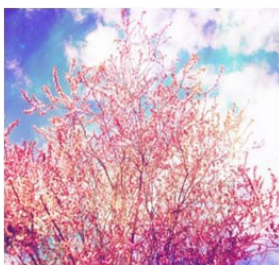




2015



Ontario Horticultural Association
Keeping Ontario Beautiful™





THE ONTARIO HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

OUR VISION: *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 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:

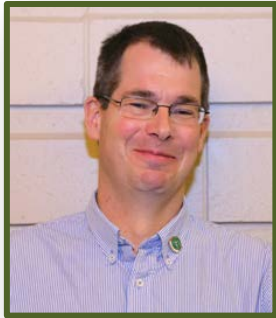
- providing grants for trees and community beautification projects throughout Ontario.
- developing programs in the areas of conservation and the environment, youth and horticulture.
- providing support to its member horticultural societies in the form of shared insurance plans, promotion, speaker lists, 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 280 horticultural societies in Ontario working on projects to Keep 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



We have a long and proud history in Ontario, but it is more important that we continue to look to the future. In 2015, our launch of GardenOntario Week reached out to more members of the public. We introduced Haskap berry plants to society members who had not grown them before. We took a public stand against the use of Neonicotinoid pesticides on ornamental plants. These initiatives and others are about looking to the future.

Over our history, we have built the largest network of horticultural societies of any province or U.S. state for that matter. As a collective, we have a tremendous opportunity to leverage our network of societies throughout rural and urban Ontario to educate and inspire gardeners and the rest of the public to beautify their communities, grow food, and protect the environment. This work was evident in areas such as the Seedy Saturdays and Sundays which horticultural societies organized, our public presentations and our shows, but we have much room to grow in terms of how we can make a greater impact on how people garden in our province. Look hard for ways to attract more members of the public to your meetings and events.

On a personal note, I am fortunate to have served the OHA with such a wonderful, dedicated and fun team of volunteers on the executive and board. Sharon Hill, Kelly Taylor, James Graham and Suzanne Hanna set an inspiring example for me in their work supporting the OHA. Each of the district directors worked hard on the board and their projects, representing their societies well. I enjoyed meeting with society members across the province and seeing the positive contributions they make to Keep Ontario Beautiful™. I thank District 6 for the hard work they put into hosting us at the 2015 convention in Ancaster. I also thank all of the members of horticultural societies who support the work of the OHA by being volunteers in their communities.

One of the most rewarding aspects of having been president is seeing the OHA continue to progress under the stewardship of new leaders. The OHA is in great hands with President Suzanne Hanna and the rest of her team. I am looking forward to all that we will accomplish together as members of horticultural societies in the OHA in the coming years as we appreciate all the work it took to get us to where we are today.

Jeff Blackadar
OHA President 2014-15

EXECUTIVE AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2014/2015



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.

Executive

NAME	POSITION
Jeff Blackadar	President
Suzanne Hanna	Vice President
Kelly Taylor	Secretary
Sharon Hill	Treasurer
James Graham	Past President and Past President's Council Representative

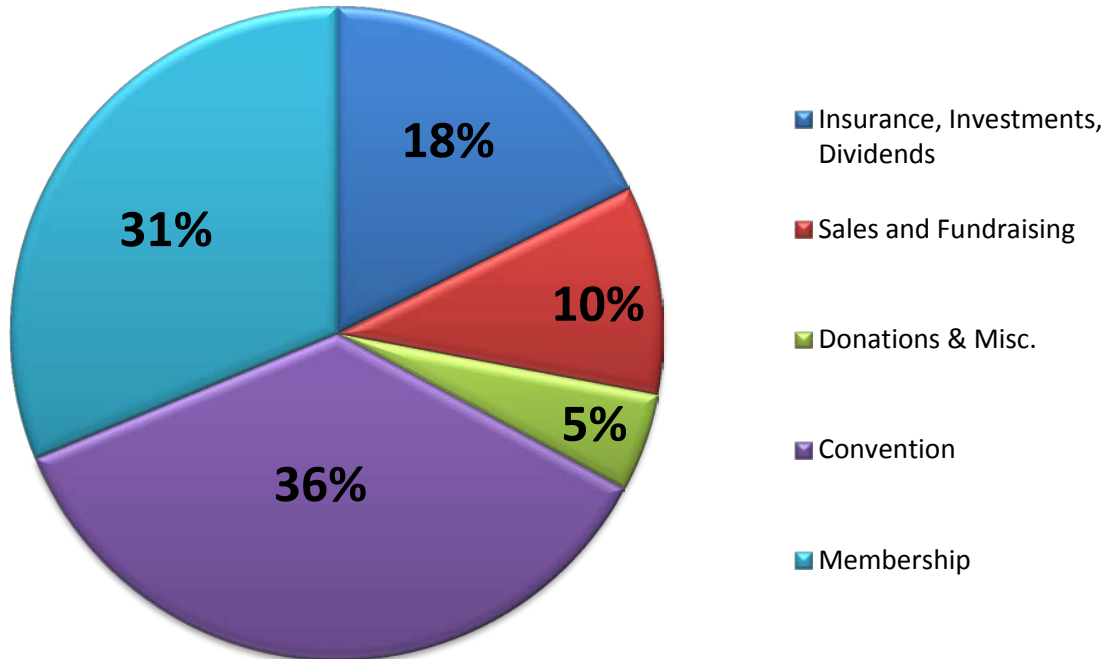
The Director of each District is elected by the Member Societies of that District at a District Annual Meeting.

