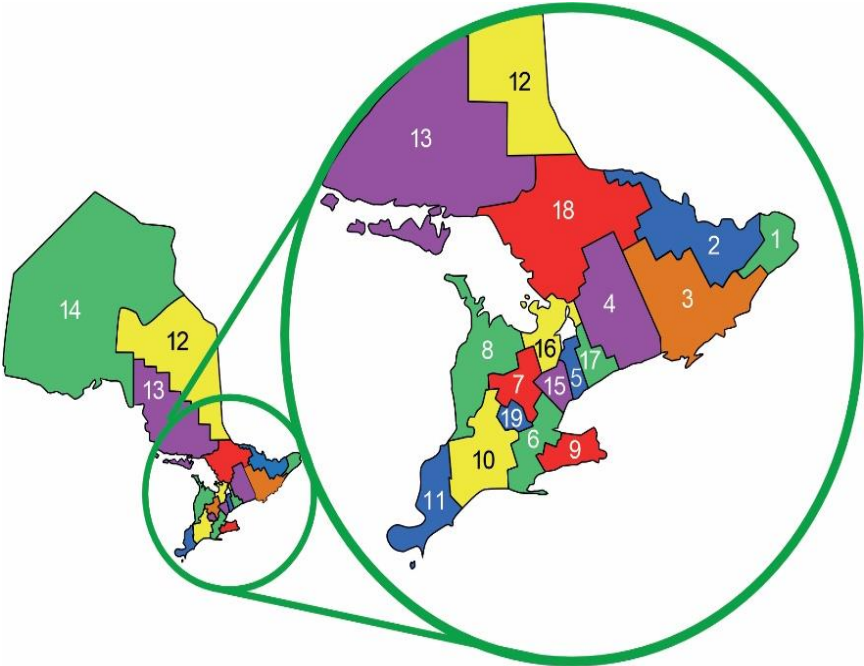


2020
Historical Record of the



Horticultural Societies/Clubs
of Ontario

Colour map of OHA Districts



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2020 Historical Record of Ontario Horticultural Societies/Clubs

OHA President's Message - 2020

What a time it has been! We started off doing normal things until March 12, 2020, the whole world shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This meant lockdowns, so venues were closed, which canceled meetings, speakers and activities. We all stayed home.

Everyone thought it wouldn't last long, but how quickly things changed. The OHA Officers worked with OMAFRA to ensure that Societies/Clubs received grants early and advocated for pandemic relief funding. We sent out protocols, closures and Local Public Health Authorities' information to keep all informed.

Our next three Annual Conventions were postponed for one year, with District 10 in London moved to 2021, District 7 & 8 in Guelph to 2022 and District 2 in Kanata to 2023. We had to hold the AGM within 90 days of the lifting of the Emergency Measures Act.

Then our members heard about Zoom, WebEx, Microsoft Teams, and meetings started happening virtually with speakers from around the world, free webinars and YouTube videos. Anything to do with gardening was booming. *Garden* was at the top of the list on Google. Sixty per cent of the population supported gardening products. New people wanted to grow flowers or vegetables. Resiliency and determination to continue on a Society/Club's work was the norm. Thank you for your hard work and success.

I have been blessed to work with the fine team of Officers and Directors who make up the Board. I am only as good as the people I work with. Thank you to everyone for *Keeping Ontario Beautiful*.

Katharine Smyth, OHA President 2018-2021

Report extracted and edited from the President's Speech at the 114th OHA Convention.

Convention information extracted and edited from the President's Message in the Summer Trillium 2020

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OHA DISTRICT 1

Cornwall & District Horticultural Society

Our Bridge Box Special Project was cancelled for 2020, along with all other meetings and events, such as Bark & Compost Day, Canadian Tire Day, and Planting Day. We were to host the D1 AGM; everything was planned and ready, but it was also cancelled due to COVID-19.

Gloucester Horticultural Society

We started having meetings via Zoom, first our executive meetings and then our monthly meetings. We had a smaller physically distanced member only garden tour. We did have September and October speakers. We held a Floral Arrangement workshop in September and did Nursing home flower deliveries, along with a Youth planting workshop.

Kemptville Horticultural Society

With no President, our Executive & Directors worked together sharing the duties. In February, we had a Seed Exchange plus Guest Speaker, participated in a seed exchange at Kemptville College and enrolled 13 new members. We had to cancel all in-person meetings starting in March, two in-person flower shows, May plant sale, July-August tours of members' gardens, July day-trips to local gardens, Awards Night in October. We created our Facebook page and moved to virtual meetings.

Martintown & District Horticultural Society

We held our only 2020 meeting on March 04 with a Pot Luck dinner. In the spring, we made arrangements with a local garden centre to provide flowers for our containers and barrels, a very bright spot on what otherwise might have been a dreary summer. We produced a calendar with pictures of members'

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gardens instead of a year book. Our leadership team met regularly via Zoom. Members were updated regularly via e-mail and our Facebook page. We received positive feedback from members expressing their appreciation.

Maxville & District Horticultural Society

I feel our yearbook was our best 2020 accomplishment. We distributed 80 copies. Our May plant Auction was cancelled. We planted 3 beds and 36 hanging baskets in the village. Two \$200 bursaries were sent out. We had a very successful plant sale outside in Sept. Our general meetings and Nov AGM with the Christmas potluck dinner were cancelled. We had 5 Executive & board meetings. We tried to keep things going and members informed. We posted on our Facebook page.

Russell and District Horticultural Society

We hosted the January Living Locally Fair and sold trees on a member's property. We strengthened our online presence via Facebook and monthly newsletters to keep members connected. We were able to plant flowers at the Serenity Garden at the local retirement home. We could not host meetings, garden tours, workshops, and some of our usual fundraisers.

Vankleek Hill and District Horticultural Society

We planted and maintained town signs and looked after flower beds in Mill Street Park according to COVID-19 restrictions. Society business was carried on by telephone and electronic. Due to the pandemic, we had to put on hold or cancel social outings, meetings, plant sales and auctions.

Williamstown Green Thumb Horticultural Society

We held a reduced Plant Sale for members only in May and at the end of August, both while respecting COVID-19 restrictions.

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We continued planting and maintenance at our 7 local gardens. Our members set up a 50-foot-long floral display at the 209th Williamstown Drive-Through Fair on September 05. We had to cancel our summer garden strolls, Flower Show, bus tour, the AGM and all general meetings, except the February Pot Luck.

OHA DISTRICT 2

Almonte & District Horticultural Society

Monthly meetings, flower shows and our AGM were cancelled after the February outbreak of COVID-19. In May, a lot of weeding and planting was done on our 2021 Centennial Pollinator Garden project. We observed the requirements of social distancing, masks and limits to the number of workers. Flower beds and planter boxes were also maintained. Two pop up plant sales were held, one in the driveway of a member, and one in a church parking lot. Revenue was down, but it was great to meet members again at the fall sale.

Beachburg Horticultural Society

Most in-person meetings were not possible this year. Of the two outdoor events which took place, the first was the August Hosta Garden Tour. It explored the world of Hosta and included a sale and exchange of plants with members. The other event, in September, featured the presentation of the OHA Honour Roll to Hazel Hawthorn by Anne Harbord, District 2 Director. The beautification of the main street went on as planned, with the planters placed in locations along the street, where local homeowners helped by keeping the plants watered and pruned.

Carleton Place & District Horticultural Society

In February, we participated in Seedy Saturday in Almonte and, in March, held our only meeting of the year. The Victoria School Gardens were magnificent again this year, thanks to volunteers,

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who followed Provincial and Health Unit Guidelines. We kept in touch with members through email and phone calls. Using the Zoom platform, we held some board meetings and a Christmas meeting with a demonstration of 3 floral designs, which were raffled off to those in attendance on the call. We awarded a \$250 Bursary to graduating high school student, Alexa Button, and a \$100 grant to a Junior Gardening Program.

Deep River Horticultural Society

Prior to the COVID-19 lockdown, we hosted Seedy Saturday in February. Our adult membership dropped from 227 to 109. We held virtual executive meetings; used technology and our local newspaper to communicate about our events; created a weekly newspaper column, "Ask the Gardening Angel"; held virtual Green Thumbs Garden Club events to keep children engaged; held a Home Grounds Competition for Deep River's 75th Anniversary and a Carved Pumpkin Contest outdoors in October. We turned the planting bee for our 14 massive flower planters into a workshop with COVID-19 restrictions.

Eganville and Area Horticultural Society

We purchased a Colorado Blue Spruce Tree with a \$200 grant from the OHA, which becomes the permanent Christmas tree for the village. This would be the only way we would mark our 65th Anniversary. In late May, the Board started meeting via Zoom. With an OHA Community Garden grant, six boxes were built ready for planting in the spring of 2021. Our Fall Perennial Plant Sale and Harvest Auction event was held outdoors at the Curling Rink. We had never held this outdoors before, and found it to be more enjoyable than an indoor auction!

Greater Ottawa Water Garden Horticultural Society

The 2020 Water Garden Tour, where we raise money to donate towards a pond or other water feature located at a hospital,

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hospice or other public venue was cancelled, along with the meetings for members and our speakers' program. We donated \$5,000 to Ronald McDonald House for renovations to their garden and water feature. We held a Pond Social in August for our members, a Zoom Christmas Party in December and the AGM, also by Zoom, in January.

Kanata-March Horticultural Society

In the winter of 2020, we visited historical sites and gardens in southeast Sicily, learned about ornamental grasses and, at our 50th anniversary, enjoyed a talk on organic gardening and had a seed exchange. Then, with COVID-19, indoor meetings stopped and, in autumn, we held 2 virtual meetings. We had to cancel our Flower & Edibles Show and hold our Annual Plant Sale with curbside pickup and payment by donation. Our Photography Competition was held with the results on our website and in our 2021 Calendar. We did a minimum of garden maintenance.

Madawaska Valley Horticultural Society

The highlight of this pandemic year was being able to complete the 45 hanging baskets for our Community Beautification. Our residents look forward to seeing the hanging baskets every year and we did not disappoint them, despite all of the restrictions. We were able to hold one socially-distanced plant sale this year, but had to cancel our Bus Tour, Garden Tour, Summer BBQ and Flower and Vegetable Show and most monthly meetings. We were able to hold the November monthly meeting in-person. Board meetings were held using emails.

Manotick Horticultural Society

Due to COVID-19, we had to cancel most plans. We installed a bench in one Community Garden and sold aprons at cost to our members in celebration of our 90th Anniversary and had one key note speaker. We held a Mail Order spring and fall bulb

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sale; had a successful virtual plant sale with our society members; held 3 live and 4 online presentations. Under COVID rules, we had a Garden Tour in 3 gardens over 3 days; held 2 workshops in a park making bird feeders using mason jars and recycled materials and maintained 5 community gardens.

Nepean Horticultural Society

This report follows our fiscal year of September 2019 to August 2020. Before the November 2019 AGM, the President resigned, and 2 members agreed to be Co-Presidents. Due to COVID-19 in March, we had to cancel all of our flower shows, garden visits, local tours, regular meetings and plant auction and sale. Our AGM was deferred to 2021. We held virtual and curbside plant sales, maintained the Nepean Museum Garden following COVID rules and greatly increased the use of our Facebook page for communication and Zoom for our board meetings.

Ottawa Horticultural Society

Because COVID-19 restrictions prevented the spring plant sale, the fall plant sale was done as an online, 10-day auction, using PayPal for payments. A key aspect to its success was a strong outreach to Ottawa garden societies, which raised our profile and resulted in some new members. Zoom was used for Board meetings and the AGM; member meetings used it with YouTube to give us a wider range of speakers. We added our support to successfully get allotment gardens open. Our website and the Grapevine eNewsletter gave regular updates to members.

Ottawa Valley Rock Garden and Horticultural Society

This report follows our fiscal year of September to August 2020. September's pot luck meeting included a speaker; October's was a guided geological hike; December's was a pot luck; January's was a seed exchange sorting event. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we held executive meetings using Zoom

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and regular monthly meetings in September, October and November. We got together with Barrhaven Garden Club for a couple of joint Zoom meetings and held a members only plant sale by picking up the plants at a member's home.

Pakenham Horticultural Society

We had one meeting before the COVID-19 pandemic began. The board held virtual meetings starting in April to plan for virtual events. We had 3 guest speakers using Zoom and YouTube; 3 for fun virtual flower shows on our Facebook Group page; 4 virtual garden tours of members' gardens using YouTube; the AGM in October on Zoom. Our junior members were given seeds for their gardens, we looked after all the gardens in our community and had a fall plant sale, all following COVID-19 rules. The Junior Gardens were judged in the fall.

Pembroke Horticultural Society

Our Gigantic Plant Sale, held in May as our major fundraiser, was cancelled as well as all of our General Meetings. In June, we completed the Spring Cleanup and plantings at 5 locations. With the help of the Canada Summer Jobs grant, our gardeners kept the Pembroke Waterfront Park as beautiful as ever. We created a new pollinator garden, held some Executive meetings, the August Outdoor Flower Show and a September Garden Tour and luncheon there. In July, we drove in our own cars to a Garden Tour at Deacon Day Lilies.

Perth & District Horticultural Society

In February, our speaker told us about new plants for 2020. In March, the topic was Lyme disease and we participated in the Perth Farmers' Market Seedy Saturday. From then on, because of COVID-19, we communicated with our members by email and a 12–16-page monthly eNewsletter. We did virtual flower shows with photos, maintained our Community gardens,

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planted 1,000 narcissi bulbs and did some small fundraisers. In July, 3 of our members opened their gardens by appointment over 6 days to our members, following local COVID-19 Public Health protocols.

Petawawa Horticulture Society

We had two successful plant sales this year, outside following recommended Covid-19 strategies. Although unable to have school children involved with the school program or planting sessions, we did plant fairy rings at the catwalk. We gave out two scholarships of \$250 each to students at Valour School. All guest speakers for our monthly meetings were cancelled, along with our Trivia Fundraiser and Society Christmas Pot Luck. The AGM was postponed until March 2021.

