



2018



Ontario Horticultural Association

Keeping Ontario Beautiful™



GardenOntario
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 websites.
- Holding an annual general meeting at the convention and providing educational opportunities for members.
- Publishing items of a horticultural or environmental nature such as the Trillium newsletter, the Pollinator Brochure, and the Ontario Judging and Exhibiting 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 by joining a horticultural society and/or by making a charitable donation.

Societies Are Keeping Ontario Beautiful™

There are 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.

2018 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



There is so much to see and do in Ontario and I am very proud of the members who work countless volunteer hours to make the province we live in such a warm, welcoming and beautiful place to share with our families, friends and visitors.

We are amazed by the presentations you make in your communities and with your tremendous efforts as Ambassadors on the part of the OHA. I can't begin to imagine what things would be like if these incredible talents couldn't be shown.

You also share your skills with others through your Plant Sales, Seedy Saturdays/Sundays, Garden Tours, Workshops, Speakers at your meetings, Planting Trees, Growing Food in your Community Gardens and bringing creative programs to our Youth.

I hope the Societies take time to honour and reward the members that go that extra mile to create beneficial projects, show leadership in programming and teaching and provide the stability that is required to keep your group a strong and visible part of where you live.

Through the year I travelled to Districts and Societies, to bring greetings, install Officers at Societies, join Anniversary Celebrations, attended Garden Parties, shared Wonderful Food, unveiled Pollinator Gardens, and viewed the amazing gardens and creative landscaping that has been done across the province.

I joined the Officers and/or Committee Chairs on TCONS (teleconferences), Board Meetings, revisions of the Awards Booklet, Director's Quick Start, OJES, Convention Hosts, Awards, Corporate Report, STBI, Trademark discussions, Website, Pollinator updates, Investments, Interviews for Awards Coordinator, Treasurer, Marketing & Communications, and many outside groups that we share information with or are part of their boards, etc.

I am pleased to have worked with such a great team of Officers and Directors and thank them for all the assistance they have provided to get us through this past year.

It is a busy position as a volunteer and your President, but I have enjoyed the friendships I have renewed and those I have made through this past year.

I wish all of you sunshine and beautiful gardens and a joy of life.

Thank you for making Ontario a better place to live.

With warm regards,

Rose Odell, OHA President 2018

EXECUTIVE AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2017/2018

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

Officers

NAME	POSITION
Rose Odell	President
Katharine Smyth	Vice President
Kelly Taylor	Secretary
Mary Donnelly/ Jane Leonard	Treasurer
Suzanne Hanna	Past President/Past Presidents' Council Representative
Rick Causton	S/W Regional Representative
Charles Freeman	N/E Regional Representative



