to plant the seeds in an organized manner and water their greenhouse. Noise level rises to 2 decibels.

We choose two volunteers as waterers for the week (Me! Me! Me!) and head for home, tired but happy.

Week Three: Exchange plants in the plant library and write up workbooks. Break up argument over the flowering Christmas cactus. Talk about tubers. Plant seed potatoes provided by the Metro grocery store in yogurt containers using the soil mix provided by Canadian Tire and Home Hardware. Discuss tubers, corms, and rhizomes. Plant onions, dahlia, and gladiolus. Decibel level 3 exceeded. Leave mud-caked floor behind and head for home.

Week Four: A chorus of Hi Pam! and Hi Phyllis! "My turtle died!" Check diaries. Make a dish garden of succulents. Using cactus soil, small containers, rocks and small toys, the junior gardeners create a miniature landscape. Children are enchanted by their creations and thrilled to be able to take them home. Lots of questions about cacti.

Week Five: Carry in buckets of ferns and greens, white, yellow and pink mums, baby's breath, tuna tins, oasis and 25 shoe boxes. Plant library and diaries – it's routine now! Children are mystified by the sight of all our supplies. They learn the rudiments of flower arranging and Phyllis demonstrates how to make a delicate arrangement in a tuna tin for Mother's Day. Interesting fact: the boys are more careful and creative than most of the girls. The final result: beautiful floral arrangements for their moms. Decibel level 5. They are thrilled. We are exhausted but happy.

Week Six: Last day of the program. We discuss the transplanting of their tomatoes and marigolds, hardening off, composting, parts of a plant and recap the past five weeks. We make seed tapes with flour paste and newspaper and give out small packages of seeds for their own home gardens. The litmus test is a competitive quiz of the material we've covered. We divide the class into five groups and ask each group a question. Surprise! Out of 20 questions only one or two were wrong – they were listening after all! They sign hand-made thank you cards for our sponsors and then we dose them all with cupcakes and bid them goodbye.

I put my feet up on the footstool at home, sip my tea and think about the amount of work and preparation that has gone into this program over the years. Janet Cain deserves a medal for her organization and planning. As well as volunteering at one of the schools herself, Janet provides all the support necessary to keep the program rolling. She ensures the supplies provided by our community are distributed at the appropriate time. She has a garage full of yogurt containers, china dishes, strawberry containers, tuna tins, soil and so on.. The PDHS membership collects and donates their Canadian Tire money to help defray costs and pot up the small plants used in the plant libraries. It is a going and growing concern that is expanding faster than we can keep up. I wonder how many children my next class will have. I had better remember a broom next time. I start my list ...

Pam Pratt, Secretary, PDHS

Honouring Doris Lightheart

Doris Lightheart's memory was honoured at a tree planting and dedication at the Guelph Arboretum on September 11th, 2010. Pictured from left to right are Darragh Reid Barrera (Doris' granddaughter), Ann Lightheart Reid, Mary Lightheart Hancock (Doris' daughters), and Judy Lightheart Chamberlain (Doris' granddaughter). Darragh commented, "My Granny loved trees! It was the perfect way to honour her."



OHA Membership 'Perks'



- Youth Club Grants
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- Prizes at the conventions and competitions
- Awards for volunteers
- Loblaws Garden Centre Program
- Scholarships to students studying horticulture
- Tornado 'recovery' donations for planting of trees
- Trees at the Oak Grove Arboretum in Guelph
- Judges and judging schools
- Special Recognition for volunteers
- Education through seminars, speakers, workshops
- Conventions
- Special Initiatives eg – roadsides
- Networking opportunities
- Promotion, promotion, promotion
- 'Trillium' and youth newsletter
- Web space
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- Publications from partners and others
- Annual report for members and stakeholders
- Competitions – floral design, specimens, photography, arts, website, creative writing

Allium

'All I Am'

As members of the Ontario Horticultural Association, we have a likeness to an allium because there is both strength and unknown mysteries in our compact package.

This bulb is a member of the onion family, consisting of several layers. As each layer is removed and the next is revealed, the strength of what is visible is just as important as the previous but different.

The first layer is the OHA and your directors. The second is the district boards. The next is the societies in the districts and their boards.

And we would never be anywhere without our members.

The core holds the possibilities of the future, with growth and partnerships with businesses and organizations that complement our Mission Statement.

Rose Odell
District 4 Director



Kitchener's Rockway Gardens

In the mid 1920s, the Kitchener Horticultural Society petitioned the City of Kitchener to allow the Society to construct a Botanical Garden on the site of an abandoned sewage farm at what was then the entrance to the City of Kitchener. An arrangement was agreed upon and construction of Rockway Gardens proper was begun in 1928 in the midst of the Depression. Out-of-work labourers were hired to complete the job and received a break on their municipal taxes as compensation.

In 1932, following the hiring of noted British landscape designer, architect, and Fellow of the Royal Horticultural Society of Great Britain L. Jarman, a rockery was added to the Gardens. Jarman

designed the rockery based on his interpretation of the Canadian Shield from Newfoundland on the east side of Rockway Gardens to British Columbia on the west. Over 2000 tons of limestone was transported from Sheffield Ontario for the rockery's construction. Twin fountains were donated in memory of H.J. Janzen, President of the Kitchener Horticultural Society in 1912, and in memory of Mrs Janzen. The third fountain was donated by the J.M. Schneider family. A fourth fountain occupies a central position in the Gardens' 7.5 acres.

Over the years, the Gardens have continued to develop. There are 65 garden beds that include a perennial border (housing over 70 varieties of plants that provides continuous change through the seasons), the rockery that features some cascades and standing ponds, three fountain areas, a carpet bed, an arboretum, and a number of formal beds. The beds are planted with over 18,000 bulbs (tulips, daffodils, and hyacinths) annually that are removed at the end of the spring only to be replaced by a large selection of annuals, most of which have been propagated from seed at a local greenhouse by Horticultural Society staff members and volunteers. Fountains have been moved and a gazebo, stone arch, and a large pergola have been added to enhance the beauty of Rockway.

Rockway Gardens is supported financially by an annual grant provided by the City of Kitchener and donations from community organizations and individuals throughout the community. The Board of the Society, in addition to managing the horticultural affairs of the Society, manages Rockway Gardens and has been doing so since its inception in 1928. A staff of one supervisor, three full time seasonal employees, and three part time employees, hired by the Board, along with a group of volunteers, plant and maintain Rockway Gardens. Many of the activities of the Kitchener Society (Plant Exchange, Bulb Sale, Concerts in the Gardens, etc) feature Rockway Gardens which is used as a teaching tool by the Society and by the Kitchener Master Gardeners.

Bruce MacNeil
Kitchener Horticultural Society

On the occasion of Jack Forster's 95th birthday celebration...



"Congratulations Jack upon reaching your 95th birthday. What a milestone! Horticulture in all its aspects has been a major feature in your life. As a life member and past president of the Scarborough Horticultural Society, as well as a member of a number of other societies, you have been an inspiration to many of us. You received the OHA's Silver Fir Award in 1999, the association's award for exemplary service. Your beautiful garden on Colonel Danforth Trail was featured on many garden tours over the years, and your entries have often elevated good flower shows to spectacular flower shows. You have been a master teacher and role model for all of us who know you."

Dave Money

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