

Trillium



Keeping Ontario Beautiful

Ontario Horticultural Association

Summer 2012



'Daisy' photographed by Suzanne Rivard

Editor:

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

Phone: (705) 693-2476

Fax: (705) 693-5057

E-mail:

editor@gardenontario.org

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- ❖ OHA Financial Statement
- ❖ 2011 Convention Minutes
- ❖ Proxy Forms & instructions
- ❖ Q & A Form for Convention 2012

Inside this Issue:

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- ❖ Introducing New Directors
- ❖ Resolutions for Convention 2012
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President Carol Looks Back ...

What a spring we've had! March was hot, but, in the words of T.S. Eliot, "April is (was) the cruellest month." Thank goodness May followed with sun and warmth as a lead-in to those rare days of June.

My term as President of the Ontario Horticultural Association is nearly over. I've learned so much about the OHA and its member societies! For instance, Atikokan is only a hop, skip, and jump away via Westjet, and French River is a new and active society that puts on an AGM that's hard to beat. Lincoln has a wonderful Millennium Forest and London HS is 160 years old! And when I'm blue, I turn to the calendar of the Almonte Society and Mississippi Mills to lift my spirits.

This spring I asked for pictures of community projects that societies have done. I was blown away! Ontario Horticultural Societies are indeed Keeping Ontario Beautiful – one community at a time. Parks and parkettes, street planters, hanging baskets, town halls, churches and libraries all receive makeovers and beautification from their local horticultural society and its volunteers. Boy, OMAFRA and Ontario get their money's worth with hort societies! And don't they know it! At many of the Annual District Meetings that I've attended, the mayors of the municipalities and local MPPs have had glowing remarks about their local Horticultural Society. We make communities better.

Coming in August is the 106th Annual Convention of the Ontario Horticultural Association. This year the Convention is in Niagara on August 17, 18, and 19 and

is hosted by the societies of District 9. The Convention theme is Gardening Then and Now to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812.



You'll want to attend. The food will be great and the tours will be wonderful. Come for the business meeting; stay for the treats. The speakers will inspire you, and you'll be on hand to welcome a new OHA president. Registration forms are on the website: www.gardenontario.org.

During my term as president, I discovered that the Number 1 issue facing our societies is the difficulty in finding folks to take leadership. If only we could convince our members that taking office is a good thing – a growth opportunity! Just

volunteering gives you a dose of well-being, but you can't beat the sense of personal worth that taking responsibility for a project or stepping up and taking office gives you.

As I ride off into the sunset this August, I leave as a richer person because of the people I've met and the things I've learned. I was a bit apprehensive about taking the position, but I'm so glad I did. I wouldn't have missed the experience for the world. When I began this journey, I liked the Ontario Horticultural Association ... I love it now. Thank you for the opportunity.

Carol Dunk



Membership Tip #3

Partner with other groups at their events.

This gives you the opportunity to meet a new group of potential members. Work with local farm markets, libraries, Kiwanis Clubs, and other non-profits to spread the word about your society and its programs. Have bookmarks with your meetings and events schedule available to distribute at such events.

From the Secretary's Desk

What an unusually warm spring! I can't believe how early the forsythia bloomed. Unfortunately, with the frost, most of my tulips didn't bloom this year. Oh well, there is always next year! The Summer Trillium includes detailed information about the Niagara-on-the-Lake Convention. The convention is being held at Niagara College Residence – Glendale Campus, Niagara-on-the-Lake on August 17-19, 2012. The theme is *Gardening Then and Now 1812 – 2012* and it is advisable to register early, especially if you are interested in taking part in the exciting tours that are being offered. The Registrar and Treasurer greatly appreciate registrations that are received well in advance of the deadline!

Please note the forms and documents referenced on the cover. These are now available on GardenOntario.org. If your Proxy authorization form is completed and returned by July 15, the society proxy voting cards will be ready for pickup upon arrival at the Registration Desk. Please read the 2nd Vice President nomination included in this issue with your society members as this will be voted upon at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Convention. Have a safe journey to the Convention and I look forward to meeting you there!