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

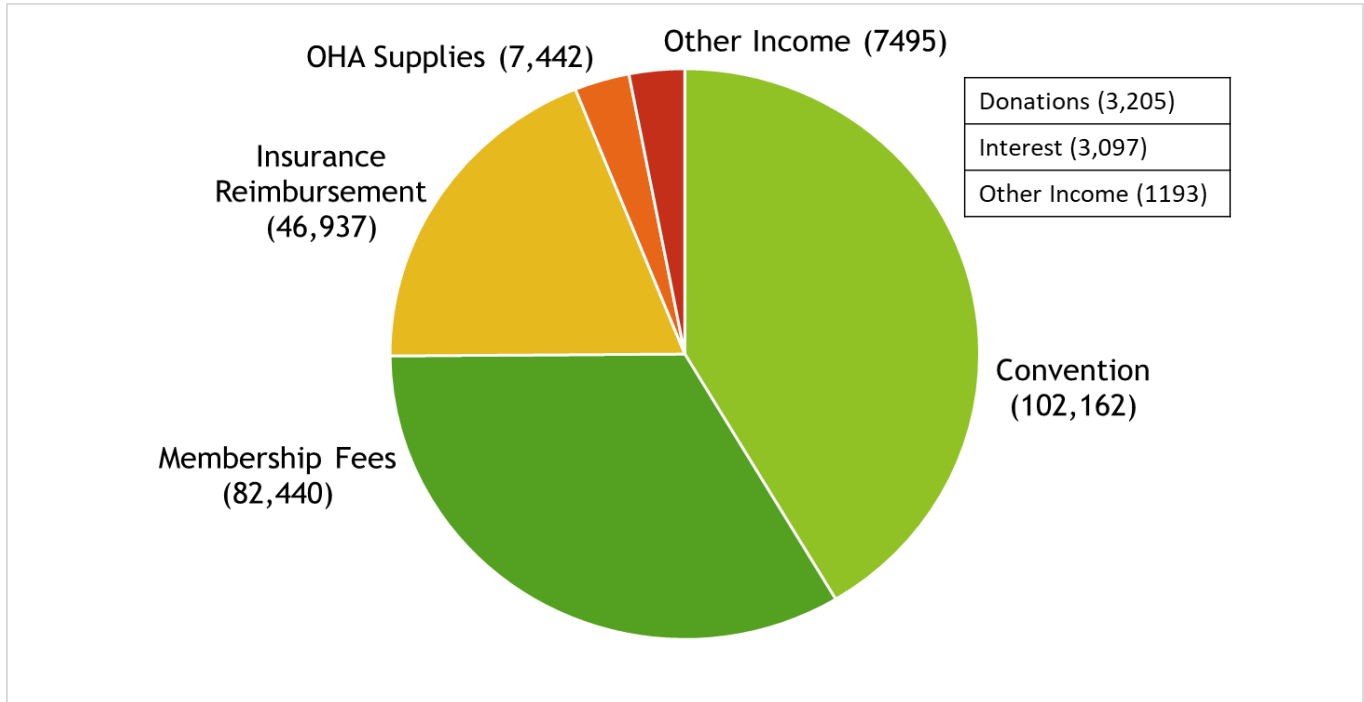
District Directors

NAME	DISTRICT	NAME	DISTRICT
Charles Freeman	1	Marg Laman	11
Sharlene Desjardins	2	Anne Jamieson	12
Penny Stewart	3	Christine Marsh	13
Dianne Westlake	4	Sandra Mazur	14
Cindy Scythes	5	Barb O'Malley	15
Catherine McGill	6	Joanne Rachfalowski	16
Jane McDonald	7	Rick Causton	17
Vicky Culbert	8	Sandra Hartill	18
Susan Lusted	9	Gary Brenner	19
Shelley MacKenzie	10		

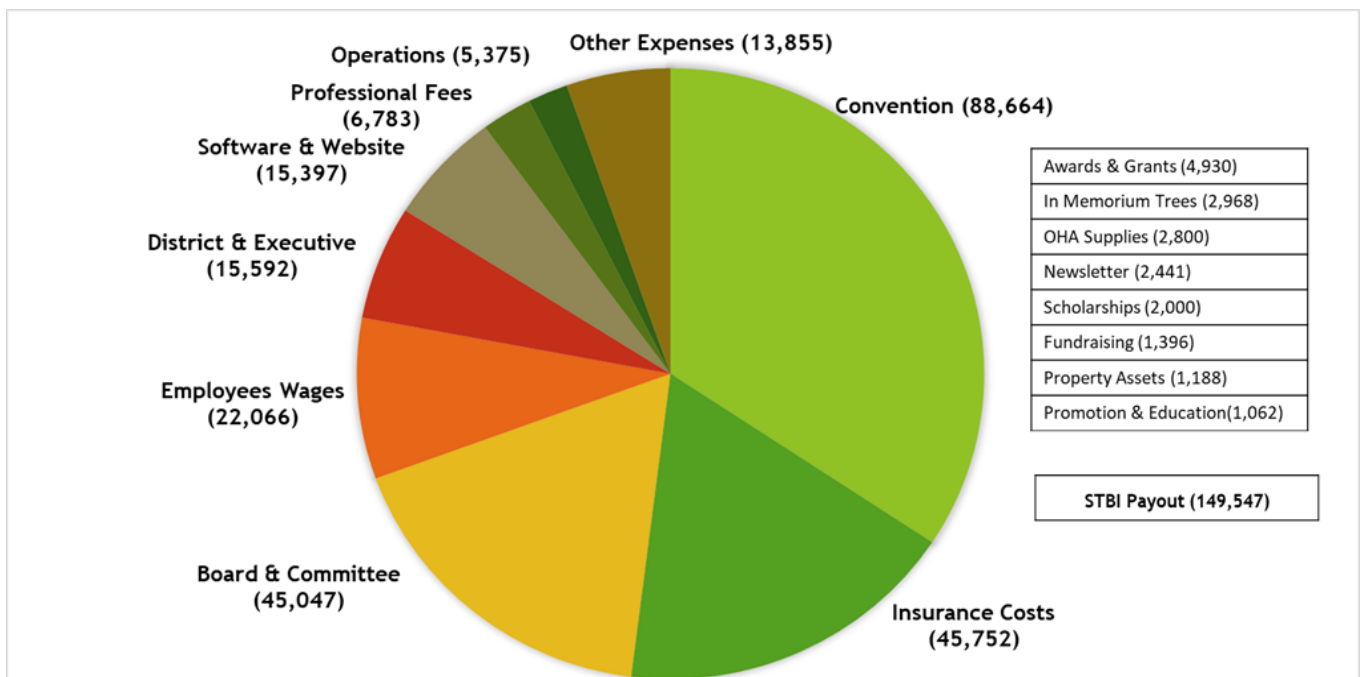


THE FINANCIAL PICTURE - 2018

2018 OHA Income



2018 OHA Expenditures



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 2018, 278 horticultural societies recorded 527,241 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 attending Lakehead University (Ontario Horticultural Association Bursary) in relation to food security or the University of Guelph (Ontario Horticultural Association Scholarship) in relation to eco-friendly horticultural science.



