

2021 Historical Record of the Horticultural Societies/Clubs of Ontario

2021 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2021 was extremely challenging for the OHA and for our affiliated Societies/Clubs. Learning new technologies and dealing with all of the guidance to properly navigate the COVID pandemic meant that we had to adjust our ways of thinking about our operations.

As with every volunteer organization, we had a decline in membership numbers, a reduced ability to serve our communities, some degree of financial difficulties and fewer volunteer hours in our communities. These challenges made the OHA and our Societies/Clubs even more resilient and dedicated to serving their communities.

The OHA is continually looking to maintain or increase the Grant funding available to Societies/Clubs for community improvement. In 2021, we increased the number of Awards & Grants to step forward and assist our Societies/Clubs to continue their work in the communities.

Societies/Clubs received financial assistance from OMAFRA in 2021 that greatly helped them. The OHA is not eligible for such assistance. It has no income other than membership fees from the Societies/Clubs and any fund raising events, so it initiated a 50/50 Lottery draw in an attempt to generate income.

All indications are that as we move forward in 2022, the OHA and the Societies/Clubs will grow as they have more contact with the public, have more of an effect upon the communities they serve and become stronger than they were before COVID.

Take care; Stay safe

Charles Freeman, OHA President 2021

Report extracted and edited from the 2021 Corporate Report

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OHA DISTRICT 1

Cornwall & District Horticultural Society

We published two newsletters, mailed them to all members as far back as 2019 and went from 30 to 86 members. At our only in-person event, we donated and planted the material in the flower boxes on the Three Nations Bridge for the fourth of a five-year commitment. At our four virtual meetings with guest speakers, we discovered that involvement via demonstrations, prizes and group participation (including a scavenger hunt), were critical to keeping members interested. We also made sizeable monetary donations to three local groups.

Gloucester Horticultural Society

To comply with COVID restrictions, we moved our plant sale to a local farm stand and hope to produce benefits for both the farm and the society. Tree Canada gave us an outdoor talk about the best native trees in our area for our gardens and how best to plant them for survival. We had online presenters from across Ontario, shared them with other societies and joined theirs. We received two OHA grants: one for trees in a school garden and the other for a native plant garden at Madonna Home. We awarded a \$500 bursary to a local high school student.

Kemptville Horticultural Society

Most meetings were online, except for a tour of special trees at Kemptville College in August. We held a virtual seed exchange over three weeks in February, exchanged plants with members in lieu of a plant sale and visited member's gardens adhering to Public Health Regulations during the summer, we received a technology grant and a tree grant from the OHA, gave the President's Award to our public planting co-chairs and \$400 rent assistance to the church where we hold our regular meetings.

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Martintown & District Horticultural Society

Our executive members each took a two-month term in the Leadership Role. We gave each member two premium day lily plants, held four garden competitions and four garden tours. Our Executive and General Meetings were on Zoom and the AGM was both online and in-person. Members planted and maintained flower barrels, containers and gardens around the village. We received a \$200 OHA Tree Grant to purchase a Native Red Maple and the Township of South Glengarry gave us a grant to purchase plants and shrubs for the new Cenotaph.

Maxville & District Horticultural Society

In January, we held a Virtual AGM assisted by Candace Dressler, our District 1 Director; then in February, we began our own Zoom meetings and shared our speaker presentations with the other District 1 Societies. We planted a Native Red Maple Tree in June, held a fall plant sale at the Farmers Market in Maxville, organized by our local Chamber of Commerce, and felt very fortunate to hold our November AGM in person with 56 members following our local Health Unit guidelines.

Russell and District Horticultural Society

We were very limited in our activities due to COVID restrictions which cancelled the plant sale, the *March It On Out* fundraiser, *Living Locally Fair* and reduced our Membership considerably. Community involvement is largely outdoors so it was not affected as much. We had fewer day trips, a virtual flower show and some fund raisers. The board did not meet in person, but held a small group executive meeting. At our only in-person meeting and AGM in November, we thoroughly enjoyed making seasonal decorations.

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Vankleek Hill and District Horticultural Society

We held all meetings virtually using zoom, starting with the January AGM. In February, the topic was *Gardening for Wildlife*, March had *Korean Natural Farming*, April was the D1 AGM, May had *Water Saving for Gardens*, July was the OHA convention and September *Seed Collection* and a *Walking Tour of Flowers of the Camino*. We held a children's photo contest with the Champlain Public Library and looked after the local park and town signs.

Williamstown Green Thumb Horticultural Society

Again this year, our members set up an outstanding 50- foot-long display at the 210th Williamstown Fair, a drive-through event this year. Our general meetings were on Zoom with a speaker and our AGM was both in-person and on Zoom. We mailed out a newsletter instead of a Yearbook and had quite a few renewals by current and former members. With COVID protocols from our local Health Unit, we held our plant sale at members' homes, had two garden tours and continued with our community gardening.

OHA DISTRICT 2

Almonte & District Horticultural Society

The May plant sale, flower shows and regular meetings were cancelled. We celebrated the completion of the 100th anniversary project (a pollinator garden) at an outdoor event with a commissioned sculpture installed. Our 100th anniversary banquet was held in October. Virtual Board, AGM and general meetings had low attendance. The Fall Plant Sale was a moderate success. Our Treasurer, Carol Alexander, received a D2 Appreciation Award and our "Tree Man", Allan Goddard, was honoured with the OHA Award of Merit. The membership director held outdoor meetings to accept forms and dues.

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Beachburg Horticultural Society (Whitewater Gardeners)

The pandemic shutdown all programs and events. We held two general meetings outdoors and one AGM indoors. We cancelled our membership drive. Our only fundraiser was a poorly attended Plant Sale which raised very little money. We held a well-attended Daylily Garden Tour in Osceola and completed the beautification of main street Beachburg. We placed three articles and meeting notices in the Whitewater News. With no Beachburg Fair, we had no garden/plant competitions.

Carleton Place & District Horticultural Society

Our meetings and volunteer projects were cancelled due to COVID. All meetings were via Zoom. A membership campaign and advertising on Facebook attracted new members. Our \$250 bursary was awarded to a student headed to the Univ. of Guelph for a Landscape Architecture degree. Members made hand-tied bouquets which we donated to the Hunger Stop Food Bank to give to families at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Some members formed a Climate Change committee and will report at each meeting on their findings.

Deep River Horticultural Society

We successfully established a Food Forest Garden. The Incredible Edibles Garden was expanded with five new raised beds. Five Fruit trees were added and the herb garden tripled in size. A large Pollinator Garden was also established. We were able to host most events except Seedy Sunday and the Spring Flower Show due to restrictions. With the Deep River Library, we built and created two seed libraries for residents to share their seeds. Marion Thompson and Bev Wilkin received D2 Appreciation Awards for their work.

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Eganville and Area Horticultural Society

Although member meetings and flower shows were cancelled, town planters were prepared in family bubbles. We held driveway plant sales, an outdoor Auction and Harvest Sale as well as a successful driveway book sale. We purchased a Zoom account and offered tutorials. Twelve planters were decorated for Christmas, Valentine's Day, and St. Patrick's Day. Lillian Jeannotte and Val Collins were each presented with a D2 Appreciation Award. Joanne Hoelke, received the OHA Community Improvement Project Award and Judy Grasmuck won the honour of naming the theme of the OHA 2023 Convention - "Rock Your Garden World".

Greater Ottawa Water Garden Horticultural Society

Our Annual water garden tour was cancelled due to COVID restrictions. Our Summer Pond Socials took place with four in-person member events. Regular meetings were on the Zoom platform. The previous year's members were given complementary membership for the year. Despite COVID restrictions, members were able to enjoy virtual meetings during the fall and winter months. Our AGM was held virtually and was well attended.

Kanata-March Horticultural Society

Due to the pandemic restrictions, our Society could not hold any events. However, we were given permission to work on our Pollinator Garden. We held all Board and general meetings and AGM via Zoom. Financially, we are doing okay thanks to the OMAFRA grants. We have teamed up with BigYellowBag as a fundraiser. Our speaker presentations were done virtually.

The Molly Wilson Memorial Garden was updated thanks to our volunteers and a generous donation from Richmond Nursery. We participated in the Adopt-a-Park program

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Madawaska Valley Horticultural Society

General meetings and our bus tour were cancelled. Although we held Plant Sales, a Garden Tour and a Summer Flower and Vegetable Show, due to the pandemic, the numbers were down. Board meetings and AGM used Zoom. We set up an e-transfer account for membership fees that helped us maintain a positive financial position. Community beautification proceeded under COVID protocols. Our Scholarship Program provided \$500 to a local student who will be pursuing studies in Horticulture.

Manotick Horticultural Society

Our society quickly pivoted to online facilities for our programming, other than bus tours. We held six virtual flower shows and one live, judged flower show, open to the public. Garden tours were held in small groups with pre-registration. We held four months of garden tours. Our plant sale was virtual for the second year. Our seed sale was also online. We added monthly 'coffee chats', providing an informal meeting with a fun quiz and a variety of demonstrations. We held a tree giveaway in partnership with Ecology Ottawa, providing 475 seedlings to local reside. Our membership grew by 30%.

Nepean Horticultural Society

What a topsy-turvy year this has been! We cancelled in-person events and meetings and held meetings with our new Zoom licence. We held sales of seeds, tomato seedlings and 2 spring plant sales. We undertook a new initiative to promote pollinator gardens in conjunction with the Butterfly Ranger Program of the David Suzuki Foundation. We supplied 12 households with plants and/or seeds and helped two local United Churches and the Nepean Museum establish gardens as well. These new gardens were designated the North Nepean Pathway.

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Ottawa Horticultural Society

No events were carried out. Flower shows and photography competitions were done on-line. A spring plant sale was held using an on-line sales site. Board meetings and the AGM were held on Zoom. Membership retention was good due to sterling work by the Membership Committee. The extra Provincial grant was welcome. The Board members from 2019/20 continued to serve. The use of Zoom meetings combined with the Society's YouTube channel proved to be an effective way to provide horticultural information to members. There were four issues of our Newsletter which can be downloaded from our web page.

Ottawa Valley Rock Garden and Horticultural Society

Our bus trip to the Spring Peterborough Flower Show, the Spring Friends of the Farm plant sale and the Fall Ottawa Porch sale were cancelled. We didn't hold our summer BBQ, geological field trips or Christmas Pot-luck. All monthly meetings were via Zoom. The grants provided by OMAFRA kept us in a liquid position. An extra meeting was held in January and May to try and compensate for our lack of in-person meetings. We subsidized the North American Rock Garden Society's virtual day-long seminars on Crevice Gardens and Rock Gardening in general.

Pakenham Horticultural Society

Our beautification committee looked after the flower beds in the village under COVID protocols. We had several "for fun" flower shows using Facebook and Zoom. Our annual picnic and potluck were cancelled. Meetings were generally on Zoom. We had one successful plant sale and four garden tours under COVID protocols. Lori Ray is the D2 webmaster and she won the 2021 OHA Technical Advancement Award. For our Junior Program, we sent the children donated seeds with planting directions. In the Fall, the children's gardens were viewed and judged.

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Pembroke Horticultural Society

All but one of our events were cancelled. We held meetings on Zoom, but several members don't have the technology. We had some success with e-Transfer to pay annual fees. We were delighted with the response to our Plant Sale. Our *Planting and Harvesting for Success* cookbook fundraiser was a huge success.

Our Arboretum Proposal celebrating our Centennial in 2024 received City approval. The Kiwanis Club joined us as part of their 2022 Centennial. The City of Pembroke increased their annual grant to \$4,500 and we received a \$200 OHA Tree Grant.

Perth and District Horticultural Society

All meetings were via Zoom. Flower Shows, the Plant Sale and our Junior Gardeners program were cancelled. Newsletters went out each month before a meeting. Two garden tours with groups of 25 were held where 50 members participated. Six members opened their gardens throughout July. A Flame Red Maple (OHA Tree Grant) was planted at Stewart School in memory of Ed Chenard. Community Gardens were maintained by DHS volunteers. We decorated the Town Christmas Tree in the Crystal Palace, celebrating 20 years of this project.

Petawawa Horticultural Society

Our school program was curtailed. Zoom Meetings had reduced attendance even though we had excellent speakers. A few meetings were outside when restrictions permitted. We held a Trivia Night Fundraiser. Silent auction items were available for a fun evening for the community. Our beautification program continued with planting many shrubs at one park and bulbs at the Legion. Our Plant Sale on the local Buy and Sell Facebook page was quite successful. Plant pick-up used COVID rules.

