

Keeping Ontario Beautiful

Trillium

Ontario Horticultural Association

Autumn 2020



Photo by Joe Dicker, President, Essex & District Horticultural Society



How are Garden Clubs and Horticultural Societies Coping?

The arrangement pictured was part of the decoration for the District 11 Fall Advisory Meeting last year hosted by the Watford Horticultural Society.



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Editor's Message



As you may have noticed, this is a big issue.

The OHA Officers challenged the District Directors to find out how the clubs and societies are coping with the "safe" way of doing things while maintaining their clubs' projects and activities.

As a result, a special section in this newsletter, "OHA Covid Idea Bank" was created. This section brings you compilations of what the clubs and societies of various districts have done and are planning to do to keep the groups together despite the current challenges.

The Directors also encouraged submissions from their societies and some of these could also have been included in the special section, since there are so many great ideas and accomplishments. I did my best to include as much as possible but because there were so many submissions, some of the articles have been set aside and saved for the Winter issue.

The OHA officers and executive have worked overtime, behind the scenes, so that our association is not left behind. There are many updates in this issue.

Congratulations to those clubs and societies celebrating special anniversaries.

It's worth a few minutes to view the virtual Flower Show and Photography Competitions mentioned in this issue.

The deadline for the winter issue is **Dec. 1**. Please know that articles and photos are welcome any time.

Thank you to the many people who helped to put this issue of the "Trillium" together.

Please contact me if there are any questions and have a great day.

Laura Masterson
editor@gardenontario.org

The *Trillium* is the quarterly newsletter of the OHA, (Ontario Horticultural Association).

This is *your* newsletter. It is for all members of all Horticultural Societies and Garden Clubs in Ontario in every district. If you want to know what is going on in gardening, it is in this newsletter. If your club/society has a special project and you would like to share the news, please send in a story and photographs.

What you need to know to send articles and photographs:

Submission dates for 2020:

Dec. 1 – Winter issue

The deadline for the next issue of the Trillium is **Dec. 1**, but know that submissions can be sent anytime.

Articles should be emailed in Word format or plain text. Photos and other graphics should be sent as separate files (i.e., not as part of a Word file), with a resolution of at least 1000 by 800 pixels whenever possible. Full-sized original files will be happily accepted. These requests make it easier to work with whatever is submitted.

Articles can be emailed to:

editor@gardenontario.org

Laura Masterson, OHA Trillium Editor

Please note that, for photographs that include minors, signed parental permission must be given. You don't need to send the signed papers, but we do need to know that they exist.

**When submitting articles and photos,
please mention who wrote the article
and who took the pictures so that
a credit can be included.**

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The Trillium is the quarterly newsletter of the OHA, bringing you the latest news of what's going on in gardening in Ontario.

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Ontario Horticultural Association President's Message

Hello Fellow Ontario Horticultural Members,

Here it is September and we are still under a pandemic. Who would have guessed that this would happen to us in 2020 or any other time for that matter? I hope that everyone is safe and getting through this as well as possible.

One good thing that has happened is that gardening, be it floral, vegetable, container or whatever, has exploded. I watched the Marilyn Denis show this morning and a gentleman had taken apart a trampoline and then realized he could plant a garden inside the frame. He placed chicken wire around the frame to keep the animals out and had a wonderful vegetable garden at little expense. And the surprise was that he had never had a garden before. Talk about "thinking outside the box".

It has been a hot summer with little rain in parts of the province, yet the garden beckons us. I am in the process of ripping apart a garden I have not been happy with for quite a while. And now, here comes the good part. I have new plants and bulbs to plant this fall. I am a happy person. We gardeners just never stop do we, – rip out and then replant. Rip out and start over. I have a lot of shade in my yard. I kept track of how much sun each bed gets and I found I have more sunny areas than I thought. So, a whole new plan has formed in my head.

I know it has been hard to keep our societies going in this pandemic, but there have been so many adapting to a new way of having meetings and plant sales and garden tours. I applaud those for "thinking outside the box": setting a time to pick up plants ordered ahead, or a time to go through members' gardens or even using Skype or Zoom to hold virtual meetings. All these have been planned and perfectly executed. I must say I have been at meetings on Skype Business, on Zoom, on Webex and on telephone conferencing. And yet, there are parts of the province that have such poor internet that members find it hard to attend any of these virtual meetings.

We had two virtual board meetings and it was exceedingly difficult for some of our board members to fully attend because of poor connections. And as one board member told us, she could not see what was happening and with intermittent internet, it was

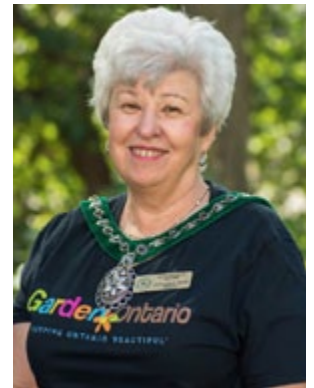
difficult to keep up with what was happening. There is nothing like a face to face meeting and hopefully we will be able to have this again sooner rather than later.

I recently sent out an update to all the directors and societies on what is happening with the OHA and I will not repeat that here. If you did not receive this and would like a copy, ask your director or the president of your society to send you a copy.

Membership fees have not increased since 2005. As you know, the cost of living has risen. According to Statistics Canada consumer price index, today's prices in 2020 are 26.77% higher than average prices since 2005. In other words, \$1 in 2005 is equivalent in purchasing-power to about \$1.27 in 2020, a difference of \$0.27 over 15 years. The OHA Membership fees by the dollar is now valued at \$0.73 compared to the cost of living over 15 years.

We believe the OHA has done an incredible job at budgeting over the last 15 years and has always put its membership first, with the financial deficit absorbed by the association, when required.

The membership fees to the association are used to cover the current operating costs of the OHA, not the deficit. Unfortunately, costs for future year conventions and projects can occur in a single year causing a deficit position for the association such as in 2019. For example, deposits for venues for the AGMs/Conventions for 2020, 2021 and 2022 or purchase of items that will be sold at a later date such as the Ontario Judging Standards booklet or other OHA Supplies, require a current year investment. The association has managed, over the last 15 years, with \$3 per member/per year and has worked very hard to balance the budget each year by making cuts where needed, fundraising, and streamlining. With the cost of inflation, we have come to a point where we cannot balance our budget each year due to the increased costs.



Katharine Smyth

The OHA Board of Directors passed a motion to bring forward a Resolution to the OHA AGM that will ask for an increase of \$1/per member/per year for a total of \$4/per member/per year. This membership increase will allow the OHA to continue to provide Societies/Clubs with Awards and Grants Programs, Youth programming including education and police check support, Conservation and Environmental Education Materials, a Newsletter, Website, Society/Club guidance, and support and great Insurance Rates.

As communicated earlier this year, the OHA and its Societies/Clubs will not see a reduction in insurance premiums as the reduction in insurance rates was related to vehicle insurance. We would ask that all Societies/Clubs not request COVID-19 reductions with The Co-operators as this has already been requested and refused. OHA Insurance Process: The Co-operators Insurance Company sends its invoice yearly to the OHA by December 31st for the following year. Society/Club Bond Insurance is \$100 per Society/Club and Liability Insurance is \$0.74 per person. The OHA pays the insurance premiums for ALL Societies/Clubs,

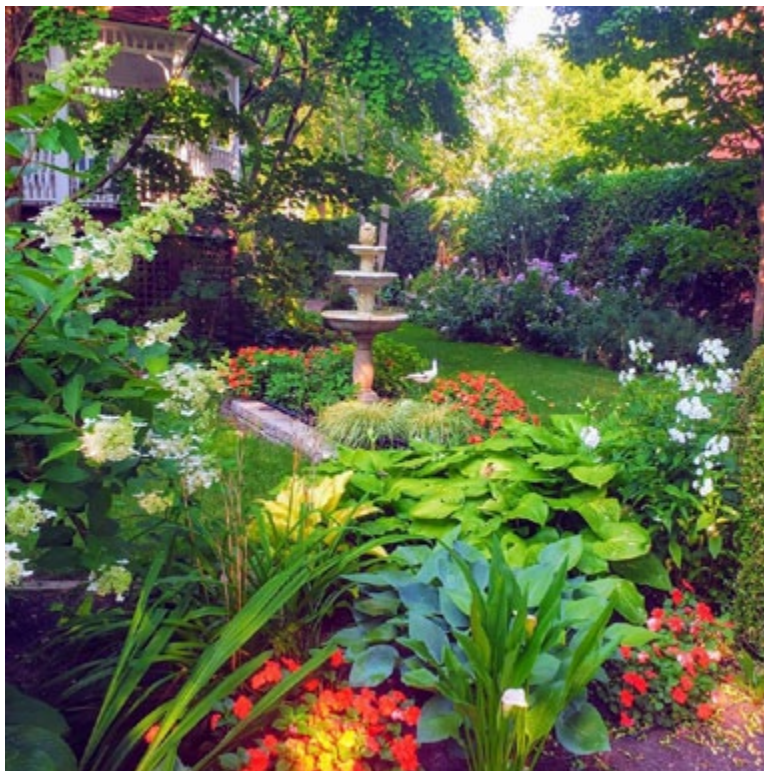
Districts and the Association by December 31st for the entire next year. We take the numbers you reported in February, via the OHA Annual Information Report, and then in September, we invoice all the Societies/Clubs to reimburse the OHA for those associated insurance fees.

The officers and the board are working hard on your behalf, and as was recently announced by Minister Hardeman of OMAFRA, your grants for 2020 will be dependent on your 2019 membership numbers and your expenses. There are still some societies that have grant money waiting to be accepted from OMAFRA, but the society has not registered. Please do so ASAP. We will update you when and if any other news comes forward.

Take care and stay safe,

Katharine Smyth

Katharine Smyth,
President, Ontario Horticultural Association
Keeping Ontario Beautiful™



My garden as captured by Joy Davis

Orangeville and District Horticultural Society Celebrates its 50th Anniversary

By Vivian Petho, Archivist

During this year, our world has seemingly changed overnight. At the beginning of 2020, the board members of Orangeville and District were eagerly working on our 50th Anniversary preparations. The space was reserved, the speakers and caterer were booked and a slide show had been prepared. We were so excited to share our celebration with District 7 at our AGM on April 18, 2020. Then COVID-19 cancelled all events and we had to put aside all our plans until 2021. In a time to pause and reflect, we look optimistically to the future, and share our history here instead.

On April 20th, 1970, The Orangeville and District Horticultural Society was founded with a gathering of 60 people. Our Board of Directors was sworn in, and we set out to enhance the horticulture of Orangeville and the surrounding area. Our current Horticultural Society is a reflection of our rich history. Newspaper records show that Orangeville had a Horticultural Society as early as 1874. That early society was responsible for planting nearly 200 trees throughout the town of Orangeville, many of which still stand resplendent today. As a result of World War One and Two and the difficult times, the early society was disbanded in 1914,

revived for a few years and finally closed in 1936.

In 1970, our current Society reached into the community to seek new members. One of the first projects was to beautify the Dufferin Hospital by pruning shrubs, planting new flowerbeds and flowering crab apple trees. Over the next decade, our members began tending beds at the Firehall, Hospital, Legion, Orangeville District Secondary School, and the Train Station. By the end of the first decade, we even participated in the Santa Claus Parade.

During the next decade, we continued to grow and flourish. We celebrated our 10th Anniversary in 1980. That same fall, to coincide with Dufferin County's Centennial for the next year, we planted over 600 tulips and daffodils for our county. In these years, we had wonderful flower shows and our Annual Plant Sale. We even reached a membership of 230 people. Our monthly meetings had approximately 100 people meeting at the local Tweedsmuir Church.

Going strong into our third decade, the 1990's brought us more involvement and connection with our community. We hosted a three-day Flower Show in Orangeville Mall. We also began a garden bed in



Crab Apple Trees



Flower Show at Orangeville Mall

Greenwood Cemetery. In the 1990's, we also began our famous 'Open Garden Tours' where we invited the community to visit our private gardens. We also planted a new garden at Kay Cee Gardens. In celebration of our 25th Anniversary in 1995, we planted a maple tree and presented two benches to be installed outside the newly renovated Orangeville Town Hall. We also moved to a new meeting place, the Seniors Centre. In 1996, we adopted our current motto "Gardens are for Sharing."



Kay Cee Gardens



Plant Sale

In our fourth decade and the new millennium, we saw many changes to our Society. Our flower shows continued and our plant sale was still a popular event. In 2009, the George Douglas Trail opened, honouring one of our late members.

As we moved into our fifth decade, we entered the online realm, with our website going online in 2011. Other changes included a new yearbook editor and photographer. In 2017, we helped celebrate Canada's 150th Anniversary with a tribute at our Greenwood garden bed. In 2018, our garden bed at C-Line Public Works won the OHA "Pollinator Garden" Award. Our Annual Plant sale, still going strong, has moved to the Hockley Holding Garden.

Now, in 2020, we did not let COVID-19 deter our efforts in our community. We have taken on one more set of garden beds at Orangeville Hydro. That brings the count to 11 gardens that we maintain for our Town: Alexandra Park, Orangeville District Secondary School, Greenwood Cemetery, Seniors Centre, Kay Cee Gardens, C-Line Public Works, Firehall, Police Station, Centre Street Community Garden, Alder Recreation Centre and Hydro garden beds. Our "Gardening Angels" keep all these gardens looking their best!

Despite the difficult times, our Society has joined Instagram and still managed to have a 'socially-distant' plant sale amongst our membership.

After fifty years, we continue to tend our gardens and look forward to the future. As the seasons and the times change, the Orangeville and District Horticultural Society remains committed to our motto,

"Gardens are for Sharing."



Greenwood 150 tribute

Gananoque Horticultural Society

100th Anniversary

by Joan MacKinnon and Penny Stewart

Our year of celebrations was well planned out with a range of exciting events. We started with a kickoff Potluck Dinner in early January. It was a huge success with beautifully decorated tables featuring white and gold floral arrangements. We managed to locate all 14 living Past Presidents, 11 of whom were able to attend, along with local dignitaries. Our President and the D3 Director did the honours of cutting a petunia-shaped cake.



Past Presidents



Cake cutting: Elaine Collins and Sue Carew

February and March were busy months of putting final touches on events and publicity for our anniversary. Historical displays were prepared and placed in the local library and in the 1000 Islands Museum. Then Covid-19 hit, a pandemic of epic proportions that was not on our events list! Covid-19 cancelled meetings, the 100th Anniversary quilt raffle, plant sale, and garden tours. All our plans gone by the wayside! It was very discouraging, but the Board rallied. Technology became more important. The Board adapted to Zoom, and we made new plans based on what we could safely do for our members and the public.

Facebook has been a good way to reach out. Starting on April 10, one hundred years to the day after the formation of the Society, our in-house historian, Joan MacKinnon, began posting an entry every day on our Facebook page, titled '100 Days for 100 Years'. Joan scoured archives, libraries, museums and old newspapers and searched out relatives of our first presidents to find something about the Society that related to each year we have been in existence. We all enjoyed seeing a wide range of articles, photos, and learning interesting facts about the Society.

Our society can boast having a 100-year-old member Kay Garland. She was born on April 24, 1920 just 14 days after our start. She donated a beautiful handmade afghan to our raffle and enjoys coming out to meetings. Her enthusiasm is something for all members to strive for.



Kay Garland at Potluck

Our central garden in Gananoque Horticultural Society Park featured 100 'White Marvel' tulips that spelled out '100' in the centre of 300 pink 'Pretty Princess' tulips. The '100' could be seen for several weeks in May.

Our Virtual Flower Shows and Virtual Garden Tours have been a huge hit, with many positive comments. We have been able to keep our Horticultural Park looking attractive with small groups of two or three volunteers socially distancing while weeding and planting. Our Park, donated to the Society in 1924, is a real gem in Gananoque, and just keeps getting better and better each year.

Our Petunia Town challenge went out to the public. Petunias are our floral emblem and also the emblem of the Town. We challenged all to plant their front gardens and planters with petunias of any color or variety. We will be presenting 24 Petunia Town awards, 8 each month, with the first 8 awarded for July. The Town has planted all its downtown planters, Town Hall gardens and many other gardens with Surpentina Vista Bubblegum and Vista Pink petunias. They look spectacular.

*"Ever Growing
Ever Blooming"*

We will finish off this 100th year with more online garden related videos presented by our talented members. It is not as much fun as getting together face to face but much safer and, in the long run, may prove to be part of the way we communicate with our members. We have had an exciting first 100 years, topped off with the challenge of 2020. Our plan is to hold all our great events in 2021 for our 101st Anniversary.



Award winners Lucille and Chris Mac Donald



Petunias, Gananoque Horticultural Society Park



Town Hall gardens



Tulips at the park

Manotick Horticultural Society

90th Anniversary

Catherine Langtry, Photos by Catherine Langtry



Greetings from that little island in the river known as Manotick!

In spite of our challenges with Covid-19, our Horticultural Society has had a pretty busy time of it. We are 90 years young this year and we had planned various activities to celebrate, but alas, the restrictions on crowd gatherings put an end to some of those. So we got creative. Instead of our annual plant sale at Watson's Mill which attracts hundreds of shoppers each year, we held a virtual plant sale for our members only. We drew up charts of the plants that we wanted to sell and who had them and our members contacted each other. Then they showed up at the seller's house at an appointed time to observe safe distancing and either dug up the plants themselves or helped the seller do it. And we made almost as much money doing it this way as we did last year at Watson's Mill, close to \$3000!

We had garden tours of 3 of our members' gardens.