OHA PARTNERSHIPS

The OHA is working in partnership with the following organizations:

- **Bee City Canada**
- **Garden Clubs of Ontario**
- **Landscape Ontario**
- **Loblaw Companies Limited**
- **Ontario Gardener Magazine**
- **Ontario Invasive Plant Council**
- **Ontario Ministry Agricultural Food and Rural Affairs**
- **University of Guelph Arboretum**
- **W. H. Perron**



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**
- **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 10**
 - Western Fair Go Wild, Grow Wild Event, London
- **DISTRICT 11**
 - International Plowing Match – Pain Court

OHA POLLINATOR INITIATIVES

It is hard to believe that two summers ago the Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA) and OMAFRA were celebrating on the lawn of Queen's Park in Toronto at the start of our 111th Convention. Buoyed by our shared vision and commitment to restore pollinator health and the December 2016 release of the Pollinator Health Action Plan, the OHA and the Liberal government agreed in 2017 to collaborate on the creation of a pollinator garden on government-owned land near the Ontario Legislative buildings. After months of weekly teleconferences, environmental assessments, and numerous public consultations, we produced a "shovel-ready" project at the end of April 2018 that incorporated detailed garden bed diagrams, native plant lists, signage, a comprehensive maintenance plan and a reasonable budget.

All was progressing beautifully until that fateful day of May 9th when the electoral writ was dropped to signal the start of the campaign in May 2018. Voters wanted change badly and so on June 7th, they voted out the Liberals and provided the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario with their first electoral win since 1999.

Elections can have consequences. The members of the Queen's Park (QP) Pollinator Garden Steering Committee that I served on were quickly informed by OMAFRA staff that once the electoral writ has been issued, the actions of the current government in power is severely curtailed. It assumes the role of a caretaker and is expected to show restraint and restrict any new spending. There are no new announcements made and current contracts and negotiations are put on hold until the election has been held. In summary, our QP Pollinator Garden was put on hold. We crossed our fingers.

When Doug Ford assumed office, it quickly became apparent that Ontarian voters would experience many changes. Lots of Liberal policies were reversed and there were many program cuts. The Pollinator Health Action Plan that many heralded as a bold collaborative vision involving the Ontario government, farmers, growers, beekeepers, gardeners and organizations dedicated to improved pollinator health is no longer visible on the OMAFRA web page in its original wording. It has been diluted—gutted, some might say, to reflect the current government's limited focus on honey bees.

Ernie Hardeman, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs has stated that the focus of his Ministry is now on the health of managed honey bees that play a role in Ontario's agricultural industry, not on wild native bees and other pollinators. While the OHA is still listed as a Pollinator Stakeholder and Partner, OMAFRA's message to gardeners is to provide for pollinator needs—food, shelter and water and become involved with other groups who wish to improve pollinator health.

Our organization is currently updating our website (www.gardenontario.org) and we are working to provide copious amounts of information and resources on pollinator health in our Get Involved and Resources sections. Our "Be Part of the Buzz" brochure can be easily downloaded for distribution at general meetings and special events. In addition, the OHA offers a Pollinator Project Grant that provides grants annually to eligible member societies who wish to create habitat in the form of pollinator friendly gardens and/or nesting sites on public ground.

Our OHA Pollinator Haven metal signs can be purchased for a low fee from Rose Odell, our Supplies Coordinator. Since their initial distribution in June 2017, interest has grown and over 80 additional signs have been purchased this past year.

Although the QP Pollinator Garden was not installed as planned in 2018, the process of collaborating with other like-minded organizations has served the OHA well. It has energized our members to invest time, money and resources towards the improvement of pollinator health in their communities. It is clear that our membership has embraced this unique opportunity to make a difference across Ontario, one garden at a time. Bravo!

Suzanne Hanna
Past President 2015-2017

OHA GRANTS

Tree Grants

The following societies received tree grants, up to \$200 in 2018.

- Manotick – District 2
- Stittsville-Goulbourn – District 2
- Haldimand – District 6
- Chesley – District 8
- Goderich – District 8
- Lucknow – District 8
- Ripley & Dist. – District 8
- Fort Erie – District 9
- St. Thomas – District 10
- Belle River – District 11
- Kingsville – District 11
- Leamington – District 11
- Campbell – District 13
- Sault Ste. Marie – District 13
- Swansea – District 15
- Orillia – District 16

Special Project Grants

To assist Societies in meeting the objectives of the Ontario Horticultural Association, the board will provide a Special Project Grant to a maximum of \$500 for each project.

- Eganville & Area – District 2
- Moorefield & District – District 7

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.

- Stittsville-Goulbourn – District 2

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.

- Deep River - District 2
- Durham - District 8
- Beeton - District 16
- Cannington - District 17

Pollinator 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.

- Rideau Lakes – District 3
- Argyle Horticultural Society – District 18

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.

- 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. Launch of the updated [GardenOntario.org](http://www.GardenOntario.org) website will take place in 2019.
- 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 access to 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 includes 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 in person. At that time decisions are made which the members of the board consider to be in the best interest of the societies they represent. The OHA Officers meet monthly via TCON to continue the important business of the Association.



2018 OHA Convention, District 3, Kingston, Ontario

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 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.

For more information, please visit: <https://gardenontario.org/resources/>

2018 OHA Convention District 3 Tree Dedication Ceremony Lake Ontario Park, Kingston, ON

(From Right – Rose Odell, OHA President,
Penny Stewart, District 3 Director,
Kathy Smyth, OHA Vice President)



www.gardenontario.org

