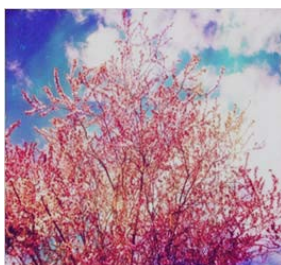




2019

Ontario Horticultural Association

Keeping Ontario Beautiful™



Garden Ontario
KEEPING ONTARIO BEAUTIFUL™



June 23, 2020



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 an affiliated Horticultural Society/Garden Club or by making a charitable donation.

Societies Are Keeping Ontario Beautiful™

There are 273 affiliated Horticultural Societies/Garden Clubs 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.

2019 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Sometimes we forget how and where we started and why our forefathers established what we call the Ontario Horticultural Association. What follows is what Wikipedia says about our organization:

The **Ontario Horticultural Association** (OHA) is a horticultural organization in Ontario, Canada. It was organized in 1905,^[1] established in 1906, and incorporated by the Government of Ontario in 1924 via an Act^[1] in the Ontario Legislature, which split the **Agricultural and Horticultural Societies** into the **Ontario Agricultural Fairs**

Association and the OHA. Its founding motto was "Keeping Ontario Beautiful".^[2]

Membership to the Ontario Horticultural Association is granted to those horticultural societies that satisfy the requirements of the Ontario Horticultural Societies Act.^[1] Each local society may become an affiliate member of the OHA upon remittance of an affiliation fee, and each receives an annual grant based on paid memberships.^[3]

The OHA consists of 19 Districts^[4] comprising autonomous local societies in its region. Its Executive Council has representatives from each District. Each member society defines guidelines for beautification of its community, including planning, development and maintenance of urban parks.^[5] Each local society is also responsible for fundraising, organizing conservation programs, and operating youth programs, and sets its own membership fee. □

At inception, the organization was established to promote horticultural practices in the province, with a specific focus on ornamental plants.^[1] It did so by organizing shows, staging competitions, and hosting courses to "interest juniors and others in the study of horticulture".^[1] Today, it is focused on food gardening,^[5] for example by promoting the installation of bee nesting boxes by local societies.^[6]

The organization presents nine awards at its annual convention,^[7] some of which have been awarded since the organization's establishment.^[5] Its most prestigious award is the Silver Medal Award.^[8] The Silver Fir Award is given to an individual who demonstrates "outstanding service" to the horticultural society in Ontario to which that individual belongs.^[9] Others are the Trillium Award, Award of Merit, Community Improvement Award, Environmental Award, Youth Leader Award, and the Honour Roll.^[7]

Grants are provided to societies by the OHA for various activities, such as establishing a seed exchange program.

Our Motto today is still the same as our founders intended it to be. We still have nineteen Districts with over ~27,000 members across Ontario. Our current Mission states that the OHA is a volunteer, charitable organization who provides leadership and assists in the promotion of education and interests 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 Board of Directors of the Ontario Horticultural Association in collaboration with the Strategic Planning Committee and the Constitution, By-Laws and Resolutions Committee are updating the Constitution, By-Laws, and the OHA Vision, Mission and Goals to bring them more in line with today's world. The new Mission, Vision and Goals are in tune with today's economic and social lifestyle and will be presented to the membership at the next OHA AGM.

To continue our Vision, we have added more grants to reflect on the attributes of pollinators and community gardens. We always strive to create a supportive environment for gardeners of all ages and encourage the use of eco-friendly horticultural practices to promote the production of food, beautification of our communities and the conservation of the environment.

Have we changed? Yes, times are different and yet they are becoming the same as when our forefathers established the Ontario Horticultural Association. Food grown naturally is becoming the norm and more and more people want to know where, and how our food, plants, flowers are grown. We will continue to have the answers for all those asking.

I am honored to be the President of this prestigious organization that does so much in this great province of Ontario.

I have travelled to Thunder Bay, Cornwall, Ottawa, Kingston, Thorndale, Bobcaygeon, Brockville, Bayfield, Lambton Shores, Sarnia, Port Stanley, St. Thomas and all the affiliated Horticultural Societies/Garden Clubs in Essex County and Municipality of Chatham-Kent and have seen the great work done by over ~27,000 plus members by planting trees, working in community gardens, planting flowering hanging baskets, planting beautiful flowered public gardens and so much more. This is done every year by members who are volunteers in practically every hamlet, village, town, city or municipality. I thank you all for making all our lives a better place to live in. How can we not look at the beauty of trees, shrubs, vegetables, and flowers and not have a sense of accomplishment of what has been done by many.