Since most of the gardens are large out here, we could accommodate 9 people at a time for 20 minutes each. We spaced visits over 3 days and three shifts per day and the turnout went beyond our expectations. The members were happy to get out and visit a bit and see some beautiful flowers as well. The society had some aprons made up by 4 Imprint to celebrate our 90th anniversary and we sold them to members who wanted one.

Going forward, we will be Zooming and taping our meetings in the fall and will have guest speakers.

Our members have been busy sprucing up our community gardens and making them look beautiful. We have been so excited about the tech craze we had QR logos made up and we adhered them to our signs. Now people can take a picture of the QR logo and learn about our wonderful, active society.

Happy gardening everyone. Stay well and stay safe.

"By all these lovely tokens September days are here, with summer's best of weather and autumn's best of cheer." – Helen Hunt Jackson

Waterloo Horticultural Society

125th Anniversary

by Kathy Pearson and Heather Kelly

When our Annual General Meeting rolled around in January 2020, we were excited to celebrate our 125th Anniversary. The year kicked off with a guest speaker, Libby Walker from our local museum, giving us an overview of what Waterloo looked like in the year of our founding. Libby also outlined the prominent citizens who were instrumental in organizing our group. In February, we continued the theme, hearing from Bob Wildfong of the Ken Seiling Waterloo Region Museum on what gardening was like in 1895. After these historical glimpses, we were looking forward to meeting in March when we got the news that our region, and indeed all of Ontario, was in a lockdown due to COVID-19; a few hastily arranged meetings were held via Zoom, a technology that was unknown to us less than six months ago and now sees daily usage for many. As the reality of the situation sunk in, that it was going to last for months and not weeks, our society rallied and we asked ourselves what we could do to keep the membership engaged. Many of our discussions centered around what the term 'membership' actually meant. We felt that there was a sense of belonging within our group and hoped that our members would support us through this time by renewing their memberships and interacting with us electronically.

For several years, we had been using the MailChimp email service to send out our newsletter "The Seed", as well as meeting reminders. After a few brainstorming sessions with our communications team and the Board, a new email newsletter we called WGWG was born. "Waterloo Gardeners Weekly Greetings"

was quickly accepted by our members, and a call for them to participate by sending photos and stories was answered. We are now on our 18th edition and going strong. We've run photo contests, giveaways, and are currently finishing up an 8-week online flower and vegetable competition. We have been using Facebook and Instagram to engage with members, offering local content, fun posts and interactive surveys. As spring approached, we noticed that many new gardeners were appearing on social media with lots of "how to" questions. The city handed out some free seed kits to homeowners and asked if we would be interested in participating in a city-led neighbourhood newsletter. To date, we have written six articles on various garden topics. Our YouTube channel was initially used to offer garden tips for community gardeners and now we are making videos of members' gardens to take the place of our usual garden tours. As we are waiting to resume in-person meetings, our online work is continuing and we are planning to make it possible for members to enjoy our speakers' presentations via a link from the WG website. Plans are in the works to increase the content on our website by adding quizzes, recipe books, tutorials, and blog posts. We have held many discussions on what future gatherings of our society will look like, and have reflected on the fact that since we were founded in 1895, the Waterloo Horticultural Society has survived two world wars and now two pandemics. Our plan is to keep going, with no doubt that we will adapt to whatever comes our way. We send best wishes to our fellow Garden Ontario societies and wish you all a safe return to your activities.

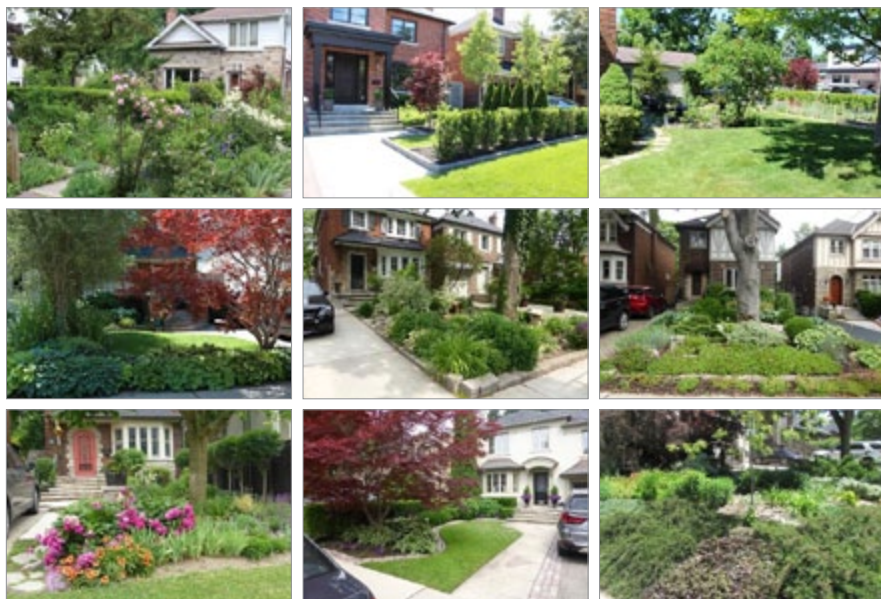


Use coffee grounds to discourage slugs that are destroying your hosta leaves.

Leaside Garden Society

"Gardens of Distinction" Recognized in Leaside

Submitted by Nora Campbell, Written by Jim Hartley, Photos taken by members of the LGS



Nine front gardens in Leaside and Bennington Heights are the recipients of the Leaside Garden Society 2020 "Gardens of Distinction" awards. These awards are a tribute to the loving care that Leasiders provide to create interesting, beautiful, and welcoming gardens that all can enjoy.

This year's Gardens of Distinction were selected by a seven-member volunteer committee of the Leaside Garden Society who travelled the streets of Leaside and Bennington Heights looking for especially interesting and attractive gardens.

"We were not about to allow a virus to forego spotting the beauty of the Leaside and Bennington Heights communities."

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

OMAFRA Grants

Charles Freeman, Vice President, Ontario Horticultural Association

Once the COVID-19 pandemic and all of the issues that are associated with it came into our lives, the Officers have been actively attempting to seek funding and/or concessions from the government in order to assist the OHA as an Association and also all of the Societies/Clubs. There have been numerous telephone calls and emails back and forth. So far, we have had some success in achieving a degree of financial remedy for the Societies/Clubs.

OMAFRA Minister, Ernie Hardeman has considered and approved one of our requests. He has issued instructions to Ministry staff that for the Annual Report to OMAFRA due in January of 2021, Societies/Clubs should use their 2019 membership numbers. This concession will mean that of the 79 Societies/Clubs that stood to lose their grant monies, none would lose the funding based on membership numbers. This information was sent to all Societies/Clubs and unfortunately, some believed that the grant questions were now closed. This is only the first half of the

solution to the problems associated with the grants. There still remains the fact that grants are determined as per the legislation and part of the process also includes an accounting of eligible expenses in order to substantiate the grant amount. Basically, a Society/Club currently requires \$2,000.00 of eligible expenses in order to receive a \$1,000.00 grant and \$3,000.00 of expenses to receive a \$1,500.00 grant. The OHA has requested consideration that the Minister orders that this financial evaluation portion of the grant application be done away with for the 2021 Annual Report. This question is currently in the hands of the Minister for his consideration and although I am told that our request to eliminate the eligible expenses as part of the determination for the grant for 2021 should yield a positive result, there has been no announcement from the Minister.

We hope to have positive news in the near future but as it is with those seeds we plant, we have to be patient and wait.

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

OMAFRA Grants

NOTE: OHA SOCIETY EXECUTIVES:

Please make sure you are registered with OMAFRA to receive your annual OMAFRA grant. If you received your OMAFRA grant this year you are registered with OMAFRA.

To receive your grant for 2020 you may use your 2019 membership numbers but you also have to follow the stipulations for expenses as is described in the following document.

Please be patient as hopefully there will be more information to come from OMAFRA.

OMAFRA Grant Criteria

- maintain a membership of at least 50 (or 25 in Northern Ontario).
- have proof of eligible expenditures of horticultural-related activities.
- submit an audited financial statement and a list of incoming executive officers and directors by February 3, 2021.

Eligible Grant Expenses	Non-Eligible Expenses
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meetings on theory and practice of horticulture• Planting of trees, shrubs, and flowers• Field trips, contests, competitions, and exhibitions related to horticulture• Distribution of seeds, plants, bulbs, flowers, trees, and shrubs• Promotion of the environment• Promotion of horticultural information through the media• Promotion of therapeutic horticulture• Promotion of stimulating interest in horticulture• Membership Fees• Insurance• Hall Rentals for meetings• Office Supplies• Travel and Meal Expenses (must follow OPS travel directive guidelines)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Food expenses both for meetings and for events• Alcohol or Bar expenses• Parade Floats• Wreaths• Recognition Awards• Honorariums• Donations• Bank Fees• Purchasing of capital assets• Subscriptions• Yearbooks

Please note: These expenses must be visible and identified on your financial statements; provide a separate breakdown of these expenses if necessary.

MAXIMUM ELIGIBLE GRANT

50% of total eligible expenses incurred and will not exceed Maximum Grant Levels based on number of voting members as outlined below.

Number of Voting Members (18 years and over)	Maximum Grant Level
200 or more members AND eligible expenses are over \$3,000.00	\$1,500.00
50 - 199 members (25 - 199 members in Northern Ontario) AND eligible expenses are over \$2,000.00	\$1,000.00
49 members or less (24 members or less in Northern Ontario)	Not eligible



Coping with COVID-19

From Charles Freeman, Vice President,

As we all deal with the COVID-19 pandemic, the OHA was asked by the producers at Zoomer Radio for a submission to be read; this letter was sent to Zoomer Radio for inclusion in one of their programs which air every Saturday.

People have been asking since around the end of June, "How is the Ontario Horticultural Association doing?". I am happy to say, that overall, our 276 Societies/Clubs with a 27,000 plus membership count is doing pretty good, all things considered.

As I look back on all of the emails and questions asking how the Societies/Clubs could or can still do what they love to do, it became very obvious that many were and are experiencing difficult times. The membership has always done those tedious tasks of cleaning and maintaining Municipal gardens, looked after the gardens at Seniors Residences, held a myriad of activities all of which help their respective communities look better and allow the population to have pride in their locale, just to name a few. Being told that many of the activities had to be suspended or so drastically changed to conform with the Health Guidelines and needs of the day, caused the membership great angst.

Right from the start, the membership was experiencing the anguish of not only being told they could not do those things they love to do but also understanding that they could not. The pressure was extensive and the demand to do something to contribute was constantly growing.

In response to all of the negatives, many Societies/Clubs found new and innovative ways to carry on during the troubling times. They held virtual plant sales with curb-side pick-up, once allowed; they simply found ways to still get those gardens cleaned and showy, they did what they could do in ways that they had never contemplated and all while still respecting the Health Guidelines. They became inventive and it worked.

Many of the membership found all of the restrictions that combating the spread of this hideous disease required, very trying. The loss of face-to-face meetings, getting together to clean gardens, meeting the public at plant sales and so many other activities took its toll. In response, the membership, by and large took it

upon itself to look after itself and the Societies/Clubs found safe ways to get together and interact. They held virtual meetings; they held virtual garden tours, flower shows and educational and informative sessions with guest speakers.

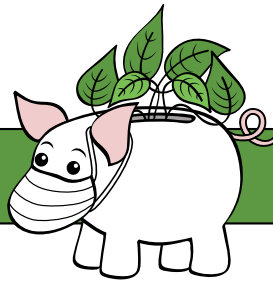
Are there long-lasting negative effects from this pandemic? Yes, of course there are. The financial losses that all of the Societies/Clubs have suffered will affect how they can contribute in the future to their communities but having seen what they have done so far to off-set the other negative effects, I am sure that all will find unique ways to manage and continue contributing.

I am a bit of a movie buff and do like to find lines in movies that reflect upon the day's situation. In the movie *The Hunt For Red October*, there is a line at the very end of this movie which I believe is reflective of the situation that the OHA, as a whole, finds itself. As Jack Ryan and Captain Ramius discuss their lives and the things that have influenced them, Ryan ends with, "Welcome to the new world". Yes, it is a new world and as a bit of a plug, please check gardenontario.org and see how the OHA has adjusted so well to the new normal and consider joining a Society/Club near you. The camaraderie and learning experience knows no bounds.

Charles Freeman
Vice President
Ontario Horticultural Association



*Charles Freeman
OHA Vice President*



In this special section, the officers and executives of the OHA, along with the District Directors and executives, highlight the efforts and successes of the Horticultural Societies and Garden Clubs throughout the province.

OHA District 15

COVID IDEAS - SUMMARY

Barbara O'Malley, District 15 Director

Plant Sales

- Fall Plant Sale scheduled for Sept. 12. If community centre not available, smaller sale, possibly for members only, will be held at another location.
- Held mini plant sales for members only, in 3 members' driveways.
- Notice put in newsletter of members who had plants that had been prepared for the Spring Plant Sale. Members could pick up from driveways, and make a donation to the society.
- Scaled down members and friends plant sale. Those who had plants sent lists to coordinator, who created a master list and sent out to all members. Those interested emailed the coordinator, first come, first served. Donated plants were picked up, containers sanitized, and then purchasers were given a specific date and time for pick up, all done safely.
- Members and friends only Plant Sale, from one member's driveway. Plants were held over winter for spring plant sale. List of plants available sent out to all members, who then emailed their orders back. Arrangements were made for specific times to pick up plants from one member's driveway, with social distancing, masks, etc. Money collected was donated to the local Food Bank.

Garden Tours

- Garden Tour cancelled so members took photos and videos of great gardens in the city and will be presented as a "virtual garden tour" on website and Facebook.
- Some members have opened up their gardens and invited other members to come and enjoy.
- Virtual garden tour created by members, as part of the online meeting.

Community Work/Participation

- Will participate in a rummage sale in conjunction with a heritage house in September.
- Will participate in the Terry Fox Run for 6th year, virtually. The team will walk in their area.
- Carried out the Front Garden Recognition program with 8 teams of 2 members each, visiting different sections of the city, and placing 300+ signs.
- Have been able to clean up and maintain all their civic improvement projects, once approval was received from the regions.
- With city's permission, installed flower boxes on city street, did clean ups in two community gardens. Took pictures and posted on Facebook page.
- Online session in conjunction with city library that replaced a Seedy Saturday.
- Participated in city event by judging short-listed gardens.
- Community gardens are being maintained with two members at a time participating.

Communication

(Most societies continued to send out newsletters, as usual.)

- The board established a telephone committee to connect with all members to see how they were coping with Covid-19, and to let them know about society plans. Will do the same again in the fall.
- Mark Cullen's newsletter sent out to members in place of society newsletter.
- Monthly email called "outings of interest to gardeners".
- New Instagram account with pictures.
- Monthly newsletters with other bits of information in between.
- Started new short emails to members with updates and information on the society.
- Monthly newsletter, with a section called "What's Blooming?", where members send in pictures of the plants in bloom in their gardens.
- Members have shared photos of their gardens and flower arrangements.

Competitions – Flower Shows/Photo Contest

- Monthly virtual flower shows, members submit photos of specific flowers.
- Tried a virtual flower show but not much response.
- Held an online photography competition – Front Yard, Back Yard, & Isolation. Got 60+ entries.

Virtual Meetings

(Several societies holding board meetings on Zoom.)

- Using Zoom for board meetings and member meetings.

- Monthly meetings being held on Zoom, and then posted on the website for everyone to view.

Other

- Seed packets and seedlings left over from society table at a local Seedy Saturday were listed in the newsletter. Members called or emailed their orders, and packages were left outside the President's door for contactless pickup. No charge for this, but members were asked to donate any excess produce from the seeds to the local food bank.

District 18

Nancy Thompson, Secretary District 18

Baysville set up a new Facebook page called "Blooming Baysville" for gardeners to post pictures of their plants and gardens. They also posted their Spring and Summer Flower Show categories. There were no prizes awarded but there were many positive comments.

Magnetawan is planning to use an open-air pavilion for their September meeting, complete with masks, social distancing, and a speaker. They held a pumpkin growing contest and plan to give every child an award at the meeting. Magnetawan also held an online plant sale and gave proceeds to the local Lions Club for community works. They keep members up-to-date by email and telephone calls and pass on links to interesting gardening sites.

Bracebridge sent out 'Thinking of You' cards containing a tea bag and a package of seeds to each member. They asked that pictures be taken of the harvest and a report be made in September. Bracebridge has sent a number of Jacquie Lawson greeting cards by email to members throughout the last few months as well as several chatty newsletters about what is happening to whom. A telephone tree

has helped members keep in touch and let us know if anyone needs help.

North Bay has found that many of their members do not use Facebook but they are encouraging all to use the personal pages. They are investigating sites for their September meeting with a Q&A session and meet & greet whilst following all Health Unit directives.

Hunstville held a plant exchange between members using emailed particulars of plants available or plants wanted. A successful "Google Meet" presentation was hosted by a speaker in the spring. A monthly update is emailed including links to articles or videos of interest to members. There have been regular posts on their Facebook page. Outside beautification projects have continued with some minor modifications.

Maureen Ranger shared this info with us. TALK2NICE, a free, support service to connect older adults, by phone to social workers for friendly check-ins. Available weekdays 10 – 10. Call 1-844-529-7292 or try <http://www.nicenet.ca/talk2nice>.

District 18 has a sporadic District Newsletter which tries to keep Societies in touch with each other.

We realize this can be a lonely, depressing and even scary time for some. Gardening, even if only a flowerpot on the windowsill, can help us keep in touch with Nature and give us some sense of normalcy.