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Smiths Falls Horticultural Society

COVID has curbed our garden tours, flower shows and plant sales. We now meet via Zoom due to COVID restrictions. No fundraisers were held due to COVID. We were responsible for our local community vegetable garden and provided harvested goods to the local food bank. We did have our Photography Competition which was well supported

Stittsville-Goulbourn Horticultural Society

We held a virtual Plant Sale with people sending emails for desired plants. All meetings were held using Zoom and members from other clubs joined for most meetings. Our September meeting was held in a member's large private garden under protocols. Our annual Photo Competition was held via Zoom. Members also competed in the D2 photo competition where Brian Beattie won the "Best in Show" award. Our President writes a regular newsletter, *Veggie Bites*, which is forwarded to many people outside our society, as well as the Gardening Calendar and the D2 Gardeners Facebook page.

West Carleton Garden Club

We held our meetings on Zoom with good success. Our plant sale was virtual with all donated plants catalogued and the list available on-line. We maintained our community gardens either individually or with social distancing. All other social events were postponed. One positive thing about using Zoom for our meetings is that we had guests join in from all over the province and we even had some speakers from out of our region. Zoom is nice on a cold, stormy winter night. We continued our Scholarship Program with West Carleton Secondary School.

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OHA DISTRICT 3

Ameliasburg Horticultural Society

In July, four of our members opened their gardens for a tour. They were four very different gardening styles which provided something for everyone. In August our member Ben O'Brien, owner of Wild by Design, led us on a tour of two of his planted gardens in Picton. These were both beautiful gardens designed to be low maintenance and drought tolerant. One garden was thriving even though it was planted in soil-less gravel and was totally dependent on Mother Nature for rainfall.

Bancroft Horticultural Society

Through emails, Facebook and a Zoom membership drive, we were able to get several past members re-registered as well as encourage new members. Membership drives were also held at each plant sale. Our society secured a location for ongoing general meetings, which has ended up being at our old location at 168 Hastings St. N. now a community hub over a senior's center. Our spring and fall plant sales were extremely well attended and brought in significant funds to our society as well as new memberships.

Bath Horticultural Society

COVID continued to challenge our club this year, but we were able to continue our monthly meetings via Zoom. However, we were able to be creative about how to mix our popular Fritz Fertilizer following all the COVID protocols and filled numerous orders. We received a generous grant from Lafarge which enabled us to expand our pollinator garden at the Bath Bugtel. We planted four Serviceberry trees in the park surrounding the garden and have renamed it *The Lafarge Memorial Grove and Pollinator Garden*.

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Belleville Garden Club

We had an amazing line up of speakers for our virtual monthly meetings. We donated \$500.00 to our local foodbank (Gleanors) to help them with their community gardens and food provided each day. Our Co-Chairs, Chris Green and Barb Hayward had a TV appearance to speak about our club. They also spoke to the Belleville Kiwanis Club reaching out for more exposure. During the summer of 2021, we delivered a few "pick-me-up" bouquets to our members. We made them in mason jars and filled them with flowers from some of our members' gardens.

Brockville & District Horticultural Society

Holding virtual speaker events meant that we were able to attract speakers that normally would not have travelled to Brockville for an in-person presentation. Members donated seed to the Brockville Library for the annual free seed exchange. Involvement in Seedy Saturday has been beneficial for us, both to educate the public about gardening and about the activities of the Society. BDHS hosted three digital floral design competitions, an art competition and a photo competition.

Collins Bay & District Horticultural Society

Due to COVID, all our meetings were successfully held on Zoom. Despite not being able to meet in person, we held our June Flower Show and Fall Flower & Vegetable Show virtually on Zoom with a good number of our members submitting their photos. I attended the District 3 April 10th Annual General Meeting along with Don Richardson. A recommendation from this meeting required us to change our Constitution to include all meetings held via Zoom. Our Constitution was updated.

Gananoque Horticultural Society

We continued to provide excellent programming to our members using Zoom and YouTube. We held three virtual Flower Shows,

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three floral design workshops on Zoom. And an outdoor garden competition. A major accomplishment was publishing of a 250-page History book entitled *Make Gananoque More Beautiful* with many photographs dating back to the late 1800s. To encourage the community to garden we gave out over 24 *Curb Appeal Award Posters* to gardens in town that stood out and make our community more beautiful.

Kingston Horticultural Society

Spurred by the pandemic, more people are interested in gardening. We had over 40 new members join in 2021. Two videos of gardens were prepared and posted to our YouTube channel. With the support of the Kingston Community Garden Network, a scavenger hunt was offered toward the end of summer. Our two community gardens (Pollinator and Paterson) as well as five gardens in the Kingston Community Garden Network were highlighted on a map of the city.

Land O'Lakes Horticultural Society

Our outstanding events for 2021 were the plant sale and the establishing of a planning committee to create an Indigenous Commemorative Healing Garden. We have received permission from the Cloyne Pioneer Museum and the Township to create this garden at Benny Lake Heritage Park) here in Cloyne. Working with a member of the Highland Waters Metis Council, we are now planning a medicine wheel garden, as well as a butterfly garden.

Lennox & Addington Horticultural Society & Garden Club

Due to the ongoing pandemic, it was a slower than normal year for in-person events. We transitioned to virtual meetings using Zoom. The advantage of using Zoom is the ability to bring in high quality speakers from farther distances. 2021 was the second year for the *Our Gardens* photo contest. It gained a lot of traction this year with many high-quality photos submitted by the members. The

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only fund raiser we had this year was the sale of the *Our Gardens* photo calendar. This too was very successful, raising more than twice as much as the 2020 calendar.

Prince Edward County Horticultural Society

The most interesting events were our Zoom General Meetings that involved up to 34 attendees and featured a speaker and a time for questions & answers. On the outdoor front, the society was active looking into the planting of two public gardens along the Millennium Trail that crosses the County. These will be planted in the spring of 2022.

Rideau Lakes Horticultural Society

Our webmaster, Josée Bentivoglio, redesigned our website to make it mobile phone adaptable. Due to the efforts of a single very dedicated volunteer, Geraldine Baker, the Elgin Community Garden at St. Columbanus Church produced over 250 kilos of vegetables that were distributed through a local thrift store and food bank to those in need. A group of volunteers cleaned up a wild apple orchard on a privately-owned Hydro easement near Portland. The plan is to increase yield to these mature and fruit-bearing trees as a preparatory phase of planting a community orchard on municipal property in the same vicinity.

Stirling & District Horticultural Society

On October 18th, we held our first in-person general meeting since February of 2020. A total of 26 members attended the meeting. A competition by live vote decided the 125th-anniversary logo. VP Caroline Smith and Treasurer Fay Linn- Ferguson told us about progress on the cenotaph renovations, including new design plans. Participation in our several community beautification projects was very meaningful for our members in 2021. The gardens were prepared, planted, mulched, weeded & watered by many devoted members.

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Trenton Horticultural Society and Garden Club

A Pelargonium designed by Will Grainger was named the *Trenton Hero* in honor of our heroes at CFB Trenton and front-line workers. It is an exclusive plant to our society.

Tweed Horticultural Society

Our club planted and maintained the Town's planters and flower beds to beautify our village. Members assisted the residents at Moira Place Nursing Home with seed & flower planting in their courtyard. We also helped with planting vegetables at one of our local churches that provided our local food bank with fresh produce. We judged and donated prize money to the annual scarecrow competition put on by the Tweed Agricultural Society.

OHA DISTRICT 4

Bobcaygeon and District Horticultural Society

Most of our normal activities were cancelled as we had no access to our meeting place. Plans continued for our 100th anniversary in 2022. We had a general meeting outside in September and board meetings were held in a member's back yard with either COVID protocols in place or via Zoom. Our General Meetings, Garden Tours, Volunteer Tea and Plant Sales were all put on hold. We made money but not much.

Brighton Horticultural Society

Brighton Garden Club usually hosts two Flower Shows a year, but, due to COVID, we had to cancel both Shows. Six members opened their gardens for our Members' Garden Tour in July and we held a financially successful parking lot Plant Sale in September. Our four General Meetings attracted an average of 30 members. Most of our 18 new members joined during the Members' Garden Tour

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and the Plant Sale. We are twinning with another society and doing zoom meetings with them.

Campbellford & District Horticultural Society

Like everyone else, we had to change our tactics and do most of our activities over Zoom in 2021, from getting in touch as a group, to virtual speakers and *Show and Tell* about garden successes and failures. We missed our Garden Tour, Garden Party and Pumpkin Contest, but had an in-person seed exchange, a spring and fall plant sale on a member's lawn, and did the flower beds in Trent Hills obeying all COVID rules. If this continues, we need to find ways to keep our members an active part of the program. All things considered, it was a good year.

Coboconk Horticultural Society

Enhanced social media exposure, via Facebook, drew more attention and helped to increase membership and our business support within the community. When we couldn't have baked goods at our plant sale, our local bakery offered discounts to folks who came. The purchasers liked it! All gardens and flower boxes were planted and maintained by club members, while socially distancing. The majority of our meetings had to be cancelled as we could not get a speaker to attend, or were not allowed to meet. We did get one socially distanced outing.

Cobourg Horticultural Society

Our general meetings were held via Zoom. We continued with our normal community work, flower shows and plant sales, but we had decreased income due to a smaller plant sale.

Cramahe Horticultural Society

We cancelled the May plant sale, the August Trash n' Treasures, and had very few entries at our virtual Flower Show in June. Our

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community work consisted of Hanging Baskets, the Town's Decorative Chairs with plants and the gardens at the Ecology Garden, Castleton Library, Colborne Art Gallery, and Victoria Square Gazebo. We kept in touch with our members by emails, quarterly newsletter, and telephone. Board Meetings were via Zoom thanks to our Library. General Meetings were cancelled. Our November AGM was done by mail, email and phone calls.

Ennismore and District Horticultural Society

The impact of COVID was immense, so our ability to e-Transfer greatly helped with payment of memberships and fund raising items. The General meetings on Zoom were not well attended, but it worked well for our Board meetings. As the weather warmed, we met in large garages where we could socially distance and wear masks. Our outside September in-person meeting was well attended, as was our November AGM. Our Spring Plant donations, Barn Yard Gold fertilizer sales and the Winter Planter sale went well with scheduled pick up times.

Fenelon Falls Horticultural Society

Within safety restrictions, we continued work in community gardens and were able to donate 1564 lbs. of fresh produce to local Food Banks. For our *Not A Plant Sale*, donors received a date and time for delivery. A list was emailed out. Members ordered, prepaid and received a date and time for pick up. We sent monthly newsletters to all members and held monthly general meetings with speakers by Zoom or off-site. Board meetings were held monthly by Zoom or in-person. We regained most of our previous members, plus some new ones.

Grafton Horticultural Society

We could only do minimal work in the township gardens. Our normal bi-monthly board meetings were held monthly on Zoom.

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All General Meetings were on Zoom with nearby societies and the public invited via Facebook, bringing in new members. We had two virtual, judged Flower Shows, with Awards presented and photos taken. A power point showcased the winners at the AGM, where voting was via Google Forms, with installation of the officers on Zoom. For the first time, we held a Sunflower Contest and a Fall Plant sale. Both were very successful

Lakefield & District Horticultural Society

2021 was another quiet year in terms of get-togethers and events. We purchased a zoom membership to hold virtual meetings to connect with the members. Board meetings were held regularly, both virtually and in-person. Our garden efforts continued with fewer volunteers who dedicated a large number of hours. As a result, the gardens in the middle of Lakefield were outstanding. Our pollinator garden doubled in size to over 50 different pollinator-friendly plants. All in person meetings, a garden tour and the District 4 AGM were cancelled.

Lindsay & District Horticultural Society

While we were unable to hold general meetings, plant sales or garden tours, we did maintain our garden at Victoria Manor following COVID protocols. The Board met virtually and kept up communication with members via e-mail and Facebook. Unfortunately, we lost money this year.

Minden and District Horticultural Society

Despite COVID and poor internet service, we planted and maintained the community gardens, but all other events were cancelled. Our 2020 AGM was completed by mail in May 2021. We held our first executive meeting September 14, after our President had resigned and moved out west. At our AGM on November 30, we elected a new Board of Directors to work with our dedicated members to bring our organization back together.