District Directors

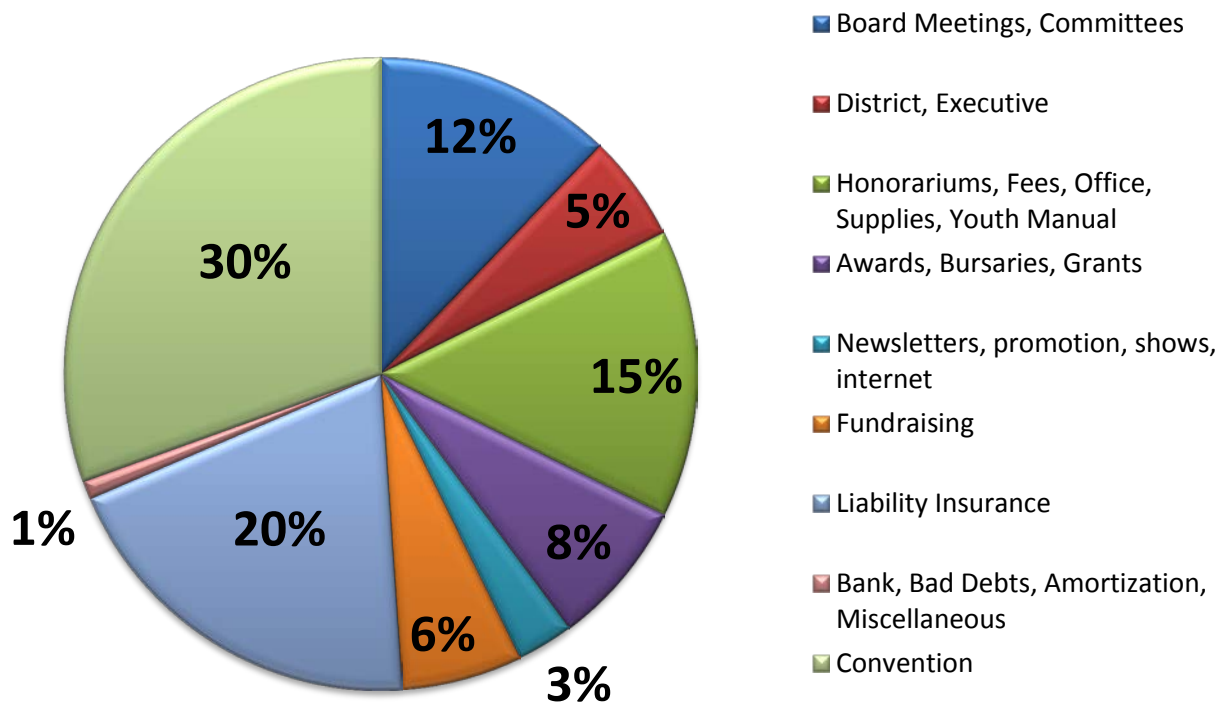
NAME	DISTRICT	NAME	DISTRICT
Charles Freeman	1	Katharine Smyth	11
Kathryn Lindsay	2	Anne Jamieson	12
Penny Stewart	3	Christine Marsh	13
Rose Odell	4	Shirley Robson	14
Nancy Serrick	5	Carole Spraggett	15
Donna Hussey	6	Russ Talbot	16
Jane McDonald	7	Elaine Davidson	17
Sharon Nivins	8	Sandra Hartill	18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

THE FINANCIAL PICTURE - 2015

2015 OHA Revenue



2015 OHA Expenses



OHA Committees

Active throughout the Province

The Ontario Horticultural Association is an ever-changing tapestry of local Societies. Some have been in existence since the nineteenth century. Others are brand new. Everyone is different. OHA's province-wide activities are guided by the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors. The Board includes Directors from each of OHA's 19 Districts. Directors are elected by Society members in that District.