Kelly Taylor
secretary@gardenontario.org
519-452-0864

Nominating Committee Report

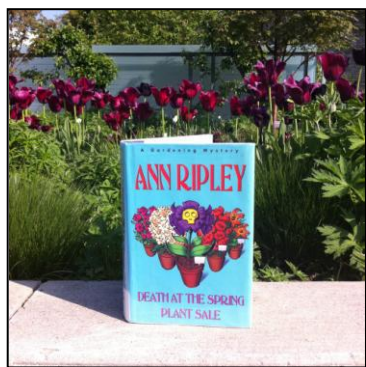
It is with great pleasure that the OHA Nominating Committee presents a full slate of officers for election at the upcoming convention in Niagara in 2012.

John Sellers has accepted the nomination to move from 1st Vice to President.

James Graham has agreed to move from 2nd Vice President to 1st Vice President.

Jeff Blackadar has been nominated by the Ottawa Horticultural Society to run for 2nd Vice President and has accepted.

Submitted by the Nominating Committee Chair **Vickie Wiemer, Immediate Past President.**



Death at the Spring Plant Sale

Recently I came across *Death at the Spring Plant Sale*, a gardening mystery written by Ann Ripley, an organic gardener and former newspaperwoman. Here's a short teaser: "When Louise Eldridge covers the spring plant sale of the venerable Bethesda Garden Club for her television show, she finds blue-blooded traditions, deeply rooted resentments, and fertile ground for murder..." *Death at the Spring Plant Sale's* matter-of-fact but flippant tone is endearing and fun to dig into. Gardeners, members of horticultural groups, and bookworms alike will enjoy this book for its tongue-in-cheek portrayal of garden club culture. Ripley's other titles include *The Christmas Garden Affair*, and *Harvest of Murder*.

Zachary Osborne, Weston Family Library Head Librarian, TBG

Now That's a Pumpkin!

Having achieved success growing pumpkins with the Georgina-Brock Garden Club Youth Group, leader Dorothy Shier decided to try her hand at growing a giant pumpkin. With her husband Keith's help, and through many trials and tribulations, Dorothy managed to grow this 659 lb beauty! The handsome specimen won third place at the 2011 Sunderland Fair.





When District 4 held a contest to create a logo to be used on their stationery and website, they received eight entries in total.

In the photo at right, Peterborough's **Gary Westlake** holds his winning entry – the design which we will be using to take us into the future.

Rose Odell
District 4 Director



Resolutions to be Presented at Convention 2012:

Resolution 12/01

Be it resolved that: “By-Law 16-1 be amended by deleting the figure “90” and substituting “60” and by deleting sub-section 3 and substituting “The Secretary shall notify all societies of proposed amendments 50 days prior to the meeting.”

Resolution 12/02

Be it resolved that: “Constitution “Article VII – Amendments” be commended by deletion of the words in the sentence following “Association Secretary” and substituting the words “...at least 60 days in advance of the meeting so that all societies may be notified within a period of 50 to 10 days prior to the meeting.”

Resolution 12/03

Be it resolved that: By-Law 13.1 be amended to read as follows:

- a) District 5 - “Toronto East, York Region East”
- b) District 6 - “Carolinian”
- c) District 11 - “Southwestern Ontario”
- d) District 12 - “Northeastern Ontario”,
- e) District 2 be amended by deleting the word “Carleton”

Resolution 12/04

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 12/05

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

Resolution 12/06

Be it resolved that: the Ontario Horticultural Association extend its thanks to the Director, Assistant Directors, Societies and members of District 9 who worked to plan and conduct the 2012 Convention, and to all others who had any part in contributing to its success.

Introducing Jeff Blackadar ... OHA 2nd Vice President Nominee

I'm honoured that the Ottawa Horticultural Society has nominated me as a candidate for Second Vice President of The Ontario Horticultural Association. I have observed the executive of the OHA and how hard they work. They spend many hours leading this organization, meeting members and solving problems. Even just the amount of hours they log on the road in Ontario gives me pause. I understand the Executive does all of this because they love working with the other volunteers in the OHA, enjoy the challenges of their role and feel a sense of responsibility towards our association. The OHA plays a vital role in leading the horticultural societies that beautify communities and inspire gardeners in every corner of this province.