Social media has become part of our everyday life. We have launched a new website, which is continually being updated and improved. Our Facebook page now has daily gardening information for our members. We have some very capable people looking after these platforms and I want to thank them publicly. And I want to thank the many members who are posting their events and information to let the public know what is going on in their area.

Change is not always accepted willingly and that is where we have to realize there are different ways of doing things. I am grateful for the board of the association who are willing to step out and accept the changes that are proposed and pass these changes onto their Districts' members. I want to thank the Officers and Directors for tirelessly working on behalf of the members.

I also want to thank the Directors who have stepped forward to host our provincial conventions. District 11 hosted the OHA Convention in Windsor; 2020 has been canceled due to the Covid-19 Pandemic however 2021 will be hosted by District 10 in London; 2022 will be hosted by Districts 7 and 8 in Guelph and 2023 will be hosted by District 2 in Kanata. Thank you to all the volunteers who come forward to make a great weekend possible.

Yes, 113 years is a long time and yet the Ontario Horticultural association is as strong today as it was that long time ago. I wish every affiliated Horticultural Society/Garden Club continued success and please remember we may be changing in small ways but yet we are the same.

Katharine Smyth, OHA President 2019

EXECUTIVE AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2018/2019

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
Katharine Smyth	President
Charles Freeman	Vice President
Joanne Rachfalowski/ Sharlene Desjardins	2 nd Vice President
Kelly Taylor	Secretary
Jane Leonard	Treasurer
Rose Odell	Past President/Past Presidents' Council Representative
Rick Causton	S/W Regional Representative
Sharlene Desjardins	N/E Regional Representative



The Director of each District is elected by the affiliated Horticultural Societies/Garden Clubs of that District at a District Annual Meeting.

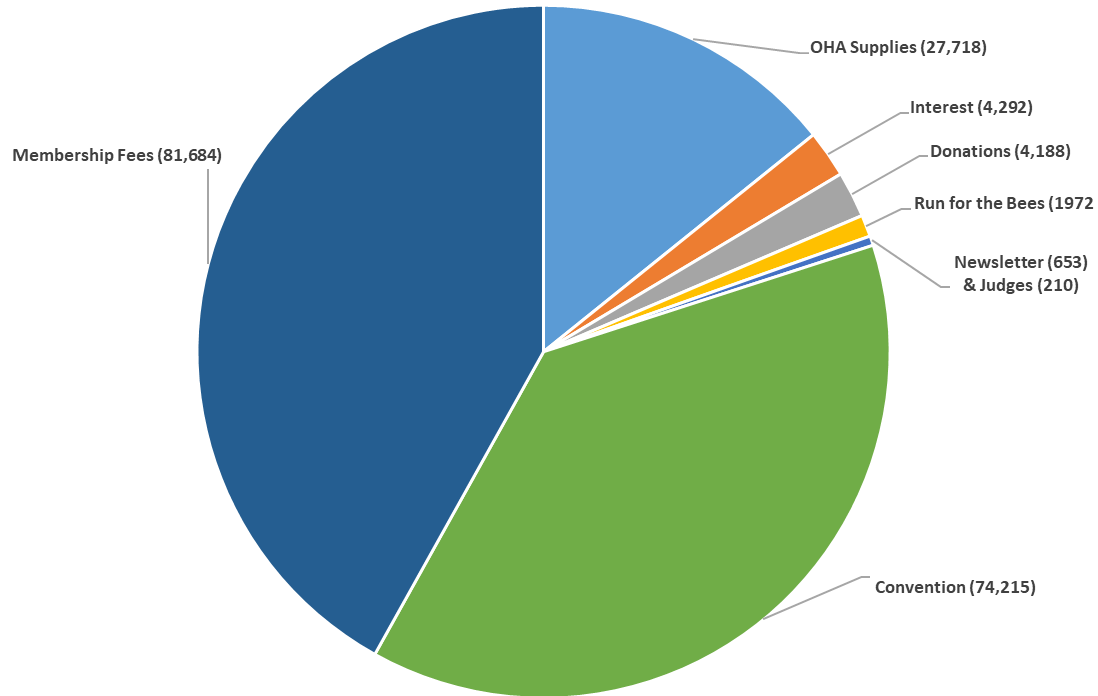
District Directors

NAME	DISTRICT	NAME	DISTRICT
Charles Freeman/ Candace Dressler	1	Marg Laman	11
Sharlene Desjardins/ Anne Harbord	2	Anne Jamieson	12
Penny Stewart/ Sue Carew	3	Christine Marsh	13
Dianne Westlake	4	Sandra Mazur	14
Cindy Scythes	5	Barb O'Malley	15
Catherine McGill	6	Joanne Rachfalowski/ Linda Forster	16
Kathy Bouma	7	Rick Causton	17
Vicky Culbert	8	Carol Armstrong	18
Margaret Tanaszi	9	Gary Brenner/ Bruce MacNeil	19
Shelley MacKenzie	10		

