



2016



Ontario Horticultural Association
Keeping Ontario Beautiful™





THE ONTARIO HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

OUR VISION: *The Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA) will create a supportive environment for gardeners of all ages. We will foster the growth of our member societies and encourage the use of eco-friendly horticultural practices to promote the production of food, the beautification of our communities and the conservation of our environment.*

The Ontario Horticultural Association is a volunteer, charitable organization whose mission is to provide leadership and assist in the promotion of education and interest in all areas of horticulture and related environmental issues in Ontario, through an expanding network of horticultural societies dedicated to the beautification of their communities. The Ontario Horticultural Association pursues its mission by:

- Providing grants for trees and community beautification projects throughout Ontario.
- Developing programs in the areas of conservation and the environment, youth and horticulture.
- Providing support to its member horticultural societies in the form of shared insurance plans, promotion, speaker lists, procedure manuals, volunteer recognition, projects, events, and web sites.
- Holding an annual convention and providing educational opportunities for members.
- Publishing items of a horticultural or environmental nature such as the Trillium newsletter, the Rain Barrel Booklet, and the Ontario Judging Standards.

The Ontario Horticultural Association depends on the support of its members and charitable donations to carry out its work. You are encouraged to support the OHA as a volunteer with a horticultural society or with a charitable donation.

Societies Are *Keeping Ontario Beautiful™*

There are over 278 Horticultural Societies in Ontario hard at work *Keeping Ontario Beautiful™*. The projects include a wide variety of activities like beautifying local parks, planting boxes in downtown areas, and creating and maintaining public gardens around government buildings, hospitals, health and hospice centres.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It is hard to believe that over a year has flown by since the 2015 Convention in Ancaster that was organized by Donna Hussey and District 6 volunteers. It was very laid back at Convention with lots of dancing and fun activities which I enjoyed immensely. With James Graham appointed as Immediate Past President to fill the vacancy left by retiring President Jeff Blackadar and Rose Odell as my VP, I began my term as your OHA President.

I did not know that when Jeff presented me with the Chain of Office and a brand new pair of black rubber boots that I would be preparing for a wave of change. In October, the Board received notice from Sharon Hill, our OHA Treasurer of 10+ years that she would be retiring from the Board by the end of January 2016. Gary Brenner, District 19 Convention Host, was informed that his contracted venue in Waterloo had been sold and would not be available for our Convention previously scheduled for the start of July 2016. Later on the Board would receive notice that Bernice Green planned to retire from her position as Trillium Editor by the end of the 2016 year.

The board and executive rose to the challenging task of reviewing OHA finances in preparation of recruiting a new Treasurer. Mary Donnelly accepted the position with enthusiasm and is providing us with a fresh pair of eyes! We also welcomed Malcolm Geast as our new Trillium Editor and Gary Brenner and his District 19 volunteers are promising us an awesome convention at their new venue in Kitchener this July.

In preparation for our second annual GardenOntario Week which is being held June 11-19, 2016, the board unanimously voted to hire Urban & Co Inc., a web site design team, this past spring to revamp our current site. You will notice that we have a new look and a new logo. We are in the laborious process of turning our web site which is outdated, and frustrating to navigate at times, into one that is more productive, accessible and easier to use as well as being secure.

This past year we forged closer partnerships with the Ontario invasive Plant Council, Seeds of Diversity Canada, the Canadian Garden Council, USC Canada, and others for the purposes of networking and the sharing of resources. We participated in the Ontario Pollinator Health Strategy discussions, began the review of our existing Convention Manual and Garden Circle structure for recognizing corporate sponsors and partnerships and are in the early stages of creating a Policies and Procedures Manual.

The OHA board and executive put forth an incredible team effort this year to solicit donations from individual members, societies and Districts to support the Highway of Heroes Living Tribute to honour Canada's fallen soldiers. The OHA contributed \$2,500, boosting our total contribution to \$29,575.60. Aren't you proud of being a member of the OHA!

Rose Odell and I intend to serve for a second term as Vice President and President, respectively, to continue to work with the board on making the OHA a more inclusive, diverse and responsive organization that will attract new members of all ages, incomes and abilities to share their love of gardening in Ontario!

Suzanne Hanna
OHA President 2015-16

VOLUNTEER HOURS

Through our local societies, the OHA is active across Ontario improving urban and rural landscapes, giving seniors' residences a hand with gardening, planting roadsides with wildflowers, planting trees and shrubs - the list of OHA activities is unlimited.