This too shall pass so keep smiling and hang in there.



District 3

Susan Carew, Director District 3

Like those of so many other Districts, our Societies/Clubs have had a very challenging year. All of our Executive Boards have gone to extraordinary measures to stay in touch with their members, engage members and maintain their presence in their communities. We have reached out with Facebook groups, newsletters, regular emails, and phone calls. With social distancing measures and hygiene protocols in place, we have continued to plant and maintain our civic and societal gardens in our communities, to uplift our citizens and beautify our neighbourhoods. A few Societies/Clubs have had online meetings using Zoom or other platforms.

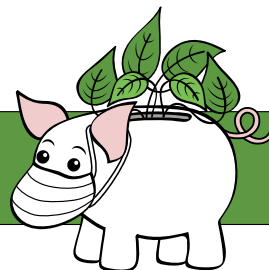
We have shared ideas amongst ourselves and are happy to share with all of our gardening colleagues throughout the province.

A few of our Societies/Clubs held modified plant sales this spring. Some had members order available plants and seedlings online with timed, touchless, curb-side pickups being arranged. In Stirling, two separate members held sales from their homes with plants started in their greenhouses and dug from gardens. Pickup and payment were with social distancing and safety precautions in place. This gave an opportunity for Society members to add to their own gardens and flowerbeds. The proceeds from these two sales went to the local hospital foundation and to a church. Some groups exchanged plants by communicating through their Facebook page. Other Societies/Clubs used their profits to add to their group's coffers. In Gananoque, some members dug up plants from their gardens and sold them to friends with the funds going to the Society. Gardening Kingston held a mini plant sale for members only. See the Summer Edition of the Trillium to read about the plant sale of the Trenton Horticultural Society and Garden Club!

Brockville & District HS volunteers put up a window display in a vacant Brockville storefront downtown, to help sustain their presence in the community. This was a win-win for all!

Trenton HS & GC and Stirling & District Horticultural Society held members' garden tours in midsummer,

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with all safety procedures in place. A few members from each group offered access to their home gardens. Civic and community gardens were also visited and appreciated by those who felt comfortable with these events. Gananoque Horticultural Society members are doing virtual tours and posting them on YouTube. Bath Gardening Club & Horticultural Society offered members a garden tour in place of their usual summer social event.

Gananoque had a virtual flower show over 4 weeks in June on Facebook and planned another for August/September. Brockville changed the guidelines for two floral design competitions and had members submit digital photos, with arrangements for voting online.

Lennox & Addington Horticultural Society has planned a photography show to be judged this fall, and Stirling & District has a show planned for September. Ameliasburgh Garden Club and Lennox & Addington members have sent links to various garden videos or websites and other items that might be of interest to their membership, passed on in their monthly emails.

As a special anniversary gift, the Brockville & District HS purchased a Japanese iris (their floral emblem) for each membership and their Board members played delivery-persons. The overall response was very positive and appreciated by all.

Societies/Clubs are finding new venues for their fall meetings. Lennox & Addington is going to hold their September meeting on the grounds of the Napanee Public Library.

Trenton is planning on holding their Four Ps Auction in their President's backyard, with all health and safety protocols in place. This should be a fun evening of live and silent auction bidding for plants, pies, pickles and preserves donated by their members.

Some other groups are looking for larger venues to accommodate their members inside, as our usual locations are not available.

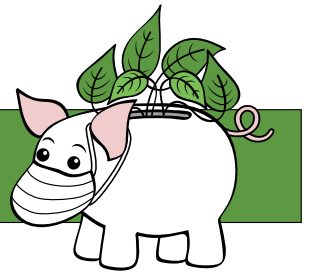
Some Societies/Clubs anticipate mini fall plant sales for members.

All in all, we are trying to keep our members engaged while being careful to stay safe!

District 4

Patty Carlson, District 4 Director

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BOBCAYGEON

Members practice social distancing while planting the beds the society looks after. Our executive meetings were held via ZOOM. We are keeping in touch with our members by providing them with any news or ideas coming down the pipeline. Asking for volunteers to help plant, weed and water town gardens. All paid up membership fees will be carried over for 2021. In September, we will be having a plant sale in the local farmers' market.

BRIGHTON

We do pass on information about local growers/nurseries opening up and also forward articles of interest such as "National Bee Day" in May. Our speaker for May should have been Paul LaPorte who had planned to bring plants to sell as he did a couple of years ago. He offered to provide his plant list for members to order on condition that only one order was submitted for the Society. He delivered them to the President's home and then, once they were sorted into marked boxes or flats, the participating members picked up (and paid for) their plants.

CAMPBELLFORD

Meetings and most activities have been cancelled until September. We have permission (signed letter) from the Municipality to do the municipal gardens. Members wear masks, distance themselves and maintain all rules set out by the Municipality and Province. Three or four members set up shop at one person's lawn, following protocols and posted signage to share and sell plants.

We are working on virtual tours of gardens and reducing membership costs to entice new and existing members.

We have a new website and email address which has been reaching out to members.

COBOURG

Our last board meeting was held on February 20th. Our last general meeting was held in early March. In April, a President's Message was sent through our membership chair, via email, that we would be cancelling most events planned in the upcoming months, through to the fall. The building we used for our general meetings would be closed.

Members were told to check the website and their emails for any change in events. Our Plant Sale would not be conducted as it had been in the past, but would perhaps attempt to do sales in driveways. Our chair for that event did a phenomenal job of organizing hosts for the driveway sales, which happened over a two-week period. We asked for folks to respect social distancing, hand washing and had signs expressing this at the hosts' driveways. Individuals could check email for where to find plants they may be looking for. Different people had various times for their sales, so members needed to check prior to heading out.

Our community garden has been tended to through our chair person, as she has slotted in the names of folks to weed, water and maintain the plants, abiding by municipal and provincial guidelines.

CRAMAHE

As far as activities are concerned, we are basically closed down until Sept. although some individual members are now tending the Eco Garden (minding all social distancing rules).

We have also launched an online plant swap between members.

ENNISMORE

Our Ennismore Garden Club has cancelled all our meetings. Directors meetings have been with zoom and our special War Memorial Cairn has been put on hold until September. We miss our monthly meetings and the camaraderie with our members. Our membership is down slightly. We have set up e-transfers for members to pay their dues with no physical contact. We have planted and weeded our gardens while respecting social distancing. We were able to do our Road Clean up in April as usual.

I send out a monthly email of what was covered at our Board Meeting to keep members engaged, we do Facebook posts, updates and a coronavirus project page. Many of our members are doing great garden projects at home and vegetable gardening has seen a real resurgence.

We have six Club Gardens in our Ennismore Community and as they unfold with their spring beauty and leading into summer grandeur – the community still knows we are active and working around town.

GRAFTON

Held a Skype board meeting in May. We had an interesting virtual Spring Flower Show with a good number of exhibitors. At two residences, our plant sale was held on a Saturday in June advertised to our membership and on Facebook which raised some money. Meetings have been cancelled until September.

LAKEFIELD

Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, our Society has cancelled all meetings, bus tours, flower shows and member picnics for April, May, June, July and August. We will decide whether to hold our September meeting when further guidelines come from the government. We had a virtual meeting in May to make these decisions.

Normally we put together a large plant sale for the Victoria Day weekend. This is our main source of fundraising for the year. We decided to try a reduced plant sale this year. A few members divided and potted perennials on their own and a list was generated of the plants that would be available for sale to members to order for a driveway pickup. Our president took orders, potted plants were assembled in a member's garden and a few of us worked (keeping social distancing in mind) to compile the orders for pickup. Orders were picked up last week. We are delighted to say that we raised a large sum of money through this "reduced" venture.

With the township's permission, we are going ahead with planting in the municipal gardens using a skeleton staff. A different member each week will be in charge of watering and maintaining these gardens over the summer. The township has agreed to maintain and water daily, the hanging baskets in town. We continue to send out a monthly newsletter, mostly dealing with cancellations and updates on local nurseries.

LINDSAY

Lindsay & District has cancelled all events and meetings. As things ease up, we are hoping for a fall plant sale and yard sale (possibly). Board members are keeping in touch with each other through email or phone calls. For members, another email is sent to share gardening tips, pictures, growing our own food, encouragement, sending links to useful sites, plus using our Facebook page. Meetings will resume in September if the facilities we use become available to us.

NORLAND

We are having Zoom meetings which have been quite effective. We have cancelled most of our events. We have received our plant order and most of our

gardens are planted. We checked with the City before proceeding and were advised as long as we met the criteria for social distancing etc., we were okay to proceed. Check out our web page to see our new additions and gardens.

NORWOOD

Have been keeping in touch with our members by:

1. A monthly newsletter
2. Board of Directors met via Zoom
3. Members met June 9 via Zoom for a show and tell about plants, questions regarding insects, etc.
4. Small plant sale in the president's driveway by appointment or the plants are delivered to the buyer's driveway. There may be a fall plant sale if things open up.
5. Planting of the 23 town barrels and 5 planters by having a person set the plants beside the barrels, each individual was assigned the pots they were to plant, then a person watered. It was well organized. Some people had face masks and everyone had their own tools. The barrels were topped up and fertilizer added the week before.
6. Groups of two have been taking turns weeding and watering the pollinator garden and communicating via email.
7. Email was used to arrange a social distancing meeting to install the rain barrels at the pollinator garden. Everyone had masks on.
8. A suggestion was made to video tape members gardens and post them to our Facebook and OHA Norwood Website.
9. We held a social distance Board Meeting outside.
10. September's speaker is going to be contacted to see if she can do her presentation on Zoom.

OMEMEE

We were able to hold our first meeting in Feb. but all other meetings have been cancelled (3 months at a time) now until at least Sept. We will re-evaluate again at that time.

We held a virtual sale on the weekend of May 21 to 24. Members sent a list of the plants that they had to donate to the member in charge. She then compiled a Master List and sent it out to our members. It was also posted on our Facebook page and on the Omeme Bridge Facebook page. Each group of plants had a phone number linking to whose house it was being sold at. The plants were spread out at 3 houses close in location. People wishing to purchase a plant phoned the corresponding number and booked a time to safely pick up their plant(s). This was all done one seller, one person picking up. This procedure worked well.

At the end of the weekend, all remaining plants were moved to one location in a central spot with lots of foot traffic. A new list of the remaining plants was then compiled and a few members donated new plants. This time, the plants were spread out over a large driveway. Again, there were some reservations by phone (and arranged safe pickup times). We also had our plant sale signs on the lawn and we aimed at the local foot traffic as our market. This time, we worked and stressed using social distancing between the 2 members selling and those buying. Everyone was very considerate and safety was never a problem. We rarely had more than one customer/family buying plants at a time. We then had a closing out sale. Buy one, get one free. Again, this was advertised by email to members, and on Facebook sites. By Sunday noon – we were sold out. We are still receiving requests and if a member can provide the needed plant, we dig it up and the money slowly trickles in.

As well as our plant sale in the village – one member near Fowlers Corners, (using word of mouth) sold

plants from her garden to friends and neighbours with proceeds going to our club. Another member who lives in Peterborough took some of our excess plants (the ones we had lots of or were slow moving) to her home and sold them from her front lawn. Both raised several hundred dollars on their own.

Omeme planned our first annual Scarecrow Festival for Sept. 26, 2020. Members and other residents will put scarecrows on their lawns or in windows and people can drive through to safely view the festive fall decor.

PETERBOROUGH

All meetings and activities are cancelled until September.

PORT HOPE

We have cancelled everything until August and will reassess our Annual Picnic much closer to the date. We have sent a few newsletters. Our tree planting project has gone ahead.

District 7

Kathy Bouma, District 7 Director

Like many other Societies, we are staying in contact by holding video conference board meetings through Zoom and other like services.

Special activities that have taken place by societies in our District are:

- Back yard social distancing evening get-together in a member's garden. Lawn chairs and coffee mugs were all brought by each member. Coffee was served and only one person handled the milk and sugar.
- Plant sale was held with members only as the Society has a holding area where plants are put into the ground. Members could go to this holding area and dig out what they wished to buy and deposit the money into a container onsite. This alleviated having to organize volunteers for the plant sale and money was made but, of course, it did not include the public and no awareness of a Horticultural Society in the community.
- A plant sale was held by a different Society but you had to make an appointment to go to the site (member's property who also grows and starts many plants). Available plants for sale were shown on the Society website so people could see what they were and plan ahead.
- Another Society does their community work in the gardens and then meets for coffee in the downtown closed-off area at picnic tables – keeping their social distance at 4 per picnic table.
- One Society is planning to have a Flower show on Zoom. It has not happened yet so not sure how it will work out. It will probably end up being more a show and tell.



District 5

Cindy Scythes, Director District 5

Society Activities 2020:

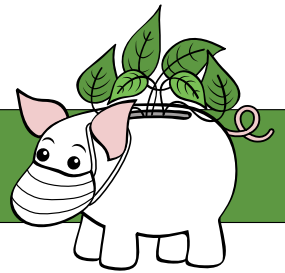
- Able to continue outreach by looking after indoor plants at a local historical house and at a therapeutic garden at a seniors' day program in town
- All board meetings via email
- Send out a 'president's message' to the membership on each day that would have been our meeting and try to include something of interest
- Seminars/speakers with help from the Library for use of Zoom
- YouTube videos 2020, at-home flower show
- Video of garden tour

Online Plant Sale

Here is how it works: people email in their requests from the plant list. The treasurer sends out an invoice and lets the sellers of the plants know that they have an order. The sellers then get in contact with the buyers and arrange a curbside pickup. Pots are wiped down and placed in a quarantine area to ensure safety. Buyers pay via e-transfer or mail a cheque. Some people love it so much they would like us to do it this way every year.

- Photos voted on by our board and the winners featured on our website, Facebook and Instagram pages.
- **Monthly Photo Contests** with members voting by email for their favourite submission. Close to fifty members regularly participate, choosing among the more than a dozen submissions. The theme is always circulated ahead of time and has varied between Spring Flowers & Shrubs to the upcoming June bugs. In April, we created a Facebook page for club members. Close to fifty members participate, offering advice, posting pictures of their gardens, or offering plants.
- Online Club meeting, speaker, Zoom Chat, Questions and Answers were streamed.
- Email blasts to members with news and updates.
- Members regularly send around photos of their garden notables via e-mail.

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- **Virtual Tour:** a virtual tour of various members' gardens. A slide show with music last part of July to give gardens a chance to perform.
- Continue planting and maintaining the gardens around the Library.

The Canoe Project

With the help of an OHA Pollinator Grant, and following the David Suzuki Butterfly project, a canoe and the area surrounding the canoe were planted with perennials. This project also was granted the designation of Wildlife Friendly Habitat by the Canadian Wildlife Federation.



Photo by Rick Hutchings

Gardens of Distinction Awards

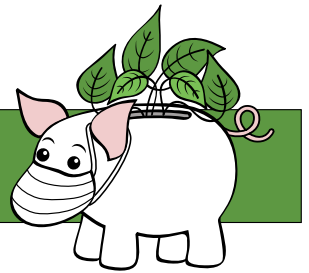
A team of volunteers chose eight front yards for this recognition.

- Work on a couple of City allotment plots benefitting forty registered needy families with the church around the corner. Plus planting veggies at one plot at the Campbell Farm and the other at the Community Gardens next door. Our Society also looks after the very long border at the Campbell Farm.

District 14

Sandra Mazur, District 14 Director

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What is happening in District 14 despite Covid!

DRYDEN SOCIETY was still able to hold their plant sale this year by having everything prepriced and organized. An entrance and separate exit were identified along with social distancing and masks being required. They have meetings planned with masks required as well as social distancing. Each member brings their own beverage to a meeting should they want one. Dryden continued to plant and care for their community gardens and even took on the rebuild of a large garden plot along the highway.

FORT FRANCES SOCIETY has not been able to hold a meeting this year as they meet in a seniors centre and it remains closed and at the present time there are no plans to open. It closed before they got to hold their start up meeting for the year. Also with the majority of their members being vulnerable seniors and the space they hold their plant sale not being large enough to accommodate the requirements of social distancing along with a separate entrance and exit, they couldn't hold their sale this summer. However, they've kept in touch with newsletters and the President has sent out best wishes and birthday cards to members. The city decided not to plant their normal gardens this year, however they did the library garden and supplied seeds for children at the library. They held a "Coffee Break" in the park and members brought their own chairs and coffee. They also brought vegetables to share, flowers to show off and photos of their gardens. It was a huge success and was enjoyed by everyone. They've now planned another one for this coming weekend if the weather cooperates.

GERALDTON SOCIETY is also in the same predicament with meetings and the age of their members, however, they did their summer planting within the community this year using social distancing amongst themselves.

LOGLAC SOCIETY had their Master Gardener Member and her husband not only grow all the flowers for planting in their community gardens but they did the planting as well. The President planted the new town planter. They have also been holding weekly gardening workshops throughout the summer with members choosing their preferred choice of gardening project prior to each week's meeting. The

workshop meetings have taken place in the beautiful yard of their president which allows them space to social distance and have shelter if they require it. They've made reversed stain glass, willow baskets, pebble & glass bead trees on mirrors, ocean scenes using shells collected from the beach and wind chimes on driftwood using sea glass from a local beach.

NIPIGON-RED ROCK SOCIETY held their plant sale outdoors in the Legion parking lot this year. There was a variety of table rentals available to the community which brought the community members out and allowed them space for social distancing. They too did their community plantings and weeding throughout the summer. The President would post dates and times on their Facebook page and members with masks, gloves and tools just showed up and spread apart to social distance while completing their chores and allowing them to converse still.