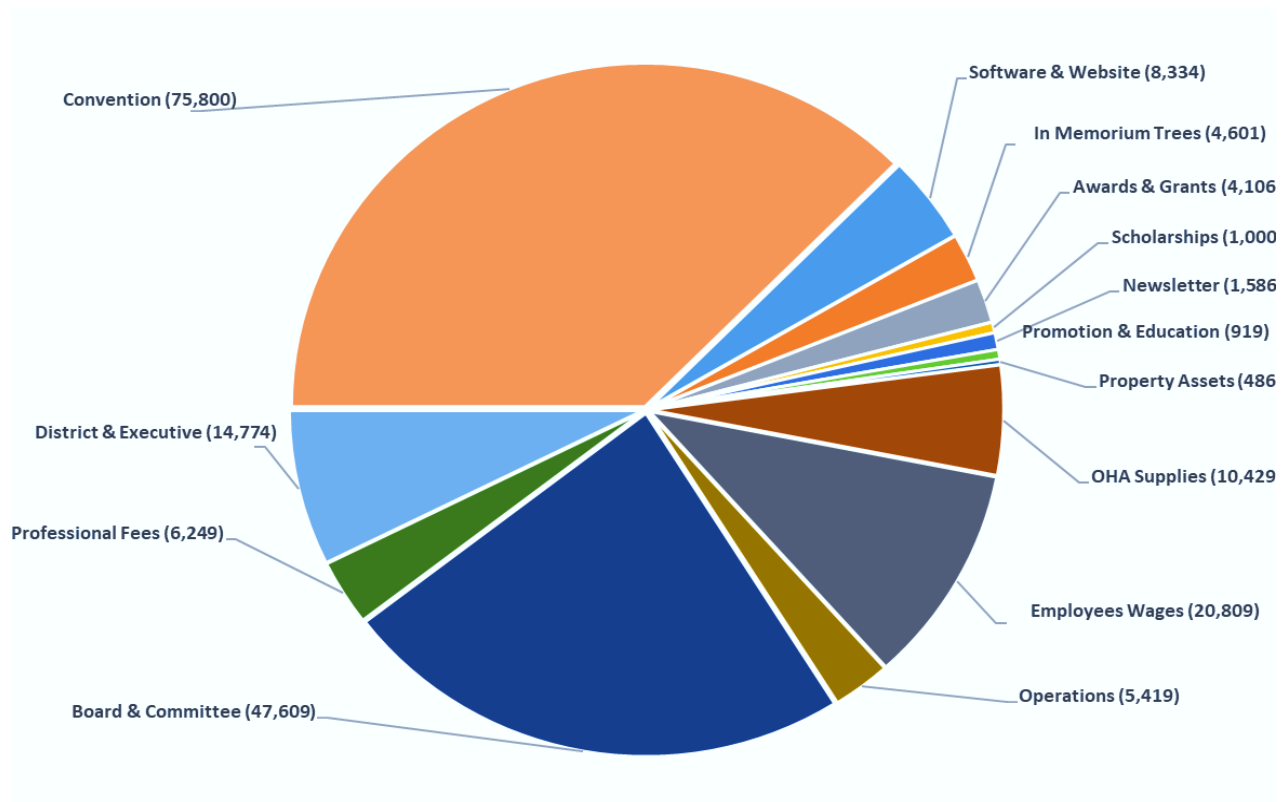


THE FINANCIAL PICTURE - 2019

2019 OHA Income



2019 OHA Expenditures



VOLUNTEER HOURS

Through our local affiliated Horticultural Societies/Garden Clubs, 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 2019, 273 affiliated Horticultural Societies/Garden Clubs recorded 533,673 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, awarded on the basis of financial need, to a second or third year student attending Lakehead University (Ontario Horticultural Association Bursary) Studying Forestry, Biodiversity & Conservation, Plant Sciences, Botany, Biochemistry or Environmental Management and to a continuing student at the University of Guelph (Ontario Horticultural Association Scholarship) concentrating their studies in Horticulture Science.