Volunteers are the backbone of everything we do. Joining our organization gives you the opportunity to meet new people, create friendships, develop new skills and share your love of gardening.

In 2016, 278 horticultural societies recorded 516,331.05 volunteer hours in community service across Ontario. This is an amazing achievement and shows the commitment and dedication of all members of the OHA!

BURSARIES

The OHA continues to provide two annual bursaries of \$1,000 to a second or third year student at each of Lakehead University (Ontario Horticultural Association Bursary) in relation to food security and to the University of Guelph (Ontario Horticultural Association Scholarship) in relation to eco-friendly horticultural science to be awarded annually.



EXECUTIVE AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2015/2016



The President and Vice President are elected by the voting delegates at the Annual General Meeting. The Secretary and Treasurer are appointed by the board. The Past President remains on the board for one year.

Officers

NAME	POSITION
Suzanne Hanna	President
Rose Odell	Vice President
Kelly Taylor	Secretary
Sharon Hill/Mary Donnelly	Treasurer
James Graham	Past President/Past Presidents' Council Representative
Russ Talbot	S/W Regional Representative
Sandra Hartill	N/E Regional Representative

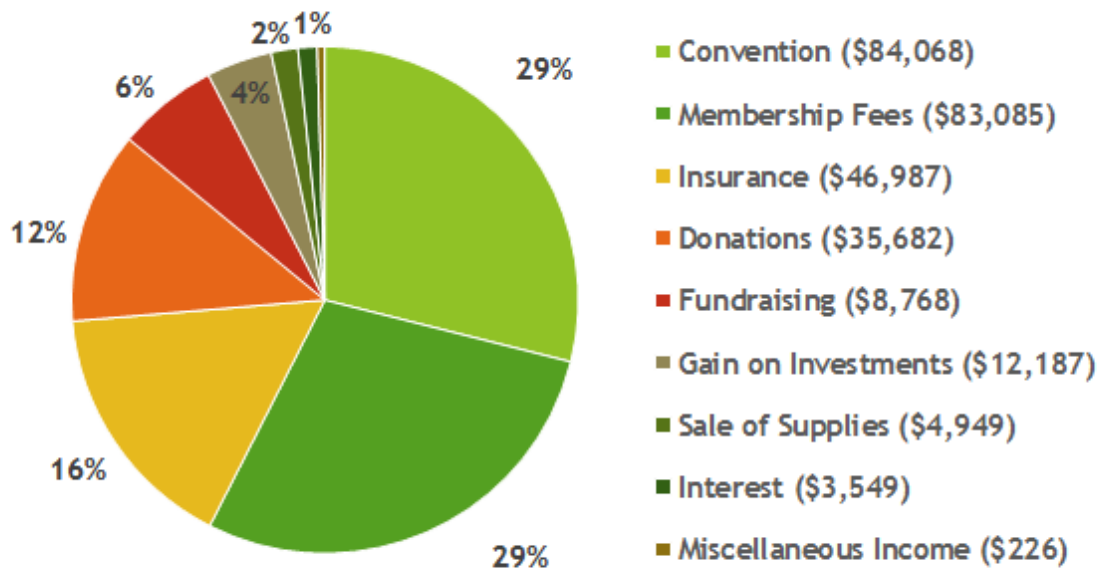
The Director of each district is elected by the member societies of that district at a District Annual Meeting.

