

2013



Ontario Horticultural Association

Keeping Ontario Beautiful™



THE ONTARIO HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

Our mission: *The 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 Horticultural Association prides itself in guiding and encouraging the Horticultural Societies across Ontario. The projects and initiatives fostered by the OHA and carried out by the dedication of Horticultural Societies continue to beautify our communities and conserve our Ontario environment. The work that Horticultural Societies do in their communities is all volunteer time. In 2013, volunteers from Horticultural Societies in Ontario and those volunteers on the OHA Board together gave over 487,000 hours of volunteer service.

The Ontario Horticultural Association was organized in 1906 as a way of uniting the several autonomous Horticultural Societies in Ontario. Today, with 284 Member Societies, the Ontario Horticultural Association is one of the oldest and one of the largest umbrella organizations in Ontario. Whether working toward planting more trees, sharing knowledge, or beautifying communities, the OHA has remained relevant through all of its 106 years.

A Message from the President of the Ontario Horticultural Association

It was only as President of the Ontario Horticultural Association this past year that I really grasped the scope, imagination and dedication to horticulture voluntarily given by the members of our societies and their District Directors in “Keeping Ontario Beautiful”. We are a large volunteer Association with some 27,000 individuals in 284 incorporated societies grouped into nineteen districts spanning all of Ontario.

Each year the societies in one district, guided by its Director, host our annual Convention and General Meeting. For some four hundred people they must find a site with accommodation, space and facilities for meetings, seminars, exhibitions, contests and vendors, and plan local tours. This year it was Thunder Bay, next year it will be Cornwall. In every case volunteers devote long hours of work over a period of up to three years to make this possible. The key to our success lies in the District Directors who make the link between the Association and the member societies.

Travelling from Martinville to Watford, from Dunnville to Mindemoya on Manitoulin Island and in Thunder Bay, at each stage I was welcomed and was able to see and discuss the projects they were pursuing, such as their plans for community gardens and ornamental gardens in cities, towns and villages. The enthusiastic dedication of society members is infectious and is “Keeping Ontario Beautiful”.

John Sellers
President, 2012



EXECUTIVE AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2012/2013



The President, 1st VP, and 2nd VP 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.

John Sellers	President
James Graham	1st Vice-President
Jeff Blackadar	2nd Vice President
Kelly Taylor	Secretary
Sharon Hill	Treasurer
Carol Dunk	Past President
Ken Fink	Past Presidents' Council

The Director of each District is elected by the Member Societies of that District at a District Annual Meeting.

District Directors

Pat Stachon	District 1
Kathryn Lindsay	District 2
Robert Simmons	District 3
Rose Odell	District 4
Nancy Serrick	District 5
Donna Hussey	District 6
Dorelene Anderson	District 7
Sharon Nivins	District 8
Susan Lusted	District 9
Roland Craig	District 10
Jennifer Plaus	District 11
Kees Stryland	District 12
Suzanne Hanna	District 13
Shirley Robson	District 14
Carole Spraggett	District 15
Judith Rogers	District 16
Sandy Rakestrow	District 17
Sandra Hartill	District 18
Steve McKenna	District 19

PARTNERSHIPS AND ASSOCIATES

The Ontario Horticultural Association fosters relationships with other organizations with similar purposes. The OHA has three **partners** who share our commitment to promote gardening and care for the environment.

- Royal Botanical Garden
- Ontario Conservation Council
- Communities in Bloom

The OHA also encourages **associate members**. Associate members enjoy the privilege of using the OHA website and the Trillium as a means of educating the public about their activities.

OUTREACH

In addition to partners and associates, the Ontario Horticultural Association, through its directors and members, maintains contact with other like organizations and events in Ontario. OHA representatives attend events or serve on the Boards of many other organizations.

- Peterborough Garden Show -- Rose Odell
- Canada Blooms, Toronto
- Canadian National Exhibition, Toronto
- Getting a Jump on Spring, Toronto Botanical Gardens -- Nancy Serrick and Malcolm Geast
- Royal Botanical Gardens
- Hamilton Gage Park Mum Show -- Donna Hussey
- Stratford Garden Festival, Stratford
- Western Fair Farm Show, London -- Roland Craig
- CNE Association- Flower and Vegetable Show -- Dave Money
- Durham College Horticulture Technician Program -- Sandy Rakestrow
- International Plowing Match -- Pat Stachon
- Master Gardeners of Ontario -- Judith Rogers
- Ontario Invasive Plant Council -- Dr. Robert Simmons
- Seeds of Diversity Canada and Seedy Saturdays -- Suzanne Hanna
- Successful Gardening Show -- Heinke Theissen
- Successful Gardening Show: Kids in the Garden -- Carole Spraggett

OHA 2013 GRANTS

Assistance to Students

The Ontario Horticultural Association gives an annual grant of \$500 to a student in Horticulture at the University of Guelph.