I, too, feel strongly about the OHA. The OHA and our member societies play a unique role in Ontario as public serving, community based, volunteer organizations providing education, beautification and environmental stewardship. People of all ages, across the province, come to horticultural societies to learn how to grow food, green school grounds, marvel at show exhibits and take part in the many other activities that contribute to the fabric of our gardening community and our enjoyment of it. It's also no coincidence that Ontario has the most developed network of all volunteer horticultural societies of any province in Canada. I would like to contribute to this ongoing work of the OHA as a member of its executive.

The OHA is a democratic organization. The projects it works on are determined by its members through its elected board. With that in mind, the areas I'd like to prioritize on as a member of the executive are:

- ⤴ Continuing to implement the specific objectives of the OHA's new long range plan.
- ⤴ Growing membership by attracting new horticultural society members and starting more new societies.
- ⤴ Invigorating societies to help them focus efforts on activities that are most relevant to members and the public (our source for new members.)
- ⤴ Examining the structure of the OHA board, committees and districts to optimize our organization and focus our volunteer resources most effectively.
- ⤴ Training society volunteers using updated manuals and workshops at conventions and district meetings.
- ⤴ Invigorating societies to help them focus efforts on activities that are most relevant to members and the public (our source for new members.)

I believe my previous hands-on volunteer experience has given me a working knowledge of the OHA and its horticultural societies:

- ⤴ Ontario Horticultural Association: director District 2; webmaster; long range planning committee chair.
- ⤴ Ottawa Society: president; board member; webmaster; membership convenor; yearbook editor; archivist.
- ⤴ In 2006, served on the City of Ottawa's Forests and Greenspace advisory committee.
- ⤴ In 2009, led the restart of the Eastern Chapter of the Society of Ontario Nut Growers after a dormancy of 2 years. Served as chair of the chapter and webmaster.

In my non-volunteer life my wife Christine and I have 3 children, one of them, Alexandra, is a junior member of the Ottawa Horticultural Society. I work as a manager of a software development team at Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

We are a group of horticulturists and so you may want to know my specific gardening interests. How about I list a few of my favourite plants:

- ⤴ Stapelias (A tough indoor plant. They have flowers that smell and look like rotting meat. My children love them.)
- ⤴ Solomon's Seal (They also attract hummingbirds.)
- ⤴ Blood root (The brief appearance of the flowers of this native plant is one of the most eagerly anticipated signs of spring for me.)
- ⤴ Peonies (The single flowered ones are my favorites.)
- ⤴ Ginkgo (Its unique natural history)

I look forward to the opportunity to serve you as Second Vice President of the OHA.



Jeff Blackadar

Thunder Bay Home and Garden Show



As in the past several years the Thunder Bay Horticultural Society had a booth in the Home and Garden Show held at the Canadian Lakehead Exhibition in Thunder Bay on March 30, 31 and April 1st. The theme for the booth this year was titled **Flower Power**. Our booth was decked out in fresh and artificial flowers to look like a spring garden, and our volunteers were dressed in lime green aprons to compliment the setting.

Twenty two volunteers worked in groups of three over the three days to meet and greet the public. Volunteers provided information about our society and distributed programs for the upcoming meetings as well as answering their gardening questions.

With the green thumb of 3 of our members Joan Powers, Sharon Di Meo and Sandi Sissons, over 300 German Ivy plants for outdoor planters were given away. A gift basket donated by Cathy Hedley, as well as 5 memberships were drawn during the weekend. Our



resident artist and member, Marilyn Boyle took up the challenge to paint a rain barrel provided by EcoSuperior for the Silent Auction.

Approximately five hundred people came to see us and many others made nice comments on our booth.