OHA & GCO PARTNERSHIP



The revision of the Ontario Judging and Exhibiting Standards (OJES) has been a joint project of the Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA) and The Garden Clubs of Ontario (GCO).

It has been a major undertaking that has involved input from affiliated Horticultural Societies/Garden Clubs, members, technical experts and judges of both organizations. The review and revision were completed and made available in 2019 making the OJES an updated, renewed, inspirational and stimulating resource for schedule writers, show organizers, exhibitors and judges alike.

OHA PARTNERSHIPS

The OHA is working in partnership with the following organizations:

- **Bee City Canada**
- **Garden Clubs of Ontario**
- **Landscape Ontario**
- **Lee Valley**
- **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 their directors and members, maintain contact with organizations and events in Ontario. OHA representatives attend events or serve on the boards of other organizations.

- **Ontario Invasive Plant Council**
- **DISTRICT 4**
 - Peterborough Garden Show, Peterborough
- **DISTRICT 5**
 - Canada Blooms, Toronto
 - Get the Jump on Spring, Toronto Botanical Garden, Toronto
- **DISTRICT 6**
 - Hamilton Gage Park Mum Show, Hamilton
 - Royal Botanical Gardens Plant Faire, Burlington
- **DISTRICT 10**
 - Western Fair Go Wild, Grow Wild Event, London
- **DISTRICT 13**
 - International Plowing Match – Verner, West Nipissing
- **DISTRICT 15**
 - Canadian National Exhibition, Toronto

OHA GRANTS

Tree Grants

Starting January 1st each year, the OHA distributes \$200 grants for the planting of a tree or trees by affiliated Horticultural Societies/Garden Clubs on public land.

- Russell & District – District 1
- Pakenham – District 2
- Manotick – District 2
- Grafton – District 4
- Milton & District – District 6
- Grand Valley & District – District 7
- Guelph – District 7
- Lincoln – District 9
- Thorold – District 9
- Dutton-Dunwich – District 10
- Ridgetown & District – District 11
- Iroquois Falls – District 12
- Dryden & District – District 14
- Alliston & District – District 16
- Wilmot – District 19

Special Project Grants

To assist affiliated Horticultural Societies/Garden Clubs 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.

- Maxville – District 1
- Grafton – District 4
- Norwood & District – District 4
- Cambridge & Area – District 19

Pollinator Grants

The OHA will provide grants of \$200 each, annually to eligible affiliated Horticultural Societies/Garden Clubs, to create habitat in the form of pollinator friendly gardens or nesting sites on public land.

- Ottawa – District 2
- Pelham – District 9
- Alliston & District – District 16
- Orillia – District 16
- Wellesley – District 19

OHA FUNDED PROJECTS MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN ONTARIO

Each year the Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA) presents awards to deserving individuals, groups, organizations and societies who go above and beyond to beautify their community, protect the environment, teach others and remain active, engaged and involved in the world around them. Following is an example of two of these awards which were presented in 2019.

The Environmental Award is an award that may be given to an individual, organization, municipality, company, school or other educational establishment that has made significant contribution to environmental preservation including habitat, restoration and/or improvement. This award was presented to the Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve in 2019. Below is their story.

The Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve is a non-profit organization that works with dozens of community partners to provide environmental education through conservation and to create vibrant and sustainable communities. Eastern Georgian Bay is the world's largest freshwater archipelago, or group of islands, that provide a variety of habitats for species at risk.



The Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve has had a huge impact on the natural environment and on the mindset of the people living in it. They have been involved in educating homeowners and cottagers who live by the river and have sponsored shoreline plantings of native plants along the Seguin River and Georgian Bay in the town of Parry Sound. This is a highly visible, downtown area with a walking trail used by many people every day of the year.

In 2018, they undertook the Seguin River Stewardship Project. This was a Great Lakes Guardian project that involved removing garbage and invasive species and planting native trees and shrubs along the Seguin River as it approaches Georgian Bay. Previous research done by the Biosphere provided the foundation of knowledge for this undertaking. Understanding the impact of removing invasive species and replanting while stabilizing the bank and not disturbing fish habitat at the mouth of the river was essential.

The project took place on both privately owned and municipal property with cooperation and involvement from the Town of Parry Sound, The Parry Sound Horticultural Society, the Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve and many other businesses, groups and organizations who worked together to make their dream a reality.