In addition, many Member Societies also give grants or bursaries to local educational institutions for the furthering of horticulture. A survey conducted by the OHA found that Member Societies across Ontario together donate over **\$45,000 yearly** to further education in horticulture in Ontario. That's quite an impact.

Youth Club Grants for 2013

Youth Club Grants provide Youth Clubs/Groups with financial support. The grant may be applied for by any active Youth Club/Group in Good Standing with the Ontario Horticultural Association. Grants are used for such activities as the purchase of seeds, helping with special events, and general supplies for the Youth Club/Group applying for the grant.

Recipients of the 2013 Youth Grants were

- District 7 -- Arthur Horticultural Youth Society
- District 10 -- Wilmot Horticultural Society Junior Gardeners
- District 15 -- Richmond Hill GHS Youth Group
- District 15 -- Stanchester Kids Club
- District 15 -- St. Gerard Catholic School
- District 17 -- 4H and Georgina-Brock Youth

Special Projects for 2013

The Association encourages member societies to complete horticulturally-related projects within their communities. OHA accepts applications from societies for special project grants of up to \$500. In 2013, special project grants went to the following societies:

- District 2 -- Carlton Place & District Horticultural Society
- District 8 -- Goderich & District Horticultural Society
- District 13 -- French River Horticultural Society
- District 13 -- Spanish Horticultural Society
- District 15 -- Cloverleaf Garden Club of Mississauga

Community Garden Grants for 2013

Our Newest Grant! The OHA appreciates the value of growing food locally and recognizes community gardens as an important part of community living. This newest grant was created to foster the creation or expansion of a community garden.

- District 8 -- Seaforth and District Horticultural Society
- District 14 -- Green Thumbs

OHA 2013 GRANTS continued

Tree Grants for 2013

The Ontario Horticultural Association gives grants to Member Societies of up to \$200 toward the purchase of a tree for their community.

- District 1 -- Martintown & District Horticultural Society
- District 1 -- Russel & District Horticultural Society
- District 3 -- Bancroft Horticultural Society
- District 4 -- Ennismore & District Horticultural Society
- District 4 -- Minden & District Horticultural Society
- District 5 -- Leaside Garden Society
- District 5 -- Riverdale Horticultural Society
- District 6 -- Brantford Garden Club
- District 6 -- Flamborough Horticultural Society
- District 7 -- Shelburne & District Horticultural Society
- District 8 -- Chesley Horticultural Society
- District 8 -- Goderich & District Horticultural Society
- District 8 -- Hanover & District Horticultural Society
- District 8 -- Kincardine & District Horticultural Society
- District 8 -- Lucknow & District Horticultural Society
- District 8 -- Neustadt & District Horticultural Society
- District 8 -- Seaforth & District Horticultural Society
- District 9 -- Dunnville Horticultural Society
- District 9 -- Niagara-on-the-Lake Horticultural Society
- District 9 -- Pelham Horticultural Society
- District 9 -- Port Colborne Horticultural Society
- District 10 -- Glencoe Horticultural Society
- District 10 -- Strathroy Caradoc Horticultural Society
- District 14 -- Dryden Horticultural Society
- District 14 -- Thunder Bay Horticultural Society
- District 15 -- Schomberg Horticultural Society
- District 15 -- Thornhill Garden and Horticultural Society
- District 19 -- Elmira & District Horticultural Society
- District 19 -- Kitchener Horticultural Society
- District 19 -- Wellesley Horticultural Society



*The Ontario Horticultural Association
Flower Show at Successful Gardening,
Spring 2013.*

ANNUAL AWARDS TO INDIVIDUALS

Presented at the Banquet of the 2013 Convention

Each year Societies are encouraged to recognize horticultural and service excellence by submitting nominations for OHA Awards. A committee reviews all the nominations. The winners are presented with their awards at the Banquet of the Annual Convention. The winners of the OHA awards for 2013 were as follows:

SILVER MEDALS were awarded to **DIANNE AND GARY WESTLAKE** of Peterborough Horticultural Society, District 4. The Ontario Horticultural Association **SILVER MEDAL**, with its associated framed certificate, is the highest award of the Association. This prestigious award is given in recognition of meritorious service to beautification, conservation or ecological work and/or outstanding leadership in the promotion of horticultural societies across the province.