SIOUX LOOKOUT SOCIETY is presently working through the process to close their society as they've been unable to find any younger members willing to step up and come onto their board. It's sad to see us shrinking but with an aging community sometimes it's unavoidable. Longtime President Ruth continues to keep their Facebook page going with a name change and the community supporting each other's questions. The community will continue to keep up the Memory Gardens at their hospital with Ruth coordinating the need for weeding and their Facebook page. This is a truly unique group of gardeners who have a love of gardening regardless of a folding society.

THUNDER BAY SOCIETY was not able to hold their plant sale this spring due to Covid and the fact that the community centre closed in March and still remains closed. However, the City is allowing it to reopen in mid September so they will be holding a trial meeting in September to see how it goes. They have been given strict guidelines that must be followed including hand sanitizing, masks, social distancing and no coffee break or social time. The public plantings and weeding in the community was completed throughout the summer with the chair posting times and requests for volunteers by email to

members. Also the maintenance of perennial beds at the Thunder Bay Conservatory has been ongoing on a weekly basis all summer. Additionally, every week throughout the summer, the President and Secretary attended local yards and gardens of residents in the community and did a garden tour by both video and photos. These virtual tours were sent out to the members via email and posted on their web page and Facebook page for members to view. It not only showcased some gorgeous gardens in the city and rural area but kept members looking forward to next week's showcase. This wouldn't have been possible without the dedication and time commitment of

the President and Secretary all summer long. The Executive continues to hold meetings by Zoom in order to stay on top of the society business that needs to continue regardless of Covid. Unfortunately, due to being located in rural areas, not all of the Executive have access to service to connect by Zoom.

As you've read, although we've encountered many issues in District 14, we've been inventive with our societies to keep our members involved and interested. Covid might have put up challenges but we in the North are hearty and can overcome most challenges.

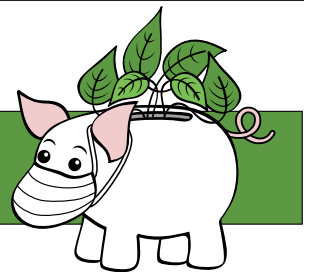
District 10

Shelley MacKenzie, OHA Director District 10

Thames Valley August 2020

1. Great Garden Giveaway – one weekend in May, 2020 – hundreds of plants. Resulted in 60+ new members. People with plants to give away posted on a spreadsheet online. This was collated and divided into 12 locations then sent as a pdf to members and posted on Facebook. From the pdf, people who wanted plants ordered directly to 12 volunteer home owners. Plants on the list were sold out within 24 hours of posting, resulting in several people digging and dividing more to meet the demand. People were still requesting plants a week later. Home owners gave pickup times over the weekend. We supplied hand sanitizer, flag tape to ensure social distancing, signs and stakes. Home owners received an apron "Sow Hoe Grow" as a thank you. Total cost less than \$100 for sanitizer, tape, signs, aprons.
2. Small group education sessions including seed collecting – max 4 people in both private and public gardens
3. Public Gardens work continues but each volunteer does a specific part of each garden so there is no overlap of people.
4. Private group is set up on Facebook – members only – to exchange plants.

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In lieu of a workshop being held at an October member meeting, we are going to video a local florist preparing a fall (think Thanksgiving) fresh flower table arrangement. This video will be posted on a private YouTube connection to our members. For those members who are not computer savvy, we will offer written instructions.

If the members wish to "build" the centrepiece themselves or with others in their "bubble" or with a few other members while practicing social distancing, they can order a Society subsidized "kit" containing all supplies from the Society and follow along with the video for a fun activity on a predetermined day.

In turn, the Board will order the supplies from the florist, assemble the "kit" and deliver or arrange for pickup on the predetermined day of building. We'll name the activity and send out an eye-catching flyer to hype it up. We'll invite the participants to send photos for our newsletter or live skype the fun they're having on day of. We may even turn it into a competition among participants.

-
1. We are having a membership table at an upcoming plant sale.
 2. In our local paper, we provided three ways of membership, mail, plant sale, and etransfer. We

also have a member canvassing our local seniors residence. This member has an inside contact.

3. We send out frequent emails with information, such as fall planting, bulb planting, bugs and garden tips. Some of the information is from old emails and files. So some members have seen it before but not our newer ones. Almost mini-newsletters, including how to pay for membership.
4. We plan on keeping our 2019/2020 membership email list even if someone doesn't sign up for 2020/2021. We want them back at a later date.

We are trying to stay in contact with our members. We send out a newsletter with articles and links to members by email and mail them to those without email. In between newsletters, we send a one-page dispatch to update members.

A small group did our usual planting at the Covent Garden Market.

We paid to have a video made of one member's garden to use in place of our normal member garden walk.

Our September members-only meeting will be held in the church parking lot of the church where we would normally meet. We are still planning the meeting but hope to hold our 3 p's Sept. event. We have done this for several years (inside in the past) and it seems to be enjoyed. Members bring 2 items to give away: plants, preserves or produce. The items are displayed and we plan to draw alphabet letters to determine who gets to choose first. This year, the letters will be those of members' last names. When your letter is called, you may pick 2 items from the selection if you contributed. If there are items left at the end, those who didn't contribute will have a chance to pick.

Members are getting a one-time discount on their membership renewals as well as an incentive for the

first who renew. To be safe for all, payments will be made either online using Square Terminal payment system or by leaving a cheque in a box at the meeting. Membership cards will be mailed out.

1. Virtual garden tour – summer... Directors send photos of their gardens to be compiled into supplementary edition of our Hortigram.
2. In the fall Hortigram, members sent in their favourite canning recipe to have a special canning section.
3. Virtual fall garden tour – this time we will be asking members to send in fall photos of their gardens.

This is a great way to engage our members. A Directors' meeting will be held in my backyard next week. As of now, we have not attempted any online meetings.

We had our Executive meeting last evening outdoors at my home. We are going to have a General meeting at the Royal Canadian Legion on September 9th. We changed our venue as the School is not available this year. We have a speaker and a judge for our vegetable and flower show. **ALL MEMBERS MUST WEAR A MASK OR A FULL FACE SHIELD!**

We are setting up with safe practices and will have extra masks and hand sanitizer available. Members need to bring their own refreshments. We are having a sign-in table at the upstairs entrance to the hall for contact tracing if need be. We hope this works well!

We had to cancel most of our activities this past spring and summer. We did have a plant sale at the end of the driveway at a member's home. It was just for members and a list of available products and prices was emailed to the membership. Members had to call and state what they wanted and their total cost and arrange a scheduled pickup time. It was busy but went quite smoothly.

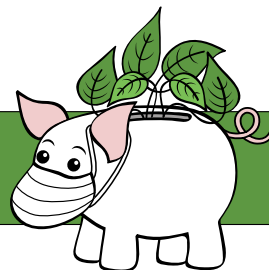
Are clubs/societies expected to have an AGM this year?

No one is expected to have an AGM until 90 days after the emergency order is lifted. We are still under the emergency order and the province is tightening up the closures and numbers again because of an increase in Covid-19 cases.

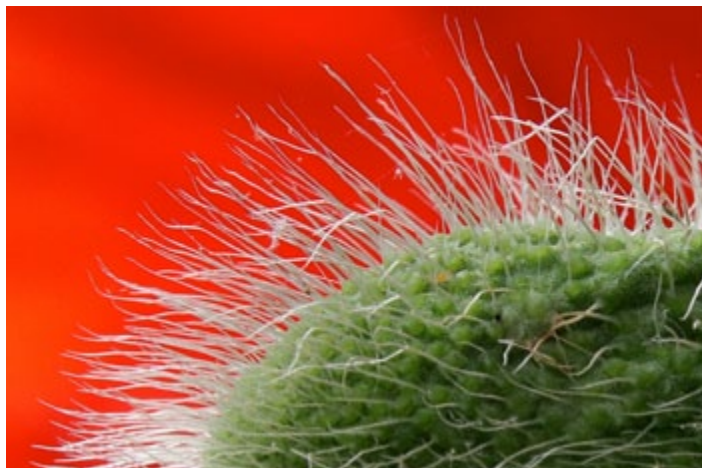
District 6

Catherine McGill, District 6 Director

OHA COVID IDEA BANK



Update from District 6: We had a photo contest using the categories from our AGM that did not happen, hoping for 50 or so entries. We ended up with just under 300 photos! Wow, do we have a talented bunch of "gardeners"! If they are not planting, they are taking shots of it!



Class A winner – Pete Byerlay, Brantford



Class B – Pete Byerlay, Brantford



*Class C – People or Animal in the garden –
Marie Decker, Oakville*



*Class D – Winter in the Garden –
Pete Byerlay, Brantford*

Although Pete won most of the classes, we had a good showing from many societies/clubs. All the photos were printed in same format and judged by a photography judge.

Class A – 2nd Margaret Collins, Paris,	3rd Kathy Ward, Winona,
Class B – 2nd Diana Wright, Oakville,	3rd Liz Chapple, Stoney Creek,
Class C – 2nd Ryan Inch, Winona,	3rd Art Ward, Winona,
Class D – 2nd Art Ward, Winona,	3rd Max Byerlay, Brantford

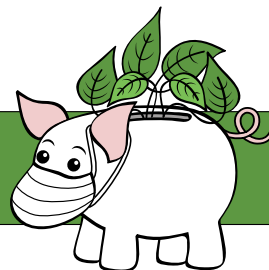
All the winning photos and the rest of the entries are on [district6gardenontario](#) Facebook page, posting date, July 18 and 19, 2020

District 2

Virtual Flower Design Competition

Anne Harbord, OHA Director, District 2

**OHA COVID
IDEA BANK**



Since we could not hold our annual summer Flower and Edibles Show Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, a small team put forward the process for a District 2 Virtual Flower Design Competition. The Schedule was written to reflect our current situation with restrictions on our ability to meet and the theme of "The New Normal" emerged. The schedule was sent to all 19 Societies in District 2. The designs could be prepared and submitted between August 20 and August 31, 2020. Our District 2 Webmaster, Lori Ray, organized all of the photographs in each class so our volunteer judges could be given their assigned class to judge. She then reordered them by placement and included the judges' comments on each entry.

We had excellent results with 11 people entering 46 designs. Madeline Archer, the Chair of the Flower Show Committee won both the Best in Show and Judges' Choice in the Competition plus several other first placements. Madeline's designs were stunning, very creative and showed great skill in building the structures for the designs. The photo of her Best in Show exhibit is included with this article.

Anne Harbord, District 2 Director, organized the volunteer judges all from outside the District including London, Burlington, Georgetown, Mississauga and Toronto. Each judge was assigned a class to judge and provide comments on each design within a week. They also collaborated to determine the Best in Show and Judges' Choice winning entries.

The interpretation of the Class Titles was so varied and interesting, the judges had a challenge to award the placements. The summary of the awards by Class with entrant information and Judges' comments is on the next page with the photos at the links on Google photos.

This was the first District Flower Show to be done in this manner. We are proud of everyone's efforts in this groundbreaking approach. In the eyes of the Virtual Flower Design Show team, you are all winners.



***Best in Show by Madeline Archer,
interpreting "Temperature Rising"***

Please take some time to view and enjoy the results and the judges' comments.

Anne Harbord, Madeline Archer and Lori Ray, D2 Virtual Flower Design Show Team

Class 1 – Isolation: 9 entries

First: Madeline Archer

Second: Myrna Blair

Third: Sandy Black

Honourable Mention: Aira Kaduc

Link: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/JBZYKbQbAP8qhZELA>

Class 2 – COVID Curve: 6 entries

First: Madeline Archer

Second: Judy McGrath

Third: Aira Kaduc

Link: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/DpcMAVDwpX1aCJHE8>

Class 3 – Social Distancing: 8 entries

First: Madeline Archer

Second: Anne Harbord

Third: Aira Kaduc

Honourable Mention: Judy McGrath

Link: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/jbR243WismbEsBhv6>

Class 4 – Sheltering in Place: 6 entries

First: Anne Harbord

Second: Aira Kaduc

Third: Toby Barratt

Honourable Mention: Judy McGrath

Honourable Mention: Kathryn Lindsay

Honourable Mention: David Archer

Link: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/QdbNoLq7U5T7pUrw6>

Class 5 – Healthcare Heroes: 7 entries

First: Sheila King

Second: Madeline Archer

Third: Myrna Blair

Honourable Mention: Toby Barratt

Link: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/3MnHWZa5T5jKDkSYA>

Class 6 – Rose Cottage: 3 entries

First: Myrna Blair

Second: Anne Harbord

Third: Toby Barratt

Link: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/yk1pwrp7U6uB1EZC6>

Class 7 – Temperature Rising: 7 entries

First: Madeline Archer

Second: Judy McGrath

Third: Kathryn Lindsay

Honorable Mention: Aira Kaduc

Honorable Mention: Sheila King

Link: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/at75GUZP2Sifkurs8>

Please take the time to enjoy these photos online as well as other links to photo contests and floral design competitions. You will not be disappointed.



Best in Show

Brian Carson, a life member of the Manotick Horticultural Society, won Best in Show.

District 2

Annual Photography Competition

Anne Harbord, OHA Director, District 2

Normally, we have a slide show at the District AGM in April to announce the winners of our District 2 Photography Competition. Since Covid-19 restrictions hit us in mid-March, that was not to be. So, our Photography Competition Chair, Karen Haddon, and our District 2 Webmaster, Lori Ray, organized putting the photographs on the Garden Ontario website so we could all enjoy seeing them. As a Canada Day treat, we announced the winners and the link to see the photos and the judge's comments.

Click on this link to see the presentation.

https://gardenontario.org/index.php?gf-download=2020%2F07%2F2020-Photo-Presentation-Winners.pdf&form-id=4&field-id=81&hash=4bdad6e8642185cd5bad6a2a9c70658b664b79badde5df7280aadab8b63b77e3&TB_iframe=true

The following document provides the winners by class as well as the judge's comments. Our big winner was Brian Carson, a life member of the Manotick Horticultural Society, who won Best in Show in addition to six other placements. The Best in Show award is a framed print of the winning entry. We are in the process of organizing a fitting venue for the presentation of his award.

2020 D2 Photo Competition Results

(with the judge's comments)

Class 1:

1st place: **Jack van Gemen, Petawawa.**

Great colour and composition. The silhouette is very effective and the position of the setting sun is perfect.

2nd place: **Brian Carson, Manotick.**

Beautiful texture and perfect focus. The image feels very tactile. Beautifully done.

3rd place: **Brian Carson, Manotick.**

When I look at this image it reminds me of a dessert. The feather plumes are like icing. Nice colours and composition.

Class 2:

1st place: **Brian Carson, Manotick.**

The yellow and blue strong primary colours really made the image stand out. Nicely focused flower.

2nd place: **Brian Carson, Manotick.**

Very tactile. The lighting is just right without over-saturating the yellow. This is one of the only images that is an extreme close-up. Good job.

3rd place: **Jack van Gemen, Petawawa.**

Excellent composition. The yellow is crisp and clean. I especially like that the background colour emphasizes the eye of the sunflower.

Honourable mention: **Paul Ballantyne, Eganville.**

Beautiful smooth petals with contrasting veining. This one could have easily placed higher with tighter cropping.

Class 3:

1st place: **Brian Carson, Manotick.**

Everything is there: great lighting, strong colours, excellent focus and placement/position of the Monarch, perfect background. Superb!

2nd place: **Karen Haddon, Kanata-March.**

Great focus of the Monarch showing great texture of the wings. Beautiful bokeh*. Excellent work.

**the blur effect in out-of-focus areas of a photographic image.*

3rd place: **Katja Gillmore, Ottawa.**

This image is very dream-like with its soft pastel colours. I would have preferred it without the wasp and only with the little green bug peeking behind the daisy. This image captures my interest a lot. Great job.

Class 4:

1st place: **Elizabeth Ells, Deep River.**

The symmetrically spaced water droplets are gorgeous. The droplets are perfectly focused and are the centre of attention. They shine in the sun and make me want to find what is reflected in the spheres. Excellent work.

2nd place: **Karen Haddon, Kanata-March.**

The red and green complementary colours are strong and catch your attention. The water droplets are well positioned to catch the eye. Great depth of field.

3rd place: **Elizabeth Ells, Deep River.**

I can feel the warm summer shower in this image. Very delicate. I would suggest a slightly different crop to emphasize the parts of the petals that are better focused and makes the image more dynamic.

Class 5:

1st place: **Karen Haddon, Kanata-March.**

This is the most dynamic image in the class. Excellent focus and composition. Really nice lighting too.

2nd place: **Jack van Gemeren, Petawawa.**

I like the texture of the petals and the darker background that emphasizes the whiteness of the blooms. I think I would have preferred the image if the bumblebee was not there. A tighter crop would have moved it to 1st place.

3rd place: **Karen Haddon, Kanata-March.**

Very similar to the 1st but the distracting elements in the foreground took away from the flower. The lighting is nice though, as is the background.

Class 6: Several excellent images in this class.

1st place: **Jack van Gemeren, Petawawa.**

I chose this one for first place because the colours flow well and capture the attention. This image also best embodies the theme "show the big picture". I would have been tempted to crop it a little tighter to reduce the amount of sky.

2nd place: **Karen Haddon, Kanata-March.**

Very dynamic image. The little bits of blue sky complement the orange leaves beautifully. The darker lower branches add nice contrast. Excellent.

3rd place: **Elizabeth Ells, Deep River.**

I love the three-colour theme of black, green and orange. Super effective. Excellent job!