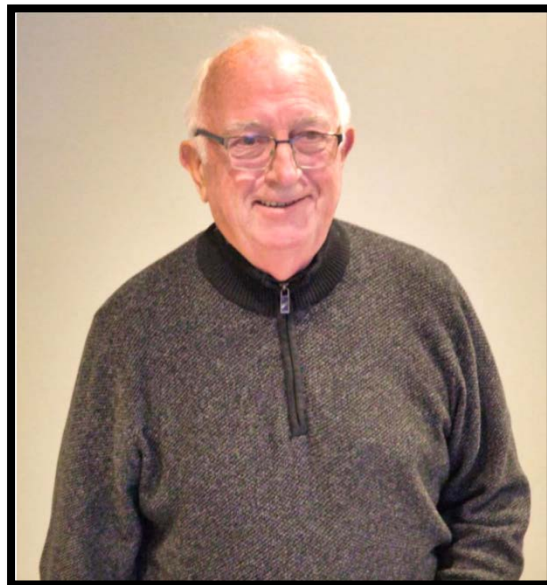


Their mission is to facilitate cooperative action in support of the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable development through education and public outreach that will foster a shared responsibility for the Reserve for generations to come.

The Community Improvement Award is an award that may be given 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.

There were two Community Improvement Awards presented in 2019. This is the story of Mr. Len Lee from the Milton and District Horticultural Society, one of the recipients of this award.

When the Milton Town Hall building was beginning renovations, three very large air conditioning units were going to have to be removed from the roof. The only logical spot for them to go was the existing rose garden. With only 36 hours of notice to remove 97 rose bushes, the past president of the Canadian Rose Society, Len Lee, was immediately called and rose to the challenge.



He had been taking care of the roses at the Town Hall garden for 30 years. He received permission to relocate the roses to the Allendale Long Term Care facility, run by the Region of Halton.

The roses were tagged by species and colour and skillfully laid out in the new bed. Volunteers then began the task of transplanting them. Under his expert guidance, only one rose bush was lost which was due to a damaged downspout draining too close and flooding it out.



Eighteen months later, renovations at the Town Hall were complete and he volunteered to replant the old site of the rose garden with new stock. The roses were selected with care to include heritage varieties as well as new and disease-free proven roses. With his team of volunteers, they built raised beds and replanted the rose garden.

The rose garden at the Town Hall is an attraction for tourists and the residents at the Allendale Long Term Care facility love waking up to all the beautiful roses right outside their dining room. Morale rose instantly, appetite increased and moods improved.

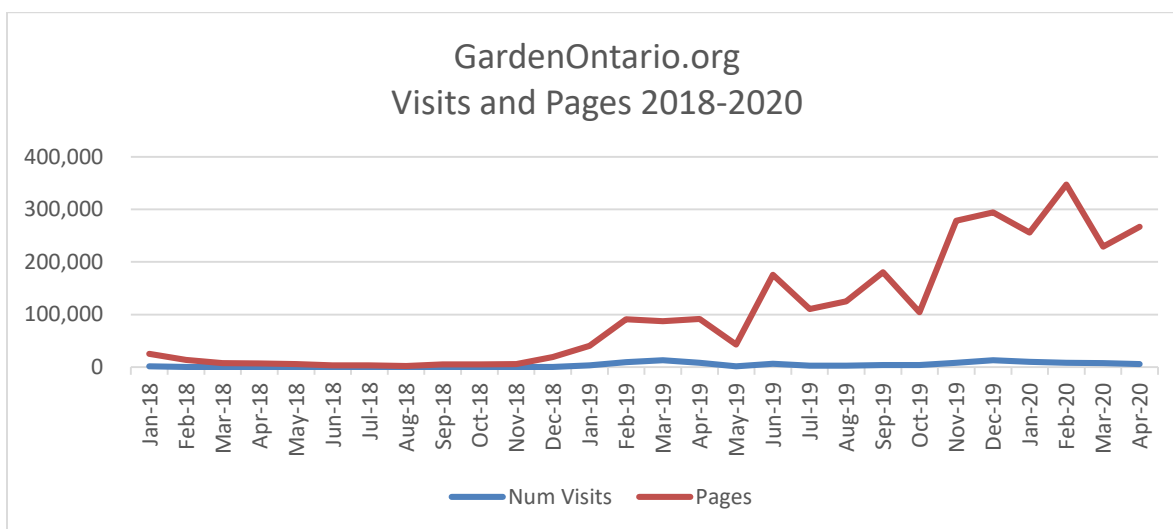
In 2014, Mr. Lee was presented with Milton's Senior of the Year award. He has chaired the community clean-up day for the past 22 years which sees volunteers assist seniors with spring cleaning tasks, has chaired the Community Living North Halton's annual charity bonspiel for the past 4 years and is a member of the Rotary Club of Milton, and the Milton & District Horticultural Society. He is also a board member for the Milton District Hospital Foundation and the "Golfing 4 Cancer" committee. The Milton Horticultural Society has renamed their Summer Flower Show Red Rose Trophy to the Len Lee Red Rose Trophy. He is a true Rosarian and well respected in the industry. He and his wife maintain the rose gardens at the Town Hall and the Allendale Long Term Care Facility.