KATHERINE ANDRACHUK of Parkdale & Toronto Horticultural Society, District 15, and **CECILE YOUNG** of Kirkland Lake Horticultural Society, District 12, were presented with **TRILLIUM** Awards. The **TRILLIUM**, a silver brooch, is awarded to a lady or ladies for outstanding service to horticultural societies, their District and/or the OHA for an extended period. This award was initiated by Thelma Boucher, OHA President in 1941.

AWARDS OF MERIT were presented to **MANUELA NETO**, Cloverleaf Garden Club of Mississauga, District 15, and **BOB WILT** of Ancaster Horticultural Society, District 6. This framed certificate is given for notable contributions to the programmes of the Association or a Society. Contributions can include special beautification projects, outstanding work in the science or the art of horticulture, or supporting individuals or organizations in the area of communications, as well as other worthy efforts.

The **HONOUR ROLL** is an album consisting of one description page and one page of pictures for each person so honoured. Entered in the **OHA HONOUR ROLL** in 2013 were **BARBARA WADDELL** of

Ancaster Horticultural Society, District 6 and **LOTTE BRUNNER** of Cloverleaf Garden Club of Mississauga, District 15. Entry in the **HONOUR ROLL** denotes extended service to a horticultural society and to the district. A certificate is also issued to commemorate the occasion.

The **YOUTH LEADER AWARD** was presented to **KIM OLY** of Cloverleaf Garden Club of Mississauga, District 15. The **YOUTH LEADER PLAQUE** is presented to a person or persons who have been Youth Club leaders for a minimum of five years and have given leadership and encouragement to OHA youth.