District Directors

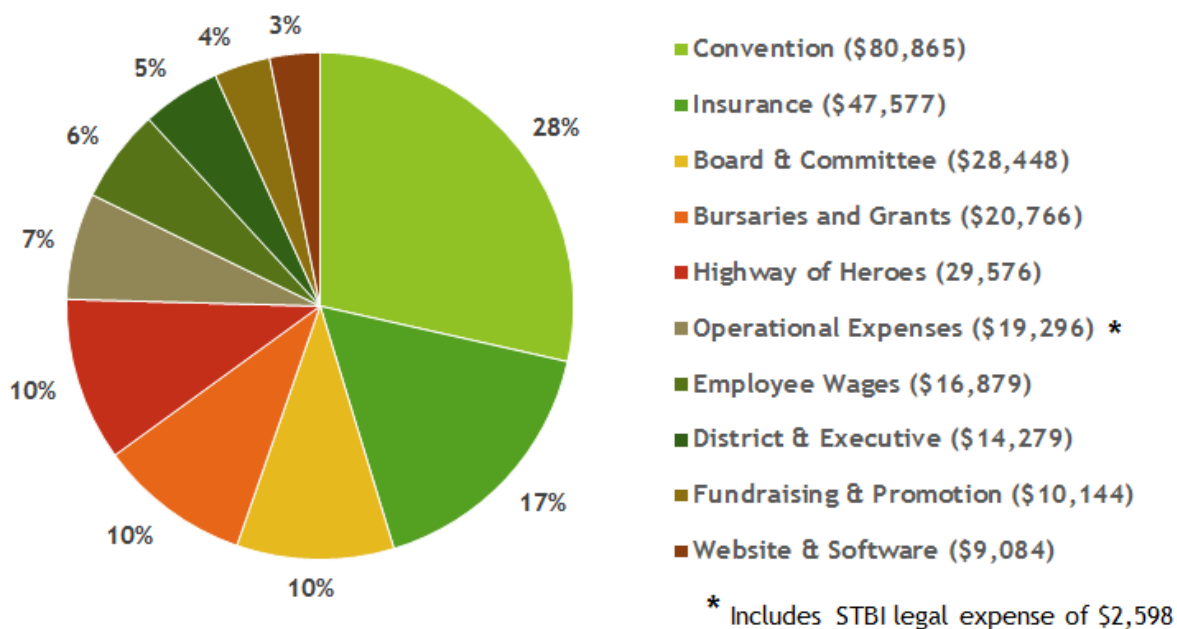
NAME	DISTRICT	NAME	DISTRICT
Charles Freeman	1	Katharine Smyth	11
Kathryn Lindsay	2	Anne Jamieson	12
Penny Stewart	3	Christine Marsh	13
Dianne Westlake	4	Shirley Robson	14
Cindy Scythes	5	Carole Spraggett	15
Donna Hussey	6	Russ Talbot	16
Jane McDonald	7	Elaine Davidson	17
Sharon Nivins	8	Sandra Hartill	18
Susan Lusted	9	Gary Brenner	19
Stephen Douglas	10		

THE FINANCIAL PICTURE - 2016

2016 OHA Income



2016 OHA Expenditures



OHA COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

Highway of Heroes

In October 2015, the Highway of Heroes, led by Mark Cullen, introduced their program to plant 117,000 trees along the 401 Highway corridors from Trenton to Toronto to honour Canada's fallen heroes.

The Ontario Horticultural Association wanted to embrace this program so after discussion with the Board of Directors, we introduced the Highway of Heroes Initiative Program to the 19 districts and their members to donate to this worthy cause. The OHA agreed to donate an amount of up to \$2,500 to match donations to this amount.



Not only did our districts and members embrace this idea but, as a whole, saw donations finish at \$27,075.60. With the \$2,500 donated by the OHA, the grand total provided to the Highway of Heroes was \$29,575.60.

Thank you to everyone for your support of this initiative!

GardenOntario Week



We were very excited that Lee Valley agreed to sponsor GardenOntario Week which took place from June 11-19, 2016. Inspired by the National Gardening Week events organized by the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS), our event was fashioned similar to theirs hoping to inspire our

societies, partnering organizations and other groups to join in and share their knowledge and love of gardening in their communities across Ontario.

Over 75+ activities were posted on our GardenOntario Week web page that was newly redone for the initiative. While the majority of these horticulture-related events were organized by OHA members, some community organizations and garden centres joined in the fun and created their very own.

This year the OHA and the Canadian Garden Council (CGC) agreed to actively promote both GardenOntario Week and Garden Days which run June 17-19, at the end of our OHA event.

OHA OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Outreach programs, through its directors and members, maintain contact with organizations and events in Ontario. OHA representatives attend events or serve on the boards of other organizations.

- **CNE Association**, Flower/Vegetable Show
- **Ontario Invasive Plant Council**
- **Seeds Of Diversity**
- **DISTRICT 4**
 - Peterborough Garden Show, Peterborough
- **DISTRICT 5**
 - Canada Blooms, Toronto
 - Canadian National Exhibition, Toronto
 - Get the Jump on Spring, Toronto Botanical Garden, Toronto
- **DISTRICT 6**
 - Hamilton Gage Park Mum Show, Hamilton
 - Royal Botanical Gardens, Burlington
- **DISTRICT 7**
 - International Plowing Match, Harriston, Town of Minto
- **DISTRICT 10**
 - Western Fair Home and Garden Show, London

OHA PARTNERSHIPS

The OHA is working in partnership with the following organizations:

- **Canadian Garden Council**
- **Landscape Ontario**
- **Lee Valley**
- **Ontario Invasive Plant Council**
- **Seeds of Diversity**
- **University of Guelph Arboretum**



OHA GRANTS

Tree Grants

The following societies received tree grants, up to \$200 in 2016.