Sandi Sissons
Show Coordinator

Healthy School Yards

Young children at play will often breathe in and out at double the rate of an active adult. If there is airborne pollen in the schoolyard, active children on the playground will access twice the amount as an adult. In addition, children's internal organs are not yet fully developed, and they are less able than adults to deal with insults to their bodies.

Pollen-allergies often trigger more serious episodes of asthma, and these can be life threatening. The majority of children with asthma also are allergic to pollen. At any rate, allergies to pollen make children feel bad and impact their ability to play and study. It is now well known that the most harmful sources of pollen are often those plants that are growing very close by...the closer they are, the more of a problem they pose if they are allergenic plants. With this in mind, we should insist that only the most allergy-free plants be used in any and all re-greening projects at all of our Ontario schools.

Plants to always avoid using at schools: Fruitless mulberry trees, all cultivars of male junipers, all male yews, birch trees of all species, male cultivars of poplar, willow and aspen, male red maple cultivars, male silver maples, and male cultivars of the hybrids of red & silver maple. Cypress shrubs should not be used in school yards, and oak and sycamore trees should not be planted there. Existing oak and sycamore trees can be kept pollarded and this will get rid of their pollen.

Allergy-free plants to use in school yards: Only the female cultivars of juniper, poplar, willow, tupelo, aspen, red maple, red-silver maple hybrids, and yew will be pollen-free and these should be used. Crab apple trees, ornamental plums, and service berry trees are all also recommended. Most perennials will be perfectly fine, but ornamental grasses and goldenrod should be avoided.

*No ragweed should ever be allowed to grow on any school grounds, and school children should be taught to identify it when young, and encouraged to pull up any of these they see that are not in bloom (which only happens in the fall). For all other plants, or whenever in doubt, it is recommended that OPALS® (Ogren Plant Allergy Scale) be used to judge the allergy potential of landscape plants.

<http://www.allergyfree-gardening.com/opals.html>

Peter Prakte
Healthy School Yards Organization
peter@healthyschoolyards.org



Plant a Tree

The Ontario Horticultural Association is continuing its Tree Planting Grant whereby a Society or District of the Ontario Horticultural Association may apply for up to \$200 for a special tree planting. Up to **25 tree-planting grants** will be awarded each year.

The grant is to be used toward the purchase of a tree to be planted in a community or public space. A request by a society or district outlining the species of tree to be purchased, where the tree will be planted and whether the planting commemorates a special event for the Society/District/Community should be sent to the Ontario Horticultural Association Awards Coordinator:

OHA Awards Coordinator, Grace Esposito, 130 Riverview Avenue, Woodbridge, ON L4L 2L6

The tree grants will be awarded on a *first come basis* after December 31 each year, up to a maximum of 25 awards per year. Any society or district that receives this funding cannot apply again for three years.

Once approved, payment is made upon submission of an original receipt for the tree and a digital picture of the planting. The picture becomes the property of the OHA.

Receipts for tree grants must be received by December 31 of the year in which they were awarded. i.e. a grant awarded in 2012 must be receipted by December 31 of 2012. If a receipt is not by received by this time, it will be assumed that no tree will be planted against this award and the grant will cancelled.

Begin a Special Project

As part of the ongoing support of member societies, the Board of the Ontario Horticultural Association annually awards SPECIAL PROJECT grants of up to \$500 each for the use of societies toward the completion of projects having a long lasting benefit to their society or community.



The grant is to be used for planting materials such as perennials, trees and shrubs and not for the planting of annuals or for mulch, manure, compost or hard surface materials. When preparing your application, be sure to include information about the location and use of the project, a budget for the project, a planting plan, one or two photographs of the site, a list of plant materials to be used, and the estimated costs. Please keep your applications to a maximum of 6 pages.

The Ontario Horticultural Association will grant up to ten projects a year to a maximum of \$500.00 for each project with a limit of one project per society per year. Any society that receives this funding cannot apply again for five years.