Honourable mention: **Katja Gillmore, Ottawa.**

Class 7:

1st place: **Phil Reilly, Ottawa.**

Really nice framing of the image. The ruins are an excellent backdrop. Very nice clean lines in the garden. I also like the evergreens on either side of the image, makes you feel like you are entering and discovering a secret garden. Very effective. Very pleasing to the eyes. Well done!

2nd place: **Brian Carson, Manotick.**

This image makes me feel like I am entering a magical, mystical garden. The lighting is soft and perfect. Excellent.

3rd place: **Jack Wilson, Nepean.**

The diagonal lines in this image draw you in and adds interest. The lush green foliage is complemented with the red railings and gazebos. Great composition. The only negative is the blown out sky, which I know is hard to avoid unless you have a neutral density filter or you shorten the exposure time.

Best overall: Class 3: Brian Carson, Manotick.

While there were many excellent photographs, the Monarch butterfly on the asters is my favourite. I keep going back to this one because of the composition, the clarity, the perfect lighting and backdrop. An excellent photograph.



OHA Awards and Grants

Sharlene Desjardins, OHA Awards Coordinator and 2nd Vice President

The Ontario Horticultural Association sponsors various awards which are presented annually during the Convention. Each society/club should have an Awards Booklet available to inform the members of the awards available and the procedure to follow to submit a nomination. This information is also available on the gardenontario.org website for downloading by societies/clubs.

Awards presented at the convention are:

- Silver Medal Award
- Trillium Award
- Silver Fir Award
- Award of Merit
- Community Improvement Award
- Environmental Award
- Youth Leader Award
- Honour Roll
- Youth Project Award

Nominations, with supporting information, should be sent to:

Sharlene Desjardins
OHA Awards Coordinator
P.O. Box 2123
Deep River, Ontario K0J 1P0

The deadline for receipt of nominations is February 28, 2021. The Awards Coordinator will forward the nominations to the Awards Committee for selection of the winning recipients. The OHA Awards Committee is comprised of the President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Past President, North/East Regional Representative, South/West Regional Representative, Secretary, Awards Coordinator and the Chair of the Past President's Council. Any decision of the Committee will be considered as a decision of the Board of Directors.

Please give serious consideration to selecting people who would be worthy recipients of these prestigious awards.

Plant a Tree

The Ontario Horticultural Association is continuing its Tree Planting Grant whereby a society/club of the Ontario Horticultural Association may apply for up to \$200 for a special tree planting. Up to 20 tree-planting grants will be awarded in 2021.

The grant is to be used for the purchase of a tree to be planted in a community or public space. A request by a society/club outlining the species of tree to be purchased, where the tree will be planted, a permission letter from the township and whether the planting commemorates a special event for the Society/Community should be sent to the Ontario Horticultural Association Awards Coordinator at the

address above. The tree grants will be awarded on a **first come basis** starting January 1st, 2021, up to a maximum of 20 awards per year. Any society/club that receives this funding cannot apply again for three full years. The awarded society/club must complete the planting of their tree by the end of the year. For example: if the grant is awarded in 2021 – the tree must be planted and receipts sent to the Awards Coordinator by December 31, 2021.

Once approved, payment is made upon submission of an **original** receipt for the tree and a digital picture of the planting. The picture becomes the property of the OHA.

Begin a Special Project

As part of the ongoing support of member societies/clubs, the Board of the Ontario Horticultural Association annually awards **Special Project Grants** of up to \$500 each for the use of societies/clubs toward the completion of projects having a long-lasting benefit to their society/club or community. The grant is to be used for planting materials such as perennials, trees and shrubs and not for the planting of annuals or for mulch, manure, compost, hard surface or construction materials. When preparing your application, be sure to

include information about the location and use of the project, a budget for the project, a planting plan, one or two photographs of the site, a list of plant materials to be used, and the estimated costs. Please keep your applications to a maximum of 6 pages.

The Ontario Horticultural Association will grant up to eight projects a year to a maximum of \$500 for each project with a limit of one project per society/club per year. Any society/club that receives this funding cannot apply again for five full years.

To be considered for a Special Project grant in 2021, an application form and the accompanying information should be completed and mailed to your District Director who will forward it on to the Awards Coordinator no later than February 28, 2021. Application forms are available on the OHA website

at www.gardenontario.org.

The reporting form and accompanying documents must be received by the OHA Awards Coordinator no later than December 31st of the next year. For example, a grant awarded in 2021 must have all documentation submitted by December 31st of 2022.

OHA Community Garden Grant

The Ontario Horticultural Association encourages its member societies/clubs to create or contribute to community gardens whether urban or rural. The OHA will award a grant of \$500 each to up to three societies/clubs to assist in the funding of a new community garden or the upgrading of an existing community garden.

A community garden is a plot of land, either publicly or privately owned, that is used to grow food for gardeners and/or the surrounding community. Either the whole space is communal or each member maintains a plot. Members share in the upkeep of the garden and are encouraged to participate in the decision-making process and socialize with other gardeners.

Eligible expenses include costs related to site development such as the construction of raised beds and accessible planters as well as tools, materials and equipment costs. Upgrading a garden may take the form of adding a washroom, a compost area, a water harvesting area, fencing or other installations that support the gardening activities of the members.

When completing your application, please include information about permissions to build a garden on your site, insurance waivers for participants, a budget, a plan of your project, and any partners in your project.

To apply, complete the Community Garden Grant application form and mail it to your District Director who will forward it on to the Awards Coordinator no later than February 28 of the current year. If your community garden project is awarded a grant, payment will follow receipt of a completed reporting form including **original** receipts and pictures of the completed project.

The reporting form must be received by the OHA Awards Coordinator before December 31 of the next year. For example, a grant awarded in 2021 must have all paperwork submitted by December 31 of 2022. If a reporting form accompanied by original receipts is not received by this time, it will be assumed that the community garden project was not completed and the grant will be cancelled.

Pollinator Project Grant

As part of the ongoing pollinator health initiative, the OHA will provide ten grants of \$200.00 each to eligible member societies/clubs to create habitat in the form of pollinator friendly gardens or nesting sites on public land.

Eligible expenses include the purchase and installation of perennials and shrubs and/or construction materials and supplies for the creation of nesting sites.

To apply, complete the Pollinator Project Grant application form and mail it to your District Director

who will forward it on to the Awards Coordinator no later than February 28th of the current year. If your pollinator project is awarded a grant, payment will follow receipt of a reporting form including **original** receipts and pictures of the completed project.

The reporting form and accompanying documents must be received by the OHA Awards Coordinator no later than December 31st of the next year. For example, a grant awarded in 2021 must have all documentation submitted by December 31st of 2022.

Youth Help Program Grant

To assist societies/clubs working with youth, the OHA will be offering up to 50 youth grants of \$75.00 each.

The Youth Help Program Grant provides societies/clubs that work with youth financial support. Any society/club working with youth and in good standing with the OHA may apply for the grant. The grant may

be used for programming, seeds, special events, supplies, start up of a youth program, etc. for the society/club applying for the grant.

Updated youth grant forms are available on the OHA website at www.gardenontario.org. Any society/club receiving a youth grant cannot apply again the following year.

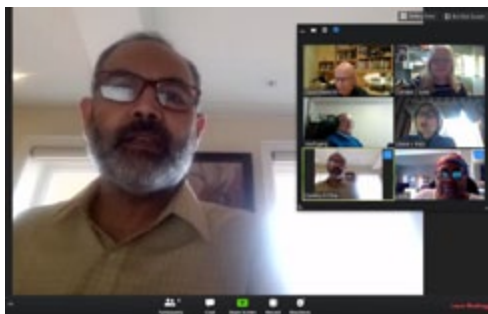
Also available are applications for Horticultural Service Certificates, Judging/Exhibiting Service Certificates and District Service Plaques. Please consider all the volunteers in your society/club and community that help to keep your area beautiful and nominate a deserving individual or group.

Richmond Hill Garden & Horticultural Society

Doreen Coyne, Vice President, Secretary & Newsletter Editor

How Technology is Restructuring the RHGHS

When our meeting hall was closed for Covid, the Board members at the Richmond Hill Garden & Horticultural Society (RHGHS), quickly realized we still had to hold general meetings and board meetings to keep our club viable.



A screen capture from our April 25th Board meeting

The Board moved to Zoom and used it for our online Board meeting on March 25th. All went well with a little coaching. So, the next task was to reset our speaker schedule for general meetings to ensure all of the booked speakers would be comfortable doing their presentations using Zoom to an online audience. Of course, a few did not want to be online so we thanked them and scouted for new speakers.

For each speaker, we did an online test with them to ensure they knew how the meeting would proceed and which features of Zoom they'd need to use.

More recently some of our membership asked for Zoom training and we held a training session before our August general meeting. Our Treasurer, David Biensch, researched the tool and has become our Zoom guru. For about \$100, we were able to purchase a 12-month license which we can use for any meeting within our Society including committee meetings. A real benefit is that the speaker is at their home or office and thus we can book speakers from any geographic location! This will also be helpful when winter storms stop a speaker and members from attending. The attendees and speakers can be anywhere in the world during a meeting! We are going to do trials having non-members pre-register for our meetings and prepay the admission charge online. This also allows us to restart our publicity efforts. Of course, we miss chatting in person before the meeting begins, so we're looking to use another Zoom feature known as

Rooms to allow groups of people to get online early and chat with each other. Given our membership size and median age, we are hesitant to restart in-person meetings until next year.

Seedy Saturdays and other Community activities have suffered but once again, technology has come to our rescue. Working with the City Library, we produced a Gardening Q & A session for the city residents. The Library issued a call for questions and then sent them to our Seedy Saturday lead. She got a team together to answer the questions. Then two of those people volunteered to video themselves both stating the question and providing the answer. The Library added some introductory remarks and music. The resulting video was posted on the Library's Facebook page and on our own website and social media pages.



Top: Greta; Below: Doreen. Each answers questions for this virtual event. Image captured using SnagIt from the Richmond Hill Central Library's YouTube video.



More recently the Library emailed to ask us to assist them with an article on the gardens we maintain for the city. We provided pictures and an article. From that they produced a colourful presentation which was posted in late August. You can see it at <https://www.facebook.com/hashtag/rhplgrows>



A presentation by the Richmond Hill Library on the public gardens we maintain. Captured by D. Coyne using Snagit from the Library's Facebook page.

Plant sales have also proven difficult. We normally have several hundred attendees and some 30 members staffing the sale. Of course, that was not possible indoors nor outdoors, given city restrictions. So the spring plant sale and our backup plan of a fall perennial and bulb sale were cancelled. To help with fundraising, several of us are taking free Digital marketing courses offered by our web membership vendor, Wild Apricot, to learn ways to fundraise online. We are still offering many of our normal services to our membership as well as a few new ones. These include:

- Our Yearbook is online and the program section is updated when there are changes. Hard copies can still be done in full colour for those that need them.
- Monthly email blasts to members titled "Outings of Interest to Gardeners" go out to the membership. The blasts have been tailored to include things one can do indoors or with social distancing.
- Postings on our Facebook page.
- Website postings with both public and member information. People are now renewing their memberships online which is a great change for our membership committee.
- We did the judging for short-listed gardens for the City's Richmond Hill Blooms event and will have several of the gardens photographed by our volunteer photographers.

"As COVID restrictions lift and the number of new cases decrease, we hope all of our members will enjoy a new version of our Horticultural Society which is likely a hybrid of in-person and online social events and activities that now, as a result of Covid, are supported by a strong set of technology products."

- As we weren't able to offer in-person Garden Tours to the public, the format was changed to allow drive-by, or walk-by viewings of members' front gardens.
- Members also wanted to share their plant and garden photos with others. A new member with Instagram experience created an [Instagram page](#) for our Society in June and is posting photos that she creates or that members send to her, to share. Instagram can also host short videos.
- Our newsletter, The Garden Post, offers a new column titled "A Glimpse into our Members' Gardens" which proudly displays 6 to 10 pictures per garden that members send in. A great way to still have a member viewing when gardens are at their peak.
- And we have just started to re-engineer our meeting recording system to better serve as a portable recording system that can handle outdoor and offsite recording, production and editing.

We are still learning how to use technology to benefit our Society and its members but hope that we can offer many more technology-supported activities in addition to more in-person activities. The social aspect of our Club, as with almost all Clubs, is a big reason that members join. And we miss that. For the moment we'll be doing telephone calls to our members as a way to keep in touch.



Our new Instagram page is used to share photos and videos within our Society and with the public. A great publicity tool.

Aylmer & District Horticultural Society

Kate Kent, President

Our Society has not met since March 4th. However, our Executive members met for the first time on August 25th on my deck with social distancing. We have decided to have a general meeting with a guest speaker and a vegetable and flower contest on September 9th, 2020. We have communicated to our membership the measures that we all must practice to keep one another safe. Even though our membership is greater than 50, typically the turnout is 30+. So we want to stay safe but we also want to stay happy.

Here are a few pictures from some of our members and our hot-off-the-press fall newsletter.



Summer bouquet after gathering from the garden with the grandchildren.



Judy A.'s outdoor cactus blooming this summer.



Roberta's monarch



Our society is fortunate to have had excellent volunteers at work this summer to maintain some of Aylmer's gardens. I will mention the North End Garden Gateway because we received a complimentary letter from Thom Polland, Manager of the Town of Aylmer's Parks & Recreation. He said, "I just wanted to tell you how absolutely stunning the garden is around the gateway. Please pass along my sincere thank you to you and the garden club. What a beautiful eye-catcher as you drive in!"

*reprinted from "Gardening Matters Fall 2020",
newsletter of Aylmer & District Horticultural Society*

Pelham Garden Club

Submitted by Barbara Botden, Co-President, Pelham Garden Club, District 9

The PGC's 2020 year started out with great enthusiasm. We had a motivated and creative executive, a program of great speakers and events, and then "IT" hit. After February, our club, like so many others, was reduced to a series of emails and phone calls to check on members and update them on the developing situation. The executive sadly came to the realization that we couldn't go ahead with further monthly meetings, the annual spring plant sale or our popular members' picnic. We made it a focus though, to keep every member involved and informed through the time of distancing. We maintained our community flowerbeds and stepped up to do more of those. All the while, we wanted to make sure the community was aware that we were still active and planning to be here for a long time to come.

So how to get that message out? The usual locations where we distributed our club brochures, the library and Community Centre information kiosks, were shut down and the community events where our club members were visible, were cancelled. Communications required a new direction. We decided to take our attractive club logo and market it in various ways. Our members needed to see that they were getting value for their membership dollars and the public needed to know that the PGC was welcoming of new members in the near future. We gained exposure with the public sign announcing our flower bed work in a community flower bed competition sponsored by the Town of Pelham. Aluminum signs were designed and approved to go into the flower beds at the local library informing the public that the Club maintains those beds and indicating how to get in touch with us if they wanted to join in the fun. The local newspaper photographed our



Sign in the library flower beds.

rolled out their Facebook group this summer too and that has been great fun for members of PGC and also the general gardening public, who are interested in sharing gardening successes and dilemmas. The online group also enables members to give mini garden tours and bragging rights about their vegetable garden results and intruders that raided them.

In the midst of the summer heat, the PGC's very colourful and informative four-page quarterly newsletter for members, "The Garden View" was hand-delivered to the members' doors by club volunteers to make sure the membership felt connected and were updated on volunteer opportunities. During one of the Skype executive and directors meetings, there was a request by a committee member for "tools" to identify individuals a Club representatives. As we tromp through a public garden with our spade or watering hose in hand or when we can once again go knocking on doors to scout prospective Garden Tour candidates, what could we do so that people would know instantly our connection to the Club? That set us off on another adventure. We are now developing a club business card, generic in content with the logo, club contact information and Facebook group, but also with a spot to personalize information according to the situation. As well, a Club T-shirt is being offered to members, with the club logo on front and back to use at Community events, plant sales, in gardening projects or just to show member's support of the club. To entice members to place their orders in a timely manner, a pandemically fashioned co-ordinating cloth mask, sewn by a club member, was added as an early order premium.

To gauge members' receptiveness to possible fall gatherings and to gain insight about what direction our club events should take in the months ahead as we work through stage 3 of the COVID -19 guidelines, a survey was distributed to members in August, either on-line or in the mail. The members responded with many compliments about the past months and the future of the club. There was a 64% response rate to the quick 5-minute survey. Members gave the club a supportive 4.25/5 general rating, proving that our efforts through the summer have worked to keep members informed and involved and also indicating our further efforts in the coming Stage 3 months will be appreciated. We are hopeful that we will launch out of this crisis with our volunteer crew numbers strengthened and an expanded membership roster.

Ennismore and District Horticultural Society

Written and Submitted by Gail Murray, Photo by Helen Young

Coming to Ennismore:

ENNISMORE COMMEMORATIVE MILITARY MONUMENT



The Ennismore and District Horticultural Society is excited to announce the construction of the **"Ennismore Commemorative Military Monument"** which will be built on the grounds of the Robert E.



Young Ennismore Complex. The structure will be adjacent to St. Martin's Elementary School and the recreation centre, the hub of the community where it will be highly visible to adults and children alike.

Construction of the monument will begin on September 21, 2020 and will take approximately 4 days to complete.

The decision to move forward with this structure was based on increasing awareness, honouring the many veterans from our local community as well as the service men and women that continue to serve our country. Building a legacy for those who should never be forgotten was unanimously voted on as a priority of the Society.