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Norland Horticultural Society

COVID curtailed speakers and events to a small minimum and fewer people came out to help. We installed planters at Ward Memorial Park and also planned and executed an excellent Remembrance Day service. Most meetings were by Zoom, but it restricted attendance, as not everyone is computer literate. Tours, sales, shows and other social events were put on hold, giving us fewer opportunities to fund raise for expansions.

Norwood and District Horticultural Society

Our gardening spirit has carried us through 2021. We had our own personal gardens that brought joy and our membership supported our mission. The Board of Directors delivered an informative newsletter and programming despite the necessity of meeting via Zoom. The annual plant sale returned, in a new venue, with new protocols. It was fun and a financial success. Town barrels, flower pots and community gardens were planted and maintained by staying apart, but we had to cancel our usual three plant shows. Most member fees were paid by e-transfers.

Omeme and District Horticultural Society

We planted annuals in the community garden planters and had to hire a worker to do the trimming, mulching and heavy lifting due to the age and health concerns of the volunteers. We had smaller outdoor plant sales and limited attendance at tours of the gardens of three members. We hosted a Scarecrow Festival and posted results on social media. Lots of fun, humour and interest in the community. Most groups participated with a scarecrow on the Main Street. Most members paid their dues, even if they didn't participate in online meetings.

Peterborough Horticultural Society

We did not attempt a Garden Show, plant sale or garden tour. We continued to maintain Fleming Park in the downtown area each

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week of the growing season. Board and general meetings were held via Zoom. Our flower show was virtual with members submitting photos for our monthly meetings and our newsletter. We showcased horticulturally-related vendors to our members each month, having them teach us something and describe their businesses. It was very well received! Our AGM was held via a Google Form and was well "attended".

Port Hope & District Horticultural Society

Our plant sale was held at a member's property, primarily to club members, with receipts about a third of the usual amount. We held two virtual flower shows, did low key tours of members' gardens and decorated eight Winter Bridge baskets and three planters. With a small number of Board members, we held a few Board meetings in person, sometimes outside. At our Annual Picnic, Flower & Vegetable Show, the food was a box lunch, the flowers in a garage and the vegetables outside. Our outlook improved when we met in-person September, October and November.

OHA DISTRICT 5

Agincourt Garden Club

We had all of our meetings by Zoom and stayed in touch with members by telephone, newsletters and emails. Members sold plants, cuttings and seedlings in their driveways. We held a virtual Flower and Vegetable Show in September with awards for Best in Show and Judge's Choice. In December, we had a virtual "fun" flower show and Photo Contest. We had to cancel all public plantings, our annual May plant sale, bus tours to nurseries and our annual Pot Luck and Christmas Flower Show. We lost our last Life Member, who was a founding member.

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Aurora Garden & Horticultural Society

We could not hold a plant sale, garden tour, or participate in the local Canada Day Parade. All meetings were online, as well as three Flower shows and a photography competition. We kept in touch with members by email, maintained a garden at the Community & Home Assistance for Seniors (CHATS), and decorated Hillary House for Christmas, with two wreath-making workshops there. We promoted Garden Aurora at the Aurora Farmer's Market and awarded a new scholarship.

East Gwillimbury Garden & Horticultural Society

With support from our local library, all meetings, Flower Shows, Plant Sale and one outreach program for seniors were held online. It increased our audience and membership, resulting in improved finances. We planted a black cherry tree for Mount Albert's 200th anniversary, worked in local public gardens, held nine pop-up garden tours, helped our local library create a seed catalogue, recognized 50 front gardens for our annual *EG in Bloom Contest*, created YouTube videos, a Gardener's Jeopardy contest and contributed funds to our food banks and library.

East York Garden Club

All meetings and monthly photo contests moved online and we added meetings during the summer for members to keep in touch. The Newsletter was longer, with full colour and drew more contributors. A new Facebook page attracted members and a YouTube Channel was set up to record monthly lectures. The Annual Plant Sale was very popular. The online AGM was fun and interactive, with a scavenger hunt and members encouraged to wear garden hats. We hand-delivered spring bulbs to all members and continued gardening at the Legion.

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Greater Toronto Bulb & Horticultural Society

For the 11th full year of our Society, all meetings were on Zoom. Membership increased slightly. We sold amaryllis bulbs, our main fundraiser, and held two members-only sales: clematis grown by Peter Keeping in the spring and spring-flowering bulbs in the fall at wholesale prices. Anniversary award pins were presented to long-standing members. We provided summer bulbs for the two Toronto Library branches in the Beaches area, and a new group from Riverdale Horticultural Society for Withrow Park. In July, we visited a member's garden in North York.

Lake Simcoe South Shore Horticultural Society

All meetings were held on Zoom and competitions such as dessert, poetry, pumpkin carving, and four non-judged flower shows were done by email and online. Five newsletters and two monthly president letters were emailed. We had a slight drop in membership and finances. For the photography competition, we delivered hard copy photos to the judge. A September plant sale was held in-person for members only. We did Community planting and maintenance through the summer and the *Way to Grow* program was done in person

Leaside Garden Society

We dedicated an urn at the Leaside Library entrance to recognize the outstanding contributions of Bev and Dave Money. Virtual meetings, the plant sale, un-judged flower shows and garden tours have been very effective and well attended. Members submitted photos for the online events. Monthly newsletters, packed with information, were emailed or printed for those not online. We planted and maintained eight gardens. Our speaker series was very popular. Prior to the virtual AGM, members voted by email.

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Markham Garden and Horticultural Society

On February 1, our 2020 AGM was held using Zoom. Then, all 2021 meetings, plus the plant sale were online. We traveled far and wide through our speaker presentations. All flower shows and a garden tour were cancelled, but members did visit a Sunflower Farm at Fairgreen Sod Farms. In early October, the members enjoyed an outdoor meet and greet. For the October photography competition, members submitted photos to our society website, the voting was online, the winners were announced at the October meeting and prizes were awarded.

Newmarket Horticultural Society

We held virtual board meetings, but no general meetings. All voting at the 2021 AGM was done by email. Our membership declined slightly but finances remained stable. Two members held social media advertised plant sales at their homes and donated the proceeds. We emailed six newsletters, held five online non-judged flower shows with over 100 entries each and published garden photos in our newsletters. Volunteers weeded and mulched our two gardens in the Town of Newmarket and work progressed on our 2023 District 5 AGM.

North Toronto Horticultural Society

The Society did not meet or collect membership fees. They struggled to get a board of directors and decided in January 2022 to close the Society, then notified OMAFRA and OHA.

North York Horticultural Society

We continued our Community Outreach church garden upkeep with masks and social distancing. Four Pop-Up-Gardens were enjoyed by members but everything else was cancelled. All meetings were held with guest speakers via Zoom.

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Riverdale Horticultural Society

Our gardening committee continued to work in the park. The Toronto Bulb Society donated 250 spring flowering bulbs. All meetings were held online with ten wonderful, informative and entertaining speakers. We replaced one big photo contest with ten very popular mini contests and created both a website and Facebook group. Our positive attitude attracted new members and four new members were nominated to our Board.

Scarborough Garden & Horticultural Society

All monthly meetings were on Zoom with wonderful speakers. We held a judged spring and fall photo contest with entries shown in our newsletter, non-competitive virtual mini flower shows and invited members to share their photos of *What is happening in your Garden?* In June, two of our members offered well attended pop-up garden tours with scheduled visits and social distancing. Members continued with yearly outreach projects and our by-laws and constitution were reviewed, revised and ratified at the AGM.

Stouffville Horticultural Society

We added plants and maintained our community garden and rented a plot for vegetables to donate to the Stouffville Food Bank. We promoted the club on Facebook, our website and held meetings on Zoom, which we shared with two other clubs. We held a virtual plant sale, promoting it with details of the plants available and scheduling pick-ups, but everything else was on hold. We lost members not interested in Zoom meetings and had difficulty getting volunteers for our board.

The Greater Toronto Water Garden & Horticultural Society

All regular meetings were on Zoom. Our speakers were: Heinke Thiessen who shared *Picture Perfect Gardens*, Rowena Burns had slides on "*Exotic Water Lilies & Lotus of Thailand*", Anna Leggatt on *Big, Bad & Beautiful Invasive species*, and Gloria Broks, who

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presented her trip to South Africa's private gardens and Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens of Cape Town. Our highlights were the Annual Barbecue at a Schomberg farm and our pre-ordered plant sale in June at a Scarborough member's garden, both with safety protocols in place.

OHA DISTRICT 6

Acton Horticultural Society

Acton Horticultural society has been around since 1918 and this year we celebrated 103 years. The impact on events has been overwhelming. We had to cancel all of our plans for the year. A majority of our members are not computer savvy. We tried numerous times to entice people to join zoom meetings. With help, one of our members potted-up some plants and sold them through Facebook groups. We managed to clean up some of the gardens our society maintains. Sadly, the plant sale, pot lucks and general meetings were cancelled.

Ancaster Horticultural Society

This year marks 60 years for our Society. We enjoyed excellent speakers via Zoom in winter, then resumed in-person meetings in April, with two popular off-site meetings. Our signature event was our huge plant sale in May, preceded by a popular and well supported on-line pre-ordering of Heirloom Tomato seedlings. To *Beautifully Ancaster*, we ran, judged and awarded the Ancaster Trillium Awards to 125 beautiful front garden owners. Volunteers plant and maintain gardens at three municipal gardens and Fieldcote Museum.

Brantford Garden Club

Facing challenges during the pandemic, we kept our members interested in horticulture and the club growing with Facebook, monthly virtual speaker events and garden tours. We published

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interesting articles in the monthly newsletter, held an Iris sale and members held curbside plant sales, donating 50% of their sales to us. We awarded a scholarship to a Landscape Design student, gave vegetable & flower seed packets to each renewing member and celebrated our 169th anniversary. Members visited the RBG using our club's RBG passes.

Bronte Horticultural Society

Celebrating 96 years, bus and garden tours, plant sales and many more events were canceled. A volunteer skeleton staff maintained our commitments to Sovereign House with spring and fall clean ups and summer maintenance. We conducted meetings on Zoom, membership was stable and finances were solid thanks to a double dose of provincial funding. The President recognized and thanked the board and members who helped with organizing roles, especially the D6 Executive and our D6 Director, Cat McGill.

Burlington Horticultural Society

Celebrating 102 years young, we held all meetings and speakers via Zoom, with social time before and after the meeting. Our AGM was well attended. Our membership has declined over the pandemic and we are hoping to attract more members back when we can meet in-person again. We canceled our plant sale, garden tour and fundraisers. We gave seed packets out at the Hamilton Mum Show in October that were well received, held a special meeting in December and are far more comfortable with our computers and phones than we were pre-pandemic.

Delhi & District Horticultural Society

Celebrating 101 years, sadly, we could not host a silent auction, our major fundraiser and had to cancel the annual plant sale, annual Flower and Vegetable Show and garden tours. Despite the pandemic, we maintained our membership of 65. Zoom meetings offered members interesting speakers from across Ontario and

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two online photography contests had cash prizes for the top three winners. Members revamped a garden at the Tobacco Museum & Heritage Centre into a beautiful pollinator garden, planted and maintained five community gardens and increased Newsletters to keep members engaged.

Flamborough Horticultural Society

Proud of being 82 years young in 2021, we beefed up our Newsletters and provided outreach telephone support to members without internet. Zoom meetings continued during inclement weather. We helped Life Member Rosemary Brown celebrate her 100th birthday. Our Facebook page promoted environmental stewardship and biodiversity mixed with tips and ideas. We held a successful Spring Plant sale and Members-only Garden tour. The Civic Improvement Committee continued local beautification and identified other opportunities to engage us.

Georgetown Horticultural Society

Started in 1920, we were unable to celebrate our 100th anniversary in April 2020. We will try to make our 103rd anniversary spectacular! For civic improvement, we helped maintain three civic gardens in Georgetown and one courtyard garden at the Georgetown Hospital Continuing Care Centre. We had a mix of Zoom and in-person meetings about: Container Gardening, Everything Tomatoes, Peonies and Friends, Trees for Halton and Native Plantings, It Does Not End in August, Christmas Cacti, and other Holiday favorites.

Glen Morris Horticultural Society

We celebrated 70 years in 2021. Our plant sale, bus tour, coffee party, flower show, and community BBQ were canceled, along with most meetings. Volunteers planted and maintained 10 community gardens. We kept Society members informed with newsletters and accepted e-Transfers, but our membership was down. The

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AGM was held in person and we had a good meeting at Walter's Greenhouses making Thanksgiving Planters. We held three silent auctions online and split the third one with a local company in Paris, The Raw Carrot, which received \$400.