Smiths Falls Horticultural Society

Just as we were getting ready for a year of great speakers, we were devastated with the news of the COVID-19 pandemic. As the majority of our members have no internet, we cancelled our meetings and speaker program for the rest of the year. A few intrepid members maintained the public gardens at the Legion, the Library, the Butterfly Garden and the Railway Museum, with all work following strict COVID-19 guidelines. We cancelled our Plant sale, garden tour, Garden of the Month program and AGM

Stittsville-Goulbourn Horticultural Society

We started with a successful photo competition, but then the planned D2 AGM was shut down due to COVID-19. We held our best ever spring Plant sale as a curbside event with all required restrictions in place. We began zoom executive meetings. Our President started a small column, Veggie Bites, for those who wanted to grow their own food. In the fall, the garden of one member was a socially distanced meeting place. Our AGM and potluck were cancelled. The D2 AGM was virtual in December.

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West Carleton Garden Club

Our meetings with great speakers were well attended up until March. Then the State of Emergency due to COVID-19 was declared by our City and the Province and we had to cancel our annual spring plant sale, a small garden tour, our booth at the Carp Fair and two planned outings to visit gardens. Although our District AGM in April was cancelled, we co-hosted it on Zoom in December. The Board met regularly to discuss our club via Zoom and we held a flower & vegetable show in September.

OHA DISTRICT 3

Ameliasburgh Garden Club

Our club was to host the District 3 Annual General Meeting, but due to COVID-19, it was first postponed in the spring and then cancelled in the fall. We held only one meeting in 2020. Many of our members do not have reliable internet and rely on the local libraries for access, which limits virtual meetings, but we kept in touch through email, shared members' photos and sent links to interesting sites. We cancelled our fundraising events, garden tours, inside meetings and outside events. We will hold our AGM as soon as our whole club is able to meet in person.

Bancroft Horticultural Society

In January and February, we held our General and Executive meetings, then all public venues closed due to COVID-19. We cancelled our flower show, spring plant sale, general meetings, hardscape work in Millennium Park, participation in "Seedy Saturday", garden tours, our annual picnic and the AGM. We sent out four newsletters, maintained our community gardens, held our fall plant sale "Farm Gate" style, submitted an article to the Trillium and were promoted in the Bancroft newspapers.

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Bath Gardening Club

As this has been a challenging year due to COVID-19, we started thinking outside the box and did a number of activities following COVID protocol. We did the plantings on Main Street, received a Volunteer Recognition Award from Loyalist Township for our contribution to the community, conducted our meetings on Zoom, toured local gardens, held a gnomes workshop and, at our AGM, approved funding to update our website. We are thrilled with our new look and how easy it is to navigate.

Belleville Garden Club

Well, the year of 2020 was a very weird and unexpected one. We had so much to look forward to for our club. The February meeting was our one and only for the year, then, with COVID-19 restrictions, everything was cancelled, so we sent gardening info and events via email and our social media Facebook site. We had our annual photo contest on Facebook in October. Other than that, we found that folks were not very receptive for the rest of the year. We just weren't sure what was going to happen next! We will have our Board meetings via Microsoft teams and are looking at web options for our general meetings.

Brockville & District Horticultural Society

To celebrate our 115th anniversary, we purchased a Japanese iris, our floral emblem, as a special gift for each member. We had 3 meetings, then shared presentations on-line when COVID made it impossible to have regular meetings. We handed out seeds from members at Seedy Saturday, held digital art, photo and floral competitions, garden tours, some mini pop-up plant sales with curb-side pickup, did our community work and received recognition for our pollinator garden. The November AGM was our test for migration to virtual meetings in 2021.

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Collins Bay and District Horticultural Society

We had speakers in February and March, then in April, because of the COVID-19 restrictions, we started ZOOM meetings for our Executive and Board meetings. Starting in October, our General meetings and AGM were on Zoom. Both of our Community gardens were planted and maintained from spring through to fall, but we had to cancel our annual plant sale, the June and September Flower & Vegetable Shows, our July Pot Luck and our in-person meetings for April, May, June and September.

Gananoque Horticultural Society

We celebrated our 100th Anniversary with a dinner and awards night and, in the summer, featured bright pink petunias in our community gardens. With COVID-19 restrictions, Facebook and YouTube became our key communications tools with virtual board meetings and Flower Shows. To encourage community beautification, gardening and a feeling of being connected, we posted gardening videos, Garden Tours, a How-to Series, and a Table Design Workshop. We added the Petunia Awards for local residents who grew petunias

Kingston Horticultural Society

The year started like any normal year with planning that was anticipating the regular routine for most societies. Then the COVID-19 Emergency Act was declared the day before our Seedy Saturday cancelling it, the Spring Plant sale and member meetings. In June and September, we initiated two members' only plant sales and our Fall Bulb fundraiser was done online. We updated community gardens and held Zoom meetings and the AGM with guest speakers In the Fall. We now have a video of our Pollinator Garden on YouTube, done by a local resident.

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Land O' Lakes Horticultural Society

Due to COVID-19, all meetings and speakers from April to October and the June Plant Sale were cancelled. We were able to plant our 34 community planter boxes, clean out and plant flowers in our two municipal gardens in North Frontenac and Addington Highland, the Cloyne Pioneer Cemetery and at Pine Meadow Nursing Home, install the 13 sesquicentennial flower plaques on the Cloyne Pioneer Museum, and dig up plants from property owners wanting to donate to the 2021 plant sale.

Lennox and Addington District Horticultural Society

We started the year with a bang by moving to the brand-new St. Patrick's Parish Hall for our February meeting. Then the COVID-19 pandemic came and everything was put off until September, when we had a well-attended outdoor meeting on the patio of the Napanee Library. In the spring, we held an Our Garden photo contest which became a calendar fundraiser. We kept all of our commitments to maintain our community gardens at the Library and Parish Hall. In November, we started having our general and directors' meetings using ZOOM.

Prince Edward Horticultural Society

Due to the Covid 19 restrictions, we were unable to hold any Fundraisers. We looked after our Community gardens on a few fronts, forwarded gardening information to our Membership and continued to hold our regular Board Meetings. We had to cancel our May Plant & Tree Sale, June Flower Show, June Plant Sale, June Garden Tour, September Plant Sale and our traditional November AGM.

Rideau Lakes Horticultural Society

Even with the COVID-19 restrictions in place, we held 9 virtual meetings with speakers, increased our Facebook Page subscribers, established a climate resilience garden project with

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a D3 grant to study local solutions, sponsored a writing contest for COVID-19 garden stories with the winning entries in the local newspaper and launched a kids gardening book bag project in partnership with Rideau Lakes Library. We had to cancel our annual plant sale fundraiser and all of our community gardening projects.

Stirling & District Horticultural Society

We had two great speakers in January and February. Then we had to cancel the rest of our in-person meetings and events due to COVID-19. Following local health unit pandemic protocols, we looked after several civic gardens, held a self-guided garden tour, an outside Board meeting and two outside workshops, Glass Flower Making and Winter Urn Decorating. We also opened a Facebook page and sent many email messages.

Trenton Horticultural Society and Garden Club

Because of COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, we had to cancel all meetings and flower shows. With social distancing in place, our drive through plant sale in May and our silent and live auction in September of plants, preserves and pies were both outstanding successes. In July we offered our members a tour of 5 members' gardens. We sent email blasts to our members with recipes and ideas for plantings and mailed them to those without email. We will celebrate our 40th anniversary from Sep 2020 to Sep 2021 and start Zoom meetings in Jan 2021.

Tweed and District Horticultural Society

In 2020, we held 2 meetings prior to the COVID-19 shutdown, when we had to cancel all meetings from April to December along with our bus trip, car pool trip and spring plant sale. We were able to plant and maintain our town's many gardens and planters and hold an outdoor executive meeting. We were recognized by the Village of Tweed at an outdoor presentation

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for the volunteer work we do for the town. We judged the annual Agricultural Society's fall scarecrow contest while driving by in separate vehicles and we also help with the prize funding.

OHA DISTRICT 4

Bobcaygeon and District Horticultural Society

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we cancelled our general meetings, spring plant sale, garden tour, bus tour and flower shows. We had a small but successful fall plant sale at the local farmer's market. At the local agricultural fair, we entered a float that won 1st prize. It was decorated safely by a small group of volunteers and left at the entrance. We maintained the gardens in town and at Settler's Pioneer Village. Our Board met monthly via Zoom and had a planning committee for both our 100th anniversary and the District 4 Fall Seminar in 2022.

Brighton Horticultural Society

With the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions in place, the year's highlight was that our parking lot Plant Sale went over so well we sold out early. We twined with another society for joint Zoom meetings. We cancelled our Flower Shows, Plant Auction, most meetings, the AGM, and all planting events.

Campbellford & District Horticultural Society

We were able to hold our Show and Tell, where members bring produce from last year's seed sharing, before the COVID-19 restrictions started. Then we had two plant sales on a smaller scale at a different location, continued with our community work and held flower shows following Covid rules. We learned how to use both ZOOM and our website. In warmer weather, the Board had their meetings outdoors and in colder weather, they were held on Zoom. The AGM was on Zoom.

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Coboconk Horticulture Society

We were able to have one face to face meeting with a speaker's presentation before COVID-19 restrictions shut down almost all of our meetings and events. We were able to have a plant sale in May and one outing in the summer to a Lavender farm and continue with our community work. The Executive meetings were held most months April through to October. The majority of our general meetings with a speaker, the potluck suppers and our AGM meeting were cancelled.

Cobourg Horticultural Society

COVID-19 restrictions cancelled in-person meetings, but we held our annual Flower & Plant Sale in various driveways, some for a week and others for a weekend. We had to cancel two Flower Shows, the Garden Party and the Garden Tour. The scholarship award was put on hold. Beginning in October, the board offered zoom webinars to our members. They were held on our usual meeting day and time. Initially, we had 25-30 attending and it grew to 65 at our most recent zoom webinar.

Cramahe Horticultural Society

We were only 2 1/2 months into the year when the COVID-19 pandemic hit and that's when our projects were to begin. We had to cancel our two fundraisers, the Plant Sale and Trash 'n Treasures, along with our community beautification projects, which are Hanging Baskets, Town Decorative Chairs. Also, we did not renew our GIC's because of the low rates due to the pandemic. We are celebrating our 55th Anniversary this year.

Ennismore and District Horticultural Society

Even with Covid-19 protocols, we were able to keep our membership at 139, maintain our 5 lovely community gardens, plant 4 trees in our Memorial Forest, host 2 successful fundraisers and build a \$43,500 Military Monument in the Robert

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Young Complex Centre in time for Remembrance Day. We are extremely proud of our accomplishments during the pandemic. All monthly meetings and a Garden Tour were cancelled. The board held monthly meetings by zoom or outdoors under public health directions.

Fenelon Falls Horticultural Society

We were unable to hold any general meetings due to COVID-19, but, over the winter, we re-designed two community gardens. In the summer, we expanded a rain garden to better absorb the run-off and built a complete rain barrel system to water another garden in dry weather. We held several Zoom Board meetings and sent the agenda items for our AGM to the members, who voted by return email. Zoom meetings for members were impractical as not everyone has internet or computer expertise.

Grafton Horticultural Society

We began our year with our annual January Chili Supper and enjoyed the relaxing socializing, slide show and various draws. Speakers in February and March were the only other times we met. With COVID-19 restrictions in place, we held two virtual flower shows with a good number of exhibits. Our board managed to meet via skype and zoom. We had to cancel plans for our 95th anniversary celebration pot luck at Wicklow Heritage Park, where we had revitalized the gardens.

Lakefield & District Horticultural Society

2020 was a challenging year with many cancellations and changes after the COVID-19 restrictions started in March. We carried out a successful virtual plant sale and continued with our board meetings either on Zoom or outside in a park. We received additional support for our hanging baskets and continued with our beautification efforts in several gardens, but had to cancel our Flower Shows and the rest of our meetings.

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Lindsay & District Horticultural Society

As knowledge of SARS-COV-2 became more public, the Board voted by email in March to suspend in-person meetings to keep our members safe. With rural internet, email worked for our members, but not ZOOM. Board members strengthened their personal links through email and social media. Volunteers were able to maintain Victoria Manor Gardens with social distancing protocols in place, and tomato and pepper seedlings were started and distributed on social media, to Board members and Community Gardens.

Minden and District Horticultural Society

With the COVID-19 restrictions in place, we were able to do the planting and clean up around the Town and Village Green, as well as maintain the River Gardens. We had to cancel our Annual Plant Sale, all Executive and General meetings with 3 garden competitions and all speakers. The new Memorial Garden build, plant and signage also had to be cancelled, along with planting the new Community Centre & Arena Gardens and hosting of the District 4 Fall Seminar.

Norland Horticultural Society

The whole year was amazing. Due to COVID, the family teams who came together to get our gardens in order and work on our new garden and sites were outstanding. With the Capital Grant and a lot of donations from members and the community, we accomplished all that was on our list. At the Fall Plant/Craft Sale, we rented tables to other people and had an amazing COVID co-ordinator/ student working for community hours. Great Day!

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Norwood and District Horticultural Society

In looking back at 2020, the COVID-19 virus created challenges for all of us in almost every aspect of our lives. Thanks to hard work and good efforts from many volunteers, we achieved the following: holding our annual plant sale as an online event; caring for the pollinator garden; planting spring and fall barrels to beautify downtown Norwood; launching an online newsletter with articles written by our members; adopting new ZOOM technology that has enabled members to meet online. The only cancellations were our Flower shows and AGM.

Omemee and District Horticultural Society

A year that started with a ROARING 20's Potluck could have ended Boring, but we used creative ways to come together. We held a virtual Spring Plant Sale and a socially distanced Fall Plant Sale. We joined with other groups to create colourful displays for Omemee's first annual Scarecrow Festival. Our Green Team safely tended to village gardens and planters. We had two members-only socially distanced garden tours and started Connecting Virtually, a monthly newsletter with photographs from our members. I am sure many of us will remember 2020!