Partnering with the The Ennismore and District Horticultural Society, Veterans Affairs Canada has pledged half the amount of the project cost. Local

contractors Jeff Parnell of Jeff Parnell Contracting and Don Young of Young Aggregates are donating the aggregate material. R&J Machine of Lakefield, ON has donated the Canadian Flag and delivery of the flagpole.

The monument will be built by accomplished heritage and dry stone mason John Shaw Rimmington, author of ["How to Build Dry-Stacked Stone Walls: Design and Build Walls, Bridges and Follies Without Mortar"](#). Unlike a brick wall, dry stone structures are made by using carefully selected stones and a stacking method, not mortar. As well as being beautiful, a dry stone wall is stronger, more stable, and more resistant to climate than a mortared wall. Dry Stone Walls are strong, lasting hundreds of years. Being that they are very common in Ireland, it was felt this would reflect our community's Irish heritage.

The Ennismore and District Horticultural Society would like to thank Cairn Sub-Committee members Helen Young, Gail Murray, Mary Claire Moher, Debbie Smith and Pat Sinka for the countless hours dedicated to this project over the last year, especially their unwavering commitment to keep the project as close to the target date as possible during these past unsettled COVID-19 pandemic months.

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/EnnismoreAndDistrictHorticulturalSociety/>



Hello from OHA Past President



*Rose Odell, Past President,
Ontario Horticultural Association*

As I write to you this time, I am wondering how all of you have been doing through this shutdown that Covid-19 has put us under. And what have you been doing with the time you would have been out and around your community?

I see on Facebook that many have still continued helping to beautify their communities so that when we needed to go out and get groceries and do chores, we could still enjoy the beauty of all you do to brighten our days. I thank every one of you for this.

Many groups, including the board of directors for the OHA, have found new ways to hold our meetings electronically and perhaps many of you have done the same. Is this a way of the future now?

I am glad to see people were able to get their vegetables growing finally in the Community Gardens and I smile every time I pass one and see people enjoying the harvest of the fruits of their labours.

This has also been a quite different year for the number of unwanted pests in the gardens. I have never seen so many comments and so much shared help with resolving these problems. It is good to have this information so readily available.

There is great information available about how to grow vegetables, what your soil needs, how to treat problems with this incredibly hot weather and so much more. So many new gardeners have embraced

growing their own vegetables and hopefully this will continue or at least they will buy them from a local source which is likely to be safer and fresher.

Many groups have been holding their Flower Shows with photos posted online and judged the same as if they had been entered at a location. So many inventive and creative ideas have come out of this changed world and you are all so talented.

As we get closer to the fall weather, enjoy your harvests and all you create to display in your communities and homes to embrace the season. You all do it so well.

No convention this year and so no AGM. The OHA is still waiting for conditions to be safe for us to have so many of our members meet in one space. We will get there and we thank you for your patience during these unusual times.

Also check out the website: www.gardenontario.org. It is ever changing to stay fresh and inviting. There have been changes made that help to keep you informed, connected, and to give you assistance under Resources.

Stay Safe and Happy Gardening

Rose Odell

Past President, Ontario Horticultural Association



I am sharing 2 fundraising items with you that the OHA is very excited about!! I still have good quantities in stock as I was hoping to sell these at our convention. Orders would be very welcome.

The OHA was able to bulk purchase these items to offer you a great price on these environmentally-conscious items. These items would also make great gifts or thank you items for speakers or guests at your meetings.

Please share this information with all your members and have them order, using the order form, and send directly through OHA Supplies at the address provided or to:

supplies@gardenontario.org

*Postage will be added when the order is sent.

CAREBAGS

- For your produce at the stores to help reduce plastic usage
- 4 carebags to a package
- Measures 8" x 10"
- Washable
- 92% Polyester/8% Spandex
- Made in Vancouver, Canada
- **\$20.00, tax included**



BEESWAX FOOD WRAPS

- To use at home in place of plastic wrap.
- Can be used to cover bowls, wrap sandwiches, cheese, fruit, cut vegetables and more
- Wipe with damp cloth or wash with warm soap and water and let dry
- 3 sizes per package (13" x 13", 10" x 10", 7" x 7")
- 2 types to choose from:
 - 1 package includes patterned sheets (choice not available, but similar to the photo)
 - 1 package includes sheets with the GardenOntario logo on them
- Made in Vancouver, Canada
- **\$25.00 (tax included)/package of 3 with patterned sheets**
- **\$27.00 (tax included)/package of 3 with GardenOntario logo**





Ontario Horticultural Association

Carebags & Beeswax Food Wraps Order Form

Rose Odell
OHA Supplies Coordinator
302-9 Lodge St.
Waterloo, ON N2J 4S8
Phone: 613-955-1662
Email: supplies@gardenontario.org

Please print or scan this page and send to Rose Odell, OHA Supplies Coordinator, either via supplies@gardenontario.org or at the address noted above via Canada Post.

Name: _____ District: _____
Society: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ Postal Code: _____
Phone No.: _____
Email: _____

Carebags: Qty _____ x \$20.00 = \$ _____

Beeswax Patterned Food Wraps: Qty _____ x \$25.00 = \$ _____

Beeswax GardenOntario Food Wraps: Qty _____ x \$27.00 = \$ _____

TOTAL OF ORDER: \$ _____

METHOD OF PAYMENT:

☐ Cheque payable to Ontario Horticultural Association, PayPal or e-transfer to treasurer4oha@gmail.com

***An Invoice will be included with your order and sent to your email adding the postage. Please send payment for the full amount once your order is sent. Thank you.**



2020 OHA Awards

Sharlene Desjardins, OHA Awards Coordinator

Each year at the OHA Annual Convention, awards are presented on the Saturday night to deserving individuals or groups who were nominated by their peers. With the 2020 OHA Convention being cancelled due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, all awards have been sent to the District Directors to be presented at a later date. Some may have been presented and some may still be pending.

Community Improvement Award –

The Community Improvement Award was awarded to Carol Ashford of the Streetsville Horticultural Society in District 15. The Community Improvement Award is a plaque provided by the Ontario Horticultural Association. It may be given to an individual, organization or company that, in the estimation of the Awards Committee, has enhanced the beauty of the landscape and/or added to the quality of life of a community with a horticultural project.

Carol Ashford has devoted many years to her society and her community, taking special interest in the Leslie Log House project.

In 2010, the city of Mississauga decided to restore the Leslie Log House as it would be a great addition to the Museums of Mississauga and would offer the Streetsville Horticultural Society a home for their archives. Carol read about the project and thought that a garden on the grounds would be a wonderful project for the horticultural society. She met with the city, the historical society and other groups at the first planning meeting in January of 2010. The plant budget was going to be \$5000.00.

The property where the house now stands is part of a 43-acre fruit orchard and although the youngest of the trees is over 100 years old, it still looks stunning in the spring when all the apple trees are in bloom.

Unfortunately, the restoration project went way over budget so there were major cuts to the garden funding. The planned paved path, split rail fence and money for the garden were gone. She and her team were not easily deterred. They set out to find someone who would donate plants and Sheridan Nurseries stepped up to the plate. By this time, the deadline for planting was missed.

In the spring of 2011, she organized a cleanup of the area around the house ahead of the grand opening in May. Her team found a source of split rails and convinced the owner to donate them which city

workers installed. The 102 by 5 foot beds were tilled and mulched with the garden installation taking place in June. She had volunteers lined up to help with the planting. Watering and weeding took place weekly until Thanksgiving. In the fall of 2011, the volunteer team planted over 500 tulip bulbs which were donated by Terra Greenhouse.

In October of 2011, the society was presented with a thank you sign to be set up at the Leslie Log House Gardens from the Museums of Mississauga and in February of 2012, the society was thrilled to be presented with a "Members Choice Award" from Heritage Mississauga for the work at the Log House.

Since the initial planting, many new plants have been added to the gardens. The beds have been extended along the south and west sides of the house plus along the split rail fence and a milkweed patch was added in the fall of 2019. In 2014, a two-bin composter and a raised bed were added.

Every year she has organized a volunteer group to collect garbage on the property, some years picking up as many as 20 large bags of waste. Every Wednesday morning, from mid-May until Thanksgiving or later, a group of society members work on the gardens.

She has spoken at society meetings to encourage new volunteers and to educate about the value of the gardens to the community. New members who join the maintenance group are always made to feel welcome and a part of the team.

She has spent many hours in meetings with the city, donating at least 90 hours every year to the gardens. She has been called the heart and soul of these gardens, without her devotion they would not exist. In 2020, a community garden will be added to the property with many groups involved including the horticultural society.

The space is now an attractive place to bird watch, walk, watch bees and butterflies and enjoy nature.

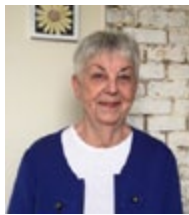
Many visitors that come to the gardens when the volunteers are working ask questions, giving the society members the chance to explain how the composter works and also explaining the benefits of a raised bed.

On three occasions, "Theatre in the Park" has been held at the Log House. She was active in convincing the city to mow walking paths among the fruit trees and in 2015 arranged with the city for the society to hold their annual plant sale on the property.

Carol's personal comment is: "As long as I am able, my pledge is to keep caring for the Leslie Log House property and keep the garden thriving and beautiful for the enjoyment of all who visit the property."

Youth Leader Award –

The recipient of the Youth Leader Award for 2020 was Linda Jaynes of the Ripley & District Horticultural Society in District 8. The Youth Leader Award is a plaque which is presented to a person who has been a Youth Program Leader for a minimum of 5 years and is a member in good standing.



Linda Jaynes is a devoted leader of the "For Our Youth" club and is a forward thinker. She is highly organized and is always ready with exciting activities for the club. Coming up with fun horticultural crafts is her specialty.

She takes on many different tasks for the club and is a true asset. Some of her duties include, but are not limited to, gathering information and ideas; collecting and organizing supplies for projects; getting parents and other adults involved in collecting materials and helping with projects; teaching the projects in age appropriate manners; motivating the youth and making it fun for them to participate; connecting the youth club to the OHA and sending in youth entries for the OHA convention competitions; devising growing projects, researching them and ordering seeds; gathering photos of the growing projects from the youth for the club journal and opening up her home and yard for storing supplies and hosting youth club meetings.

Linda is a wonderful example of a committed leader who is focused on the youth of today to create compassionate and environmentally aware adults of tomorrow.

Award of Merit –

The winner of the Award of Merit for 2020 was Lynne Melnyk from the Oro-Medonte Horticultural Society in District 16. The Award of Merit is a framed certificate and is given to an individual for notable contributions to the programs of the Association or a society.



Lynne Melnyk is devoted to her society and community and works hard to make it the best it can be.

In 2008, the society undertook a large project to restore a stream in the township's major park which is Bayview Park. All the plantings were going to be native to the area. Each year, she leads the cleanup effort of the garden, including adding new native plants to supplement the original plantings. With the garden now mature, she came up with the idea to place an interpretive sign near the garden to encourage visitors, young and old, to find a number of birds, amphibians, wildflowers, trees, butterflies and insects that have now made the natural garden their home.

She practices what she preaches, and her own home is an excellent example of native gardens. She shares her plants and her knowledge by managing a specific area of the annual plant sale for native plants. Her expertise has encouraged many in the community to purchase and plant native gardens.

Since 2015, she has been co-chair of the society flower shows. She is both a judge and an award-winning participant. Due to her efforts, the flower shows attract numerous entries from youth to seniors and are a highlight at society meetings. She also arranges two floral design workshops each year and has presented many workshops throughout the District with many of her students winning awards themselves. She has taken on the responsibility for organizing and judging the flower show at the District meeting. A lifelong learner, she has taken courses from experts across Canada and the United States to keep her skills and knowledge up to date. She recently completed three days of Garden Clubs of Ontario Horticultural judging school.

Aside from belonging to the Oro-Medonte Horticultural Society, she is also a member of the

Elmvale Horticultural Society and the Huronia Rose Society. She is also on the flower show committee for both clubs and is involved in writing the show schedules and running the shows.

Lynne created "The Bloomin News", the society newsletter, in 2012 and has collected and written articles for it since then. She also writes "The Last Word", a commentary for the newsletter and designed the current Oro-Medonte Horticultural Society logo.

For six years, she was the President of the Toronto Region Rhododendron and Horticultural Society and was on the board of the American Rhododendron Society for three years. She is also a member of the Milne House Garden Club which is located at Edwards Gardens in the Toronto Botanical Gardens Building and is the chair this year of the annual flower show, a two-day event open to the public.

She is currently the Vice President of Oro-Medonte and an Assistant District Director for District 16.

Honour Roll -

The recipient of the Honour Roll for 2020 is Hazel Hawthorn of the Beachburg Horticultural Society in District 2. The Honour Roll is a framed certificate given to the award winner. The recipient should have a minimum of 15 years of service to one or more horticultural societies, given outstanding service at the Society or District level, be in good standing and should have made a contribution of horticultural service to the Community, District or Association in the development of horticultural practices.



Hazel Hawthorn has been active in her community for many years. She is a dedicated individual who contributes 100% to all she does and is an inspiration to all who know her.

She joined the Beachburg Horticultural Society in 1982 to expand her knowledge of gardening and plant material and has been an active member ever since.

She was on the Board in several different positions and participated on all society committees. She undertook the Master Gardener program and is still a certified member today, allowing her to be a mentor to many members of the society.

In 2019, she was chair of the nominating committee and succeeded in getting several new members to join the board. With her diplomacy, she was also able to work with the President and District Director to change the secretary/treasurer position into two separate positions to lighten the load.

In 2009/2010, while in her mid-80's, she participated in the OHA horticulture and design judging school and became a certified OHA judge. She is still called upon to judge both horticultural society flower shows as well as local county fair flower and vegetable shows. She also sets up the flower shows for the Cobden Agricultural Society every year.

In order to maintain her credentials and to ensure she is up to date on all changes, Hazel participates annually in District 2 judging updates. She also attends the District 2 AGM as a representative of her society and is always involved in the planning when it is her society's turn to host.

She has won many awards for her service to horticulture including the District 2 Service Award in 2005 and Civitan Citizen of the Year in Cobden in 2019 for her lifelong commitment to agriculture, horticulture and local history.

As a young married woman living on a farm, she grew most of her family's fresh produce, preserving what she could and storing the root vegetables for the winter. It was here that her passion for flowers and gardening blossomed.

In her younger days she was a very active member of the Queens Line United Church and the Queens Line Women's Institute. Later on, she became active with the Whitewater Historical Society and the Cobden Agricultural Society and has sat or currently sits on the Board of the Cobden Fair and the Beachburg Fair. She encourages people to enter the flower and vegetable shows and has been instrumental in improving the quality and quantity of exhibitors through workshops she has conducted for interested residents.

She was renowned for her perfect attendance at the Beachburg Horticultural Society meetings and is a wonderful, caring mentor to new members. She helps members to understand what and how to exhibit in the society flower shows and well as the local county fairs. Her kindness and encouragement are much appreciated by everyone who comes into contact with her. Hazel is truly deserving of this award.

Trillium Award –

Trillium Awards for 2020 were awarded to Suzanne Hanna of the Sault Ste. Marie Horticultural Society in District 13 and Sandy Ellenor of the Essex & District Horticultural Society in District 11. The Trillium Award is a silver brooch in the shape of a trillium. The award was initially donated by Thelma Boucher who was the OHA President in 1941. The award is accompanied by a framed certificate. The award is given for outstanding service to Horticultural Societies and/or the Ontario Horticultural Association for an extended period.



Suzanne Hanna has given all of her being to her Society, Community, District and the Ontario Horticultural Association. She is completely committed to anything she takes on and is truly deserving of this award.

Suzanne has been a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Horticultural Society since 1998 and is respected and admired by her peers. She diligently ensures and “walks the talk” of the OHA to nurture, support, promote, share knowledge and vitalize the society members. She investigates each new project or proposition meticulously. Enthusiastic creativity is tempered with analytical practicality and she tackles funding proposals with the tenacity of a bloodhound.

She is the current Society Past President and Membership Convenor as well as the Chair of the Seedy Saturday and Plant Sale events. In past years she has chaired various society committees such as discounts, garden tours, nominations and fundraising. She was the newsletter editor from 1998 to 2015 and served as the society representative in the community for the Communities in Bloom, City Beautification, Clean North and Historic Sites Board. For the past 12 years she has also undertaken the role of Garden Coordinator for the society’s Community Garden initiative.

In 2011, she worked for two and a half years to involve all 14 societies in District 13 to successfully host the OHA’s 105th convention in Sudbury. She is the guru of guerilla gardening and opened the convention with an event that beautified a rundown downtown area and provided food for street people. She organized the last youth camp on Nelson Lake and got everyone

involved in a “Paint the Picket Fence” project that involved all 19 Districts. The fence then found a home at Sudbury’s Maison Vale Hospice for the terminally ill. The convention was designed to foster a sense of openness to all possibilities, to encourage advocacy and interaction and to leave a permanent reminder that the OHA exists to “Keep Ontario Beautiful”.

She has encouraged and assisted societies on the brink of collapse, kept societies informed of OHA activities, mandates and expectations and assisted with issues until suitable solutions were put into effect. She initiated the District’s Fall Social to promote the sharing of information, raise District funds and instill a sense of fun and belonging in the District.

Her time on the OHA board included four years as District Director, one term each of 1st and 2nd Vice President as well as 2 years as President and 1 term as Past President. She was the North/East representative for several years and participated in or chaired various committees including Conservation and Environment, Fundraising and Community Initiatives. As a Director, she advocated for new OHA grants including Seedy Saturday and Community Garden. She served 6 years as the OHA representative on Seeds of Diversity Canada and the Ontario Invasive Plant Council board. As Vice President, she organized GardenOntario Week for 3 years to promote the love of gardening in Ontario.