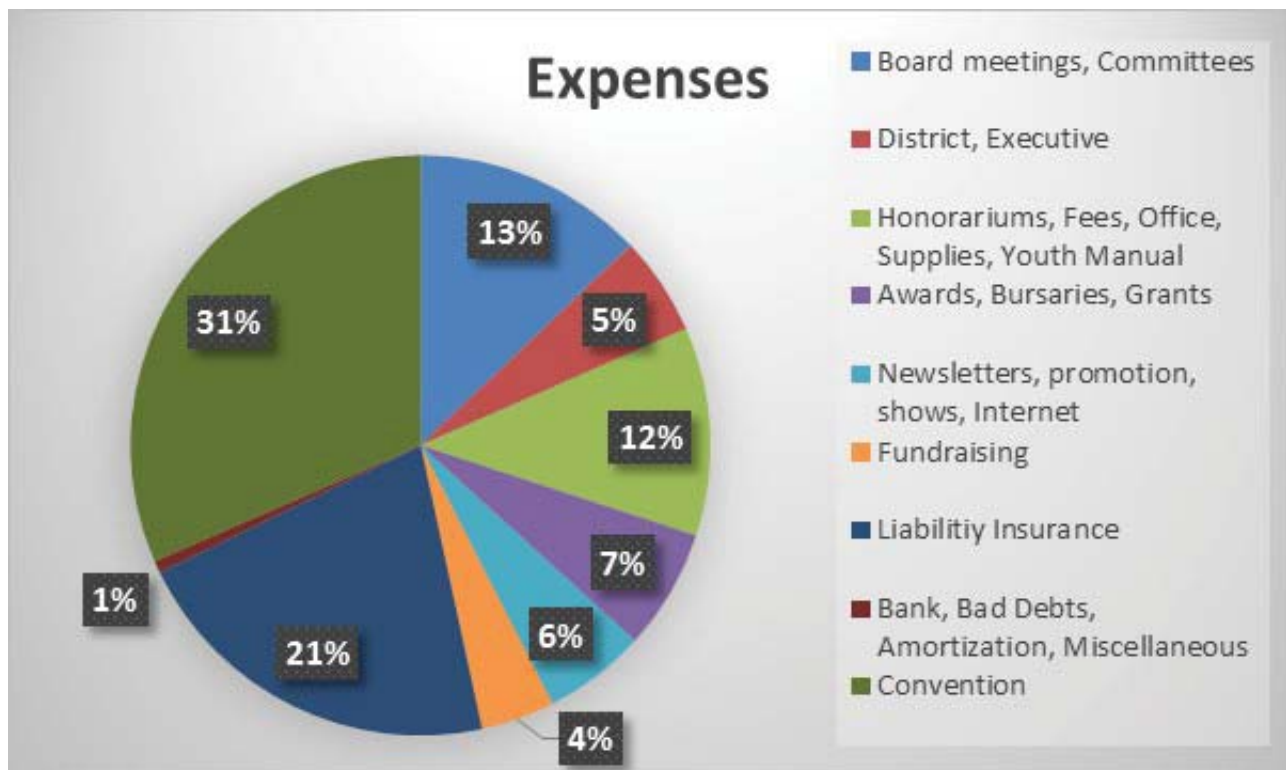
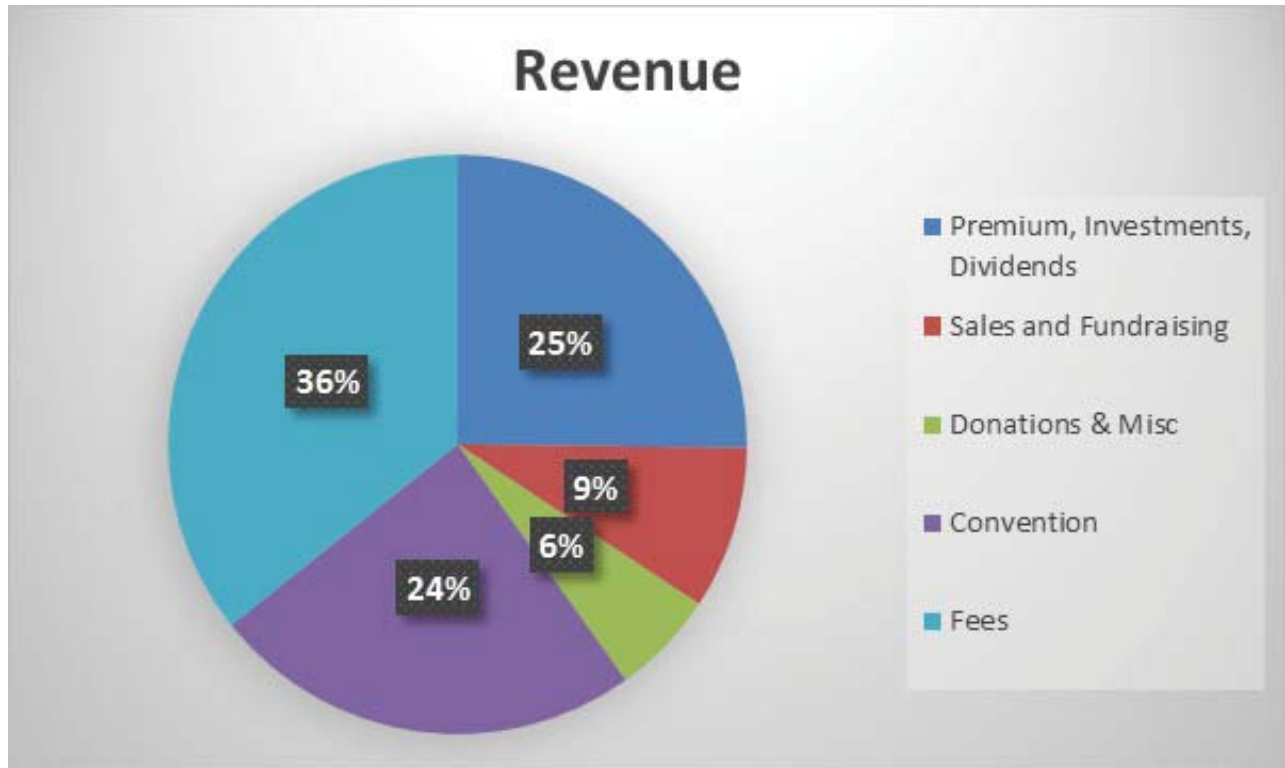
The **COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT AWARD** was presented to the **JOYCE BOCKMASTER** of Woodbridge Horticultural and Garden Society, District 15. This plaque is presented to an individual, organization or company which has improved the beauty of the landscape and added to the quality of life to their community through a horticultural project.



The Westlakes Receive Silver Medals

Pictured above: District 4 Director, Rose Odell; Gary Westlake; Dianne Westlake; OHA President, John Sellers.