Peterborough Horticultural Society

Unprecedented. That's the best word I can come up with to describe the year 2020 without being vulgar. After the COVID pandemic state of emergency was declared in mid-March, we had to cancel the Peterborough Garden Show, along with the rest of our events, except for our work in Fleming Park Heritage Garden and monthly newsletters to our members. Basically, we had a 'reset' year. A year to recharge. A year to spend more time in our OWN gardens. A year of rest for some and a very different year for all. Thankfully, gardening was not cancelled.

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Port Hope & District Horticultural Society

Even with Covid Restrictions in place, we planted two trees in the Town of Port Hope, and seven members opened their gardens for socially distanced garden tours in late summer & early fall. We maintained the pollinator patch, held a members' picnic and decorated four bridge baskets and planters for winter. We had explored the purchase of seed growing kits for local elementary schools and committee members were ready to approach them, but we put it on hold, along with purchasing a new projector.

OHA DISTRICT 5

Agincourt Garden Club

With most things shut down this year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, Agincourt Directors kept in touch with members by telephone to check in and see how they were doing. We asked them to send photographs of their gardens to be included in the newsletters, which were sent out regularly. With thanks to our president, we are learning how to have our meetings, both regular and board, by Zoom, which resulted in a fun Zoom meeting and a small Zoom flower show in December, with members encouraged to dress for the occasion.

Aurora Garden & Horticultural Society

We sent 47 emails to members where we shared photos and gardening links with each other. We maintained a therapeutic garden at CHATS, refreshed it for the fall and cleaned it up for winter. Indoor plants at a local historical house were refreshed, maintained and decorated for Christmas. We honoured our Life Members with amaryllis bulbs delivered to their homes and held an online photo competition with more entries than ever submitted, but had to cancel all of our in-person events.

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East Gwillimbury Garden & Horticultural Society

Making the transition from in-person to online meetings, flower shows, garden tours, and information seminars was a major accomplishment. Younger members offered support to senior members to allow their continued participation. Our online plant sale with no-contact pick-up was very successful. Many members of the community were thrilled to be able to buy plants from local gardens. We had to cancel garden tours, day trips, youth programs, and most public garden maintenance.

East York Garden Club

Despite, or because of COVID-19, we have been surprisingly active. We moved online with a new Facebook page, Photo contests and Zoom meetings. We emailed members with news and updates and the phone tree was active for members not online. We did socially-distanced pop-up garden tours by appointment, community gardening in masks and continue to attract new members. We had to cancel our Flower Show, Bus Trip and in-person meetings. Sadly, Michael Woods, editor of our award-winning newsletter passed away suddenly.

Greater Toronto Bulb & Horticultural Society

Our 10th full year was different to say the least. Just before the first lockdown, we participated in Getting the Jump on Spring. Then, due to the COVID-19 crisis, we had to postpone our regular meetings, flower shows and public plantings. A number of members brought in items from their greenhouses and gardens to auction or use as raffle prizes for Donation Focus. In the Fall, we again sold huge jumbo-sized Amaryllis, which helped keep us afloat for another year. Our membership for the year remained stable at 73.

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Lake Simcoe South Shore Horticultural Society

The Covid-19 shutdown in March prompted monthly letters from the President and quarterly Tattler newsletters to keep members informed. As host Society for the cancelled D5 AGM in April, we returned all monies and gifts to the donors. We conducted Club business via email, planted and maintained our Community flowerbeds, donated \$300 to our local Food Bank in lieu of our plant kits, sold our Lake Simcoe Gardeners' hoodies and T-shirts and, in October, had our first ZOOM executive meeting. We had to cancel the rest of our events and meetings.

Leaside Garden Society

In spite of the pandemic, we continued with our commitment to encourage and educate about gardening and the environment. It was a learning curve as we started our members' meetings by Zoom, held two successful virtual flower shows with members' photos, and had a virtual Garden Tour of members' gardens. Volunteers donated plants, maintained and watered all of our community gardens, walked all the streets in Leaside and awarded 9 plaques to front yards of distinction. In November, we presented a PowerPoint of our many activities.

Markham Garden and Horticultural Society

At our only in-person meeting in February, we had a tour of the Gardens of Scotland and unveiled our new banner. The next 4 meetings were cancelled due to COVID-19. Our May Plant Sale was a socially distanced pop-up plant donate and take-away. For the Garden Tour, members submitted photos of their gardens to our website. Our first of four virtual meetings was in August, in September, we celebrated our 100th anniversary; in October, we invited Stouffville members to join us and moved our photography competition and voting to our website.

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Newmarket Horticultural Society

We had an online plant sale with contactless delivery and a physically distanced roadside plant sale at a member's home. To keep in touch with our members, we emailed our newsletter every second month with gardening tips and photos of their gardens through the seasons, floral specimens and design entries. Several board members weeded, mulched and planted perennials in two community gardens that we maintain. We held a small online flower show, not judged, with 5 COVID-19 and 5 Horticultural Themed Design classes.

North Toronto Horticultural Society

In January, we held one Meeting with a presentation. Then, the COVID-19 shutdown closed all of our remaining meetings, shows and events. We sent out occasional email updates along with photographs of members' gardens.

North York Horticultural Society

In January, weather cancelled our meeting. In February, we had a presentation and manned a table at Get the Jump on Spring Event at the Toronto Botanical Garden. Then the pandemic hit, cancelling most of our regular events. We held Pop-up gardens throughout the gardening season using physical distancing and masks. The executive met via conference call until September when we purchased a Zoom license for all of our meetings. We continued to care for the Willowdale Presbyterian Church gardens and produced three newsletters with pictures and gardening information. A good year during difficult times when we had: No Plant Sale. No Entries in the Flower Show at Canada Blooms. No monthly Flower Shows. No District 5 AGM. No OHA convention. No CNE Flower Show. No Annual Flower & Vegetable Show. No in-person meetings from March 2020.

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Riverdale Horticultural Society

In January, we had our biggest Annual People's Choice Photo Contest to date. In February and March, we had our regular meetings with a flower show. Then, with COVID-19, all board and club meetings and our annual flower show were cancelled. We ordered spring bulbs from an importer and special Japanese Chrysanthemums and Morning Glory plants from the Toronto Japanese Garden Club. We worked in our community garden by observing safety protocols. In the fall, we resumed in-person board meetings at a safe distance and club meetings by Zoom.

Scarborough Garden & Horticultural Society

During the summer it was a pleasure for the President to deliver 35 yearbooks not received by members prior to the COVID-19 lockdowns. It was a great time to speak at length with an exchange of ideas and suggestions. Initially, Board meetings were by email, then went outside with proper distancing. Zoom sessions started in November. Members did not want to receive a digital form of yearbook. All events and meetings were cancelled for the rest of the year, with the hopes of going back to normal in the following year.

Stouffville Horticultural Society

No meetings could be held due to COVID-19, but we did have a virtual plant sale, maintained a community garden and planted and harvested vegetable gardens. The produce was donated to the Stouffville Food Bank. We had to cancel all meetings including our photography and flower shows.

The Greater Toronto Water Garden & Horticultural Society

Even though 2020 started out full of promise, it very quickly made a hard right turn with the start of the COVID19 pandemic.

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We leveraged technology to shift to a completely virtual format and began with conference calls and then moved online to Zoom, which allowed us to have virtual speakers. Thus, we did not cancel any events or meetings and even held our annual plant sale by appointment only and introduced a swag shop for members to purchase items with the club logo so they can show their passion and support for the club.

OHA DISTRICT 6

Acton Horticultural Society

We sent an email to our membership that we would not be meeting during the COVID-19 outbreak. Thus, we had to cancel our monthly meetings, the Plant Sale, Excursions, the District 6 AGM and meetings outside of Acton. We could only maintain the town beds as the town discouraged any other work in them.

Ancaster Horticultural Society

Our society learned to be flexible and adaptive in 2020 due to the pandemic constraints. While we had to cancel our last five monthly meetings and our fundraising plant sale, we were still able to maintain 4 municipal gardens and conduct the popular Trillium Awards program for residential and commercial landscaping excellence. The gardens maintenance was always done with the numeric limits and social distancing. We received many gracious comments from community residents for our efforts to beautify Ancaster.

Brantford Garden Club

In 2020 monthly meetings were held until April when COVID-19 restrictions closed our meeting hall and all activities, except the mailing of our monthly newsletter with its new article, My Side of the Garden Fence, for members to share small articles about

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their gardens. On Facebook, we started a virtual Spring Show & Share Flower Show and continued with interesting gardening related articles. An Iris Sale fundraiser was held in September with curbside pickup. The Board communicated with email.

Bronte Horticultural Society

We have had a very “strange” 95th anniversary year with the arrival of COVID-19, which has changed how we live, work and enjoy our hobbies. We hosted the D6 Spring Breakfast and renewed the majority of our members before remaining general meetings were cancelled. We continued with outdoor garden maintenance, the monthly newsletter, financial record keeping and the audit. The AGM and Board meetings were via Zoom.

Burlington Horticultural Society

With the COVID-19 lockdowns, we moved to using zoom for our speaker presentations and for executive meetings and while we held one flower show by zoom, we had to cancel our Plant sale, flower show, garden tour.

Delhi & District Horticultural Society

No events or member meetings were held in 2020 due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. We received a Pollinator Grant of \$200 from the OHA, so members revamped an existing herb garden into a beautiful Pollinator Garden. We planted and maintained the 7 gardens at the Delhi Tobacco Museum. Our executive held Zoom meetings, sent 2 newsletters to members instead of 1 annual newsletter and emailed weekly items of interest.

Flamborough Horticultural Society

A year like no other for our Society. Our President resigned, so two members took over as Co-Presidents. While COVID-19 meant the cancellation of many meetings, we had more Flower Show entries this year and held it on-line via Zoom with voting

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by our members. We maintained our Civic Gardens with physical distancing, sent out Newsletters, phoned members without internet, had a members-only garden tour and a small end of the driveway plant sale. We used Zoom for both our Board meetings and Member meetings with great speakers.

Georgetown Horticultural Society

April 2020 marked our 100th Anniversary. In September 2019, we had distributed a new Hosta-Centennial Spirit, created for our 100th, to our members. With the COVID-19 restrictions, we had to cancel our plans to host the District 6 AGM. We sent a survey to our members, re-grouped, re-scheduled speakers and workshops, used Zoom to engage our members, updated our Facebook page, created an email format for newsletters and maintained three of the five community gardens we oversee.

Glen Morris Horticultural Society

When COVID-19 restrictions started, we cancelled monthly meetings and all activities. Our monthly newsletters, Garden Gleanings, and our Facebook Page continued to keep members informed. With social distancing, our Community Gardens were planted and maintained. We ran a Picture-Perfect competition and a Paint Night online. Our Executive met a couple of times outside while social distancing to plan some new and different activities to safely involve our membership in the coming year.

Haldimand Horticultural Society

Our Society had a strong start to the year, unfortunately, due to COVID-19, a lot of things got cancelled. Fewer members came out to maintain the beds that were available for us to work in. Our first Virtual Plant Sale was a huge success. Although we cut the size and number of our Workshops, we managed to provide some of them for our members.

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Lynden Horticultural Society

After our first two meetings, everything shut down due to COVID-19, so we continued working on the newsletter. It is our biggest accomplishment this year, thanks to the Lockdown, which helped us to reach members who don't normally come to meetings and those who are new to gardening. We included garden tour video links, how to videos, recommended garden books, trivia, workshop projects and supporting local garden centers and businesses. We also have a Facebook page now.

Mt. Hamilton Horticultural Society

We carried through with a COVID -friendly spring clean-up at one of our gardens, cleaned up and planted a second garden and continued to look after a third garden. The Society worked to keep their members engaged by creating the Blues Buster for Members' garden photos, which were put together into six monthly, colourful newsletters. In November, we opened a Pro Zoom account. This 'virtual' form of having Society meetings is an accomplishment in itself ... both for the Executive Committee and for the members.

Oakville Horticultural Society

Monthly meetings were cancelled in March due to COVID-19 restrictions. Then, in September, we moved online to zoom meetings with speakers. We shared our newsletter every month and added a mid-summer issue to connect with members. Share the Beauty was started to deliver cheerful bouquets of cut flowers from our members to retirement homes, etc. Growing Vegetables for Food Banks distributed food to those in need and made videos to help new gardeners get started. Work continued in the Community Garden.

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Paris Horticultural Society

Monthly meetings were interrupted for a few months but were able to resume following COVID-19 restrictions. Our public planting programs, adopt-a-road, excursion, and online plant sale were held, along with awarding a bursary. We also continued with our monthly newsletter and had monthly membership and board meetings online using zoom. The society also enjoyed a mystery garden tour throughout the summer. Unfortunately, our annual garden tour and flower show had to be cancelled.

Port Dover & Woodhouse

Due to COVID-19, we didn't have our usual activities. We did continue with the community flower gardens in Port Dover and replanted the garden in front of Port Dover museum. We also held a successful plant sale in October. We continued to supply the local food bank with vegetables from our vegetable plots during the summer. A member continued posting daily to our Facebook page and contacted members with club news. We cancelled all Flower Shows, the annual Auction, bus trip, picnic, monthly executive and general member meetings.

Simcoe and District Horticultural Society

Due to COVID-19, all meetings, except January 2020, were cancelled, along with our Flower Sale, Flower Show and all bus trips. We had very little financial improvement. Of our \$1207 surplus, \$1000 was from the extra Ontario grant. The rest came from the sale of 40 Christmas Planters, which held a supply of greenery and mounted ornaments.

St. George Horticultural Society

2020 was the year of the COVID-19 virus, and, as we struggled to keep our members engaged, it made us think outside the

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box. We had our first 'virtual' Plant Sale which was excellent, but our virtual meetings had a lower response due to older members, uncomfortable with zoom. Attempts at outdoor activities in the fall brought out some members, but most were just too scared to go out. We hope to bring more of them out to our meetings.

Stoney Creek Garden Club & Horticultural Society

In 2020, we held one major fund raiser, a Silent Auction of items donated by local businesses, before the Pandemic was declared. To keep members engaged, two virtual flower shows were held and zoom meetings were initiated with virtual presentations. The Board used zoom for their regular meetings. We planted a tree with the funds received from an OHA Tree Grant, created additional newsletters and sent them out to members via email or mail and maintained the majority of our membership. We had to cancel our Plant Sale, Strawberry Social and Mum Show.