To be considered for a Special Project grant in 2013, an application form and the accompanying information should be completed and mailed to your District Director no later than February 28, 2013. Application forms are available on the OHA website at www.gardenontario.org or from your District Director. Send your applications to:

OHA Awards Coordinator, Grace Esposito, 130 Riverview Avenue, Woodbridge, ON L4L 2L6

Once approved, payment is made upon submission of original receipts for the funds spent for the project and a digital picture of the planting. The picture becomes the property of the OHA.

Receipts for awarded special project grants must be received within 2 years. i.e. a grant awarded in 2012 must be have receipts sent by December 31 of 2013. If receipt(s) are not by received by this time, it will be assumed that the special project will not be completed and the grant will cancelled.

OHA's 20th Annual Successful Gardening Flower Show International Centre, Mississauga

An early spring, new show date, new location and a lot of enthusiasm from committee members, volunteers and exhibitors made this year's show better than ever. Visitors to Hall 6 were greeted with amazing flowering branches, spring flowering bulbs, tropical plants, succulents, special exhibits and wonderful floral designs. It truly was a "Spring Symphony" (this year's theme). Entries in the large flowering bulb class were so numerous the class was subdivided into five. The small flowering bulb and flowering perennial classes also received a large number of entries which necessitated multiple subdivision. Visitors were amazed at the variety of plant material flowering in gardens at this time of year.

The floral design entries were a testament to the creativity of so many talented people. Marie Decker (Oakville) won Best in Show with her entry in the class entitled "Wind in the Branches" and Judy Zinni (Credit Valley) was awarded Judge's Choice for her entry in the same class. Grimsby Garden Club's Lil Haworth placed first in the Invitational Class for her interpretation of "Morning Sky" (pictured at top). Cloverleaf Garden Club was awarded 1st in the Society class, for the second year in a row, for their outdoor planter with a lovely combination of Helleborus, Primula, pansies and ivy in tones of green and white in a soft green pot (pictured at centre).

Visitors were encouraged and inspired to try their hand at creating their own floral designs and planters at home by presenters Mary Audia (North Toronto), Connie Bijl (Burlington), Anne Clark-Stewart (Cloverleaf), Marie Decker (Oakville), Elizabeth Schleicher (Burlington), Trish Symons (Orangeville), Nancy Wilson (Georgetown) and Judy Zinni (Credit Valley, pictured at bottom).



This show would not be possible without the support of Showcase Marketing President Paul Newdick and all his staff, in particular Pat Gramsch. We extend a thank you for 3000 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 the \$3187.00 in exhibitor prize money and honoraria for demonstrators. We recognize and thank the publicists, Kim Graham & Associates, for their work in promoting our show.

Thank you also to all the exhibitors and volunteers who support this show. It can't be done without you. Exhibitor Margaret Galamb summed up her experience in two words "Had fun!"

We, the show committee,

Wendy Gay and Dawn Teal
(Roselands),
Gera Koster and Cathy Faber-
Rowlands (Etobicoke),
Celia Roberts and Marie Decker
(Oakville),
and Barb O'Malley and Heinke
Thiessen-Zemancik
(Credit Valley)

concur and hope you'll all 'have fun' with us next year. Look for the 2013 schedule in December at gardenontario.org or contact me directly. You won't want to miss this opportunity to meet fellow gardeners, encourage novices and generally join in the fun!