Haldimand Horticultural Society

With COVID-19 rules in effect, we held a virtual plant sale, a virtual Seedy Saturday and an in-person garden tour in the Cayuga Area which was well attended with positive comments. We held all of our executive meetings on Zoom, but didn't have any speaker presentations. Volunteers cared for our seven public gardens by alternating their time following public health COVID-19 rules. Established in 1984, we had our 37th anniversary in October.

Lynden Horticultural Society

Founded in 1928, we had no fundraising, but did community work on an individual basis, held an outdoor birdhouse building workshop, toured a local brewery and had two garden tours of three members' gardens, which had large numbers and spread out easily. Until the fall, board meetings were held via Zoom, which was challenging with spotty Wi-Fi. The March meeting was canceled but April was via Zoom and we had seven instead of nine meetings. The Calendar was planned in 6-month blocks and therefore we did not have our standard calendar year.

Milton Horticultural Society

Established in 1909, we celebrated 112 years. We held a successful virtual Seedy Saturday and a Spring Planter workshop masked and distanced in March. Two driveway plant sales were held in April and May. Volunteers worked on three of our community gardens. Sunny Mount, our Community Vegetable Garden was full, so members donated excess veggies to a local food bank. We had speakers and executive meetings held via Zoom, plus an Informative monthly newsletter and Yearbook.

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Mt. Hamilton Horticultural Society

We celebrated 94 years. Members became more tech-savvy, learned Zoom and held the AGM on Jan. 29. We published a *Garden of Gratitude* newsletter, handed out virtual awards and increased awareness of pollinators with a virtual *Spring Fling*. Four members held a successful plant sale in their driveways. We revised our Constitution, Policy, and Procedure manual to tidy up operations, donated \$1000 to N2N Fresh Food Produce, sponsored Green Ventures Seedy Saturday and provided *Knowledge Sharing* of the Community Gardens in Hamilton.

Oakville Horticultural Society

OHS is 64 years young. The AGM, general and executive meetings, design, horticultural, and photography shows were on Zoom, but attendance was lower than when in-person. The Plant Sale, Garden Tour and Volunteer Appreciation Tea were not held. We participated in the Big Yellow Bag fundraiser. At the *Halton Garden Week* in February, we partnered with local organizations, put on floral design basics, an *Ask the Experts* with a panel of members and reached 500 Halton Garden enthusiasts. Membership and finances were not affected much.

Paris Horticultural Society

Established in 1986. We held the plant sale, board meetings, our AGM and all but 2 General meetings virtually. We cancelled the garden tour and flower show. Membership increased slightly. Modest income from plant sales, reduced spending, the grants from OMAFRA, the OHA and local government helped to keep our finances steady. We created a new garden in King Ward Park and the Paris Legion, planted a memorial tree for our founding President, Harold Hallett, maintained five existing gardens and continued the Adopt-a-Road program.

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Port Dover & Woodhouse

We celebrated over 120 years, but had to cancel our annual auction, bus trip, picnic, and all flower shows. We cared for existing community gardens, created new ones with an OHA grants, supplied the Food Bank with vegetables, and planted native plants in Ryerse Park to create a wetland garden. We held a plant sale in October, sold Tenna Tops and donated excess plants to the Lions Club Park. Cat McGill taught us about Zoom and one member contributed daily to our Facebook sites. Our membership drive was very successful.

Simcoe and District Horticultural Society

Executive meetings were via zoom and the September general meeting was in person, following Public Health protocol. We planted and maintained fourteen community gardens, placed Memorial signs in gardens for lifetime members, celebrated our 125th Year anniversary, participated in a special virtual wellness fair with multiple social media posting on our assigned days and held a well-attended spring plant sale at an outdoor venue. We kept up our membership and held a good financial position.

St. George Horticultural Society

As 2021 was our 100th Anniversary, we made a new sign for our Anniversary Garden and provided our members with a *Member* sign, but postponed our Anniversary social and trip. Our June Garden Tour showcased members' gardens. We held meetings and Floral Competitions on Zoom and hosted the District 6 Fall Dinner, which included a slide show tour of an apple orchard, with Bob Wildfong speaking about the History of Apples in Southern Ontario. We held our AGM in November and a Winter Lights Tour in December and had thirty-five new members.

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Stoney Creek Garden Club & Horticultural Society

All meetings held via Zoom, but the bus trip was canceled, along with the May plant sale and a silent auction, our major fund raiser. We met outside with a picnic dinner In August, sold little garden sticks with Tena Tops and held a small plant sale in October. Almost half of our members attended Zoom meetings with good feedback on the speakers. At the end of meetings, we spun the prize wheel and the winner received a door prize supplied by the club. It was well received.

Waterford & District Horticultural Society

The Pandemic was hard on all members including those who are older, afraid to get sick or are immune compromised, so our meetings have come to a halt. We planned for meetings and events in the future and hoped to have a Horticultural Plant Sale in May as our big fundraiser, but waited to see how the lock downs go. We increased our membership, which was a huge bonus that we got to enjoy and celebrate.

Winona Horticultural Society

Established in 1929, we learned Zoom, met in hubs, invited Master Gardeners to speak to us about food-scaping, rewilding and letting the garden 'bee' preserve winter habitats. Our main fundraiser, The Winona Peach Festival, was canceled again. The Board met on Zoom and outside at Winona Park, where we held our second Build Your Own Holiday Planter Workshop. Again, our Christmas Party was virtual in Hubs and our newsletter editor kept us well informed with nine newsletters published in 2021. We moved our banking to the First Ontario Credit Union.

OHA DISTRICT 7

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Arthur & District Horticultural Society

The noteworthy event was the June garden tour of several Society members' gardens. Despite COVID-19 restrictions, the group was able to meet. Community beds were attended to as usual with plans to rejuvenate one of the larger ones. Plant sale proceeds are going toward this project. In December, some of the members gathered at the shop to make Christmas gnomes which they displayed at their homes. All in all, a very successful year for the Society.

Clifford & District Horticultural Society

The annual plant sale was held at the Gazebo following COVID-19 protocols. Fifty tomato plants and monarch butterfly starter kits were given away at the GardenOntario celebration and the street party. National Tree Day was celebrated to honour a valued volunteer with a memorial tree planting attended by 35 family and friends. Volunteers revamped the flower beds at the Cenotaph. Creating festive wreaths became a fun activity. A float was entered in the Santa Claus parade.

Elora and Salem Horticultural Society

Our Society organized two new activities this summer. With a grant from the Grand River Agricultural Society (GRAS), a Pollinator Garden was created on the grounds of the new site of our local hospital, Groves Memorial Community Hospital. The Grand Gardens event of choosing four outstanding curbside front gardens in each of the four sectors of the Elora/Salem area was again well received by the recipients of this award. This has been a good outreach program.

Erin Horticultural Society

A membership drive was launched in February culminating in a draw for two lovely flower arrangements. Monies were donated to the Erin Food Bank throughout the year and donated to purchase

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seeds and plants for a garden in which food to supply the Food Bank was grown. Members attended a tour of Stonewell Lavender Farm and a tour of two members' gardens. MacMillan Park received regular weeding and clean-up and several new perennials were planted.

Fergus & District Horticultural Society

Our monthly General meetings via Zoom were well attended and we enjoyed a variety of speakers. We invited other societies to join us as well. Our "Digging' in the Dirt" crew were able to get into our community gardens, albeit a little later than they would have liked. We also held our second Grand Gardens of Fergus competition and awarded six lovely gardens in our community for their efforts. Overall, a good year despite the challenges of the pandemic restrictions.

Grand Valley & District Horticultural Society

The year of 2021 has inspired changes for the society. Newsletters and Facebook were used successfully. All the community gardens were maintained by a dedicated team. We learned that it is time to change the format for future gatherings to day trips, workshops and demonstrations on topics the younger generation is interested in, such as vegetable gardening, pruning, composting and issues pertaining to the environment and climate change.

Guelph City Horticultural Society

This year's outstanding accomplishment was the development of a pollinator garden in Riverside Park in Guelph. This project involved GHS members, city officials and Pollination Guelph all working together to make it successful. All meetings were held virtually for the year with lower than usual numbers that would attend in person. A plant sale was held in the fall at the Guelph Market.

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Guelph Township Horticultural Society

COVID-19 continued to impact our Society for most of 2021. In August, we met as a group for the first time since November 2019! For our October meeting, prepared pumpkins, greenery and flowers were provided and each member went home with their own creation. In November we held our 2020 and 2021 Annual Meetings on the same night. Those attending the meeting made a Christmas centrepiece using items supplied to which they could add flowers at a later date. Everyone left the meeting feeling hopeful that 2022 would be a better year.

Harriston and District Horticultural Society

Necessity is the mother of invention and when we went into pandemic mode for the second year in a row, it was time for change. The municipality provided funding for a year's subscription to the Zoom format. The local newsletter went into overload mode and conducted several photo and flower arranging contests, plus encouraged members to share photos of their favorite plants. In the absence of flower shows, and to increase awareness of the numerous types of arrangements, we implemented a design feature at each meeting.

Hillsburgh Garden Club

Hillsburgh Horticultural Society & Garden Club has been very fortunate in 2021 in that we all worked as a group with the same goal in mind. We brought to our members and our community once again a safe & successful plant sale. Accomplishments through the use of our Zoom subscription has helped keep us in contact with our growing membership by offering great speakers and workshops. We have become more connected to our members and their needs.

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Moorefield & District Horticultural Society

The year 2021 was almost a repeat of 2020 for the Moorefield & District Horticultural Society. Our spring meetings were cancelled but we were able to host our annual plant sale in June in Moorefield. We were also able to enjoy a garden tour at the property of one of our members in Moorefield in July. In November we were able to hold our 2021 annual meeting as planned. We would not have had meetings without the generous support of our local municipality.

Mount Forest Horticultural Society

This was a very difficult year but meetings were held outdoors, when possible and two were indoors at the church. Zoom meetings kept the Board in touch and town beds were looked after thanks to volunteers with Colette supervising. New wetland, wild flower {pollinator} gardens have been started at Murphy Park. Our seven rural gardens on the garden tour were truly impressive and a wonderful sunny day made for a good turnout of visitors.

Orangeville & District Horticultural Society

The Orangeville Society did well with holding monthly Zoom meetings for their members. The twice-a-month newsletter was full of information from plant and gardening tips, photos from members or from online flowers shows and photography competitions. The plant sale was the most successful to date as it was a “dig” your own at a member’s garden.

Shelburne & District Horticultural Society

The pandemic had a huge impact on the Shelburne Society. Community gardens were maintained by various members of the Society but no meetings were held. There was hesitancy in gatherings but communication was kept going by Facebook. They held their first online plant sale. It was a learning experience. The Society also ran a front porch "Beautiful Fall" contest using a

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hashtag through Facebook. Changes are coming and we look forward to a brighter 2022.

OHA DISTRICT 8

Auburn Horticultural Society

Auburn had an awesome tree planting - under COVID-19 restrictions in April of 2021. We planted 153 native tree species with the assistance of Maitland Valley Conservation Authority. The biggest challenge during COVID-19 was with technology. Members supported any opportunity to gather outdoors, however declined to participate in virtual meetings, and supports that were offered.

Brussels and District Horticultural Society

We were able to plant up our Main Street planters in late May and maintain them during the season as well as at the other three locations in Brussels that we are responsible for. We were able to connect by phone and email. Financially, with the OMAFRA grants we are okay. Membership was consistent with other years but because of not being able to meet we wonder how many members will return in the coming year. Volunteer participation in necessary maintenance was down.

Chesley & District Horticultural Society

We had a successful plant sale and held our annual meeting in July in a lovely garden setting, one of three garden tours. We designed unique swan bridge boxes, found a fabricator and worked with local government to have them in place in 2022. We designed and placed Garden signs in the largest of ten gardens that we maintain, along with flower boxes throughout the town. We received the funds from a late member's garage sale, held a fall auction sale and ended with a Christmas buffet.

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Clinton Horticultural Society

We placed new signs and planted two memorial shrubs in our gardens at Sloman Park. We had a very successful plant sale. Our garden tour in July observed four personal gardens and Clinton's Artist's Alley. There were three members who virtually attended the District 8 meetings and the OHA Convention. In August we held our Flower Show and Toonie Cafe. Throughout the year we maintained the gardens at Sloman Park and cleaned up the garden by the Town Hall. Appreciation of tulips bulbs were given to 105 members.