DISTRICT	SOCIETY
2	Kanata-March Horticultural Society Petawawa Horticultural Society
3	Land O' Lakes Garden Club Lennox & Addington Horticultural Society
5	Riverdale Horticultural Society
7	Shelburne & District Horticultural Society Moorefield & District Horticultural Society Clifford & District Horticultural Society Guelph Township Horticultural Society
8	Wingham & District Horticultural Society
9	Niagara Falls Horticultural Society Ridgeway & District Garden Club
10	Aylmer & District Horticultural Society Kirkton Horticultural Society Tilsonburg Horticultural Society
13	Espanola Horticultural Society French River Horticultural Society Lake George Horticultural Society Thessalon Horticultural Society
14	Geraldton Horticultural Society
15	Streetsville Horticultural Society Swansea Horticultural Society
16	Midland Horticultural Society
18	Argyle Horticultural Society
19	Elmira & District Horticultural Society

Special Projects Grants

To assist the societies in meeting the objectives of the Ontario Horticultural Association, it will provide a SPECIAL PROJECT grant to a maximum of \$500.00 for each project. Projects must be of a long-lasting benefit to the society or community.

DISTRICT	SOCIETY
4	Ennismore & District Horticultural Society
7	Clifford & District Horticultural Society
12	Timmins Horticultural Society

Community Garden Grants

The OHA encourages its member societies to create or contribute to community gardens whether urban or rural. OHA will award a grant of \$500 to assist in the funding of a new community garden or the upgrading of an existing community garden.

DISTRICT	SOCIETY
9	Niagara Falls Horticultural Society

Seedy Saturday/Sunday Grants

The Ontario Horticultural Association will provide grants of \$250 annually to its member societies to organize a first-time Seedy Saturday/Sunday Event in their community.

DISTRICT	SOCIETY
	No grant awarded

COMMUNICATIONS

Several tools were used to communicate within the OHA to keep in touch with our Member societies and to increase our exposure within the general population. We continue to seek a way to reach all members of all societies.

- The OHA website, www.GardenOntario.org, continues to be our major source of communications and transmission of information and news for society members and all interested members of the community.
- The quarterly publication, the *Trillium*, was emailed to a majority of societies and donors, with a hard copy mailed to those requiring it. All issues of the *Trillium* are posted on the www.GardenOntario.org home page. Past issues are archived on the website.
- Many District Directors generate their own newsletters and communicate important information to the societies and general membership. All societies have OHA material for distribution.
- Publicity and promotional pieces are developed and circulated to various locations and are available at our outreach events.
- The Annual Convention of the Ontario Horticultural Association is the Annual General Meeting of the organization. At this meeting member societies receive necessary financial and business reports. Election of the Executive for the coming year takes place. Networking, attending workshops, etc. foster social interaction.
- The Ontario Horticultural Association Executive and Board Members meet three times per year. At that time decisions are made which the members of the board consider to be in the best interest of the societies they represent.



2016 OHA Convention, Kitchener Ontario

SUPPORT THE ONTARIO HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

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horticulture and related environmental issues in Ontario, through an expanding network of horticultural societies dedicated to the beautification of their communities.

The OHA pursues its mission with the volunteer support of its members and depends on charitable donations to fund a number of its key activities.

As a donor of the OHA, you are helping us to:

- Make our communities beautiful, sustainable and liveable
- Preserve and restore Ontario's natural environment
- Promote the study and practice of horticulture
- Foster love and respect for community and the environment in Ontario's youth
- Share our knowledge with new and experienced gardeners alike

Support the OHA with a charitable donation. Your donation supports OHA grants for trees and community beautification projects throughout Ontario or programs in the areas of conservation and the environment, youth and horticulture.

You may also be interested in the OHA's In Memoriam Program. The Ontario Horticultural Association "In Memoriam" book is an opportunity for gardeners in the Province of Ontario to be remembered by their peers, societies or individuals who have devoted their lives to the joys of tending their own land, and in many instances public gardens. This honour roll is for all gardeners; they need not have been members of the OHA or a Horticultural Society or Garden Club.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.gardenontario.org/act/mem.php>



**District 19 Tree Dedication Ceremony
2016 OHA Convention, Kitchener Ontario**

(From Left – Bruce MacNeil, Yvonne Fernandez, Gary Brenner, Suzanne Hanna, and Catherine Owens)



www.gardenontario.org