Heinke Thiessen-Zemancik
Show Committee Chair
heinkesg@gmail.com
905-820-4751

Introducing the New Directors

Donna Hussey – District 6 Director

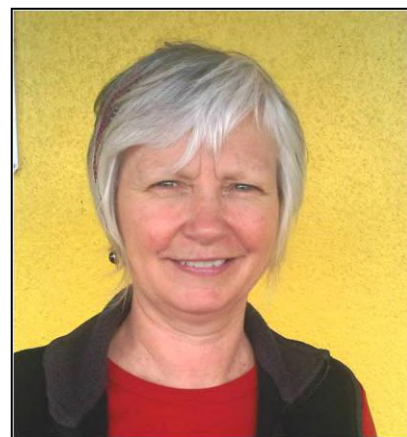


Hi! I'm Donna Hussey and I am happy to be the incoming District Director for District Six. My husband Wayne and I live in Delhi where I have lived for most of my life. We have a son, Joel, who recently graduated from the Graphic Design Animation Program at Mohawk College. Now the hard task of looking for work begins for him. That's where mum might come in handy... I work full-time at The Employment Centre in Simcoe. I run the day to day operations of the Centre's Resource Centre which offers free services to people looking for work. We enjoy long daily walks with our two rescue dogs, Billy, a Redbone Coonhound (very loud) and Abby, a gentle, somewhat chubby, brindle-coloured greyhound mix. We have a very furry cat named Red and a cute little hedgehog called Pixel. I have a small hosta collection and love to garden but confess I am a spring and fall time gardener. I

enjoy edging and weeding my gardens in the cool weather but as soon as the humidity hits, I can be found indoors enjoying the air conditioning while watching all of my reality TV shows. I am the President of the Delhi & District Horticultural Society, a member of the Ontario Hosta Society, a member on the Delhi Community Policing Committee, and have been an Assistant Director for 5 years. I am pleased to represent District Six and look forward to working with the other board members to promote the continued success of the Ontario Horticultural Association with all of its goals, present and future.

Kathy Lindsay – District 2 Director

I live in the upper Ottawa Valley in Renfrew and work as a wildlife research ecologist for Environment Canada at the National Wildlife Research Centre on the Carleton University campus in Ottawa. I have a PhD in ecology from Carleton and am an Adjunct Research Professor and co-Director of the Geomatics and Landscape Ecology Research Lab. I have been a member and Treasurer of the Ottawa Region Floral Art Group since 2002. I have also been a member of the Ottawa Horticultural Society since 2003, chair of the Shows Committee since 2006, and served for one term as a Director. In 2010, I was certified as an OHA horticulture and floral design judge. My gardening interests include plants for flower arranging, native herbaceous plants and the use of labyrinths as a landscape design element.



Sandra Hartill – District 18 Director



My love of gardening started in Edinburgh, Scotland with my father. Everyone said he had "green fingers" and, as a child, I really found that bewildering! Over my childhood years I also spent lots of time exploring the beautiful Botanical Gardens in Edinburgh as well as many other remarkable Scottish National Trust gardens etc. After completing several nursing courses in Scotland, I moved to Toronto to live in 1967. When my husband and I bought our home, we were fortunate to live across the road from an avid gardener, who willingly shared her wealth of knowledge with me. I very clearly remember the day we moved in to our house and being aghast at the many cars stopping outside our house. Thankfully they were looking at the magnificent garden across the street and not coming to visit us! We moved to Bracebridge in 2002 and have enjoyed being part of both Bracebridge and Gravenhurst Horticultural Societies. I have met many wonderful gardeners in District 18 and am looking forward to meeting and working with

many more. I also enjoy belonging to the OHA judges group and the Muskoka-Parry Sound Master Gardeners. Currently my passion is nurturing my 3 year old granddaughter's gardening skills. Fortunately Keira loves to be involved in every aspect of it and hopefully will develop a "green thumb"!

The OHA and Trees

From the very beginning in 1906, the Ontario Horticultural Association has always considered the planting of trees as an important part of its mandate. In 1915, the public saw the planting of trees along the sides of Ontario Provincial highways after the OHA lobbied the provincial government. To commemorate the Coronation of George VI in 1937, many societies in Ontario planted some of the 10,000 acorns that were sent from the grounds of Windsor Castle. One seedling oak and 2 acorns were sent to each society. Those oaks became known as the Coronation Oaks. One in Coronation Park in Strathroy survived until 2010.

In 1944, the OHA participated in the shipment of maple trees to the Imperial War Graves Commission for the planting of those maples in the cemeteries where Canadian soldiers were buried. In 1954 horticulturists in 93 societies planted Royal Oak seedlings to promote trees for the next generation. Junior horticulturists improved Callander by planting a Royalty Crabapple tree at each school in that area (Greater North Bay Nipissing).