Highlights of her two terms as President include the Highway of Heroes Tribute, the introduction and use of teleconferences to foster good communication and the development of the new OHA website. Her biggest achievement was the highly successful OHA Pollinator Initiative that promoted the creation of pollinator gardens and nesting sites all over Ontario. She also worked tirelessly with the Ontario government and other organizations to advocate for improved pollinator health in our province.

Suzanne is very active in her community and has spearheaded a number of initiatives including: organizing various community plantings with community partners; leading a free “Grow up Green” gardening program for children aged 5 to 12 during the summer at 3 different locations; applying for funding for the Sault Area Mental Health and Addictions garden; creating a collaborative community garden; creating an interactive sensory garden at three community residences for people with physical and intellectual disabilities and creating a community garden in Garden River to teach First Nations individuals how to garden.

In 2007 she was named Community Algoma's Volunteer of the Year as a result of her commitment and dedication to individuals with physical and intellectual disabilities and in 2013, she received the Sault Community Centre's Diversity Award for her support given to individuals new to the Sault.

She is passionate about seed saving and promotes Seedy Saturday events in Ontario. She worked with Seeds of Diversity and USC Canada (now known as SeedChange) to provide seed saving workshops and initiated an Adopt a Seed contest to increase Canadian Seed Library seed adoptions.

Feeling the need to involve youth in gardening and protect the environment, she has built a troop of dedicated guerilla gardeners armed with trowels and plants to perform random acts of gardening at night. She encourages all societies within Ontario to be more active, to develop a sense of community and to "sow the seeds of beauty in people's minds".

Suzanne is an excellent team leader and is widely recognized as an inspirational mentor to scores of volunteers. She is confident and inspires confidence in others. Aside from her gift of intuitive communication and her amazing ability to bring out the best in team or individual efforts, it is little wonder that her horticultural, traditional and historic knowledge lends itself to numerous requests for project consultation. Her achievements reveal her capacity to not only encourage but strengthen alliance resources as well as her vast capacity to develop and guide towards a fertile future.



Sandy Ellenor, is devoted to her society and is very worthy of being presented the Trillium Award.

She has been an active member of the Essex & District Horticultural Society for over 33 years as a Director and served at various times as President for over 6 years and Secretary for over 15 years. She was

also the coordinator of the bus trip committee for the 2019 OHA convention.

Her boundless energy and enthusiasm, her patient and friendly treatment of all members and her coordination of the society's annual June horticultural bus trip and the society's annual July flower show competition are second to none.

In the late 80's, she was on the committee to plant approximately \$2000.00 worth of trees around Sadler's Pond in Essex. She was also on a committee in the early 1990's to plant trees and shrubs around the Essex Railroad Station building and again in 1999-2000 to plan and plant The Heritage Gardens on the Essex Railroad Station property from the station building right up to Talbot Street. She remained as part of the committed group to trim and clean for those gardens for approximately 15 years until the town of Essex took over the work. For over 25 years, she participated in the planning and planting of approximately 14 downtown beds; fall tulip bulb planting and late spring removal of the bulbs and spring planting of all the beds with annuals and perennials until the town took over in 2014. She continues to volunteer with the committee responsible for maintaining the beds at the Essex Retirees' Centre.

Her infectious enthusiasm for all things growing has spread to all those around her, enticing many to not only join the Essex society but to try new plants in our gardens; attend the District 11 AGM and the F.A.M. yearly and to travel to the OHA convention. On bus trips and the yearly plant sale, she is invaluable for identifying poorly-labelled plants, including native plants and shrubs.

She has a passion for herbs and has shared her knowledge via numerous presentations to societies, the Essex County/Windsor Master Gardeners Association and to various other groups in the area. She has been a Master Gardener for over 29 years and belongs to the Essex County Orchid Society as well. Each year she judges the herbal section of the Harrow Fair flower competition and all entries in the Comber Fair flower competition.

She has been the coordinator of the Essex Society's annual July flower show held in Essex during the Fun Fest, for over 25 years. Her creative mind is always coming up with new and wonderful ideas for the theme each year. She has also arranged wonderful June bus trips for the society for at least 29 years.

Silver Medal Award –

The recipient of the Silver Medal award for 2020 was Edna Caldwell of the Oro-Medonte Horticultural Society in District 16. The Silver Medal is the highest award of the Association and is given for outstanding work in the advancement of horticulture in accordance with the aims of the Association.



Edna Caldwell has dedicated over 50 years of her life to her society, district and community and is an extremely deserving recipient.

In December of 1967, she was a founding member of the Oro-Medonte Horticultural Society and a Director on the Board. She has served on the Board of Directors every year since then. She has held many positions including 2 terms as President, Secretary for 5 years as well as chairing many committees including programs, membership, flower shows, newsletter editor, youth and garden tours.

She was also a District Director for 5 years, hosting the OHA convention in 1999 and was District Secretary for 5 years. She is still very active and interested in her horticultural pursuits and is respected for her knowledge and a voice of reason in times of change. She is an excellent role model.

Edna is a provincially accredited judge for Garden Clubs of Ontario and the Canadian Rose Society and is a certified judge with the OHA. She judges at different societies and agricultural fairs around the province. For many years, she chaired the Oro-Medonte Horticultural Society flower show committee and organized educational workshops, many of which she presented herself. She was co-principal of the District 16 OHA judging school in 2012-2014 graduating 19 new judges. She has served as the Regional Director for the Canadian Rose Society and was a founding member of the Huronia Rose Society which she has been involved with since 1980, serving as President and a Board member. Roses are her passion and she has opened her gardens to the public, giving illustrated talks about rose growing, showing her own slides.

She shares her talents with many different organizations and has been the recipient of many accolades including the OHA Trillium Award in 2004, Oro-Medonte Citizen of the Year in 2006, OHA Honour Roll in 2011 and Province of Ontario recognition for 50 years of Horticultural Volunteer Service in 2018.

In 2006, she initiated a stream restoration project at Bayview Memorial Park in Oro-Medonte. This was a major project to remove a highly invasive water plant and redirect the stream. The project also created a habitat for native plants and wildlife. The project involved the coordination of many volunteers, supporters, many levels of government and the application of numerous grants. When the project was completed in 2008, it won several awards including Lake Simcoe's Region Conservation Authority's "Watershed Heroes" Trophy; Oro-Medonte Township Environmental Certificate and the OHA Environmental Award.

Along with the Huronia Rose Society, she was instrumental in the creation of the Millennium Memorial Rose Bed in Barrie at the Southshore Centre, a gift to the city and an educational project to promote growing Canadian-bred roses. She continues to be involved in its maintenance. She was also involved in the establishment of the Barbara Stoddart Garden at Guthrie Public School in Oro-Medonte in memory of a well-loved teacher and horticultural society member.

She is a tireless advocate for the Oro-Medonte Horticultural Society, recruiting new members and volunteers and giving freely of her time and her knowledge. She shares her infectious passion and enthusiasm for gardening with anyone interested. She promotes native plants and roses and is always on hand to give sage advice during the potting-up event in preparation for the society annual plant sale.

She has been involved with many activities associated with promoting horticulture to youth, both in her society and in the local schools. She founded the initial Garden Clubs at 4 local schools, 3 of which continue today. She recently spearheaded the efforts to add to the list of OHA awards for youth with the announcement of the annual Reta Caldwell Youth Environmental Award in memory of her sister-in-law.

Edna Caldwell is a guardian of the environment personally and in everything she is involved in. She is truly deserving of this award.

Congratulations to all our award winners for 2020. They have each made significant contributions to their communities, Societies/Clubs, Districts and/or the Ontario Horticultural Association.

Grants Awarded in 2020 include:

Tree Grants

Eganville & Area HS – D2	Madawaska Valley HS – D2	Perth & District HS – D2
Georgetown HS – D6	Stoney Creek GC & HS – D6	Clifford & District HS – D7
Durham & District – D8	Tavistock & Area – D10	Thorndale & Area – D10
Amherstburg Fort Malden HS – D11	Essex & District HS – D11	Sarnia HS – D11
Tilbury HS – D11	Wheatley HS – D11	Thessalon HS – D13
Midland HS – D16	Cannington HS – D17	

Special Project Grants

Williamstown HS – D1	Chesley HS – D8	Midland HS – D16
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Community Garden Grants

Eganville & Area HS – D2

Pollinator Projects

Brighton HS – D4	Leaside HS – D5	Delhi & District HS – D6
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Youth Help Program

Williamstown HS – D1	Deep River HS – D2	Pakenham HS – D2
Pembroke HS – D2	Perth & District HS – D2	Land O'Lakes HS – D3
Tweed & District – D3	Cramahe HS – D4	East Gwillimbury HS – D5
Harriston & District – D7	Dorchester HS – D10	Stratford & District HS – D10
Tillsonburg HS – D10	Chinguacousy GC – D15	Georgina-Brock – D17

Society Anniversaries in 2020

Kanata-March HS – D2 –	50 years	Orangeville & District HS – D7 –	50 years
Manotick HS – D2 –	90 years	Kirkton HS – D10 –	90 years
Gananoque HS – D3 –	100 years	Markham Garden & HS – D5 –	100 years
Georgetown HS – D6 –	100 years	West Lorne & Community HS – D10 –	100 years
Sarnia & District HS – D11 –	100 years	Ridgetown & District HS – D11 –	100 years
Ayr HS – D19 –	100 years	Brampton HS – D15 –	125 years
Waterloo HS – D19 –	125 years	St. Thomas & District – D10 –	150 years
Elora & Salem – D7 –	170 years		

Please take the time to consider the individuals and groups in your society/club and community who may be eligible and deserving of some of the above awards. Also take the time to think about grants that your society/club could use to brighten up an area of your municipality. All the information is available on the GardenOntario website for reading and downloading.

Haldimand Horticultural Society

Elsie Eubank, Publicity Chair



Adele Brown working in one of our public gardens



Hospital garden

There are several public gardens that we take care of and we appreciate all our volunteers who help with that. We would like to thank Haldimand County for the beautification grant that we received to make this possible.

Photos by Sharon Slack



One of HHS public gardens

Chicken Wire Plant Cage Workshop

Make a beautiful chicken wire plant cage to protect your young plants from squirrels and rabbits and supports and holds up taller plants from flopping over.

Time: 9 am to 12 noon
Date: Sat., Oct. 3, 2020
Cost: \$40
Place: Hagersville

Bring needle nose pliers, gloves, flat nose pliers, lug-a-mug drink cup and own snacks if desired.

All Covid-19 rules apply.

For more details or to register, email:
elsie.eubank@sympatico.ca or
sharonslack7@gmail.com



Photos by Elsie Eubank

North York Garden Club

Pop-Up Gardens

Janine Dyck, Vice President



Photo courtesy of Janine Dyck, reprinted from "North York Blooms", newsletter of North York Garden Club

A pop-up garden is planned when a member has something in bloom that they would like others to see. An email message is sent to all garden club members a few days before the date of the pop-up with the hours that the garden will be open for a visit. It is less formal than a garden tour and highlights what is in bloom.

Even in this time of physical distancing, it is good to get out and see the amazing gardens that members have. While photos are a great way to see a large number of members' special creations, attending a pop-up garden is an even better way to experience them and connect with members in person.

Thank you to all North York Garden Club members for sharing their gardens and inviting people in to see what's blooming. The following Spring pop-ups were organized by North York Garden Club members and more are expected through the summer and fall.



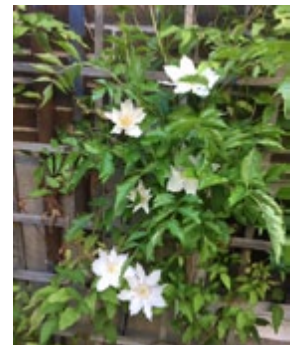
Angela Bontje: Canadian Redbud

Twelve members came out to see Angela's amazing Canadian Redbud. Angela also donated a Redbud seedling from this tree to the church garden where the North York Garden Club meets. Thanks to Mary Ann Nelson for the photo.



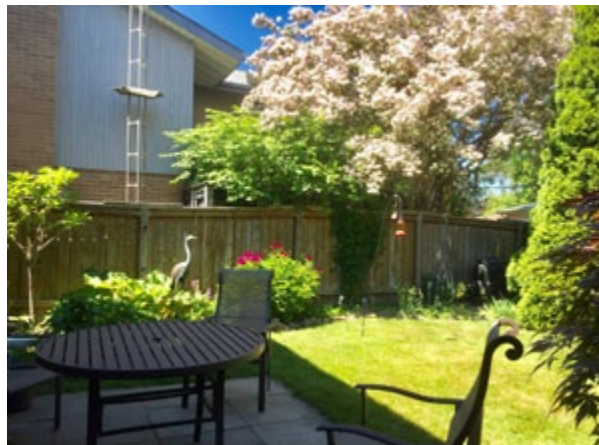
Joan Patterson: Spring Blooms

Seven members visited Joan's garden to experience her fabulous spring blooms, including an amazing clump of yellow columbine. Thanks to Joan for the photos.



June 13th - Jean McClusky: Clematis

Jean's beautiful white clematis was on spectacular display at her garden pop-up. Thanks to Joan Patterson for the photos.



June 14th - Mary Ann Nelson: Peony

Members came out to share in Mary Ann's garden, in particular her beautiful white peony. Thanks to Gloria Broks for the photos.

Galt Horticultural Society

Staying connected with our membership

Submitted by Lynne Goulet-Smith, 2nd VP & Membership Committee Chair, Photo by Lynne Goulet-Smith

The GHS continues to send out update emails and monthly news blasts and hold our monthly meetings virtually using Zoom.

We hold virtual garden tours with our members, presenting their gardens via photos or videos. These have been well received and our membership looks forward to these virtual tours. We will be posting these photos and videos to our GHS Facebook page and our website.

As well, we have continued our monthly photo contests. The membership votes on their favourite photo and the winner receives their prize via door-drop-off or by mail.

We have recently started asking members to submit their favourite summer harvest recipes and we will be posting these on our GHS FB page and our website.

The GHS is working out the details to hold a 'Tailgate Plant Swap' for September. We are thinking of asking interested members to bring the plants they wish to give away, display them in the trunks of their cars or truck beds and everyone can walk from vehicle to vehicle, taking what they wish. Members must leave with any of their plants that no one has taken. Covid-19 protocols will be implemented, such as: wearing masks, having hand sanitizer on hand and respecting social distancing.

Our GHS Garden Committee continues to work in our Ferguson Cottage gardens while observing



Covid-19 protocols. The photo shows Ferguson Cottage and the Butterfly Pollinator Garden out front.

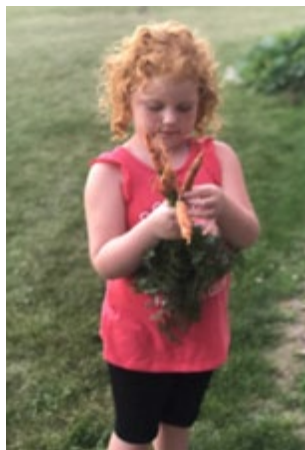
Despite these challenging times, our society has managed to stay in touch... keep our membership engaged... have some fun... and stay safe.

Growing Gardeners In Kingsville

By Heather Crewe, President, Kingsville Horticultural Society

Photo credits: Heather Crewe

Sometimes, the best ideas seem to arrive out of nowhere. While chatting with staff at our local recreation complex last fall, one of them mentioned how proud she was of her six year old granddaughter for winning a prize for her little garden in Tillsonburg. My ears perked up immediately. Tell me more.



Like many horticultural societies, Kingsville had tried various ways to engage youth, but with mixed results. After the initial excitement of planting flowers with the kids, one or two Society members were always left to weed and water once school was out for the summer.

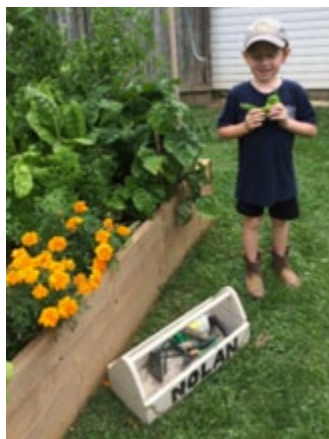
There had to be a better way.

It turns out that the Tillsonburg Horticultural Society landed on the solution more than twenty years ago! They pioneered a new approach to encouraging children to try gardening through their Junior Gardener program. It has been so successful that some of their earliest participants are now signing up their own children.

At this point I need to give a big shout out to my mentor, Pat Zeyen, who chairs Tillsonburg's Junior Gardener program. *Sincere thanks Pat, for your patience and generosity in walking me through the elements of your program. I learned from the best.*

So exactly what is different about THIS Junior Gardener program? The key to success is that the children's gardens are in their own backyard.

Here's how the program unfolded for the Kingsville Horticultural Society. The first step was to approach the Public and Catholic District School Boards to pitch the idea and obtain their permission to invite the principals of the four elementary schools in town to work with us. I'm happy to report that all four principals enthusiastically embraced the idea and agreed to help us distribute applications to their pupils. The program



is open to elementary pupils aged four to fourteen.

In the original Tillsonburg model, applications are distributed through the schools, then collected a few weeks later. By the latter part of May, packages of seeds and instructions are then distributed through the schools with each child's name, grade, and homeroom teacher clearly marked on the bags. Judging of the gardens takes place in early August.