Association policies and direction are set at the Annual Convention, held in late summer each year. Committees of the Board are established to carry out these directives. For further information on the committees visit our website at www.gardenontario.org

ADULT COMPETITION

Chair: Roland Craig

Art – Donna Hussey with Gary Brenner

Flower Show – Kathryn Lindsay

Penny Stewart

Photography – Russ Talbot

Creative Writing – Sandra Hartill

Publications – Shirley Robson

Web Shell – Jeff Blackadar/Sue Lusted

Youth Competition – Jane McDonald

ANNUAL OHA YEARBOOK

Chair: Nancy Serrick

ARCHIVES

Chair: Malcolm Geast

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

Chair: Suzanne Hanna

CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENT

Chair: Vacant

CONSTITUTION, BYLAWS & RESOLUTIONS

Jeff Blackadar

Russ Talbot

Penny Stewart

CONVENTION 2015

Chair: Donna Hussey

CONVENTION 2016

Chair: Gary Brenner

FUNDRAISING

Chair: Rose Odell

IN MEMORIAM REGISTRY

Chair: Marilyn Cox

JUDGES' REGISTRY

Chair: Sharon Nivins

JUDGES SCHOOL COORDINATOR

Chair: Jim Mabee

NEWSLETTER – TRILLIUM

Chair: Bernice Green

NOMINATIONS/ELECTIONS

Chair: James Graham

PARTNERS & AFFILIATES

Chair: Carole Spraggett/Carole Dunk

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Chair: Grace Esposito/Awards Committee

TREE GRANTS

Chair: Grace Esposito/Awards Committee

PROMOTION & PUBLICITY

Chair: Gary Brenner

SPEAKER'S LIST

Chair: Don Matthews

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Chair: Jeff Blackadar

SUPPLIES

Chair: Don Matthews

VOLUNTEER HOURS

Chair: Katherine Smyth

WEBSITE

Chair: Sue Lusted

YOUTH NEWSLETTER

Chair: Harry Wyma/Kelly Taylor

OUTREACH

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

CNE ASSOCIATION, FLOWER/VEGETABLE

SHOW COORDINATOR: Carol Dunk/Dave Money

COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM: Carole Spraggett

DISTRICT 4: Rose Odell

Peterborough Garden Show

DISTRICT 5: Nancy Serrick/Malcom Geast

Canada Blooms, Toronto Canadian National Exhibition, Toronto Get the Jump on Spring, Toronto Botanical Gardens

DISTRICT 6: Donna Hussey

Royal Botanical Gardens

Hamilton Gage Park Mum Show

DISTRICT 10: Roland Craig

Statford Garden Festival, Stratford

Western Fair Home and Garden Show, London

ONTARIO INVASIVE PLANT COUNCIL:

Suzanne Hanna

SEEDS OF DIVERSITY CANADA:

Suzanne Hanna

PARTNERSHIPS

The Ontario Horticultural Association is working with the following organizations to share Logos and links:

- Ontario Invasive Plant Council
- Seeds of Diversity
- Communities in Blooms
- The Compost Council of Canada
- Landscape Ontario

Discussions have been initiated to develop ongoing partnerships with:

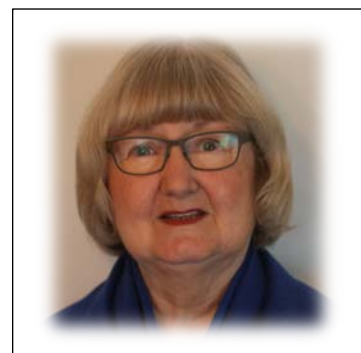
- Canadian Garden Council
- Lee Valley
- Royal Botanical Garden

ANNUAL AWARDS TO INDIVIDUALS

Presented at the Banquet of the 2015 Convention

Each year Societies are encouraged to recognize horticultural and service excellence by submitting nominations for OHA Awards. The OHA Awards 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 2015 were as follows:

Award	District /Winner	
Community Improvement To an individual, organization or company that has enhanced the beauty of the landscape and/or added to the quality of life of a community with a horticultural project.	15	St. Hilary's Church Garden
Youth Leader 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.	16	Pat Bell
Environmental To an individual, organization, municipality, company, school or other educational establishment that, in the estimation of the Awards Committee, has made a significant contribution to environmental preservation including habitat, restoration, and/or improvement.	5 15	Aurora Community Arboretum The Riverwood Conservancy
Award of Merit To an individual for notable contributions to the programs of the Association or a Society	Not awarded	
Honour Roll To a person who has given extended service to a horticultural society and or district.	6	Stuart Gough
Trillium/Silver Fir Awarded to a person for outstanding service to horticultural societies their District and or the OHA for an extended period.	15 7	Shirley Daniels Jean Phillips
Silver Medal Highest award of the Association, 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.	16	Carole Dunk
Youth Project Award Awarded annually to the winner of a public project undertaken by a Youth Club.	15	Oakridge



2015 Youth Grants

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.