Durham and District Horticultural Society

Due to COVID-19, our events were cancelled or held only online. But we held a plant sale online which was new to us. We really missed our normal plant show gathering and being able to talk to people in person, but the sale was very successful. We found our volunteers were worried about gardening in the community, but our board members cared for our gardens. We did hold a Peony sale which was very well received.

Goderich & District Horticultural Society

The highlights of last year were the opportunities to have an in-person meeting in September as well as the Christmas foliage sale. The flower show and the garden tour was postponed until next year when the pandemic restrictions are removed. The membership numbers remained constant from the year before. The finances are slightly above the year before with the fundraising events taking place but limited cost incurred for speakers.

Hanover Horticultural Society

A plant sale was held in the parking lot at the local Legion. Purchases were by donation and a picnic was held at home of the President. The Society was unable to host the annual flower show,

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craft show and spring plant sale. Planting and maintenance went on as usual in community flower beds.

Hensall & Community Horticultural Society

With all COVID-19 guidelines in place, last fall we held our fall Holiday Bazaar, Penny Sale, and luncheon at the Hensall arena. We are looking forward in hosting the spring bazaar. Limited board and general meetings. AGM was held as scheduled. Lost a few members sadly. Without hosting meetings, cost of rentals was less in 2021. With the number of events cancelled, we did not hold as many fundraisers which resulted in lower revenue. Received the OMAFRA grant which helped the bottom line.

Kincardine & District Horticultural Society

The flagpole and cemetery gardens were maintained all year and the garden tour was a great success with over 200 tickets sold. The money raised by this event enabled the society to pay location rentals and fees as membership fees were waved due to the pandemic. All events were cancelled except garden tour which went ahead as it is outside. All meetings were held on Zoom except for October, November and December when in-person meetings were allowed.

Lucknow & District Horticultural Society

We continued to maintain the flower barrels on Main Street, bridges and several flower gardens throughout our community. We were only able to maintain our gardens and barrels in our community. Few meetings were held until we were able to do so. Fewer members felt comfortable attending meetings.

Markdale & District Horticultural Society

Without a doubt, our society was challenged by the restrictions of the pandemic. Regardless, we managed to retain most of our members. We learned how to hold virtual meetings and the

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majority of our members were able to remain engaged. Attracting and retaining new and renewing members was challenging because of our pared down programming. We are grateful for those members who continued to support the society.

Neustadt & District Horticultural Society

The location of our general meetings was closed to the general public. Our membership is elderly so therefore don't have the access to use technology to conduct virtual meetings. We held our AGM for 2020 in the picnic shelter in the park during the summer when we could all safely socially distance. Our membership numbers were down because this was the only meeting we had for the year and therefore members don't pay if there is nothing going on. We have had to postpone our AGM for 2021 until 2022.

Ripley & District Horticultural Society

Past President Elaine Shantz was awarded the 2021 OHA District 8 Service Award. The society's main public garden, Marian's Rose Garden, received new mulch, plantings and watering system. All aspects of our society's functioning were impacted. We were unable to hold our annual flower show, plant sale, greenery auction, garden tour and most meetings. Due to the unpredictability of shutdowns, we had no speakers for meetings, and thus, the education aspect was not fulfilled.

Seaforth & District Horticultural Society

Our annual "Spring" Plant & Bake Sale turned into an outdoor "Fall" Plant Sale and was a success. We had the pleasure of viewing members' gardens virtually via a Virtual Garden Tour using photos submitted by members. Once restrictions were partially lifted, we were able to hold and enjoy three in-person general meetings with guest speakers (following pandemic rules.) Our members spent many hours making sure the town beds and planters were beautiful and inviting.

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Southport Horticultural Society

We had several noteworthy events in 2021. A lavender farm tour was popular with the members, and we were very pleased with the work done on several town gardens, which will continue in 2022. We provided two raised garden beds to our local Northport School for their butterfly garden project, and will likely expand that project in 2022. Our plant sale went very well, with a large number of interesting plants that came close to selling out. Work on the town gardens mostly got done, and we were able to conform to the rules in force for outside work.

Tara Horticultural Society

Sept 25, 2021 there was a ribbon cutting ceremony for the New Walking Bridge in Tara. We had planted a garden at the base of the bridge and our two volunteer students that maintained the garden this summer were in attendance. The garden at the library received a total revamp. Due to the pandemic, all board meetings were held virtually. Since we were not able to be out in the public, we had to rely on marketing through town signs and through social media posts to convey society information.

Teeswater-Culross Horticultural Society

In Teeswater, the society volunteers planted and maintained the flowers on the bridges, at the post office, Lions bench, gazebo, cenotaph, library, and the Town Hall. We planted 54 hanging baskets that were hung along Clinton Street in Teeswater. We were unable to hold our March and May meetings. Our membership was down because we could not do a door-to-door membership drive. We had our AGM but did not have our pot luck as part of this meeting as we have in the past.

Wingham & District Horticultural Society

AGM was held August 4, 2021 in the park with a good in-person attendance of members wearing masks and social distancing on

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lawn chairs. Karen Redmond attended as a representative of District 8 and all the executive and directors agreed to continue in their roles until October of 2021. The community gardens that our group worked on looked as good as they ever have. We helped to finish the natural gardens along the Wingham Trail and made a new Hosta bed in Cruickshank Park.

OHA DISTRICT 9

Dunnville Horticultural Society

It has been difficult maintaining member numbers in light of so little face-to-face interactions with members. Zoom meetings for our board became the norm, and we met in a socially distanced manner when possible. The only in-person member meeting was our AGM in November. We did manage to plant and maintain 23 public gardens. We erected a 15-foot lighthouse feature in one our gardens. Our plant sale, fundraisers, membership drive had to be put on hold.

Fort Erie

2021 was our 100th anniversary but most of our planned activities were not held due COVID-19. We did plant a garden to mark our 100th and a local church for the 200th anniversary of St. Paul's Anglican Church. We had a small outdoors celebration for our 100th anniversary with guests from OHA and the Mayor of Fort Erie. We could only have three meetings, all socially distanced, in October and November. We did manage to have an AGM in December.

Grimsby Garden Club

The ongoing pandemic curtailed the biannual Grimsby Garden Tour, which was postponed until July 16, 2022. The annual plant sale was transferred to an open venue. The monthly members' meetings became ZOOM meetings. Several plant sales were conducted and were successful. A monthly Club raffle was

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inaugurated in 2021, with proceeds being directed towards student bursaries. The Club recognized and celebrated the support and efforts of its many volunteers.

Lincoln Garden Club and Horticultural Society

COVID-19 continued to place us on a status of waiting-for-better-times to allow resumption of regular meetings and activities. We maintained connection with the members by email, providing gardening tips and answers to gardening questions, etc., and making use of free virtual presentation opportunities for those interested. A farm and garden visit that culminated in a social gathering at a member's garden was held early in July. The annual plant sale in May was a huge success. We continued clean-up work on only a few of our 13 gardens.

Niagara Falls Horticultural Society

Unfortunately, we weren't able to host any events at all due to the pandemic. We did have one informal meeting at Heartland Forest with members. There were several online board meetings. Membership has dropped significantly since pre-pandemic. As a positive note to the pandemic, we have had many garden strolls for members-only with great turnouts. We were able to donate \$1000 to Heartland Forest in Niagara Falls, and a scholarship of \$500 to the Niagara Parks School of Horticulture.

Niagara-on-the-Lake Horticultural Society

Our Plant Sale and our Garden Tour had to be cancelled this year due to COVID-19. All but 2 of our General meetings that were held in 2021 were via ZOOM. We were able to hold our October (meeting) and our AGM in November in person, but with few members attending. In July one of our members opened up her beautiful garden for other members to come and experience it. In December, we distributed 250 poinsettia plants to three seniors' homes in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

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Pelham Horticultural Society

Tending to and planting community gardens was done in shifts, masked and physically distanced. We held our annual plant sale with pre-orders. The garden walk was done virtually. Board and general meetings were all done on ZOOM. The AGM was in person, but attendance was lower than in other years. Membership increased with a greater focus on our social media presence. We now offer e-Transfer and look forward to developing a club website in 2022.

Port Colborne Horticultural Society

We participated in trimming, weeding, and maintaining a community garden that we took part in planting last year at the city's H.H. Knoll Park. Several members took part in maintaining the Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum's 10 blooming beds. We held no general meetings, nor an AGM, but information on finances and the executive was emailed to the membership in fall. The board kept in touch by email and phone, and one outdoor meeting. The flower show and plant sale were cancelled.

Ridgeway & District Garden Club

We only had meetings for the months of September, October and November. We had a member-only garden tour, which was very successful. All outings were cancelled and our annual making of flower baskets at our local nursery was also postponed. Our AGM was conducted via email. Our membership fees were reduced, but financially we are still fine. The grants we received along with our yard sale kept us about even. We were still able to support four local City Beautification Projects.

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Smithville Garden Club

We did not have our annual June garden tour this past year. We did have a small limited outdoor plant sale but by appointment only. We were not able to celebrate our 100th Anniversary as planned. Our only fundraiser was the May Plant Sale, but it was limited in size this past year. We maintained a pollinator garden, and also the healing garden at the Wellandport Library. We gave a scholarship of \$175 to Smithville Christian High School.

St. Catharines Horticultural Society

Shut down with no board of directors, the society could not get an executive and operated with two trustees who took care of necessities. OHA membership fees were kept up to date and plans for an AGM on March 26, 2022 to start up the society again with new beginnings, a new website, and the uses of committees to run the society. The nickname will be Garden City Gardeners. We are trying to entice a different type of gardener, more hands-on, fewer general meetings, and more seminars to teach.

Thorold Horticultural Society

No fund raising events could be held and therefore all meetings, AGM, presentations etc., were online events. More newsletters were distributed to keep the membership engaged. We held our 2nd Annual Online Virtual Rose Show and produced a PowerPoint presentation on the beauty of Winter Garden. The Thorold Garden Club provided Zoom presentations and invited members from St. Catharines, Niagara Falls and Welland to participate with us. A scholarship of \$100 was donated to Thorold High School.

Welland Horticultural Society

Sadly, we did not host any meetings or plan any community events, but we did host a successful plant sale by appointment over a few weekends and our 2020 AGM with voting done by email. Thanks to neighbouring societies for inviting our members to their virtual meetings.

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OHA DISTRICT 10

Aylmer & District Horticultural Society

We did quite well considering the restrictions imposed by the government. Some members did choose to attend virtual events. Our volunteers continued to care for the gardens by mulching, pruning, weeding, planting annuals and perennials. Positive feedback and town support make us proud of our continued efforts to beautify! Our volunteers were given the green light by Southwestern Public Health to go ahead with our Annual Plant Sale. We had a most successful event. The turnout was amazing.

Belmont & Area Horticultural Society

We were still able to do some outdoor activities. We completed our AGM at an outdoor meeting in July and the OMAFRA reporting was completed a few days afterwards. Periodically, Board members were able to meet to continue the business of the Society. A fall fundraiser was initiated to create autumn porch packages and it proved to be quite successful. A Facebook page was launched to assist in raising awareness of the Society in the community.

Dorchester Horticultural Society

A small group cleaned up the flower beds at the Cenotaph and at the seniors building. We put Christmas in the pot at the seniors' complex with a perky gnome as a centrepiece. We post to Facebook daily to keep in touch with our followers. We had our Christmas meeting, which was catered, with poinsettia plants as centrepieces, and with door prizes for the evening. We changed our room setup to square tables instead of rows to encourage chatting and interaction.

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Dutton Dunwich Horticultural Society

After 2020, where we did not have any meetings, we decided to purchase the Zoom program and hold virtual board and general meetings. The virtual meetings were well received. A "Survey" was conducted with the membership to determine the topics people might be interested in and their general interest. The overall response to the virtual meetings was good. We posted the meetings in the local newspaper and also invited the public by sending invitations to our local horticultural societies.

Glencoe Horticultural Society

We used social media where possible to stay connected to our followers/members. Our annual plant sale was a huge success and we had a few talks with our municipality about where our society can have impact into the community. Our ability to maintain memberships or grow was significantly impacted due to COVID-19 however. Our AGM also held a Christmas workshop and was extremely well attended as folks wanted to get out and do things after repeated lockdowns.