OHA -- THE FINANCIAL PICTURE 2013



COMMUNICATIONS

Keeping in touch with all the Member Societies of the Ontario Horticultural Association is one of our greatest challenges. We believe that communicating is important. To that end, the Association issues a quarterly newsletter, The Trillium, and maintains an active and informative web site.

The Trillium

The OHA's quarterly publication, the Trillium, is now being emailed to 500 OHA societies and donors. In addition it is mailed via Canada Post to 120 others.

The distribution of both the electronic and hard copies is managed by the Trillium editor and a mailing assistant. Each issue is posted prominently on the GardenOntario.org home page. Past issues are archived on the website as well.

For the past eight years, the Trillium was edited, emailed and mailed by Linda Hugli. Linda stepped down this year. The Fall 2013 edition was her last. Thank you, Linda for eight years of excellent work.

Gary and Diane Westlake volunteered as interim editors for the Winter 2013 edition and produced a truly great edition. The Trillium will now be edited by Bernice Green with Lisa deYoung taking care of the mailout portion.

The *gardenontario.org* Website

The website continues to be a source of information for Horticultural Society members and the general public.

From: Jan 1, 2013 - Dec. 31, 2013

Site statistics: 99,489 visits by 61,823 Unique Visitors, 460,003 Page views

Peak traffic time: May

Traffic sources: Search Engines 70% (Google, Yahoo, etc.), Direct Traffic 17% (typing gardenontario.org into a web browser), Referring Sites 13% (links from another web site)

Highlights of work in 2012

- initiated a new editor for the society webpages. Tiny MCE makes editing of the web shells easier.
- Continued to refine the electronic submission of a new OHA district annual report
- Programmed the electronic submission of a new OHA district annual report
- Programmed the electronic submission of the district volunteer hours report
- Added reports of society information to assist board members in their duties
- Updated the new insurance forms and made them available on the web.
- Updated the judges' registry form
- Added reports of society information to assist board members in their duties
- Added 8 societies to our webshells.
- All societies are welcome to take advantage of free use of a web shell. Most of our 280 societies now have web presence.
- Added two instructional videos



Convention and Annual General Meeting

The Annual Convention of the Ontario Horticultural Association is our most important link to our Member Societies. At this yearly gathering, we meet socially and conduct the business of the corporation. During the Convention, delegates receive the audited financial statement for the year and hear reports from the Board. It is at the yearly convention that delegates elect the Executive for the coming year.

The 107th Convention in 2013 was held July 19 - 21, 2013, at Thunder Bay, Ontario. District 14 societies hosted the convention led by their Director, Shirley Robson. The theme of the Convention was Up North and Down to Earth. The Thunder Bay venue gave many Southern Ontario delegates a taste of the beauty of the North.

OHA COMMITTEES

The OHA meets three times each year. In between meetings, it is the Committees of the OHA that do the work of the OHA and complete the many projects of the Association.

ADULT COMPETITIONS

This large committee is responsible for the competitions at the Convention each year. The committee is busy all year making sure the classes are interesting, the judges are chosen, the ribbons are purchased, and the schedules are published in time for our members to prepare for the Convention Competitions. It is this group that is responsible for the big job of setting up and taking down exhibits.

Chair	Roland Craig	
Art		Donna Hussey
FlowerShow		Kathryn Lindsay/Penny Stewart
Photography		Russ Talbot
Creative Writing		Sandra Hartill
Publications		Shirley Robson
Web Shell		Jeff Blackadar/ Sue Lusted
Youth		Jane MacDonald

ANNUAL OHA REPORT – Nancy Serrick

The OHA Annual Report is a wonderful historical document. It has been published each year for all 106 years. The yearbook contains reports from every society as well as some reports from the OHA proper. Nancy compiles the information from the Societies and Districts to create our keepsake booklet, the OHA Annual Report.

ARCHIVES/HISTORY – Malcolm Geast

Malcolm is a retired District Director who continues to serve the OHA. Malcolm keeps our archival information and knows more about the OHA and its history than anyone else.

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES - Suzanne Hanna

CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENT – Kees Stryland

The Committee under Kees direction is planning a

new project for next year. Carol Dunk maintains the Conservation portion of the website (conservation.gardenontario.org). Members of the Conservation & Environment Committee submit timely articles to each edition of the Trillium.

CONSTITUTION, BY-LAWS & RESOLUTIONS – Sandy Rakestrow

Sandy chairs the Constitution and Bylaws Committee which assists with drafting the resolutions that come before the OHA Convention. The committee also provides advice to societies and districts when by-law and procedural questions arise.