The Milton & District Horticultural Society

2020 was the year that we embraced technology and started immediately to hold zoom meetings for both the Executive and the General Meetings. It gave us a vehicle to keep a connection with our members that they expect and appreciate. We were able to maintain and add to our lineup of speakers, but we had to cancel our Seedy Saturday, Spring Flower Show, Summer Flower Show, Pot Luck Dinner and Awards night.

Waterford & District Horticultural Society

In February we had our AGM and March we had great speaker on Dahlias, then COVID-19 hit and we had to shut down. We were not cleared to plant in the town beds, so we kept them tidy and weeded. We cancelled our plant sale, joint meeting,

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flower show, Christmas dinner, garden tour, and because of poor internet we were unable to even hold virtual meetings.

Winona Horticultural Society

We started the year with the joyful hope found in seeds with a presentation from William Dam Seeds and catalogues to take home! Then COVID-19 cancelled our meetings and our main fundraiser, the Winona Peach Festival. We built a new storage shed and held a well-spaced meeting at Winona Park to plan our Build Your Own Holiday Planter Kits and a virtual Hubs Christmas Party. Through it all, our hardworking newsletter editor didn't miss a beat and kept our society well connected.

OHA DISTRICT 7

Arthur and Area Horticultural Society

Because of COVID, we had to come up with creative ideas this year. Some of the members ran a Plant Sale in May and August. Two summer meetings were held at a member's home with a speaker and three fall meetings were held in a large workshop, one with a demonstration, one with a workshop and one for the AGM. We had to cancel our regular meetings, garden tours and a trip to a flower show in Toronto.

Clifford & District Horticultural Society

James Graham spoke at our January meeting much to the delight of the crowd with attendance from area horticultural societies. Due to COVID-19 concerns, we held our board meeting outdoors to discuss cancelling all our annual events. We held our membership drive via phone, cleaned up the village for Earth Day, and planted and maintained our gardens and flower boxes. We cancelled our monthly information meetings, spring and summer flower shows, garden tour, plant and bake

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sale, summer party give-a-way event, seedling planting with children, and memorial tree plantings.

Elora & Salem Horticultural Society

Kathy Bouma, our D07 Director, presented an OHA 170th Anniversary Certificate to our Board at a socially distanced, outdoor event on 1st July. We were permitted to work in the Townships flower beds in June under strict Covid-19 rules. This was our only activity. We had to cancel: 5 of 6 Public Meetings; Seedy Saturday; Spring Plant Sale; Canada Day Parade (Float); Great Gardens Competition with Awards to local gardeners for the sidewalk appeal of their front gardens); Members' Garden Tour; 6 of 10 Board Meetings.

Erin Horticultural Society

Our most noteworthy event of 2020 was the On-line Plant Sale, which was held throughout the spring and summer and raised almost as much as in previous years. Several donations were made to the Erin Food Bank. The entire downtown area was cleaned up, weeded and mulched around the trees. MacMillan Park continued to be weeded and maintained following COVID-19 pandemic protocols. All meetings, flower shows, workshops, social gatherings and the physical plant sale had to be put on hold due to the pandemic.

Fergus & District Horticultural Society

Our *Diggin in the Dirt* crew took care of community gardens from June until October. Our Media Committee submitted several articles to the Wellington Advertiser. We kept up with our Social Media, conducted virtual Board meetings and delivered Poinsettias to our Life Members and businesses in town for Christmas. As of March, we had to suspend all of our membership meetings, our AGM, all flower shows, pansies for

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Mother's Day at the Lion's Home Show, our Plant sale, garden tour, coffee in the park, bus tour and Grand Gardens of Fergus.

Grand Valley Horticultural Society

Our first and only meeting was held in February. Then, due to COVID-19, the rest of 2020 was a very quiet year, with all meetings and events cancelled. However, all the community gardens were maintained by a dedicated group of volunteers. The downtown planters, which are sponsored by the Society, were again outstandingly beautiful. In June, an executive member hosted a small gathering in her garden to enjoy her peony collection. In July, many enjoyed a socially distanced meeting in a member's garden.

Guelph Horticultural Society

Due to COVID-19, we had to cancel plans to mark our 120th anniversary at our District 7 Fall Meeting in October. We faced a steep learning curve to hold virtual meetings, but we did it when we held our October and November meetings! We held a scaled down plant sale for members only at a member's home, but had to cancel our annual trip to Canada Blooms, bus trip, mini-flower shows, Garden Showcase Tour, Summer's Glory Flower Show, visit to the Old Growth Forest at the Ignatius Centre and two workshops.

Guelph Township Horticultural Society

All general meetings, flower shows, workshops and plant sales were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The board met once in person before the pandemic, then by email and the third time socially distanced outdoors. They communicated by email with members several times during the year and by phone to those without email access. The civic planting committee maintained the Marion Brennan Enabling Garden and the flower

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beds at the Community Centre. Many sought refuge in the beauty and sounds of the garden during this stressful time.

Harriston and District Horticultural Society

Our annual January *Soup 'n Sandwich* Luncheon was held before the COVID-19 pandemic set in and cancelled events from April forward: our trip to a maple syrup barn, silent auction, garden festival, garden tours, *Junior Days* at the Library, annual general meeting, and our donation to Minto Arts Silent Auction. We continued with the plantings in our adopt-a-bed program, held 2 executive meetings, placed a new picnic table in Mill Street Park, and the monthly newsletter continued to roll off the press.

Hillsburgh Horticultural Society

Due to Covid-19, we cancelled our plant sale, but increased membership and sold 230 Heirloom Tomato plants with a raffle draw. Through Zoom, we had flower shows, garden tours, a photo competition and Board meetings. To prepare for a Christmas decoration DIY Workshop, members put kits together while practicing social distancing. Curb side pickup distributed the kits and photos were shared on zoom. The Community Gardens have been and still are our *labour of love*.

Moorefield & District Horticultural Society

The year 2020 was indeed a challenge because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but we feel we provided a decent program under modified conditions for our members from June to October, starting with our annual plant sale downtown and moving to our meetings and events at the Community Centre where we could spread out. We held our June meeting outdoors at Riverbend Gardens, our fall show at the August meeting with invitations to neighbouring societies and looked after our flower beds in four communities.

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Mount Forest Horticultural Society

The use of both Facebook and COVID-19 safe distance protocols made our plant sale a huge success. We spent many hours on the improvement and maintenance of the Town Beds and we held one executive meeting and two general meetings outdoors in local parks with safe distance protocols. Unfortunately, we had to cancel the rest of our regular meetings, pot luck dinners and the AGM.

Orangeville and District Horticultural Society

On April 20, 2020, it was our 50th Anniversary as a Society and that's when we joined Instagram! We maintained our existing community gardens, started one new garden and held a very successful plant sale amongst our members despite the COVID-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, we had to cancel all in person meetings, bus tours and some board meetings.

Shelburne & District Horticultural Society

We did not hold in person meetings due to the pandemic or virtual meetings due the demographics of our membership. However, members did care for the gardens in Shelburne from spring cleanup, to summer watering and into the fall removing dead plants, trimming bushes and planting bulbs. We had one Executive meeting at the beginning of March. All others were cancelled, as well as our plant sale, annual garden tour, annual bus trip and year-end pot luck dinner to install our Executive.

OHA DISTRICT 8

Auburn Horticultural Society

Our *Make and Take* AGM meeting in Nov 2019 was the only face to face event in the past year. Events following COVID-19 protocols included community work, a bird house and feeder project for youth with porch pick up, a curb side plant sale, 80

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pumpkins and cutting patterns available to members and community. Some plants were stolen, but replaced by the local Cooperative. We have an amazing group of members who have stepped up during COVID with grace and blooms in 2020.

Brussels & District Horticultural Society

The highlight for the society was decorating a float with live flowers and foliage for the Brussels Fall Fair Parade in September. It was the only part of the Parade that was held because of Pandemic restrictions. We won 2nd prize in the Organizations category in the 1-hour long parade! People who maintained our flower beds worked alone or in small groups with social distancing. We purchased and planted 20 large containers and hanging baskets for Main Street and communicated with members through email.

Chesley Horticultural Society

We held our AGM & Potluck on Jan 9, applied for and received a \$500 OHA Special Project Grant for our Elliott Park Renovations. The municipality did the heavy work and our members did the rest. It took until August due to COVID-19 restrictions, which had cancelled all other events. We had permission to place flower boxes on the new bridge on Main Street, but they were vandalized twice within 2 weeks, so we set them in other places in town and had a very positive response. Our spring plant sale was successfully moved to a later date.

Clinton Horticultural Society

This year was not usual. We shared recipes for meals from our garden, for example Hosta shoots for supper and had a drive-by for a member's 99th birthday. Our plant sale was by \$ donation. We received a request to move flower bulbs from the Town Hall garden to Sloman Park to preserve them and then move them back to the Town Hall later. We helped maintain the gardens at

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Sloman Park and shared pictures of our gardens with each other online, which became our garden tour.

Durham and District Horticultural Society

We held a virtual flower show, garden tour, 3 virtual general meetings and an outdoor plant sale in September. A few of our members worked in community gardens. All other planned meetings and events were cancelled due to the COVID-19 restrictions. Our board members learned how to use Zoom and held all of their monthly Executive Meetings using this system. We kept our members and community engaged with our society through online and virtual events, as well as through regular emails and phone calls.

Goderich and District Horticultural Society

The year started with a wonderful Christmas meeting in December. In January, Brendon Buckley presented a colorful and informative Garden Travelogue. Then, General Meetings and Events were cancelled by COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. Teams of three planted and maintained the community gardens and a plant sale was held, while social distancing was observed. The Executive met through the spring, summer and fall by teleconference.

Hanover Horticulture Society

Bridge boxes and flower beds in the community were placed, planted and maintained. Plastic shipping bins were cut down and sold for use as raised gardens. All other events were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.

Hensall and Community Horticultural Society

Our Pancake supper was held prior to the COVID-19 lockdown, which canceled our spring bazaar, plant sale, yard sale, food

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booth @ Bisbacks Antique show, and fall bazaar. We finally held our 2020 AGM by teleconference, January 28, 2021.

Kincardine & District Horticulture Society

Our Society attended to and looked after the various gardens in town that we have committed to, like Flagpole and Cemetery. It is alive and well and survived as an active society by keeping in touch with members through ZOOM and emails.

Lucknow & District Horticultural Society

The Society members planted and maintained flower pots and baskets on Main Street, submitted a grant application to continue with capital improvements and created a Facebook page for members to display garden and flower photos. We had to cancel all fund raisers, all regular meetings, the annual summer picnic, Garden Tour, Flower Show and plant sales.

Markdale & District Horticultural Society

We planted containers for Markdale beautification, maintained the Walter Harris Memorial Library gardens, Cenotaph and parkette, Rotary Park and Day Away and had to cancel the Flower Show, Plant Sale, Mystery Garden Tour and meetings.

Neustadt & District Horticultural Society

The Society put all activities and events on hold for the year.

Ripley and District Horticultural Society

A successful Winter Warmup Luncheon fundraiser was held prior to the business portion of the Feb. meeting. We kept up a connection with members by regular email and phone contact, maintained three public gardens, presented 18 virtual garden tours of members' properties with photos sent to members via email and posted on the society's Facebook page. Linda Jaynes received the OHA 2020 Youth Leader Award and Youth leaders found creative ways to communicate with and motivate their

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members. A few local businesses/organizations were "gifted" with Christmas planters or floral arrangements to beautify and lift spirits in the community.

Seaforth & District Horticultural Society

We had a quiet year in 2020 and were very fortunate to have our first and only meeting just prior to the COVID-19 lockdown in March. Due to Main Street construction, Civic Beautification was a challenge, but the town beds and planters overflowed with colour. Our Annual Garden Tour was a virtual tour of our members' own gardens. Our President planned a virtual Plant Sale with curbside pickup and raised a small amount for our Society. We also held our Annual Photo Contest as a virtual event. We look forward to seeing everyone again soon.

Southport Horticultural Society

Even with COVID-19 restrictions, we held a successful seed and bulb fundraiser and our best annual plant sale to date with the approval of the Health Unit and the town of Saugeen Shores. We participated in the Grade 7/8 beautification program at Saugeen District Senior School, helped in the overhaul of a gateway garden in Southampton, participated in virtual volunteer fairs and Facebook events hosted by the Town of Saugeen Shores, maintained our membership base for the most part and held most of our monthly programs via zoom.

Tara Horticultural Society

We created a new flowerbed at one end of a new bridge installed by Tara Rotary Club and partnered with the local Girl Guides and Pathfinders to plant several dozen bulbs and to do the clean-up in community gardens this fall. We maintained all gardens, planters and baskets, plus several gardens had soil amendments. We decorated the town and gardens for Canada Day, held 2 in-person, physically distanced meetings of the

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executive, ordered all flowers for the 2021 season and had to cancel almost all in-person meetings and presentations.

Teeswater-Culross Horticultural Society

We planted 54 baskets hung along Clinton Street and 6 flower boxes along the bridge in Teeswater. Formosa filled planters in the village and looked after the public flower beds. We bought new concrete planters for Formosa to replace the old barrels and had many compliments on the flowers which were a much-needed inspiration for all of us during the COVID-19 pandemic. Nature is wonderful in bloom. We held a director's meeting spread out in a private space and a reduced AGM in November with all of the COVID-19 safety protocols in place.

Wingham and District Horticultural Society

We had 2 meetings with guest speakers before the COVID-19 pandemic cancelled all meetings until the end of the year. We spent \$2400 to improve the Wingham Trail and several of our members helped to install the new plants and plant materials. All raffle tickets on a garden themed quilt made by two of our members were sold by individual members. We had more volunteer time spent on more municipal gardens than ever before. Town employees were not hired to do those jobs this year, so our members stepped up and did them.