Grand Bend & Area Horticultural Society

Grand Bend and Area HS held four meetings in 2021. Society special events included a virtual garden tour and a celebration of the society's 30th anniversary. The pandemic moved board meetings and the AGM to Zoom, and an aggressive membership drive kept the numbers up. A highlight of 2021 was the completion of Committee Guidelines documents. The centre of town garden was planted in yellow for Hope.

Ingersoll and District Horticultural Society

It was a very "low light" year and we had some difficulty maintaining interest throughout the pandemic. As our membership is older and not into much computer use, it was difficult to stay in touch. We continued to have Zoom Executive meetings, but

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we had only three in-person general meetings this year. As we had few expenses, our finances are fine. We continued to work in community garden projects as usual, as this could be safely done outside.

Kirkton Horticultural Society

Kirkton HS held five meetings in 2021. The pandemic introduced virtual meetings, both general and board. The AGM was a hybrid meeting using Zoom and in-person. The fundraising plant sale was a successful fall event. Highlights of 2021 included: a January email offering seeds from various suppliers, a late March workshop on growing seeds and transplants, a summer workshop entitled “Calendula Cream and Tinctures”, a workshop on soil improvement, and a workshop on Zen Floral Design.

Lambeth Horticultural Society

We held all our meetings on ZOOM. Our membership was pleased with our informative speakers. We created a new flower bed/berm at the United Church. Many species of natives were planted in the flower beds in Lambeth. Donations were made to the Rotary Club and the Lambeth Cemetery Board for their ongoing work. To show our gratitude for their support to our society, we presented the Library, the United Church, the United Church secretary, and the Anglican Church with poinsettias.

London Horticultural Society

We continue to maintain our community gardens. We held board meeting virtually. All of our other activities were derailed because of COVID-19.

London Fanshawe Horticultural Society

Restrictions for much of the year severely limited to our activities. Recognizing this situation early on, the board focused on just three priorities for year: communications with members, maintenance

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and enhancement to our Pollinator Garden and holding in-person meetings if possible. To communicate, we held Zoom meetings, issued newsletters, garden dispatch briefs and held contests. We held an on-line plant sale for members and had an innovative road trip that two members developed.

Parkhill Horticultural Society

We kept up with our outdoor floral pots and hanging planters. Our waterers kept them looking fresh and beautiful.

Port Burwell – Bayham Horticultural Society

Unfortunately, we didn't hold any general meetings. Instead of our plant sale we had a plant swap. Members and the community were encouraged to bring any unwanted plants etc. and leave them at a designated area that was set up with tables. At the same time, they were also encouraged to take anything they wanted for free! It worked out well and everyone enjoyed it and took advantage of the many different things available.

St. Marys Horticultural Society

St Marys HS usually meets on Wednesdays. Total membership for 2021 was 106, with 47 new, and fees remained at \$10. Members continued with their work in community gardening. The impact of the pandemic was huge. Membership dropped, general meetings were cancelled, as were bus trips and flower shows.

St. Thomas & District Horticultural Society

There were accomplishments in 2021. The knowledge or learning achieved throughout it all, and the realization of our resilience – the awareness that we can cope and thrive. Putting together a presentation for the OHA virtual convention took a tremendous amount of time learning how to do it. It was outside of our comfort zone.

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Stratford and District Horticultural Society

A drone video of many public Stratford Gardens was made, and Destination Stratford Tourism created an accompanying audio guide and linked it to the Stratford Tourism site. Informal “Garden Strolls” replaced the garden tour. Most board meetings, Garden Chats, and general meetings were on Zoom. Fundraising plant sales by donation involved online orders and curbside pick-up. The public Facebook following has grown.

Strathroy-Caradoc Horticultural Society

Our year started with virtual meetings. The attendance at was down, and so we invited other societies that might also be struggling with the whole “virtual speaker” thing. This led to a new friendship and alliances. An article in the “Keeping it Local” magazine resulted in numerous community members reaching out to us to donate plants to our sales. We had outstanding work on both our newsletter and our social media. Our society was excited to create a website this year.

Tavistock Horticultural Society

Our community gardens looked spectacular and received high praises. The Rotary Club surprised us with a donation recognizing the work we do in the community. We tried to have membership meetings but Zoom meetings were not an option because of our demographics. We kept in touch through emails and conversations and some good laughs at our Soil Your Undies big reveal. Our members cheerfully paid their dues for 2021 as a sign of their respect for our club's work and the community.

Thorndale & Area Horticultural Society

Our community gardens work crews managed to get the public gardens looking great and planted the concrete planters and bridge boxes for both summer colour and winter interest. The Thorndale Memorial rose garden looked spectacular. We held our

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annual fall plant sale. We also again supported a \$500 bursary for the Fanshawe College Horticulture Technician Program. We entered a float in the Thorndale Fall Fair parade and won two awards. Newsletters were published more frequently.

Tillsonburg Horticultural Society

In September, when COVID-19 protocols allowed large numbers of people to congregate outside, we hosted an outdoor general meeting at a local park. We rented the picnic pavilion, set up chairs, and hung a white sheet on the wood pillars to feature a PowerPoint presentation. We also held our AGM, nine months later than usual. We arranged for a dinner picnic with a local caterer providing a box dinner; costs were shared 50/50 by members and the society. We had 84 people in attendance.

West Lorne & Community Horticultural Society

For our society, the outstanding event was the virtual OHA AGM & Convention. We had several members working on the event, online behind the scenes, and submitting photos and videos and attending online meetings throughout the past year. We were able to get an article in the Trillium Magazine to mark our 100th anniversary which was in 2020.

Woodstock Horticultural Society

The biggest accomplishment was keeping the Horticultural Society alive and kicking. For many of our members, it was a major feat to learn the technology. Although many of our events were not able to be held, members were glad to get together at the plant sales and to help with some community involvement. Members donated towards three kneelers/stools which were presented to a local retirement home to enable the residents to potter in the gardens.

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OHA DISTRICT 11

Ambassador Horticultural Society Lasalle

We hosted four virtual plant sales and registered at the town outdoor market where we followed social distancing. We held and completed our year-end review on Zoom. The annual tradition of awarding two scholarships to deserving students continued. We continued our Trillium program.

Amherstburg Fort Malden Horticultural Society

We managed to have a successful Plant Sale in May due to the interest of people wanting to have a sustainable living. We introduced 'pots for tots' as a way to encouraging youth to become involved in gardening. We had a pizza night when our Trillium Awards were distributed at our AGM in November with a catered turkey dinner with a presentation featuring gardens that our society members had contributed.

Belle River & District Horticultural Society

The gardens in Lakeshore were maintained by a limited number of members. We held our AGM in November. Only income was from the grants from OMAFRA.

Blenheim – Harwich Horticultural Society

The Pandemic caused most of our meetings to be canceled. We had our planning meeting in August, our AGM in October and we attended the District 11 AGM in October. We sought out a new location for our meetings and were able to find one which is on a main floor and has a large parking lot.

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Chatham Horticultural Society

Our group had speakers Mike Davidson who spoke on Summer's Gold Honey and Mike Smith from whom we learned about the relief group as well as the Butterfly Ranger Program. The Edible Planter project continued to provide free, pick-your-own vegetables; members planted flowers in the downtown core and maintained the Alley Garden Project.

Essex and District Horticultural Society

A member added interesting videos daily to our Facebook page to keep members entertained and engaged. This kept up their spirits and led to them sharing experiences on Facebook. The two-month plant sale at a member's yard was very popular.

Greater Windsor Horticultural Society

We attended the Downtown Farmer's Market Days event where we sold and gave away plants and lots of information. We were approached by the Hiatus House to weed and refresh the flower beds at their Windsor location. We gave our annual donation to the horticultural program at St. Clair College. Two outdoor meetings/tours of popular gardens and two virtual meetings were held. We worked with the city parks department to plan a new pollinator garden with native plants which we completed.

Kingsville Horticultural Society

We held a successful Junior Gardeners program with multiple participating schools and various age groups. A very successful front yard recognition program was held, with 10 district winners and an overall winner. Both programs were reported-with pictures-in our local online newspaper and our local newsletter

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Leamington Horticultural Society

We maintained the gardening of the flower pots along Talbot St. East, Cherry Lane along with Sutton Parkette during COVID-19 restrictions. We put a bench and bike rack at Mersea Park and updated the memorial plaque of the long standing Board members. We also replaced the tornado sign in the Cherry Lane garden and had a virtual plant sale. We further revitalized the four flower beds along Talbot St. E. in front of the Sun Parlor Home. One bed has hundreds of daffodils planted for a huge spring yellow rush!

Ridgetown Horticultural Society

We supported the flower containers and hanging baskets on Main Street during the summer and filled & decorated the planters with evergreens branches and bows for the winter. We helped beautify a large outdoor stage for local graduation ceremonies. Together with the Rotary Club we planted 120 trees in the TREES Memorial Forest in 2020 to commemorate our 100th anniversary and the Rotary Club's 90th anniversary. We supported the Rotary Club in selling purple crocus bulbs for their purple polio campaign.

Sarnia Horticultural Society

Two board meetings were held outside and monthly Zoom meetings with speakers were held in place of general in-person meetings. Two board members attended the virtual OHA Convention, and the District 11 AGM was held October 23 as an in-person meeting.

Thamesville Horticultural Society

We 'managed to remove overgrown shrubbery in four town gardens and completely redo two with new plant material. Several gardens were topped up with more spring bulbs. Town gardens, planters and hanging baskets were maintained and Christmas greenery and decorations were displayed.

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Tilbury & District Horticultural Society

One member sold plants from her driveway and donated the proceeds to our society. The society was able to plant downtown planters along the main street of Tilbury for the enjoyment of our citizens and visitors. Close to 100 trees were planted in our two municipal parks to replace dead and dying trees. We were financially able to do these projects because of a grant from the municipality.

Watford/Warwick Horticultural Society

We raised plants (such as Cannas) from bulbs and seeds and dug from members' gardens to sell in perennial sales. We held an outside appreciation BBQ to thank our members. Decorating for a community scarecrow contest helped engaged our town. Seventy-five large planters were planted with yellow flowers of hope. Our spring, summer and fall involves planting, and upkeep of town gardens and winter is for fun and decorating planters, and making crafts for a community sale.

Wheatley Horticultural Society

Work began at the start of the season at the Horticultural Blue Booth. The garden was planted with new perennials and a few annuals. The old Scout Hall garden was revamped and brought back to life. The Coulter Park & Heatherington Park gardens were planted with perennials. Following a donation, the fire hall garden received a much needed facelift. Gardens were weeded, fertilized and watered by members. Some of the meetings were outside at board members' back yards or they were virtual.

OHA DISTRICT 12

Cochrane Horticultural Society

No report.

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Englehart & District Horticultural Society

The Society managed to continue with some events which did not involve close contact. We continued to maintain our website and Facebook pages. We added a photo competition on our Facebook page with classes for adults and children. Also added was a photo. Our monthly newsletter was sent out to members via email or mail. We held our Youth Garden Competition with 13 children entering. We continued to plant several flower beds in town.

Iroquois Falls Horticultural Society

We hosted an open house with two special guests. First was Gardens by Christina. She is in the processing of opening a greenhouse in our community. Our second special guest was Zorena Liznick who highlighted the need to compost. She mentioned her grandfather who was very successful with his gardens using compost for decades. We hired a local contractor to plant a live tree at our location. It measures over eight feet tall. We intend to work with him and other local partnerships with tree planting in 2022.

Kapuskasing Horticultural Society

This second year of COVID-19 was also a year of joining in the 100th Anniversary Celebrations of the Town of Kapuskasing. Our annual bed along the TransCanada featured a large "100" using dusty miller plants. In lieu of an in-person kid's gardening activity, the society partnered with the local French health centre to provide a bilingual on-line program via a Facebook group. Fifty-five children were each provided with a pot, soil, vegetables seeds, how-to videos, and prizes for completing biweekly activities.

Kirkland Lake Horticultural Society

We had no Society events and only one meeting outside, in bad weather. Some members volunteered for town planting. There was only one board meeting. The Legion where we have our meetings was either closed or had restrictions.