DISTRICT	SOCIETY	PROJECT
17	Georgina-Brock & District	Georgina Brock Youth
15	Cloverleaf Garden Club	Oakridge Public School Youth Programme
15	Roselands Horticultural Society	Stanchester Pirates Kids
19	Wilmot Horticultural Society	Wilmot Horticultural Society Junior
2	Pakenham Horticultural Society	Pakenham Junior Horticultural Group

2015 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	PROJECT
6	Port Dover and Woodhouse Horticultural Society	
8	Ripley and District Horticultural Society	

2015 Seedy Saturday/Sunday Grants

The Ontario Horticultural Association will provide two (2) grants of \$250 annually to its member societies to organize a first-time Seedy Saturday/Sunday Event in their community.

DISTRICT	SOCIETY
8	Wingham Horticultural Society



2015 Tree Grants

The following societies received tree grants, up to \$200, in 2015.

DISTRICT	SOCIETY
2	Eganville & Area Horticultural Society Pakenham Horticultural Society
3	Brockville & District Horticultural Society
4	Peterborough Horticultural Society
5	Lake Simcoe South Shore Horticultural Society
6	Burlington Horticultural Society
7	Elora Salem Horticultural Society
8	Clinton Horticultural Society Durham & District Horticultural Society
10	St. Mary's Horticultural Society London Fanshawe Horticultural Society
11	Greater Windsor Horticultural Society Tilbury & District Horticultural Society
13	Sudbury Horticultural Society
14	Nipigon Red Rock Horticultural Society
15	Woodbridge Horticultural Society
16	Wasaga Beach Horticultural Society
19	Wilmot Horticultural Society Galt Horticultural Society

OHA Membership Challenge Trophy

This is a trophy to be awarded to a District with the highest percentage membership increase overall for the year. This year it was awarded to:

**District 2, Lanark,
Central and Western
Ottawa, Renfrew**

Volunteer Hours

511,604.95 volunteer hours were recorded by Ontario Horticultural Association Society members in 2014 and recorded in 2015. This is an amazing achievement.

2015 Special Projects Grants

To assist the societies in meeting the objectives of the Ontario Horticultural Association, the OHA 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
7	Grand Valley & District
10	London Fanshawe Horticultural Society
18	Parry Sound & District

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.

- GardenOntario.org, our website, 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 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 a 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. These are some of the highlights from those meeting in 2014/15

OHA Corporate Plan for Sponsorship: A committee will be struck to bring forth a corporate plan for sponsorship for the OHA.

Judging Committee – GCO & RBG Judges: The OHA has approved a process that would allow GCO and RBG judges to become certified and registered with the OHA Judges Registry. Hence they would be allowed to judge OHA shows.

Role of OHA Constitution Committee and Its Relationship with Societies: The OHA has seen a significant increase in requests for feedback and assistance with society constitutions. The OHA Constitution Committee is not comfortable with providing feedback on constitution writing and updating. The Constitution Committee Members are not legal experts.

In Good Standing Document: The OHA Board discussed what “In Good Standing” means and will publish a document by January 2016 detailing what this means for societies.

OHA Convention Competitions Report: Deadlines and rules were harmonized amongst the competition committees for easier participation. The revised schedules will be uploaded to the OHA GardenOntario website soon.

Two \$1000 bursaries: The OHA has established a bursary of \$1,000 to a second or third year student at each of Lakehead University in relation to food security and to University of Guelph in relation to eco-friendly horticultural science to be awarded annually starting in 2015.

Seedy Saturday/Sunday events

Seedy Saturdays/Sundays bring together gardeners, farmers, seed savers and citizens passionate about gardening, food security and the environment. These one day non-profit public events often feature speakers and workshops, vendors, youth activities and seed exchanges and sales. The objective is to promote seed saving and the exchange of regionally adapted, bio-diverse seed in Ontario for the purposes of promoting seed saving and seed exchange in Ontario.

In 2014/15 the Ontario Horticultural Association established a grant which will provide two (2) grants of \$250 annually to its member societies to organize a first-time Seedy Saturday/Sunday event in their community. It is hoped that this support will encourage the development of the event throughout Ontario.

GardenOntario Week

This year the OHA quietly launched its latest initiative known as GardenOntario Week which was held from June 13 to 21, 2015. 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 created by Past President Carol Dunk. 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. In District 13, we had an activity scheduled for every day but one.



Support the Ontario Horticultural Association

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

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 <http://www.gardenontario.org/act/mem.php> Program.