OHA DISTRICT 9

Dunnville Horticultural Society

Due to the overwhelming restrictions imposed to curb the spread of COVID-19, several existing programs were retooled and redesigned to execute them under the restrictions. In 3 days, we planted 23 town flower beds, volunteers did weekly weeding of said flower beds, participated in Clean Up Day, the Community Food Drive, added bird structures to Thompson

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Creek Eco Centre and decorated town planters for Christmas. Monthly meetings and all other activities were cancelled.

Fort Erie Horticultural Society

COVID-19 did not allow us to have any events other than our Plant Sales and community gardening. During the summer, we helped seniors with their gardens and found that this is a great need in Fort Erie. We also continued our work on the gardens at Gilmore Lodge, the planters at the local outdoor swimming pool, the garden at the Boys and Girls Club and the Memorial Garden at the Seniors Centre. We had to postpone tree planting due to the pandemic.

Grimsby Garden Club

We enjoyed a busy and successful year, despite the severe constraints of the ongoing health situation, due to the efforts of our volunteers, who we recognized at the AGM. We held our Speakers Series and monthly meetings on Zoom. The Plant Sale, with periodic pop-up plant sales, was a financial success. We continued our floral displays of baskets, planters and garden beds in the Town center. The Trillium Awards honoured the beauty of the Town's gardens and their gardeners' dedication. The Garden of the Month recognized exceptional gardens.

Lincoln Garden Club & Horticultural Society

We had speakers at the meetings in January and February, along with a photo contest. In mid-March, COVID-19 stalled our group, like many others. Throughout the year, we maintained connection with our members by email, designed a Church garden and 2 gardens for downtown Beamsville. We continued clean-up work, in partnership with the Town, on only a few of our 13 gardens, observing guidelines for outdoor groups. The Board met in-person 4 times, one time outdoors. We held an

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in-person outdoor pruning demonstration for our members in October and observed distancing and mask guidelines.

Niagara Falls Horticultural Society

With the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, we had to cancel our meetings from April to December, our Annual summer flower shows, Annual Garden Walk and Member Garden Strolls. We had two successful plant sales, one online & one socially distanced outdoors. We planted and maintained three flower beds at the Fire Hall and at the large armoury public garden.

Niagara-On-The-Lake Horticultural Society

We held our January and February meetings, then, due to COVID-19 and such a large membership, it was impossible for us to meet anywhere in our area and also difficult to do by zoom. We continued our *Flowers for Seniors* with 350 spring bouquets of flowers prepared and delivered to 3 local nursing homes and in the fall, 350 small pots of mums to them. Our September and October speakers were unwilling to do their presentations by Zoom. Thus, we had to cancel most of our meetings, our large garden tour and plant sale this year.

Pelham Horticultural Society

We survived the pandemic, had 70 out of 82 members renew and learned a lot about Zoom. We held a few appropriate events, copied articles of interest and delivered our newsletter to members. We improved our digital communication and plan to keep many of the changes. All live presentations, regular fundraising and public events were cancelled.

Port Colborne Horticultural Society

We held our February meeting, then our venue was closed for the rest of the year. One member maintained the ten beds on the Museum grounds and, under the auspices of the Niagara

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Peninsula Conservation Authority, which also provided many flats of native plants, five members helped to plant a pollinator garden prepared by the city in H.H. Knoll Park.

Ridgeway & District Garden Club

In the middle of May we had a Donation Only plant sale with all proceeds going to our local food bank. It ran for four days and was an amazing success. With masking & hand sanitation, we had a big yard sale in the fall. We maintained a fair-sized garden for a local group home and weeded and mulched our pollinator garden at the Stevensville Conservation Club. We had virtual executive meetings and our AGM was done through email. With no in person meetings this year, that was certainly different!

Smithville Garden Club

Although we had to cancel our March, September, October, and November meetings, June Garden Tour and May Plant Sale, we did have an instructional virtual meeting on how to use the Zoom app. We plan to celebrate our 100th Anniversary in 2021

St Catharines Horticultural Society

Unfortunately, we had to cancel all of our General meetings, Plant Sale, Garden Tour and all community work

Thorold Horticulture Society

We maintained and revitalized the Library Pollinator Habitat garden, invested in our Website and Facebook page, and used newsletters, awards and horticultural advice to safely engage our members. To encourage the more than 100 photo submitters to enter our online contests, we held an extremely successful Virtual Rose Show.

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Welland Horticultural Society

We held our first two meetings before the COVID-19 pandemic was declared. Although we couldn't have video meetings due to local internet issues, we were able to have a Plant Sale.

OHA DISTRICT 10

Aylmer & District Horticultural Society

Meetings were held for the first 3 months in 2020. Then provincial restrictions caused General Meetings to be cancelled until the Fall. Our long-term location prohibited all rentals. The Executive team met at all 2020 scheduled meetings. Many were held outdoors, weather permitting. We masked, hand sanitized and socially distanced. We had brave and interesting speakers in September and November. Sadly, we have not had any meetings since!

Belmont & Area Horticultural Society

Our AGM was held in October 2019, with our potluck in November. We lit the poppy sculpture at the Veteran's Cairn for Remembrance Week, decorated the Belmont bridge planters with seasonal greenery, and set up our annual display in the Community Park for the All That Glitters tableau. The New Year started with a movie night watching "The Gardener". Covid-19 meant cancelling meetings and our strawberry fundraiser. We met in the Belmont Community Park with a speaker who told us about the history of the Park.

Dorchester Horticultural Society

All activities, meetings and fundraisers were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Dutton Dunwich Horticultural Society

All meetings, events and fundraisers were cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions. We were able to plant and maintain hanging baskets and planters in Dutton, Wallaceburg and Iona.

Glencoe Horticultural Society

All activities, meetings and fundraisers were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Grand Bend & Area Horticultural Society

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, general meetings, commercial membership drive, selling memberships at the local nursery, a bus tour, garden party and AGM celebration evening were all cancelled. We cleaned up the gardens at the Municipal Building. We planted and maintained 13 gardens in our community. Christmas decorations were made and displayed at the main intersection of Grand Bend. The Board learned how to use Zoom.

Ingersoll & District Horticultural Society

Monthly meetings were held in January and February only. We continued to do community plantings and plant care at the local hospital and Woodingford Nursing Home. All meetings and special events were cancelled. Our membership is not generally very computer literate, so we did not try virtual meetings.

Kirkton Horticultural Society

We started 2020 in a normal fashion with a 'Beginner Floral Design' workshop March 4 and a Board meeting the following week. Then we were in COVID-19 lockdown. We switched to zoom meetings for 'Planting for a Healthy Planet' and 'Growing Grapes and Wine Making'. DIY garden tour of Stratford Public Gardens was held in July. A successful Zoom workshop 'Christmas Grapevine Wreath' was held. Four huge Red Lion

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Amaryllis were started and delivered to four local long term care homes.

Lambeth Horticultural Society

The AGM was held November 16, 2020 via Zoom. The guest speaker, Glen Smyth, spoke on growing crab apples. For our first attempt at a virtual meeting, it was a great success and a huge learning curve for all. The following fundraising events were cancelled: Design Workshop, trip to Sarnia, the Garden Tour, Plant Sale, and the Fall trip to Elora and Fergus.

London Fanshawe Horticultural Society

We continued scaled-back work on community gardens. We planted native perennials in a new pollinator garden bed at Constitution Park, adopted London City Park and planted annuals in beds at Covent Garden Market Square. We also did garden maintenance at the London Salvation Army Village, a community partner with our Society.

London Horticultural Society

We cancelled all meetings, events and fundraisers due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We were able to continue with our community gardening at the Peony bed at Tourism London on Wellington Rd. We also gardened at St. John Ambulance as well as Rotholme House.

Parkhill Area Horticultural Society

Despite pandemic restrictions, as a society, we still gathered to plant, prune and water flowers making sure proper social distancing was in force. Parkhill looked as beautiful as before, we weren't going to let COVID put a stop to that! Christmas decorations were also placed in our flower pots around town.

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Port Burwell/Bayham Horticultural Society

For our yearly plant sale in 2020, we felt it was best for the health and safety of all our members and the community if we had a plant swap instead. Members and the community were encouraged to bring any unwanted plants, leave them at a designated area and at the same time, take anything they wanted home. It worked out really well. Many people came and went and all kept socially distanced and, the best part was, that everything was free! We even also received \$60 in donations that day!

St. Marys Horticultural Society

Due to COVID restrictions, everything was cancelled. Garden maintenance was carried out on all of the gardens supported by our Society.

St. Thomas & District Horticultural Society

We had nothing outstanding occur last year. All members were very disappointed that we had to postpone our 150th celebration and deal with the COVID-19 restrictions. Everything on our list of planned activities was cancelled. We dropped off a small flowering plant to each member in May with a note to each person.

Stratford and District Horticultural Society

We maintained eight Public Gardens and planted urns, promoting our work with permanent metal garden signs *"This garden is maintained by volunteers of Garden Stratford"*. Our Plant Sale became the Great Garden Giveaway, with free curbside pickup of 119 different varieties of perennials, vegetables and herbs, at 13 locations in the District. We held workshops for Seed Collection and 6 garden "walks". Our activities are publicized every month in a Stratford Beacon-

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Herald garden column. We awarded bursaries with three students who received \$500 each. Zoom is now the norm!

Strathroy-Caradoc Horticultural Society

In 2020, we reached out to members and the public in new ways. We handed out free tulip and daffodil bulbs at our local farmers' market, with each kit containing a flyer promoting our Society. We held a virtual workshop where members created a fall floral centerpiece. Our Board members discovered ways to connect via Skype. We held monthly member draws of horticultural-related items (books, tools etc.). Members maintained community gardens.

Tavistock and Area Horticultural Society

The year began with great promise: an excellent roster of speakers, good discussions on youth involvement and general excitement at being back in business for another year. We had February and March meetings, then COVID-19 arrived and everything came to a halt. We did not resume membership meetings for the remainder of 2020. Our primary focus became our community gardens where the compliments from the public grew faster than the flowers.

Thorndale & Area Horticultural Society

As of March, 2020 the board faced many challenges to ensure that our Society remained informed and financially stable. We planted 13 village planters with vibrant summer colour and scaled back on other plantings due to the pandemic restrictions and the fire at the community center, which destroyed some of the beds. Weedy Wednesdays were held most Wednesdays from May to September following COVID-19 rules. We held our Fall Plant Sale, with masks & social distancing, outside at the Market on King raising \$311. All else was cancelled.

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Tillsonburg Horticultural Society

While bus tours, a garden tour and our garden auction were planned, none were executed due to the COVID pandemic. Our Society members continued to beautify the six public spaces around Tillsonburg, with 50% of their budgets. This activity was much praised by the Mayor and Town Councillors. We held a profitable *Spin the Wheel - Beautify Tillsonburg* Facebook fundraiser, but had to cancel the rest of our activities.

West Lorne And Community Horticultural Society

We continued to weed and water our Centennial Garden. We did receive acknowledgement from various levels of Government and District 10 recognizing our 100th anniversary. We were able to social distance and have the local municipality dedicate and recognize our accomplishments for the past 100 years. The local Town Crier gave a town cry to acknowledge our achievements with photos in the local newspaper.

Woodstock Horticultural Society

Despite the pandemic, we managed to raise a modest amount from plant sales through Facebook Marketplace in both the spring and early fall. COVID-19 social distancing, masks and outdoor areas were key. We were also able to have a booth at the Woodstock Recreation and Leisure Fair in March, showcasing the Society to the public. Our Past President sent out her monthly newsletter. An attempt to try an online meeting drew only one response, which was very discouraging.

OHA DISTRICT 11

Ambassador Horticultural Society LaSalle

Due to COVID19, we hosted three different small-scale curbside plant sales, with social distancing. Plants were featured on-line

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with buyers setting up a pick-up time. Curbside sales were contactless with no cash transactions. Community garden activities continued with social distancing. Our tulip rescue of 3,000 bulbs was done with restrictions respected. The annual tradition of awarding two student scholarships worth \$500 each continued. For the eighth year, Trillium awards were presented to homeowners nominated for property beautification.

Amherstburg Fort Malden Horticultural Society

In spite of COVID-19, our Society held its November potluck. Our annual *Deck the Planters* event saw us decorate 59 planters in Amherstburg along its historical streets. Our Trillium Awards were carried out in October. We also held our annual BBQ.

Belle River and District Horticultural Society

Our Christmas Party raised money for the Community Centre Youth Program and canned goods for the Community Food Pantry. In addition, \$500 was donated to the Youth Program offered at the Community Centre.

Blenheim-Harwich Horticultural Society

From funds collected in the 2019 50/50 Lottery, we donated \$450.00 to the Royal Canadian Legion in Blenheim. In Spring 2021, the Legion used those funds to landscape around the poles which hold banners displaying soldiers who were lost in wars. We provided a bursary of \$300.00 to Ethan Sauve, a local student who is studying Environmental Sciences at the University of Guelph.

Chatham Horticultural Society

We hosted speakers in January, February and March of 2020. We visited a local garden to view Pawpaw flowers in the Spring and sample some of the trees' delicious fruit in the Fall. Several community initiatives included a belated Earth Day cleanup in

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the Active Lifestyle Centre/Merritt Ave. area, clean up and mulching at the Walter Coulter Memorial Garden and beautification of an alleyway in central Chatham.

Essex & District Horticultural Society

We had no outstanding events/accomplishments, due to COVID-19 restrictions, which locked down our meeting place.

Greater Windsor Horticultural Society

We didn't hold any meetings in April, May or June of 2020. In early September, the manager of the Horticulture Department for the City of Windsor gave us a guided tour of Jackson Park. We kept up the Facebook page, but didn't hold a Plant Sale or potluck team building dinner.

Kingsville Horticultural Society

Our first Seedy Saturday was held in March just prior to the shutdown and was very successful. We conducted a *Front Yard Recognition* initiative despite the pandemic. We also introduced a Junior Gardeners Programme through primary schools in our area which was very well accepted. Public Gardens were maintained as usual and several new ones created.