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Porcupine Horticultural Society

We reduced the amount of community work (flower planting) that we would normally do and have had no general meetings for the last year. We still managed to do some flower planting in outdoors locations. Flowers were planted in the Schumacher Lions Club Park in Schumacher. We did not have our usual flower sale fundraiser event, did not have any regular meetings

Timmins Horticultural Society

Members worked on community gardens at the Timmins Museum, completing garden cleanup, soil improvement, and planting. The museum bought the plants for the garden through the City of Timmins Parks and Recreation Branch. We maintained our Society's Facebook page, *Timmins Horticultural Society* with daily postings on gardening tips and techniques, promoting and scheduling local gardening events, workshops, and meetings and answering gardening questions from local residents and society members.

OHA DISTRICT 13

Assiginack Horticultural Society

The Assiginack Horticultural Society was able to plant and maintain gardens at the museum and 12 planters in the community. We had two student volunteers to help with the watering. No meetings were held until September. Information about society activities was sent to members via email. Members from the Assiginack Horticultural Society put in 926 volunteer hours.

Blind River Horticultural Society

The Blind River Horticultural Society was quite busy. Among its numerous projects were an on-line pumpkin carving contest,

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making a scarecrow family display for downtown, and a Christmas Raffle. Members initiated a school planting project and interacted with students via Zoom. Only Board meetings were held; there were no general meetings. The Blind River Horticultural Society put in 489 volunteer hours.

Bruce Station Horticultural Society

The Bruce Station Horticultural Society realized a dream to enlarge the local memorial garden. An open space for picnic tables, benches and raised garden beds were added. One in-person meeting was held. Connections were maintained via Facebook and emails. Executive business was carried out by telephone or small gatherings. Our AGM was held via email to meet the reporting deadline. We put in 890 volunteer hours.

Campbell Horticultural Society

Due to the pandemic, the Campbell Horticultural Society cancelled annual events, such as the Flower Show and Christmas Potluck, as well as regular meetings. Members managed to plant and maintain gardens in Spring Bay and Evansville. We held a summer picnic in Lynda Peever's garage. This Society contributed money to two scholarships. Our members put in 203 volunteer hours.

Elliot Lake Horticultural Society

The Elliot Lake Horticultural Society participated in the city's Seniors' Month Virtual Information Sessions. It presented "Benefits of Gardening", as well as the history of the Society. Volunteers planted and maintained three garden spaces. Two Executive and two general meetings were held in October and November. The AGM was held during the November meeting. The Elliot Lake Horticultural Society put in 370 volunteer hours.

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Espanola Horticultural Society

The Society continued with the beautification of Espanola by maintaining flower beds throughout the town. The community garden produced food for the local food bank. We supported a pollinator project. An “Art in the Garden” event was held for youth with 18 participants attending. A donation was made to the local high school. A monthly newsletter kept the membership informed of goings-on. The Espanola Horticultural Society put in 652 volunteer hours.

French River Horticultural Society

In June, the French River Horticultural Society held its Perennials sales and in November, it held elections at its AGM. They participated in the fall District Advisory Council meeting via Zoom. Members held one Board meeting in September to plan for its AGM. All other meetings were cancelled. Donations were made to several organizations. Members watched the Zoom presentations put out by the Sudbury Horticultural Society. This group put in 176 volunteer hours.

Massey-Walford Horticultural Society

The Massey-Walford Horticultural Society managed to hold three executive meetings and one society meeting via Zoom. Only six members were allowed to attend meetings at the library due to COVID-19 protocols. Many meetings were cancelled due to library closures and curbside pick-up only. Planting and weeding throughout the community was done. Newsletters were distributed to keep members informed of society activities. The Massey-Walford Horticultural Society put in 105 volunteer hours.

Sault Ste. Marie Horticultural Society

The Sault Ste. Marie Horticultural Society posted virtual garden tours on its Facebook page throughout the summer. In May, it held a scaled down version of the plant sale with plants being ordered

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and then picked up at the greenhouse by appointment. A seed exchange was held in March. Board meetings were held via Zoom. Over \$900 was raised to rename the community garden the Suzanne Hanna Memorial Community Garden. Members of this Society put in 1,653 hours.

Spanish Horticultural Society – Blue Violet Chapter

The Spanish Horticultural Society kept up planting, watering and maintaining various gardens throughout the community. There were no in-person or virtual meetings. The business of the Executive was conducted by email. Monthly newsletters kept the membership apprised of Society, District and OHA activity. A donation was made to Laurentian University. Members put in 311 volunteer hours.

St. Joseph Island Horticultural Society

The St. Joseph Island Horticultural Society cancelled everything except local plantings and maintenance, as a result of the pandemic. This group experienced limited access to virtual meetings due to poor internet access. Moreover, many members were suffering from anxiety or poor health and therefore did not attend meetings. Members of the St. Joseph Island Horticultural Society logged 339 volunteer hours.

Sudbury Horticultural Society

The Sudbury Horticultural Society was able to hold only one in-person meeting. A virtual flower show was held in August, but participation was low. An in-person flower show was held in November during our AGM. Participation for that show was good. The Society offered virtual speaker presentations from January to May and from September to December. These presentations were popular with Sudbury members and other members throughout the District. This group put in 903 volunteer hours.

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Thessalon Horticultural Society

Congratulations to the Thessalon Horticultural Society! It celebrated its 100th anniversary this year. The pandemic did not slow its members down. In-person meetings were held as long as participants were double-vaccinated. Members prepared and planted flower beds throughout the town. The town's newest park is classified as a Pollinator site. More trees and shrubs were added in the spring. This industrious group put in 869 volunteer hours.

OHA DISTRICT 14

Dryden and District Horticultural Society

To accommodate the changes due to COVID-19, the Society amended their constitution to include virtual meetings. An electronic membership form was created and an EMT set up to accommodate pandemic restrictions. When able, in-person meetings were held with speakers. Otherwise, we posted events and information sessions on Facebook. We had tours of five beautiful rural gardens which were also photographed and posted for members. Our fall vegetable and plant exchange took place as well as both AGMs.

Fort Frances Horticultural Society

Our plant sale took place in June. Volunteers continued with community plantings at the public library, community garden, Rainycrest Home and the Good Neighbour sign. We participated in the town's Project Petunia beautification project. We are excited to partner with the public library and the Rainy River Stewards to create a children's garden on the library grounds. The garden will be a teaching garden and maintained through the summer by the library.

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Geraldton Horticultural Society

Most of our buildings are medical buildings or town-run and the pandemic closed everything. That stalled our society and we have not bounced back yet. The District Director wants to get a speaker for us to attract gardeners and get our society running again. There is gardening interest in the community and if we advertise in advance, we are sure we can get our society running smoothly again. A small pop-up greenhouse opened outdoors to sell bedding-out plants to members of the community. The owner is interested in joining as President.

Longlac Horticultural Society

COVID-19 caused lockdown of all township buildings. We continued to plant at the Post Office and the drug store. However, due to construction, some of our beds were not planted this year. We are planning new beds at the Seniors Centre. Our President held workshops on weekends on her property where we could socially distance. We made flower pot scarecrows, rock and shell pictures, concrete stepping stones, fabric gnomes, willow baskets, and sea glass wind chimes amongst many other items. It was our way of continuing our social activities outdoors and keeping in touch with friends.

Nipigon-Red Rock Horticultural Society

Our biggest accomplishment this year was securing a 100-ft by 50-ft park space from the town that we developed into a community garden. Dedicated volunteers hauled in soil to fill 13 large beds. They planted and maintained the property and beds throughout the summer, keeping the grass cut and beds weeded and watered. The harvested food was donated to the local food banks to put fresh produce on the tables. We placed multiple articles in local newspapers on gardening throughout the summer. In addition, we hosted presentations at the Legion, which allowed social distancing. We also held our plant sale in the Legion parking lot.

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Thunder Bay Horticultural Society

We were able to hold meetings when regulations allowed. We held our plant sale in an indoor/outdoor setting allowing us to follow Health Unit Protocols. Board meetings were held by Zoom. In our September meeting, we were able to hold our presentation on Monarchs and in October we had an informative presentation on Identifying and Foraging for Mushrooms. Our AGM in November was scaled back due to restrictions; however, we held our elections and were able to serve cake and coffee. Participants also took part in a Christmas craft workshop.

OHA DISTRICT 15

Brampton Horticultural Society

We cancelled our bus tour, garden tour and annual flower show. We maintained community gardens and members checked our “Adopt-a-Park” park. Our pre-ordered annual plant sale raised \$3,000. A virtual silent auction was well received and raised \$216. A virtual 9th Seedy Saturday that we hosted with the City of Brampton on March 12th was available for three months. Two new ventures were participation in the City of Brampton’s Backyard Garden newsletter and the Gardens of Distinction project. We updated the society, awards, and trophy history.

Caledon Horticultural Society

We did not hold any meetings or events due to the lack of reliable internet in our area. We expanded the youth group through Mayfield Secondary School, assisted students and staff with setting up their own garden club and helped them with their fundraiser plant sale. We also helped them with a pollinator garden and hydroponic gardening.

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Chinguacousy Garden Club & Horticultural Society

We conducted all meetings online, participated in a virtual Brampton Seedy Saturday, Brampton's *Front Garden Recognition Program* and wrote articles on gardening for the city *Gardens* website. We held a plant sale in a member's garage and organized a native plant sale and a book sale. In January, we sent a Bulletin newsletter and a greeting card to all the members and began planning for a "Walk in the Park" initiative that started in September to connect with the members. Work continues on obtaining the "City of Brampton Affiliation".

Cloverleaf Garden Club of Mississauga

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, our annual plant sale was cancelled. Our virtual Flower Show stopped after February 2021 due to lack of interest. Two members both designed and implemented a vibrant, easy-to-use web site that helped us to attract new members. Due to our strong financial situation, we continued financial support to the Compass Food Bank and its community vegetable gardens, Riverwood Conservancy's Teen Education Program and Blooming Boulevards. One member looked after the Port Credit Pollinator Gardens at the Port Credit Library.

Credit Valley Horticultural Society

Volunteers donated plants to our members' Plant Sale and one member organized the sale from her home, following COVID-19 restrictions. Volunteers maintained gardens at a women's shelter, a local hospital and a community centre. They helped with the pollinator garden at a local school and at an historic schoolhouse. At Christmas, \$500 was donated to the Salvation Army Food Bank in the area. General meetings continued on Zoom with some interesting speakers and "virtual" photography competition. was held with success.

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Etobicoke Horticultural Society

In January, our first Zoom AGM had a record 74 members in attendance. We had high-calibre speakers from "far and near". Our yearbook, meeting flyers and newsletters won D15 awards. Our Spring Plant Sale became the Alternative Plant Sale, utilising *Want Ads* in our newsletters. In September, our Acting President opened the meeting with our own customized Indigenous Land Acknowledgement. Reconciliation is about establishing and maintaining a mutually respectful relationship with indigenous peoples. We maintained gardens at Eatonville Library, Brentwood Library and delivered over 85 holiday centrepieces to the community.

Horticultural Societies of Parkdale & Toronto

In June we held a *Plant Share*, with plants purchased online and picked up at *Plant Hosts*. We supported nine garden projects in churches, city parks and a public laneway. One garden produces food for local soup kitchens. Kathy's Memorial Garden, in Stanley Park, had a small group of people working on it. We held all meetings on Zoom and used it to broaden our Outreach and Education efforts to deliver horticultural talks to two classes in the gerontology program at George Brown College and seniors in the *Khedmaat and Support for Seniors'* group.

Nobleton & King City Garden Club

The new *Front Garden Recognition Program* was open to all residents in the urban areas of Nobleton and King City. Over 50 participants had *Glorious Gardens Nobleton King* signs posted in their front yard. Maps were available to see these gardens during the first two weeks in July. We held our yearly special August meeting in-person at Country Cut Flowers. Members enjoyed a beautiful summer evening collecting a jar full of cut flowers from a wonderful selection, both in variety and colour. Everyone enjoyed this social gathering in the open air.

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Richmond Hill Garden & Horticultural Society

We held five webinars on *Growing Vegetables*, did five flower shows, three plants sales, a compost sale and a rain barrel sale online! Our community efforts included public gardening at four gardens, providing seeds for curbside pickup at the Library's Seedy Saturday and judging gardens for the City's Richmond Hill Blooms Front Garden Recognition program. All meetings were on Zoom. We called members to keep in touch, had six newsletters, monthly email blasts, weekly Gardening Tips on a public site distributed to city residents and echoed on our society website.

Roselands Horticultural Society

We did not hold our three flower shows, spring plant sale or community planting because of COVID-19. Even our youth program of donating spring bulbs to our local schools for planting was cancelled. Several of our members donated plants from their gardens to their friends and neighbours to promote gardening in their areas. Because the church where we held our meetings was closed, we were unable to have in-person meetings. We switched to on-line meetings but many of our members are uncomfortable with Zoom so have not been participating.