The OHA gives out many other awards as well as many different grants to assist societies in beautifying their communities. Please take the time to visit our website at www.gardenontario.org to find out more about what we do and what we offer. We might surprise you!

NEW OHA GARDENONTARIO WEBSITE

- The OHA website continues to be our major source of information and news for affiliated Horticultural Society/Garden Club members as well as the general public who visit our site looking for gardening and community related information.
- We launched our new website in April 2019 with our new branding. It is filled with new and revised information and resources. The website has a fully searchable event calendar and includes various resources, information, and forms for affiliated Horticultural Societies/Garden Clubs and Districts to access with a variety of devices. Each District and affiliated Horticultural Society/Garden Club has a viewable page and a system to add and edit their information and pictures easily by a designated member in their group.
- A data collection system accessible right from the frontend website has also been added giving members' password protected pages that can facilitate contact forms, reports, resources, and application forms offering a more automated, efficient, and easy to use method of managing our reporting and compliance requirements.
- The new website has been created to be adaptable so that new features, information, and resources can be revised and added over time to make sure our website continues to be a valuable resource.
- The old site from 2018 to mid-April 2019 shows that although visits remain constant, less pages were viewed on the old site compared with the new site and pages viewed climb as new information is added.

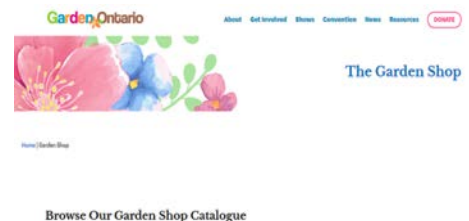
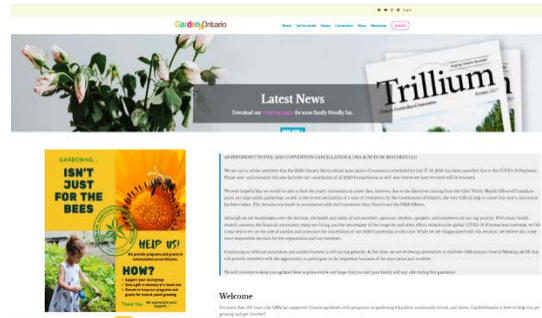


- Google analytics have been added which will give us a better set of statistics over time. Both our event calendar and our Face Book group continue to drive traffic to our website.

COMMUNICATIONS

Several tools are used to communicate within the OHA to keep in touch with our affiliated Horticultural Societies/Garden Clubs 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.
- The quarterly publication, the *Trillium*, is emailed to a majority of affiliated Horticultural Societies/Garden Clubs 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 affiliated Horticultural Societies/Garden Clubs have access to OHA material for distribution.
- The OHA offers promotional items to Districts, affiliated Horticultural Societies/Garden Clubs and members through the virtual Garden Shop and through the GardenOntario Vista Print Store where items such as Pins, Certificates, T-shirts, Sweaters, Mugs, Hasty Note Cards, the OJES and a variety of free promotional materials are made available.
- 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 affiliated Horticultural Societies/Garden Clubs receive necessary financial and business reports. Election of the Officers for the coming year takes place. Networking, attending workshops and speaker sessions, and fostering social interaction are just some of the important benefits of attending the Annual General Meeting of the OHA.
- The Ontario Horticultural Association Officers 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 affiliated Horticultural Societies/Garden Clubs they represent. The OHA Officers meet monthly via teleconference to continue the important business of the Association.



SUPPORT THE ONTARIO HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION



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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, affiliated Horticultural Societies/Garden Clubs 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/>

2019 OHA Convention

District 11 Tree Dedication Ceremony

Windsor Sculpture Park, Windsor, ON

(From Right – Dennis Flannigan, Landscape

Ontario, Katharine Smyth, OHA President,

Charles Freeman, OHA Vice President,

Marg Laman, District 11 Director

Jay Terryberry, Retiree, St Clair College, Windsor