Leamington Horticultural Society

Due to COVID, we were unable to host our annual May plant sale. We were able to design 90 planters distributed across Leamington by Public Works. We were also able to plant and maintain all of the flowerbeds that are designated for our Society. Our 2020 project was to complete the design, plant selection and planting of a new downtown park, Shotton Parkette. The Society hired a local artist who designed, built and installed our sculpture entitled "In Flight". We planted a tree in memory of our deceased members.

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Ridgetown and District Horticultural Society

Maintained garden beds and parks throughout town and east entrance by planting flowers, shrubs and trees as well as weeding and mulching. Two red bud trees were planted in memory of two great working members in Mickle Park. Together with the Rotary Club, we planted 120 native trees in the local TREES Memorial Garden to celebrate our Society's 100th anniversary and the Rotary Club's 90th anniversary.

Sarnia Horticultural Society

We had a disappointing year as we were unable to hold all the events planned for our 100th anniversary. We had an outstanding speaker scheduled, bus trip, workshop, garden tours, as well as many smaller events. We hope to hold these in the near future. We did place a bench and tree in a city park in recognition of our anniversary. Our monthly Zoom speakers in place of our regular meetings were well received. We were also named on the Sarnia Mayor's List for 2020.

Thamesville Horticultural Society

Our summer student (400 hrs.) funded by the Municipality to maintain our community gardens and planters was cancelled due to COVID. We had to hire help for watering while community members pitched in to do weeding. Members still planted gardens and planters and made Christmas displays. As well, one large garden was totally dismantled, redesigned and landscaped with new trees, shrubs, perennials, bulbs and decorative rock. Members provided plants from their own gardens to revamp a large but aging community garden.

Tilbury & District Horticultural Society

Our municipality did not give us a horticultural student for our town this year. Due to our loyal group of volunteers, we were able to plant our downtown respecting social distancing. Several

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members adopted a town flower bed and maintained it. We held 2 outdoor meetings in our parks. A fourth butterfly garden was planted in memory of one of our founding members. Close to 100 native trees were planted in our two parks.

Watford/Warwick Horticultural Society

Our plant sale was conducted with no Society members present and an honour cash box made more money than usual. There were no work bees (weeding, mulching etc.) due to restrictions, so the work was done individually or with social distancing. We were unable to have meetings, except some executive meetings, with distance requirements or via Zoom. We held our Christmas Open House with crafts for sale made by individuals in their own homes instead of together.

Wheatley Horticultural Society

On October 3, 2020, we were delighted to host the grand opening of the Grant Bowman Trail. The event was made possible through the: "Together CK Municipal Grant Program", with proceeds from the Wheatley Trails Committee and the Dave Grant Memorial Go Fund Me Account. The gardens were cleaned and spruced up with Fall mums. Flowering shrubs and new trees were planted along the trail. Two signs were fabricated and placed at each entrance to the trail. A park bench was placed where Mr. Bowman felt it would be most beneficial to trail users to birdwatch and enjoy the scenery.

OHA DISTRICT 12

Cochrane Horticultural Society

All meetings and events were cancelled due to COVID-19.

Englehart & District Horticultural Society

We held our Annual Meeting in January and general meeting in February. Our Facebook page and website are quite active with

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several Facebook competitions set up. We sent regular bulletins to members. We sponsored our youth garden competition with 17 participants. The children's gardens were judged and prize money awarded. We planted annuals in our usual town beds.

Iroquois Falls Horticultural Society

Our town approached our Society to tend 25+ gardens in various areas of our community. This was enormous considering the size of most garden beds, so we asked local organizations to participate in this project. We began in early May and finished in late September. We organized meeting times as well as the number of hours for each garden. Another significant project was the Christmas lighting in Historical Anson Park. Considering pandemic restrictions, we were proud of our accomplishments.

Kapuskasing Horticultural Society

All planned events and activities were cancelled. One very positive activity was the refurbishment of our Civic Garden which had been planned for a number of years. Overgrown shrubs were removed, new soil was added, and the annual bed was reframed in co-operation with the municipality. The grants from OMAFRA will get this project completed in 2021.

Kirkland Lake Horticultural Society

Nearly 20 Society members helped to purchase, sort, distribute and plant flowers in the town's planters & beds. No other meetings, events or activities occurred due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Porcupine Horticultural Society

A few members planted and cared for a limited number of flowers at the church and in the adjacent park. We helped the church members put on a chili lunch at the South Porcupine

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Winterfest. We put lights on a Christmas tree in the park adjacent to the church.

Timmins Horticultural Society

2020 was certainly an unusual year! Although we were not able to meet in-person and hold events, our executive and members kept in touch by phone, email and through our Facebook page. Many of our members are senior citizens and more susceptible to COVID-19. A small number of members maintained three large community gardens, while social-distancing.

OHA DISTRICT 13

Assiginack Horticultural Society

We relied on e-mail and Facebook and the inordinate amount of information that came in from the District and OHA. The annual plantings of the Community planters and the grounds at the Museum were managed successfully, maintained by a rotation of members. Plants have been pre-ordered for next season.

Blind River Horticultural Society

Members built a Community raised garden, compost beds, and butterfly nursery. We are proud that Blind River was designated the 44th Bee City because of our efforts. We created a new banner, changed our community planting strategy to perennials, held a scarecrow contest, and taught our school children to love gardening by re-greening all the schoolyards.

Bruce Station Horticultural Society

It was painful to cancel the 4th Central Algoma Seedy Saturday. We did our business and distributed horticultural resources via email. Our Facebook page garnered new attention, interacted with others of similar interest and formed new alliances. Flower gardens flourished. Our 'lead gardener' system is perfectly

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suited for a pandemic, with each of our eight locations maintained by one lead member.

Campbell Horticultural Society

The year began with programs demonstrating new floral designs and The Art of Rock Painting, as well as two successful fundraisers. When the pandemic hit in April, meetings and events had to be cancelled. Members continued to maintain community gardens in Burpee Mills and Spring Bay. We held our yearly planning meeting with our annual meeting to elect a new executive and kept members informed with monthly updates.

Elliot Lake Horticultural Society

Our AGM was held in February. We gardened, maintained and watered within the city and the hospital grounds, and did winter clean-up and planting in Westview Park. The plant sale, flower show, garden tour and meetings were cancelled. Our executive met a few times outside and kept in touch with email. Plans are in the making for a new gardening project in the spring, and we are excited to teach the local Girl Guide group about gardening.

Espanola Horticultural Society

For a summer with little to do, our group was pretty busy. Our Community garden was improved with the addition of more raised beds. All 20 beds were rented and produced a bumper crop. We were part of the Food for Families project, much appreciated by local families. We maintained eight garden beds around town. The Triangle Park Pergola was decorated for Canada Day, Remembrance and Christmas. To keep members' interest, we forwarded articles from BBC Gardening. Our monthly newsletter "Dig It" kept the membership informed.

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French River Horticultural Society

The French River Municipality took on the responsibility of planting gardens throughout the community with help from our members. Two of our members took care of planting and maintaining raised gardens at local libraries. We have given financial support to French River Community Gardens, Friends of Mashkinonje and the Christmas Food Basket Committee. Our newsletter is published quarterly and posted on the OHA website.

Massey-Walford Horticultural Society

Despite COVID there were some positive outcomes, neighbours/strangers helping out where needed; more people with an interest in gardening. We planted, watered and maintained gardens in Heritage Park and the local post office. Many events were cancelled or postponed; flower shows, tours, teas, and the AGM. On October 14th, the executive members held an AGM where motions were passed for spending and a discussion was conducted about a future project of "natural plants" for Tillsdale Park.

Sault Ste. Marie Horticultural Society

We held three general meetings and squeezed in Seedy Saturday before lockdown. We lost our Past President, Suzanne Hanna, a veritable powerhouse within our Society, as well as in District 13 and the OHA. We miss her a great deal so are struggling to get back on track. All of our other events were cancelled. We were unable to meet in person. On an up note, we had a successful AGM online.

Spanish Horticultural Society – Blue Violet Chapter

This has been a year like no other. We started the year off with our annual potluck dinner and presentation of awards. For the rest of the year, our meetings were cancelled but we relayed information through a newsletter every month. Over the

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summer, we weeded, planted, watered and maintained the town's flower beds and community gardens.

St. Joseph Island Horticultural Society

The Society members planted and maintained public beds, boxes and gardens across St. Joseph Island, using proper COVID-19 protocols. Members put a lot of effort into planning the District's AGM in May, which had to be cancelled, as well as most of our meetings and fundraisers. We are proud to report that three of our members qualified as OHA Horticultural and Design judges.

Sudbury Horticultural Society

We stayed in touch through Newsletters, our Website and Facebook, as well as in small groups and on the phone. Board members were sworn in, then two monthly meetings happened and we enjoyed Seedy Sunday. Though the Ugliest Schoolyard Contest had to be cancelled, community donations allowed for needed maintenance. We maintained our regular flower beds, but everything else had to be cancelled.

Thessalon Horticultural Society

During COVID-19 restrictions, we kept in touch via emails and telephone. Garden maintenance was conducted in small groups. We cancelled most meetings and our Mothers' Day potted plants for children project. Our perennial plant sale was low-key and unsuccessful. Members donated Christmas poinsettias to seniors' residences. Our primary goal will always remain, to plant and maintain the flower beds around town. We have big plans for 2021, including a new park at Sunset Lookout.

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OHA DISTRICT 14

Dryden & District Horticultural Society

Despite COVID-19, we planted annuals in the pollinator garden. We had a successful plant sale. We refurbished the flower gardens at Wilson's Courtyard. We continued to have Board when permitted. We carried out the plant sale following Covid-19 safety guidelines in conjunction with directives from the local Health Unit.

Fort Frances Horticultural Society

Although the pandemic curtailed many of activities, we did plant at the Public Library, the Senior Centre and assisted at the local cemetery. We were unable to plant the Good Neighbour Sign as the Town was not willing to water this year due to lack of student help. We also could not maintain our courtyard at Rainycrest as they were not allowing anyone into their facility. We had two "coffee parties" in the park where the members shared gardening ideas and some of their produce.

Geraldton Horticultural Society

We managed to plant our Welcome flower bed at the entrance of town, but our hospital and clinic gardens were not tended this year. We had a good return on our Bakeless Bakesale and sold some seeds for Make It Sow.

Longlac Horticultural Society

Due to COVID-19, we did not hold meetings but we did several workshops on Sunday afternoons. We did manage to get four of our plantings completed. The Seniors Centre is under construction and is in need of some TLC next year. We will hold an outdoor membership drive in late April. Our Executive and members will do everything we can to keep our

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society going strong with additional workshops which were well-received.

Nipigon-Red Rock Horticultural Society

We carried out some community involvement but almost everything else was cancelled. Members came out to maintain the Paddle to the Sea Park Terrace Beds armed with tools, face masks and gloves. We had a biggest sunflower, potato and pumpkin contest planned along with our membership sale but participation was low due to the Stay-at-Home Order with COVID-19.

Thunder Bay Horticultural Society

In February, we presented an overview of our 2019 Garden Visits. In the Spring, we sent out weekly emails with contributions from members. In the summer, we had virtual garden tours. We continued to communicate with members, sharing photos and videos on Facebook. We had presentations on Winter vegetable storage, chalk painting and seasonal wreaths. Community plantings were spread out into several work parties with fewer participants due to COVID-19.

OHA DISTRICT 15

Brampton Horticultural Society

We had a successful 2020 despite COVID limitations. The celebration of our 125th founding was cancelled as was hosting the District 15 AGM. We held our 8th Annual Seedy Saturday in partnership with the City of Brampton. We had an extremely successful Pre-order Annual Plant Sale. There was a Holiday themed virtual Flower Show with design and horticultural categories with member voting done by e-mail.

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Caledon Horticultural Society

With great disappointment, we had to put our plans on hold due to the pandemic. One member worked with Caledon Meals on Wheels and local Seniors' Clubs providing information on horticulture. Our Club Newsletter was created. We worked with Mayfield high school to help students and staff set up a pollinator program as well as flower beds at the school. Also, we assisted with setting up their own garden club.

Chinguacousy Garden Club & Horticultural Society

Members volunteered for the Kids Garden at the International Centre GTA Home & Reno Show to assist the Mississauga Master Gardeners with crafts for the children. We supported the North Bramalea Presbyterian Church's partnership with the Brampton 77th Pathfinder Troop, who conducted planting and cleanup at the Neighbourhood Butterfly Garden. Our presence at Brampton Seedy Saturday was well received with masses of people looking for free seeds and violas. The City of Brampton worked with the Brampton Horticultural Society and us on the new initiative 'Front Yard Recognition Program'.

Cloverleaf Garden Club of Mississauga

Cloverleaf provided five Zoom presentations. We held virtual Flower Shows in April, May, June, September and October. The virtual shows were judged and winners announced in our monthly newsletter. We added a second Facebook page, Members and Friends "Growing Knowledge", to share garden pictures and gardening information. We also attracted a new treasurer and two new directors in 2020!

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Credit Valley Horticultural Society

We held a members' only plant sale, with proceeds donated to the Mississauga Food Bank. Plants were purchased by our Society and donated to Peel Paramedics. Fresh produce was donated to The Salvation Army. Members made masks, gowns and laundry bags which were donated to Ian Anderson House Hospice. Members assisted with the pollinator garden at Ellengale Public School and attended community project clean-ups when possible. After August, speakers, general and Board meetings were held via Zoom. We held a virtual photography competition.

Etobicoke Horticultural Society

Due to Covid-19, we were unable to hold any fundraising events in 2020. We held our AGM and Seed Exchange in January and two in-person meetings with speakers. In September, we hosted our first Zoom meeting, with a speaker. We have been attracting speakers from outside our area, such as Wales. Our volunteers continued to maintain Library gardens. In lieu of our "Garden Walkabout Program", we encouraged members to send photos of their gardens.