During 1958, the OHA was responsible for the planting of 50 red maples, 250 silver maples, 200 white birch, and 1,500 white pine throughout Ontario. In 1966, the OHA distributed 1,000 Royalty Crabapple trees to the 19 association districts and planted one large flowering crabapple in Kew Gardens in England and another one at Wisley, the Royal Society's Garden.

During 1967, the Pelham (Niagara South) Horticultural Society and its 132 members planted shade trees and numerous flowering crabapples and large flowering cherry trees in Centennial Park. During the same year, the Port Colborne Society planted maples, oaks, catalpas, crabapples, and flowering cherry trees in Lakeview Park. Also, the Thorold Society planted 30 "Royalty" crabapple trees at various churches, schools, and parks that year.

Our interest in planting trees continues. The OHA will grant a society up to \$100 dollars toward the purchase of a tree for their community. This grant is offered to a maximum of 25 societies per year. In 2012, 17 horticultural societies in Ontario will plant trees with OHA assistance. Tree grants will go to; French River, North York, Tilbury, Woodbridge, Kirkland Lake, Harriston, Russell, Streetsville, Durham, Greater Ottawa Garden, Ridgeway, Dutton/Dunwich, London Fanshawe, Paris, Deep River, West Carlton, and Pembroke.

Next year the tree grants for Ontario Horticultural Societies will be increased to \$200 to reflect the rising cost of trees. It is hoped that more societies will be interested in applying for the grants and in planting trees in their communities. To apply, societies can send a letter to Grace Esposito, Awards Coordinator, Ontario Horticultural Association.

Kees Stryland, OHA Past President

DISTRICT 4

ONTARIO
HORTICULTURAL
ASSOCIATION

Wear your
favourite
hat

All O.H.A. Members
are invited to our

2nd ANNUAL
DISTRICT
CELEBRATION EVENT

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13, 2012

11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Guest Speaker: Jillian T. Bishop
"Seed Exchanges – How To"

Buffet Lunch & Awards Presentation

\$25.00

Navy Club, 24 Whitelaw St., Peterborough

Contacts: Rose Odell (705-653-5767) district4@gardenontario.org
Bev. Silk (905-349-3766) d4secretary@gardenontario.org



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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.

My Fascination

I think I may be an addict. In fact I have been told that I am obsessive in this matter. It is time to face the problem and deal with it. How did it happen? How did I become so enamoured with soil and seed, with bulb and bloom, and how is it possible that hoeing and heaping compost have become my delights?

I do know when it all began. A very nice lady with a smile and white hair gave me a package of pumpkin seeds. I never knew her name and at the time neither of us could have predicted the consequences of her kindness to a small boy in rural Ontario. I took the seeds home and planted them at the back of the family garden. As the seeds sent out their tender roots and sprouted green leaves the addiction started.

In synchronization with the plants, the addiction grew. Not only did it grow - it flourished! By the time the orange prizes were harvested it was hopeless - I was hooked! Over the years things got more and more out of control as I learned more and more....

- ✓ "Plant corn in hills not rows."
- ✓ "Have successive plantings of beans, peas, and lettuce."
- ✓ "Bury cabbages in a trench for winter use".

All these practises lead to bigger and even bigger vegetable gardens. No longer were seeds purchased by the packet but rather by the pound. And it still wasn't legal for me to drive!

Then the dahlias got mixed up with the vegetable garden - just a few to be sure. In true dahlia fashion they multiplied until they numbered beyond fifty. They were so seductive and subtle with their addictive powers, starting with those ugly brown dirt encrusted tubers then culminating in such a wide variety of blooms. Worse still, people wanted to trade until labelling became hopeless and every last tuber had to be saved to prevent the total loss of one variety. Each winter the basement was filled with boxes upon boxes of these treasures.

Then in January the ritual of watering the dahlias only gave renewed encouragement to the addiction. A New Year! A new crop! I had fallen into that deep gardening pit- HOPE.