CONVENTION HOST 2013 -- Pat Stachon, District 1. Pat and her team of volunteers have worked for many months to prepare for the OHA's annual convention in Cornwall.

DIRECTORS' MANUAL -- Sandy Rakestrow

Sandy is working on a Director's Quickstart booklet for OHA board members.

FUNDRAISING --Rose Odell

Rose sourced, organized and arranged the publicity for our offering of Allium bulbs for 2011/2012 and Camassia and Crocosmia bulbs for 2012/2013. Sounds easy but the logistics are astounding.

IN MEMORIAM -- Marilyn Cox

Marilyn keeps the In Memoriam Book. Entries in the In Memoriam book are the result of donations from societies and individuals in memory of deceased members and other gardeners. The donations become part of a fund for the OHA tree grants.

JUDGES' REGISTRY -- Sharon Nivins

Sharon continues to maintain and expand the judges' registry. A list of judges is now being made available from the Resources section on the home page of the gardenontario.org. Any receipts from the judges registry go toward assisting Judging Schools.

COMMITTEES continued

JUDGING SCHOOL COORDINATOR -- Jim Mabee

Jim coordinates the time and place of judging schools to ensure that schools are held often and in sites across the province. Jim also coordinates judging updates. Jim is a past president who continues to volunteer time and effort to the OHA.

NEWSLETTER (TRILLIUM)-- Linda Hugli

Linda has been editing our Trillium newsletter for over eight years. Gary and Dianne Westlake will finish up 2013 and Bernice Green will edit the newsletter in 2014.

NOMINATIONS/ELECTIONS -- John Sellers

PARTNERS/ASSOCIATES-- Carole Spraggett

Carole is responsible for maintaining our relationships with other organizations across the province. She's our connections person.

PRESIDENT'S QUICKSTART MANUAL-- Sue Lusted

Sue continues to update the manual that has proved to be a valuable tool to new presidents of societies.

GRANT PROGRAMS--Grace Esposito

Grace, as the Awards Committee Chair, coordinates the allocation of Community Garden and Tree grants as well as the awards given at the banquet of the Convention.

PROMOTION & PUBLICITY

-- Garry Brenner

Garry makes sure that OHA activities and projects are made public. He is also responsible for the very popular post cards that advertise OHA.

SPEAKERS LIST -- Don Matthews

Don edits the on-line speakers list of the OHA for the benefit of all societies. Don is a past president who continues dedicated service to the OHA.

SUPPLIES -- Don Matthews

Don is the go-to guy for all the OHA supplies. Look on the last page of the Trillium for the list of OHA supplies available. Don is a Past President of OHA.

VOLUNTEER HOURS -- Kathryn Smyth

Kathy Smyth, District 11 Director, compiles the volunteer hours reported by Societies, District and the Executive on annual reports sent to OHA.

WEBMASTER -- Sue Lusted

Sue runs the web site, editing content and assisting dozens of horticultural societies who have web sites hosted on GardenOntario.org.

YOUTH NEWSLETTER -- Harry Wyma

Four times a year, Harry Wyma publishes a Youth Newsletter that is distributed to OHA youth groups across the province. Harry is a Past President who continues to give his time to OHA projects.

To round out the list of those who make OHA work, we must include our Secretary and our Treasurer.

SECRETARY-- Kelly Taylor

Kelly is our guide and our go-to person. She organizes each meeting including accommodation and meals, is the keeper of OHA information and the first person we think of when we have a crisis or a need.

TREASURER -- Sharon Hill

Sharon keeps track of all the expenditures and revenue of the OHA. She collects the fees from our Societies and chairs the Finance Committee of the OHA -- and oh so much more. She is our source for sound advice.

The combination of these two ladies ensures continuity for the Board.



Sharon Hill giving her report at Thunder Bay

The Oak Grove in the Guelph Arboretum

honours those past presidents of the OHA who have died. An oak is dedicated for each deceased past president.

Pictured below are the attending Past Presidents and the President to honour Marjorie Durnford, President in 1985, and Kevin Healey, President in 1999, at a dedication ceremony held on September 28, 2013.



OHA Honours Deceased Past Presidents

On the left side: Dave Money, Carol Dunk, Jim Anderson, John Sellers, James Graham

On the right side: Pauline Richards, Jim Mabee, Shirley Daniels, Ken Fink, Metje Mabee



Display at 2013 Convention in Thunder Bay