Horticultural Societies of Parkdale & Toronto

We supported diverse garden projects, adapting to COVID with masking, social distancing and working separately. One of these gardens produces hundreds of pounds of food for local soup kitchens. We held 2 in-person meetings and 7 via Zoom, including our AGM. Over the year, more and more people attended on-line. In May, we held a virtual flower show, with COVID-related themes. We held a virtual garden tour with 9 gardens shown at the July meeting. We spoke at George Brown College on "Contemplative and Active Gardening of Older Adults" for their Recreation Management in Gerontology

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program. Khedmaat Support for Seniors requested online sessions about growing plants indoors, with one session in 2020, and another 3 in early 2021.

Nobleton & King City Horticultural Society

We maintained our 60th Anniversary Garden and held a member plant exchange. We navigated COVID, but an entire gardening season has come and gone without any meetings. Board meetings were held via Zoom. We participated in the OHA's fundraiser "Make it Sow". Our FB page kept us connected. We started "JULES JOTTINGS" to keep members informed. We did a technology survey to establish members' knowledge and comfort with virtual meetings. Our Holiday Greetings video was shared on our FB page and on the King Township webpage.

Richmond Hill Garden & Horticultural Society

When COVID struck, we implemented Zoom Board and General Meetings. We did 1 in-person Seedy Saturday with York Region, our Tulip Bulb Naturalization project and participated in Remembrance Day events. We judged over 100 front gardens as a part of Richmond Hill Blooms. Four public gardens in the City were maintained. New activities included a column in "The Garden Post", where we featured 10 members' gardens. Another new effort, an article called "Gardening Tips", is a weekly e-newsletter sent to thousands of residents.

Roselands Horticultural Society

We improved communication with members and the public through newsletters, our website and e-mail account. We had to cancel our monthly meetings, our Plant Sale and Flower Shows since we were unable to use the church facilities.

2020 Historical Record of Ontario Horticultural Societies/Clubs

Schomberg Horticultural Society

2020 was our 85th Anniversary, and unfortunately all celebrations were cancelled. We held our annual plant sale virtually with curbside pickup, raising over \$1000. The community gardens were cleared of invasive plants, and we covered the Centennial Gardens with mulch. Our all-natural material Scarecrow won (tied) "People's Choice" in the village competition. We set up a Christmas display in the "Welcome to Schomberg" garden, using environmentally friendly materials.

Streetsville Horticultural Society

We held a successful bulb sale and continued to maintain the gardens at Leslie Log House and Rotary Park in Mississauga. We continued Board meetings via Zoom. When lockdown was lifted in June, we continued to maintain the gardens at Leslie Log House and Rotary Park in Mississauga. Our expanded newsletter includes many more educational articles. We continued review plans with the City of Mississauga for Leslie Log House.

Swansea Horticultural Society

No fundraising activities took place in 2020 – including the annual plant & bake sale, the sale of "toonie table" donations and plants at monthly meetings and the annual "Strawberry Tea". Zoom meetings began in 2021. Communications were maintained via email, newsletters on-line and in print. All annual meetings and events were cancelled. Gardening activities at Colbourne Lodge were on a reduced basis.

Thornhill Garden & Horticultural Society

We launched our new Website in early 2020 and updated our Facebook page. After COVID, Board meetings were held virtually. The telephone committee was revived with members called several times. Plant sales were held from members'

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driveways. A plant/rummage sale was held with Thornhill Heritage Foundation. After opening up, we continued our community beautification. Our "Top 200" Front Garden Recognition Programme was increased to 300 thanks to our local Real Estate broker. A Board member donated over \$1,000 from the sale of masks she made. We "weathered the worst" and "enjoyed the best" that 2020 had to offer.

Woodbridge Horticultural Society

The COVID pandemic resulted in monthly meetings, including speakers and flower shows, being cancelled. Garden maintenance at historic Wallace House and Armstrong Park were curtailed. Members did the seasonal installation of planters and Christmas decorations on Woodbridge Ave. Bridge, the historic Wallace House and Armstrong Park. Debbie Estey received the Volunteer Recognition Award from the City of Vaughan. The executive held a Zoom meeting and decided to pay for the dues of all members to maintain good standing.

OHA DISTRICT 16

Alliston & District Horticultural Society

Due to COVID-19, we had to cancel our 95th anniversary, our main annual fundraiser and all in-person meetings and events after February. We continued our community work on the Civic Gardens and worked separately so we were not in contact with others. We held our flowers shows and garden tour virtually on Facebook. As it was viewed by quite a few people, it was fairly successful. We had our 2020 Yearbooks printed but we couldn't distribute them, so we will use them for 2021.

Angus Horticultural Society

With COVID-19 protocols in place, we dedicated a special inscribed plaque and placed it in front of our 90th Anniversary

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Tree, planted in 2019; virtually presented a Bursary in June to a graduating student; purchased and placed 4 benches at 2 town gardens, plus 1 bench each at the Angus Cenotaph and Old Stone Garden; planted and maintained 6 gardens, plus planters at Peacekeepers Park and Angus Cenotaph; and installed hanging baskets at Clock Tower Gazebo.

Barrie Horticultural Society

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the activities of the Barrie Garden Club were very restricted. However, we continued with our volunteer planting and maintenance of the gardens at the historic Fort Willow; held a roadside clean-up day on our *Adopt-A-Highway* 1 kilometre section of Highway 26 in Springwater Township to promote growth of wildflowers and native plants; refurbished and replanted the urns for Barrie's community groups of Gilda Club and Hospice at the start of each season; and held our annual photo contest with online submissions.

Beeton Horticultural Society

Our year started with a bang! We hosted our AGM in January 2020 with Flower Arranging 101, learned about Attracting Pollinators in February and Landscaping in March. Then, we had to cancel Seedy Saturday due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, along with our plant sale and group clean-up activities. It was great to hear about members who stopped to pull weeds on their walks. The Directors met on zoom or socially distanced outside. We had a virtual flower show in July, a socially distanced garden tour in September and a zoom meeting in November.

Bond Head & District Horticultural Society

We sustained our garden club during the COVID-19 Pandemic by renewing memberships and continued to maintain community gardens. We had to cancel our monthly meetings, flower shows, plant auction, plant sale, guest speakers, garden tour

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outings, annual meeting and pot luck. We have the energy and commitment to take up where we left off pre-COVID-19.

Brentwood Horticultural Society

Even though COVID restricted what our club could do, our members looked after the Community gardens by planting and maintaining them. We had speakers for our January and February meetings which were on Winter Sowing and Amaryllis. Clearview Township held a virtual Tulip Appreciation Day to which we submitted several pictures of our Liberation 75 tulips. Members participated in a drive-by parade for a long-time member who turned 93. We kept members informed by email and sent out Christmas cards.

Collingwood Horticultural Society

Our membership year began October 1, 2019, so we held October through March meetings and events which included our Make and Take a Seasonal Arrangement Fundraiser with approximately 60 people participating. After March, 2020 all formal events and meetings were cancelled during the lockdown. We held a restricted Members-only Plants Sale in May and June. Members also cleaned up in the Collingwood Arboretum.

Creemore Horticultural Society

Despite the restrictions under the pandemic, we were able to safely continue maintaining our public gardens with careful management of our volunteers. We also provided volunteers to support seniors at the local nursing home by refurbishing their much-neglected garden. After February, all in-person meetings and events were cancelled except the October fundraiser which is the Thanksgiving sale of floral arrangements displayed in

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pumpkins sold at the Creemore Farmers' Market. All 50+ pumpkins were sold and netted \$832.

Elmvale and District Horticultural Society

We chose to cancel meetings, speakers, Bus Trips, Garden Tours and Flower Shows due to the pandemic. We will reuse our yearbooks next year to save costs and avoid waste. Members have been making bird feeders to sell as fundraisers. Committee members made 25 bee houses and 91 cup and saucer small bird feeders. We have also maintained the planters around town and sold hanging baskets that adorn the main street. George Cabral, local councillor, expressed his sincere thanks to Society members for all the wonderful community beautification work we undertake.

Gilford & District Horticultural Society

We kept members up-to-date with information regarding meetings, member updates (health/plant donations) via e-mail and Facebook. Due to COVID-19, we cancelled all of our regular meetings, Flower Shows, Teas and Plant Sale as well as a planned bus trip to Toronto Botanical Gardens.

Midland Horticultural Society

We were able to have our regular January pot luck and February speaker meetings. We had a photo contest, awarded a Midland Garden of the Year award, had a plant sale and planted flower beds around Midland. We also prepared a Midland Garden Club calendar from pictures submitted to our photo contest. We gave a scholarship to a deserving student at a local high school.

Orillia Horticultural Society

We did not meet last year as we suspended all meetings due to the pandemic. We were able to maintain the public garden at the community Library and we did some work at our

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Arboretum. No other activities were planned. We cancelled plant sales, workshops & Seedy Saturday events.

Oro-Medonte Horticultural Society

There were no highlights, only COVID-19 lowlights. We held two Zoom meetings with speakers and published a monthly newsletter. We did maintain the seven Civic Gardens on behalf of the Township as well as a memorial garden at a local public school. As well we did two Stream clean-up events at Bayview Park.

Painswick Horticultural Society

Our yearbook was printed prior to COVID-19 announcements and shutdowns. The Board called members to arrange delivery of the yearbook and newsletter and collect annual dues while social-distancing. All speakers were cancelled for 2020 and rebooked for 2021. We followed the COVID-19 guidelines and did our community beautification at Stroud Parkette and Knock Community School. The Club was approached to show some TLC at the Beer Store flowerbeds. Innisfil Mayor, Lynn Dollin, was appreciative of the end results. Our Telephone Committee kept in contact with our members as the majority of our members do not have e-mails and welcomed these calls.

Penetanguishene Horticulture Society

Due to the Covid-19 Lockdown we did not have any meetings or events. Penetanguishene Horticultural Society was 95 years old in 2020.

Stayner Horticultural Society

Members worked on the community flower beds starting in June. Not much else happened due to COVID-19. In September, we lowered our dues to \$1.00 to stay an active member. We

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have 30 full paid members, 3 life members and 20 lower-rate active members.

Tottenham & District Horticultural Society

What a year! We started with an early Executive meeting. We had our speakers booked for the entire year. We planned for the AGM and what we hoped to accomplish in 2020. We held our AGM in January that turned out to be the only in-person meeting all year. The Executive Committee adopted a new Code of Conduct and also agreed on the design and purchase of a new club banner. All speakers for meetings after January were cancelled. Money saved was subsequently donated to community organizations such as the Food Bank, My Sister's Place, and the Legion to help those in need.

Wasaga Beach Horticultural Society

We have a new Executive who have undertaken many initiatives to keep the Society afloat. Our member Yvonne Fletcher held a plant sale of her own plants and raised \$400. Cathy Mould (Treasurer) and Trudy Rawson (Secretary) have both taken on Zoom training. In September, we have gone entirely on-line and joined District 16 to use their Zoom pro account. Our excellent Communications Director Eva Caulfield is dedicated to reaching members virtually through e-mails, as well as interesting, educational and engaging Facebook and Instagram posts. This is also one of our main methods of recruiting new members. There were only three in-person outdoor events, all within the allowable Ministry of Health regulations.

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OHA DISTRICT 17

Ajax Garden Club

There were no general meetings held, but the executive met virtually a few times and the group also met socially on-line.

Beaverton Horticultural Society

A successful joint Seedy Saturday was held with Cannington HS and Georgina-Brock GC in February. General meetings, garden tours, and the plant auction were cancelled. The executive met via Zoom. Seven gardens in the community were maintained throughout the summer. A Memorial plaque was installed. Two youth were sponsored to attend the 2020 Youth summit and a \$500 bursary was awarded. Two newsletters were produced and 4 email messages were sent to members.

Bowmanville Horticultural Society

Our Society made money during the Pandemic. One pre-COVID meeting was held in February before the suspension of all remaining meetings. Members maintained the upkeep of the urns and gardens around Clarington City Hall and Library through the gardening season. Although the plant sale was cancelled and no fundraising was done, the rent was paid.

Brooklin Horticultural Society

All Board and general meetings were held virtually. The website and Facebook page were maintained and fully utilized. Maintenance of two gardens continued with special permission. A \$500 scholarship was awarded to a Durham College Horticultural student. Spring and fall newsletters published and circulated.

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Cannington Horticultural Society

The yearbook and bookmark were designed and printed. A joint Seedy Saturday with GBCG and Beaverton HS was held. Garden recognition, a youth garden competition, planting and maintenance of nine community gardens and 16 planter boxes were completed through the summer. A successful plant sale, bulb sale and decoration of the community Christmas tree were also held. A \$250 student scholarship was awarded. The Society was able to show a profit despite the reduced operations.

Georgina-Brock Garden Club & Horticultural Society

The Georgina-Brock Garden Club lost money. A Seedy Saturday event was held jointly with Cannington and Beaverton Horticultural Societies in late February. March saw the first meeting of the year with good membership turnout and seven new members joining the group. The municipal hall was closed in March and many events cancelled. The Butterfly and Pollinator Garden at the Pepperlaw Library and community gardens were maintained. Seasonally decorated barrels at the Pepperlaw Post office were very successful.

Newcastle Horticultural Society

COVID-19 Restrictions caused much change in the Society. Two executive meetings were held. The September general meeting speaker was well received and the flower show was successful. Fourteen new members joined the club.

Orono Horticultural Society

Orono held Director's meetings and provided show exhibits, education, garden photography and nature blogs. In August, eight members each presented 10-minute outdoor demos Library gazebo, then there was a fall and Christmas decorating

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demonstration as well as a how to on bulb storage at the same location. Autumn harvests were shared. The civic planters were maintained as well as Heritage Gardens at the Clarke Museum. We also began a monthly article on horticulture tips and upcoming events in the local newspaper. We sold the “Orono Centennial Beauty” daylily for 100th anniversary.

Oshawa Garden Club

The Club broke even in 2020. March-June meetings were cancelled and by September, virtual meetings were held. The Plant Sale was cancelled, but those with prepared plants safely sold plants from their driveways raising half the usual total. Following Public Health Guidelines, the Club grew 541 lbs of vegetables for Feed the Need Durham alongside Durham Master Gardeners. We also co-operated on the re-vitalization of the Tennis Gardens at Parkwood and a socially distanced plant sale to raise funds for the five-year project. Use of the Facebook page promoted membership. A \$500 bursary was awarded to a Durham College Horticultural student.