Over the years I would attempt to control the urges, to recognize the limits, and then something or someone would intervene. Before I would realize it there would be 180 tomato plants in the garden. That year the living room had to be abandoned as bushel after bushel of tomatoes covered the floor. The canner steamed and the chili sauce smelled wonderful. It was a highly intoxicating time. Success was everywhere. It could be counted, measured, and savoured.



By this time the addiction had taken a serious hold on me and there just did not seem to be any way to stop it. The glads numbered by the hundreds, the squash were counted by the dozen, and the cucumbers??? - really impossible to gauge. Still in the back of the garden among the corn stalks were the culprits that had started it all - orange pumpkins.

Time flew in the garden, hoeing had become a delightful task, intensive planting had increased the yield per square foot, and the experimenting was going great guns. By now perennials had entered the picture. Peonies and iris started out so harmlessly. But they lead to lilies and phlox, to sedums and hostas. It was never enough to plant one specimen - rather several were essential. Deep in the grips of this strong addiction I faced my old love - the dahlias. They had been reduced somewhat, when all in an instant it was a hopeless battle. With one generous gift I was pushed back under their spell. New varieties had to be purchased to complement this improved collection. Trading commenced and before I knew it there were boxes and boxes of those brown dirt encrusted tubers in the basement once again.

Every once in awhile I think I have this thing under control. I think I will be strong enough. I will resist. At that precise moment the seed catalogues begin to arrive!

James Graham
OHA Second Vice President

"A garden is always a series of losses, set against a few triumphs, like life itself."
May Sarton

Convention 2012 Update

Come to Niagara, the 'Golden Horseshoe'

GARDENING THEN AND NOW, 1812 – 2012



Well, here it is the end of May. After three years of planning and many meetings, we now find ourselves swamped with next to last minute details. Who is doing this? Did we arrange for that? Will anyone come to our Convention? In spite of our worries, we are diligently moving toward August 17. By the time you arrive (over 200 of you have already registered) we will be ready to show you a great time.

On Thursday, some of you are planning to attend a performance at Niagara-on-the-Lake. This would be a wonderful way to spend the evening. Just a stroll down the always beautiful main street would satisfy the heart of many a gardener.

If you still have the bookmark you received last year in Sudbury, Ravine Winery, which had included a coupon for a free tasting, is just five minutes from the College. For those who need some physical exercise after the long drive, there are miles of walking and biking trails within easy reach along the Welland Canal. If you did not pick the Niagara Botanical Gardens & Butterfly Conservatory as your tour, then a twenty minute scenic drive will give you access to the Parkway. We will have information and maps to help you decide on a private activity for Thursday. No matter what you choose, even if it is to rest and relax, be prepared on Friday to start enjoying what we believe will be a wonderful, entertaining, educational and inspirational three days.

First time convention attendees should understand that the format of the days is always the same. First thing every morning is the Early Bird Draw, when you may win a prize if you are in attendance when your name is called. The OHA's AGM occupies the first hour and a half of the morning. This is followed by a topical speaker after the morning coffee break. The afternoons can be spent attending seminars at 1 and 3 pm or by taking a tour, which has an extra cost, to one of the carefully chosen destinations in the area. The 'gardenontario' web site lists all of the choices. Your biggest problem will be in choosing your afternoon activities. It was difficult for us to pick just a few speakers or tour destinations so we understand if you are having problems making that final choice. The trip to Puddicombe's on Saturday is already full. Unfortunately we cannot add any buses for that trip. However, we believe any other choice will be a good one. Finally, there is a dinner each evening followed by entertainment - local talent one evening and an interesting speaker the next.

Thanks to everyone who ordered an 1812 Rose. We understand the disappointment expressed by those whose order was not filled. We were amazed by the response. 1700 orders came in and unfortunately we only had the 900 planted in 2010. There will be more next year and then again in 2014. Information about ordering for next year will be available at a later date. We look forward to meeting with you in August and we are anxious to show-off our region. See you in August at Niagara College.



**Sue Gemmill,
Convention Planning Committee**