Giddy with anticipation, I dropped off bundles of applications to each school office on March 7th, with a promise to come back for the completed applications at the end of the month. But only one week later, Ontario went into a total lockdown because of Covid-19. Oh great. Now what?

By then I had already ordered, paid for, and received bulk quantities of seeds for what I hoped would be a good response to the new program. Bags and bags of seeds were stacked in boxes in my living room. In desperation, I reached out to the principals again. Is there any chance you could post the application form on your school's electronic bulletin board? Given the extraordinary circumstances of the lockdown, the principals came through for us again. Completed applications started showing up in my email inbox; sent to me directly rather than to the schools as originally planned. By the April 17th deadline, we had 106 children signed onto the program. Not bad for our first year of offering the program and in the midst of a Canada-wide shutdown because of the global pandemic. I was over the moon with relief!



I got busy on my laptop to set up spreadsheets to track each child's contact information, age, school, grade, parent's contact information, and whether they were willing to have their garden judged. All of this information was on the application forms, which also included a place for parents to authorize that their child's photo could be taken for use by the Society. I started to repackage the bulk seeds into smaller packets of about 10 seeds each. The next step was to assemble the gardening kits. Each child received a bag containing 8 different packets of seeds, 3 bulbs, and 3



Contents of the Gardening Kit

had recommended that we feature a different theme each year. We followed her lead and made "Plant a Rainbow Garden" our 2020 theme. The ten plants chosen represented the colours of the rainbow and were all easy to germinate and grow. Foolproof gardening success is an important consideration for gardening with kids. Our kits contained packets of seeds for sugar peas, purple beans, Swiss chard, carrots, mini white pumpkins, lemon cucumbers, blue nigella and marigolds, plus liatris bulbs and the aforementioned tomato plugs. Truly, a rainbow of colours. Subsequent years might have an alphabet theme, a pizza theme, or a grow your own snacks theme. Numerous websites offer great ideas for kids' gardens.

Once the gardening kits were assembled, I contacted the parents to set up a date and time when I could drop the kits off directly to each household. Masks were worn and safe distancing practised. While this was a more time-consuming and labour-intensive method than distributing the kits through the schools as originally planned, the extra effort was met with rewards. I got to see excited kids tear into the bags like they were Christmas gifts. Packets of seeds flew in every direction.

We included contact information for the parents to get in touch if they had any problems or questions. Then we gave the kids time to establish their new gardens. We recommended that each garden measure at least 4 x 4 feet. Raised beds would be ideal, but the plants could also be grown in containers if space was limited.

In mid-July, I contacted the parents again to let them know that our teams of judges would be in touch to set a date and time to come and visit the gardens.



tomato plugs. A local greenhouse operator generously donated a flat of tomato plugs. The kit also contained a booklet I wrote for the program with detailed planting and care instructions, and a youth membership card.

To make it more interesting, Pat Zeyen

Of the 106 children who signed onto the program back in April, 58, or a little more than half, had agreed to have their garden judged. Of that group, about 10 children opted out of the program for one reason or another, but a certain number of dropouts had been expected.

Each team of judges ended up with about 12 gardens to visit. The addresses were organized geographically to cut down on the judges' travelling time between appointments.

Again masks, safe distancing and having at least one parent present were absolutely mandatory. Siblings' gardens could be judged on the same visit but were scored separately.

Competition categories were established by age group – 4 & 5 year olds, 6 & 7 year olds, 8 & 9 year olds, and so on. Scoring was out of 100, with points awarded for each healthy plant, care of the garden, and answering questions about their observations and gardening experiences. Photos were taken of each child next to his or her garden.

Maybe this program struck a chord because 2020 has otherwise been such a challenging year for parents. They found themselves trying to navigate their way through an uncharted world of working from home, home schooling their children, and looking for ways to keep their kids busy when they could not play with their friends or even go to the playground. Whatever the reasons, we received so many positive comments from parents – and many appeals to offer the program again next year.

They thanked us for offering something that the whole family could support and do from the safety of their own yard. Dad built a raised bed; Mom helped to rig up support trellises for the climbing vines; Grandma and Grandpa offered tips from their own years of gardening. It was a family affair.

But the real stars were the Junior Gardeners themselves. Five year old Nolan proudly showed us



the toolbox his Dad built for him and loaded up with a fork, hand trowel, and fertilizer pellets. Six year old Cece confided that she was waiting for the Tomato Elf to visit her garden and paint the tomatoes red. Eight



year old Kenzie hopped behind the wheel of her Grandpa's John Deere Gator™ to drive us to the back fifty acres of their farm and show us where she had planted her pumpkins. All the children proudly showed off their gardens, talked about new bugs they had discovered, and told us which of their vegetables they liked best and which

they didn't. [Raw beans eaten fresh from the vine were the hands down favourite.]

As I write this at the end of August, the final chapter of the program is taking shape. All the children who took part will receive a Certificate of Participation. And next week our winners will be announced, with customized medals awarded to the First, Second, and Third highest scores in each age category. We had hoped to celebrate with a big party for everyone this fall. Alas, that won't happen this year due to active Covid cases still cropping up in our community and limitations on the size of gatherings.

I'll close by saying that this was by far one of the most personally rewarding projects I have ever undertaken in all my years with horticultural societies. Throughout these gloomy months of the Covid lockdown, our Junior Gardener Program has kept my spirits up. Best of all, based on the amazing little gardeners we have sparked, I know that we have unlocked the secret to growing gardeners. I can hardly wait to start planning next year's program.

Nobleton & King City Garden Club

Kelly Lavis, President

Photos by Judy Onorato

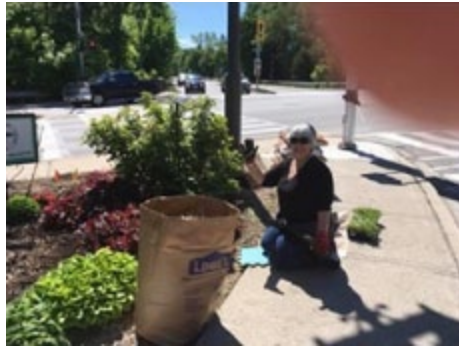


The Nobleton & King City Garden Club enjoyed their Annual Members' Trip event in August, despite COVID. Proper distancing and precautions were taken for everyone's safety and this permitted us to get together outdoors. It was great to enjoy the warm, balmy evening. This was our first and only club event this year and it was a great location. We visited the Country Cut Flowers Farm in Newmarket where we enjoyed walking the grounds and the beautiful flower selection. The flower patches and field were brimming with gorgeous zinnias, strawflower, sunflowers, Japanese anemone, yarrow, celosia and so many others. Our members filled a mason jar with flowers that we chose and cut. It was great to get out, see some familiar faces and pick a bouquet. Thank you to our hostess Janet and our organizer Judy.

Ancaster Horticultural Society

Summer 2020 Activities

Betty Howitt, Publicity Director, Photos by Bob Wilt



Brandon Park



Fieldcote Memorial Park and Museum

The Ancaster Horticultural Society has been very active in the community this summer. We continued to maintain garden beds at Millennium Peace Park, Brandon Park, The Old Town Hall and Fieldcote Memorial Park and Museum. The Ancaster Horticultural Society's Trillium Committee worked hard to make this year's program a wonderful success. Thank you to Kelley Gowland, Marilyn Burjan and Carol Ann Howe, the Trillium Committee. Judging of the entries took place from July 4 - 19 by 50 volunteer society members. They judged 277 beautiful properties and took in 186 volunteer hours. 125 Trillium awards were handed out: 122 residential, 1 commercial and 2 townhouses.

This year was different as the judges did not leave their vehicles. We have always placed a letter in entries' mailboxes to say that their property has been judged. They received an email instead. The competition was fierce as the cut-off was 93 out of a possible 100. Folks took to their gardens this year and they were beautiful. Our awards ceremony at Fieldcote Memorial Park and Museum did not happen. Volunteers from the

AHS hand-delivered the trilliums to the winners' front gardens. After placement, a phone call was made to let them know that their award had arrived.



Trillium Awards, Photo by Betty Howitt

There were 18 perfect scores of 100. We also handed out 14 gold trilliums recognizing 5 years, 7 ruby trilliums recognizing 10 years and 6 diamond trilliums recognizing 15 years. This year, our awards did not have a date on them because the order was done earlier this year and at that time we were uncertain if we would be judging at all.

The Trillium Awards are one of the main functions of the AHS with the aim of the program being to beautify Ancaster. One of the ways we encourage beautification is to annually evaluate residents' front gardens.

Stoney Creek Garden Club

Submitted by Sandi Remedios, Assistant District 6 Director and Judy Wrobel, President

Beth Powell's Garden Tour

Photos by Judy Wrobel and Barb Bayley at Beth Powell's (member of the Stoney Creek Garden Club) place.



On August 8, 2020, Beth Powell held a Garden Tour on her 3-4 acre property in Cainsville. Social distancing was quite easy and there was ample parking in her field. She provides this tour every year and it is such a pleasure to see all the work she does and great ideas to give the garden character.

The Stoney Creek Garden Club

Submitted by Marian Heil, Photos by Liz Chapple

The Stoney Creek Garden Club was the lucky recipient of a tree planting grant from the Ontario Horticultural Association. The club chose to plant a Forest Pansy Redbud, a beautiful native tree, on the grounds of The Church of Our Saviour the Redeemer since this is where the club meetings are held.



President, Judy Wrobel and member/horticulturist Eric Geenan

What is New in LaSalle?

By Jan Dugdale/ President & Public Relations Officer

What a time it has been due to Covid! A lot of societies are surely missing their members and the interaction they have had with them in the past. But there is always Zoom for those who want to have a meeting with members who wish to log on. For us, we only had a couple of members interested, so it was a no-go, but we did have all our board meetings in this manner.

The gardens here in our town have been covered over with fabric and stone and no planters to be seen anywhere. Pretty sad. Our society has kept up with its Celebration Garden that we have had since winning the 1000 tulips for the centennial celebration. It is just about watering, weeding and keeping the plants pruned nicely. Thanks to our members that have looked after that.

We made a little profit from our three socially distant plant sales. Orders were taken online from a list of plants we had available for purchase and the buyers were given a time and place to pick them up. Masks were mandatory and only debit or credit was allowed as the cars arrived in fifteen-minute intervals.

Our community gardens flourished with the great amount of sun and heat we received this summer. There was a bit of drought, but our massive number of rain barrels carried us over between storms.

For District 11, LaSalle Horticultural Society is putting together an updated list of speakers. If you have anyone in mind, please forward the information to them at: horticulturalsociety@mdirect.net. Even if speakers are outside the area, but willing to travel at a cost, the society would really appreciate your suggestions.



Brockville & District Horticultural Society

Article and photos by Danielle Laurier, President

BDHS holds its first event since COVID

On Saturday, August 15, members of the Brockville & District Horticultural Society had the opportunity to participate in a members' garden tour. After checking with local health authorities, it was determined that we could go ahead with this activity while putting special safety measures in place. We were happy with the successful turnout. The weather was perfect and over 40 members came out to see the gardens of Inez & Michael O'Shaughnessy, Claire Dougall, and Diana Earle & Victor Limbeek. A feast for the eyes!

I have to congratulate the three members who opened their gardens for the tour. Their efforts to get things growing and flowering in their gardens is commendable.



O'Shaughnessy Garden

The main feature of the O'Shaughnessy property is a natural rock pond and waterfall. When some of the larger pine trees were ready to come down, Inez and Michael had a local artist carve several bears and a few benches, turning a negative situation into a positive one.



Claire Dougall Garden

Claire Dougall is an avid gardener enjoying plants of all colours and types. The grounds are literally full of flowers everywhere you look. The gardens were planted by the former owner, who was also an avid gardener. The bones were there and Claire has greatly expanded the beauty and size of the gardens. She has future plans for a pond and paths. This is truly a "flower power" property.



Diana Earle & Victor Limbeek Property

The land owned by Diana Earle & Victor Limbeek was one of a trail of quarries from which the stone was used to build the original 1000 Islands Parkway. Stone from this quarry helped to raise the roadbed at Jones Creek to build a 4-lane bridge over the creek. It was also used to narrow the creek enough to span with a bridge. It was originally owned by the Sifton family and over the past 22 years, Diana and Victor transformed the quarry into a garden with spectacular views.

Every year, the Brockville & District Horticultural Society recognizes the achievements of our members by presenting special awards. The tour of members' gardens is a special people's choice award. At the end of the tour, participants are called upon to cast their vote for their most favourite garden. The winner is announced at our Annual General Meeting. All three properties managed to achieve stunning gardens which will make judging very difficult.

Dryden & District Horticultural Society

Alison Robinson

To many, 'www' brings to mind the worldwide web. To the Dryden & District Horticultural Society, 'www' is what we've been doing for much of our summer – watering, weeding, and washing our hands:

- Watering because our summer has been VERY dry and VERY hot
- Weeding because weeds flourish in such conditions, and
- Washing our hands because after weeding, we need to... not to mention Covid's prompting.

Nevertheless, we have been able to move forward in several directions. Two of our Junior Hort members, under the tutelage and help of Board Member Cherie Bousfield, transformed the bordering gardens of Wilson's Courtyard on King Street to a thing of beauty. Before the new influx of perennials such as lupines and hostas could be planted, weeds had to be removed and the soil amended. Old perennials, such as lilies, spirea, and Maltese Cross were thinned

out and divided, which all added up to numerous man (people) hours.

On a road less travelled, the Pollinator Garden Project at the Dryden Fairgrounds is a reminder that life goes on – even in altered circumstances. Stage Two of this project was completed last year, but Covid stalled Stage Three, which had been scheduled for this summer. However, Stage Two is alive and well. All the previous year's perennials reappeared on cue. Annual geraniums, phlox and more flourished once again in the repurposed farm machinery strategically placed for planting purposes, and the posts by the gates were painted with a nod to lighthouses.

Remember the song "See You in September"? The Dryden Hort Board Members may, or may not, be singing it, but they could. In mid-September we're having our first meeting of the Board since March, and looking forward to getting back to business – with social distancing in mind!

Remember that gardeners think outside... no box required.

Insurance Queries?

Contact:

Shawn LaPalm

Non-Profit & Charity Insurance

The Co-operators

1-888-712-2667

shawn_lapalm@cooperators.ca

Additional information regarding the OHA insurance plan
can be found at:

<https://gardenontario.org/resources/#insurance>



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2nd Vice President	Sharlene Desjardins	vp@gardenontario.org
Secretary	Kelly Taylor	secretary@gardenontario.org
Treasurer	Jane Leonard	treasurer@gardenontario.org
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Northern and Eastern Regions Representative	Anne Harbord	district2@gardenontario.org
Past President and PP Council Representative	Rose Odell	pastpresident@gardenontario.org

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District 19 - Regional Municipality of Waterloo	Bruce MacNeil	district19@gardenontario.org

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In Memoriam	Marilyn Cox	inmemoriam@gardenontario.org
Judging School Coordinator	Jim Mabee	judging@gardenontario.org
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Webmaster	April Davies	webmaster@gardenontario.org
Youth Chair & Youth Competition Chair	Catherine McGill	youthchair@gardenontario.org



Ontario Horticultural Association In Memoriam Book

Donor's Name and Address: _____

_____ Postal Code: _____

Name of Deceased: _____ Year Deceased: _____

District No. (if applicable): _____

If you wish a family member to be notified, please complete the following:

Circle title: Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss Other

Name and Address: _____

_____ Postal Code: _____

Relationship to Deceased Person: _____

Mail with your monetary donation (minimum donation is \$25 per name) to:

Ontario Horticultural Association

c/o Marilyn Cox

86 Church Street

R.R. #2, Keswick, ON L4P 3E9

For information, call 905-476-3000 or email: inmemoriam@gardenontario.org

Funds from donations to the OHA Memorial Book Special Fund are available for Memorial Tree Grants.

NOTE: Do you wish to have the deceased person's name acknowledged at the convention?

Circle your preference: Yes No

Convention Acknowledgment

If you wish to have the deceased person's name acknowledged at the convention, no monetary donation is required.

Please notify Kelly Taylor, OHA Secretary, by email: secretary@gardenontario.org with the name and the District Number (if applicable).

Sculpture Garden, Singhampton

Marion Bartlett

A few years ago, my husband Rick and I embarked upon a massive project in our forest glade located in Singhampton, Ontario. I am a sculptor, and he is a woodworker/turner.

Our house has a large studio and separate woodshop where we produce our artwork.

A path leading through the tall mature forest is peppered with art installations that are eclectic, thought provoking, often whimsical, but always interesting.

We were encouraged by the many sculpture parks we have visited throughout Europe and other countries. Canada has only a few of these destinations... and so we began.

We were encouraged by the individuals who arrived... who were followed by large groups of fascinated visitors. Surprised and inspired by our displays... both garden and art enthusiasts were equally enthralled.

Many indigenous flowers and plants thrive here, and we allow them free rein.

However, dozens of friends have contributed beautiful additions of shade plants that adorn the many art installations, complementing the unique pieces.

The Collingwood Garden Club members have provided many of the blooming greenery that happily grows beneath the stately trees.

We welcome anyone wishing to enjoy a tranquil walk in an unusual oasis. It is free.

All we ask is a text or email to announce your arrival. Our website has several examples of the displays... however there are many new installations at Singhampton Sculpture Forest.

Marion Bartlett

Richard Bino

www.studio124.ca



Enjoy a tranquil walk through our eclectic Sculpture forest.

Is your District represented in this issue? The submission deadline for the Winter issue of the Trillium is December 1, 2020.

Articles can be emailed anytime to: editor@gardenontario.org.

We're looking forward to hearing from you.