Pickering Horticultural Society

In person meetings were held from January to March, while April and June meetings were cancelled. Fall meetings were held virtually as was the December AGM. Community Gardens were maintained by member volunteer groups. Member Garden Tours were held in the summer when COVID-19 restrictions were lowered.

Pine Ridge Garden Club

Our Club’s year begins November 1st, with three meetings held in November, December and March before all other meetings were cancelled. Only 70% of members renewed during that time, however 16 new members joined the Club. No regular

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fundraising events were held. Maintenance and planting at Scugog Shores Museum were cancelled. Newsletters provided contact with members. The huge concern is the loss of senior members as meetings are an important social outing. A \$500 scholarship was awarded to a Port Perry High School student.

Uxbridge Horticultural Society

The gardens at the Library, the Uxbridge Children's Garden and the Cenotaph Garden were maintained by members. Two Executive meetings were held, one in-person and one via Zoom. All other events and fundraisers were cancelled.

OHA DISTRICT 18

Argyle Horticulture Society

Our year started with a talk about the Keto diet and how it helps restore good health. We next had a picture tour of Ireland, our AGM and installation of new officers. When COVID-19 hit, we cancelled meetings as most members are over 70. We had two executive meetings before March. In March, we toured an award-winning maple syrup establishment where we saw the complete operation of making the Canadian and World's Champion maple syrup. Our Christmas pot luck was followed by a Christmas wreath demonstration. The school flower bed, the Nursing Station and Baptist Church beds were maintained.

Baysville Horticultural Society

In 2020, we celebrate 55 years as a society in Baysville. The first meeting was held October 5, 1965. We held a Valentine's Day Tea in early February. Members set up centers where members could plant seeds or plant cuttings of houseplants. A guest displayed felt flowers and how to make them.

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Bracebridge Horticultural Society

The impact of the pandemic caused some changes in how we operated. We sent a 'Thinking of You' card to every member and included a tea bag and a packet of seeds. We printed a spiral bound recipe book 'Gardener's Gourmand'. At Christmas, several Executive sewed masks for each member, wove book marks, painted gift tags, donated gardening books or magazines, while adding chocolates, candy cane and mittens to the gift bag, all delivered with a Christmas card.

Callander Horticultural Society

E-mails were sent to all members. Phone calls were made to those without e-mail and older members. Get Well cards were sent to those who were sick and condolence cards to families who lost loved ones. Directors carried out their positions by e-mail. The Budget was prepared and approved for 2021. Committee Chairpersons were also identified for 2021. Volunteers worked in our community gardens and helped the township with flower pots.

Gravenhurst Horticultural Society

Due to COVID-19, most of our events were cancelled this year but we did grow flowers and vegetables for our plant sale. These were sold to members with funds donated to the Society, as the actual plant sale was not held due to the pandemic restrictions. We did work at getting members to renew their memberships.

Huntsville Horticultural Society

We marked our 95th year in Huntsville. Our full schedule of events was cancelled due to COVID-19. We held one in person meeting in March that included a social time with a special

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anniversary cake. One Zoom meeting was held and well attended. Our regular planting and clean-up of the raised beds continued, but members maintained the beds for the entire season since most parks staff were laid off. We rejuvenated our Veterans' Memorial Garden and partnered with Rotary to create new gardens. We held an on-line/in-person garage sale of horticultural items.

Magnetawan Horticultural Society

Due to COVID-19, there were no in-person meetings except for one outdoors in September. We stayed in touch with members through our Facebook page, a local newspaper column and e-mail. We included all residents in our decorating and Magnetawan Blooms competitions to keep spirits up. We held an on-line plant sale and on-line Silent Auction. We were not able to have any bus trips. We were to host the 2020 District 18 AGM but that was cancelled.

North Bay Horticultural Society

With the pandemic, many Society events and meetings were cancelled. By summer, members tended the lilac bed at the waterfront. The Nipissing Serenity Hospice requested help in the design of their flower beds, with donated plants installed by members. Our Society, District 18 Societies and local Master Gardeners dedicated a memorial bench to Vickie Wiemer. In September, virtual meetings started. Rupert Wiemer was recognized for 50 years of service.

Parry Sound & District Horticultural Society

Due to the outbreak of a global pandemic, our lives and the way our Society operated changed drastically on March 12, 2020. We communicated with our members via e-mail, newsletters and Facebook in order to maintain interest in our Society.

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Flower Shows were held on Facebook and a photography contest was held via e-mail. Community gardens were maintained under strict health protocols. Board meetings were held virtually. We did however hold a Plant Sale on June 5 and a Garden Tour on July 10, all under strict Covid-19 protocols.

Rosseau Horticultural Society

Notwithstanding the COVID-19 pandemic, the Rosseau Horticultural Society constructed a Community Garden with raised garden boxes, picnic tables, a garden shed and a gazebo enclosed with fencing. A Healing Garden was resurrected for use by patients of the Rosseau Nursing Station and the Village of Rosseau was beautified throughout with flower boxes. We survived for another year.

Spucedale & District Horticultural Society

The majority of events were cancelled due to COVID. We had a virtual flower show and a virtual garden tour. We were able to keep our municipal gardens in tip top shape for the enjoyment of the residents and the bulb display was breathtaking. Our local reforestation project is an outstanding idea which we will bring back in 2022. The 200 blue spruce seedlings were all planted by members. We kept in touch with our members with newsletters and emails, providing messages of encouragement, garden crafts ideas and invitations work in the Municipal Gardens. Our planned new Spring Bulb Show was cancelled.

Sundridge Horticultural Society

Due to the global pandemic, all monthly meetings, the annual plant sale and bus trips were all cancelled. One member sold plants from her garden and donated the proceeds to our Society as a Plant Sale fundraiser. Our members continued with the

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planting and maintenance of the town gardens. Monthly meetings, the annual plant sale and bus trips were all cancelled.

OHA DISTRICT 19

Ayr Horticultural Society

All plans for our 100th Anniversary were cancelled. In our Society-owned park, we enlarged a garden, replanted with perennials providing colour, texture, shape and height diversity. This a teaching garden for the community, so each plant is labelled. A commemorative plaque marks the site of the first hockey stick factory. We made a donation to Centennial Park for new light standards. At Christmas, with over 40 businesses and charities, we decorated Christmas trees, as well as the gazebo in Greenwood Park and the garden shed.

Elmira and District Horticultural Society

Sean James presented "Growing Gracefully: The Evolution of a Garden from Young to Mature" (after our AGM). Speaker Janet Cox presented "Organic Landscaping and Gardening for the Birds + Bees + Me". We set up a display at the Mennonite Central Committee Thrift and Gift event to share information about our society. All other planned events were cancelled due to Covid-19.

Galt Horticultural Society

This epic year will not soon be forgotten as we experienced a pandemic of such proportion. We were challenged to live a different lifestyle, whilst keeping our health, sanity and bank balances in check. Garden interest piqued as people realized that they could grow their own vegetables. Technology provided solutions to meet virtually and share gardening insights, photos, garden tours and other interesting

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information. The Board and committees held their meetings virtually or outdoors when allowed. We recognized other groups such as Mask Makers, Food Bank and Homeless Shelters with donations.

Hespeler Horticultural Society

Hespeler completed two in-person meetings in January and February on the topics of cut flower arrangements and succulents. We tried to connect via Zoom in the fall, then we offered a take away urn materials workshop to complete at home in November. We maintained two community flower beds. All other events were cancelled due to COVID-19.

Kitchener Horticultural Society

Our Seedy Saturday event in February was the biggest ever. We attracted over 600 people and supported the largest number of vendors and non-profits to share information, products and passion for horticulture and nature. Our large annual bulb sale was delayed to September. An inventory of bulbs and plants was created with a mass e-mail sent to the community. E-transfer was set-up and linked to an order management and confirmation system. A pick-up time was assigned for no touch pick-up, with the day becoming a resounding success.

Preston Horticultural Society

Our Society had two meetings in February and March. Our main project was to maintain a community garden in Preston. Gore Park committee members and Preston Horticultural members met from April to November. Generous donations were obtained from Big Yellow Bag in the form of mulch, a garden hose from Cambridge Home Hardware and annual/perennials from Colour Paradise and Cannon Nurseries. We replaced some

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invasive perennials with native plants. Members were sent occasional emails with websites for interesting topics. Phone contact done by Board members.

Waterloo Horticultural Society

Our 125th Anniversary started off with a Birthday Party themed meeting and a speaker from the Waterloo Museum who talked about our Society's history. The theme continued in our next meeting with our speaker on the history of gardening in our area. The pandemic forced us to change to virtual options and weekly newsletters. We held a virtual mulch sale, plant sale, garden tour and flower and vegetable competition. In the fall, we began virtual meetings.

Wellesley Township Horticultural Society

We had two in-person executive meetings, one in January and one in September. We continued our annual planting of flowers in the downtown area and at the Community Centre. We also maintained a plot at the Community Gardens with plant donations from members.

Wilmot Horticultural Society

Our Society started the year with great optimism and wonderful programs only to have everything coming to a complete halt in March with COVID-19. We managed to plant flowerbeds at Castle Kilbride and Township of Wilmot flowerbeds. The cenotaph in New Hamburg Library was tended by a member in memory of her uncle. Some members are involved with "Let's Tree Wilmot". The team planted 100 trees in 2020.

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Officers Ontario Horticultural Association

President	Katharine Smyth - 2018-2021
First Vice President	Charles Freeman
Second Vice President	Sharlene Desjardins
Secretary	Kelly Taylor
Treasurer (retiring)	Jane Leonard
Treasurer (Incoming)	Marian Heil
Past President and Past Presidents' Council	Rose Odell
N/E OHA Representative	Anne Harbord
S/W OHA Representative	Vicky Culbert

2020 Secretary's Report

Membership Numbers: The OHA membership numbers reported for 2020 were 271 Societies/Clubs with 22,357 members. The membership number has decreased by 5650 members from 2019. This loss represents 20% of our overall membership. This is an enormous loss for the Societies/Clubs, Districts and the OHA. This pandemic has taught us a lot about sustainability, about resilience and about thinking outside of the box to achieve our goals. I hope as we near the "new normal" that you will continue to think outside of the box in finding interesting and new ways to offer your programs. This new thinking and ways may see a new generation of members participate in our Societies/Clubs. Keep up with the good fight.

The OHA worked hard to stay connected with the Societies and Clubs during COVID lockdowns and worked closely with OMAFRA to advocate for funding, use of previous membership numbers and to keep everyone apprised of the latest information.

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2020 OHA Grants

Tree Grants:

District 1 - Gloucester, Kemptville, Martintown & District,
Maxville & District, Russell & District

District 2 - Deep River, Pembroke

District 4 – Ennismore

District 5 - East Gwillimbury

District 6 - St. George, Milton & District, Oakville, Paris

District 11 – Leamington

District 13 - Blind River

District 17 – Bowmanville

District 18 - Magnetawan

District 19 - Galt, Kitchener, Wilmot

OHA Special Project Grants:

District 1 – Gloucester

District 6 – Paris

District 10 – London

District 17 – Oshawa

Community Garden Grants:

District 6 - Port Dover/Wood House

Technical Advancement Grants:

District 1 – Kemptville

District 3 - Bath, Lennox & Addington

District 5 - Lake Simcoe South Shore

District 6 - Haldimand, Milton & District

District 8 - Durham & District

Pollinator Project Grants:

District 13 – Thessalon

District 18 - Rosseau

Seedy Saturday/Sunday Grants:

District 19 - Galt Horticultural Society,

Youth Help Grant: District 4 - Fenelon Falls, Peterborough

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2020 OHA Awards

Community Improvement Award: Carol Ashford – District 15

Youth Leader Award: Linda Jaynes, District 8

Honour Roll: Hazel Hawthorn, District 2

Award of Merit: Lynne Melnyk, District 16

Silver Fir/Trillium Award: Sandy Ellenor, District 11, Suzanne Hanna, District 13

Silver Medal: Edna Caldwell, District 16

Volunteer Hours: In 2020, Societies/Clubs faced an unprecedented lockdown due to COVID-19. All Society/Club, District and OHA events were cancelled including meetings, garden walks, educational events, garden plantings, AGMs, Board Meetings, etc. Even though the Societies/Clubs, Districts and the OHA had very limited opportunities to participate in gardening, planting and volunteering in their Society/Club or community they still reported 237,968 volunteer hours, plus OHA Officers reported 4,360 hours, District Directors and District Executives reported 8,799 for a total of 251,127 volunteer hours. This is a decrease of 282,546 volunteer hours. Societies/Clubs, Districts and the OHA still rose to the occasion and found a way to volunteer and give back to their communities. I know that the Societies and Clubs reached out to individuals online and gave them tips and tricks on how to garden, how to grow food and did your best to continue with your gardens in the communities and meet in new and interesting ways, including virtually. Thank you for continuing to share your knowledge and give your time. I truly believe that over these past 18 months our gardens have given back to us in ways we couldn't have appreciated before now.

2020 Historical Record of Ontario Horticultural Societies/Clubs

2020 Financial Review

In 2020, the **Total Revenue** was \$146,143. This is down substantially from previous years. There were several reasons for the decrease:

- In 2020, no convention was held due to the Pandemic. This was the first time in the OHA's history that there was no convention.
- Membership across the province dropped by about 5,650 people. This was mainly due to the fact that many societies were still working out how to keep their members engaged.
- Many fundraising efforts were cancelled or reduced, resulting in supplies that were not needed by societies and were not sold at convention.
- Donations were down.

In 2020, **Total Expenses** were \$112,263. This is also down from previous years due to several factors:

- No convention, meant no expenses for convention – hotel costs, speaker costs, competition costs were all nil
- Travel expenses were practically nil due to the lack of in-person meetings.
- Many grant payments were postponed because the completion of the requirements was allowed to be delayed.

The result was a small profit for the year of \$33,880.

The OHA was able to delay the use of the deposits that were in place for future conventions and meetings. No deposits were lost due to the Pandemic.