Schomberg Horticultural Society

In January, we distributed our first digital yearbook. In August, we held a *Staying Close to Home Members' Appreciation Picnic* at a board member's garden. We received a King Community Grant for 2022. At the Community Centennial Gardens, our displays included a magical Christmas tree; Valentine's Day hearts; orange flags for Reconciliation month; yellow flowers for *Hope is Growing* and a scarecrow competition. We maintained our community gardens. A virtual *Over the Fence Garden Tour* was presented at the AGM with slides of four of our members' gardens.

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Streetsville Horticultural Society

Our board and general meetings as well as a delayed AGM were held on Zoom. Many awards were not given, due to the events not being held. Membership has dropped and new memberships not happening because we had no Open House events. Our income is down from previous years which means having to dip into reserves to pay for speakers via Zoom. We held eight coffee morning meetings at the location where we maintain the gardens, with 20 people attending. It gave our members the opportunity to keep in touch.

Swansea Horticultural Society

All activities were cancelled, including monthly meetings, so members stayed in touch via Zoom, email and phone. We are ahead financially because the income from OMAFRA and lower expenses offset lost income from no fundraising. The Executive held several Zoom meetings primarily to book Zoom speakers and was gratified to simply keep the Society intact. One new Director joined the Board with knowledge of social media and an interest in promoting and growing the society. This Director has launched a Face Book page for our society.

Thornhill Garden & Horticultural Society

Activities included a seed swap, photo competitions, plant sales at members' driveways, beautification at six civic improvement sites, our Thornhill Front Garden Recognition Program and our events were an art how and a marketplace. Monthly board meetings, general meetings and our AGM were via ZOOM. Membership increased to 158. One board member sewed and sold face masks, contributing all \$1,130 of her proceeds to our society. We communicated by newsletter, Facebook, website, and a telephone committee.

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Woodbridge Horticultural Society

Membership decreased as the social nature of events was removed. Community work was done with small groups, masks and social distancing. Our Plant Sale of native plants brought in less than \$150. We resumed our monthly meetings on Zoom and introduced a *Show and Tell* segment in our meetings with PowerPoint presentations of members' gardens through the seasons. Our Friends' partnership with Thornhill Horticultural Society allowed us to enjoy additional presentations and share gardening ideas.

OHA DISTRICT 16

Alliston and District Horticultural Society

Our members continued to maintain our community gardens and added another community garden to our list of civic gardens. In-person meetings were cancelled, with our Board and general meetings held via Zoom. Flower shows were virtual with members submitting photos of their entries. Our annual photography show was also virtual. Several floral design workshops were virtual. We used our 2020 yearbook for 2021.

Angus Horticultural Society

At its AGM in June 2021, the Angus Horticultural Society voted to dissolve because of an aging and declining membership and COVID-19 impacts. This dissolution was approved by the Minister of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs in 2022.

Barrie Horticultural Society – Barrie Garden Club

The Board completed a revision of our Constitution which was voted on and passed. The City of Barrie granted a double plot in Shear Park Community Garden. Eight volunteers maintained it and

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all vegetable products were donated to the Community Fridge. We donated a dozen native plants to encourage pollinators in the Janice Laking Community Garden which was designated a Communities in Bloom "Garden of Hope". We maintained urns at Gilda's Club and Simcoe Hospice. We held virtual monthly meetings and a spring plant sale.

Beeton Horticultural Society

Although meetings were transitioned to, they were poorly attended. If it weren't for the OMAFRA grants, we would have had zero monetary advancements. We were unable to plant in the community garden and our vegetable garden was scaled back. The garden tour was cancelled. We held a virtual Seedy Saturday, partnering with our library. The Christmas urn competition was very popular. We connected with the BIA and the Beeton Library and will collaborate more in the future.

Bond Head and District Horticultural Society

In 2021 we had one in-person executive meeting and one in-person AGM. Only work in the public gardens was undertaken.

Brentwood Horticultural Society

In-person meetings were cancelled. We are unable to hold virtual meetings as the internet in our area is very poor and there is no internet in our meeting room. We did hold two in-person meetings, using local guidelines. Our 2020 AGM was held outdoors in August 2021. We held a successful drive-by plant sale at a member's home with social media advertising ahead of time. We maintained the community gardens. We sent Christmas greetings to all members.

Creemore Horticultural Society

The Creemore Horticultural Society stood together in unity by staying apart in 2021 utilizing email, online media, and Zoom to

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stay in touch. We worked with the local newspaper, The Echo, to publicize our Centennial and keep the community advised of our on-going work. We developed a new logo for publicity material. Our annual Floral Pumpkin Fundraiser was both a fun and creative event for our members and raised the largest amount ever for the event. A float was entered in the community Santa Claus Parade to much public acclaim.

Collingwood Horticultural Society – Collingwood Garden Club

In 2021, all meetings were held via ZOOM. The spring plant sale was on-line, with the second in the fall held in person. In November 2021, we held the seasonal wreath and urn insert "workshop" by having members and guests pickup greenery kits and construct the urns and wreaths at their own homes by following supplied videos and written instructions.

Elmvale and District Horticultural Society

Our community planters were maintained. There were no fundraising projects, bus trips, flower shows or garden tours. Everything ground to a halt. We kept in touch via Facebook.

Board meetings were in-person. Our AGM was held through email. Finances stayed fluid and we are in a fair position to start once allowed to meet for open meetings. We were given a donation of \$1500 in memory of a founding member and purchased two large planters for the village. Residents support hanging baskets in the village. We continued our Commencement Award. We donated \$500 to the Legion. We continued to place articles in the local paper.

Gilford and District Horticultural Society

Tragically our long-time President, Lucy Valente, passed away on May 21, 2021, sadly missed by all of us. We appointed an interim President. Four members attended the virtual District 16 Fall Seminar. No general meetings were held. Financially we remained

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in good shape due to receiving the OMAFRA grant. Executive meetings in the fall were held. In lieu of a 2020 and 2021 AGM, two separate emails allowed members to vote. Some weeding was done by volunteers in our gardens. Through local media, we signed up five new executive members.

Midland Horticultural Society

We planted the town flower beds, had two plant sales and prepared a fundraiser calendar. We also took on the Edythe Clark Memorial Garden and funded the planting of a tree at the Huronia Hospice in Penetanguishene in her memory. General meetings and board meetings became ZOOM meetings. Membership declined as not everyone likes Zoom meetings or has the computer skills to follow it. Members miss the social aspect of in-house meetings.

Orillia Horticultural Society

Most Board meetings were held by Zoom but some executives were not able to access internet. We were able to have a few meetings later in the year in-person and held two general meetings by Zoom and had two outdoor get-togethers with small attendance – mostly executive as many of our members are seniors and do not use internet well. Membership was down approximately 50%. We maintained the library gardens and a spring plant sale was held. We held a Garden Pride competition with members and general public nominating gardens to be recognized with a plaque and letter.

Oro-Medonte Horticultural Society

Our 2021 meetings were held on Zoom and despite 23 new members, our membership is down about 20%. We cancelled flower shows, a garden tour and plant sale, as well as workshops and volunteer appreciation event. We held our twice-a-year cleanup at our Stream Restoration project, and maintained the seven township gardens. At the township office, we rejuvenated

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perennial beds, focusing on the 2021 yellow *Colour of Hope*, native and pollinator plants. Our youth clubs in three schools are in abeyance.

Painswick Horticultural Society

Despite the ongoing pandemic, the Painswick Garden Club had a great 2021! We started off with a members' spring garden contest with great competition. Although we cancelled our Spring Plant and Bake Sale, our members took the initiative and held private sales, sharing profits with our club to the tune of over \$3,000. Members maintained two town gardens. The board continued to look for opportunities to remain engaged in the community within ever-changing pandemic guidelines.

Penetanguishene and District Horticultural Society

We have not had a meeting in 2020 or in 2021. The impact is Horrendous. Our group is deflated and hopes one day to get back together, stronger than ever.

Stayner Horticultural Society

On-line meetings were helpful but we have limited technical knowledge and experience. We were unable to have our speakers. Fortunately, we had provincial and municipal financial support. We had our very successful outdoor plant sale. There were no flower shows. We met for executive meetings when we were able - outside when possible and masked indoors when permitted. Our membership increased thanks to the work by our Past President at the plant sale. We planted 400 daffodil bulbs, 100 at each of the four entrances to town as a sign of hope.

Tottenham and District Horticultural Society

The pandemic impacted most activities for the club except for tending to the town gardens. We have had to suspend meetings since the pandemic commenced as we meet in the town fire hall

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which has been off limits since the pandemic began. We hope that we will be able to have meetings at some point in 2022, once the fire hall is open to us.

Wasaga Beach Horticultural Society

All meetings have had to be held via Zoom which has limited our ability to meet and see our members. Since our members are older, there have been limited numbers participating during the Zoom meetings, which has been discouraging. Our plant sale, which is usually held in May, was held in September and was successful. There was some community work done at a garden we have maintained, but again, with limited numbers of people involved. Our membership is down; without the support of the government grant, we would be limited in our funds.

OHA DISTRICT 17

Ajax Garden Club

The executive met virtually and the AGM and general meetings moved on-line as well. Guest speaker availability was made possible because of the grant money provided. Flower shows, fundraising and membership were all negatively affected by COVID-19. A new website was developed.

Beaverton Horticultural Society

A planned joint Seedy Saturday was cancelled. Virtual general meetings were tried but there was little interest, so were discontinued. Only the AGM was held in-person. The executive met via Zoom. A successful plant sale was held following COVID-19 protocols. Seven community gardens were maintained throughout the summer. A food security project held five community distribution events and will continue in 2022. A

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spring bulb planting activity was held with a local kindergarten class. A new website was developed.

Bowmanville Horticultural Society

Members chose not to have virtual meetings, so only two in-person meetings were held. Successes included the plant sale held at the Clarington Farmers' Market and a tree grant application to plant a katsura tree on the grounds of the Clarington Museum. Membership numbers improved but they were still down from 2020.

Brooklin Horticultural Society

All Board and general meetings were held virtually. The 100th anniversary was recognized with the placement of a memorial boulder and a red oak planting at two Town gardens. Sadly, in-person celebrations and the annual plant sale were cancelled. Three virtual flower and photography shows were held as well as a successful rain barrel sale with home delivery. The name Brooklin Whitby Garden Club was adopted to reflect the larger community served by the group.

Cannington Horticultural Society

The joint Seedy Saturday, a flower breeding workshop and expansion plans for three gardens were cancelled. All meetings, flower shows and photo competitions were held on-line. The September meeting and AGM were in-person. In the summer, we had a garden recognition, two youth projects, maintenance and planting of community gardens and planter boxes, but had to reduce fundraising. Our highlight was a tour of two stunning gardens. A community Christmas tree was decorated. A \$250 scholarship was awarded. Membership numbers were up.

Georgina Brock Garden Club

A joint Seedy Saturday event was cancelled. A COVID-19-appropriate plant sale was very successful. The municipal hall

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remains closed and may not reopen, so a new meeting location is being sought. Directors met virtually and member contact was through outdoor meetings, emails, e-newsletters and Facebook which doubled. Community gardens were maintained, the Constitution was updated and ratified at the annual meeting in December, the only in-person meeting all year. There was also a wonderful urn design demonstration.

Newcastle Horticultural Society

Only two general meetings and the AGM were held in-person. Other meetings were held via Zoom. The plant sale was cancelled. We planted orange daffodils with the local school in memory of residential school survivors and those who have gone missing. We plan to have a spring ceremony. We are on the local community garden committee. The gardens had a good yield. Support from neighbouring societies throughout the year was a morale booster. Lower membership fees reflect reduced activities.

Orono Horticultural Society

We celebrated our 100th anniversary in grand style by planting a memorial tree attended by OHA President, Charles Freeman and a 100th anniversary garden at the Mill St. entrance to Orono with generous community support. Membership was the highest in 100 years with 124 new members! Seven guest speakers and four photography shows were held virtually. Four community gardens were maintained and a bursary awarded. With no flower shows, plants sales, or bug walks, we had successful fundraising with daylily, T-shirt and calendar sales.

Oshawa Garden Club

A series of articles celebrated the club's 90th anniversary. All meetings were held virtually, allowing for guest speakers from much further afield. Facebook proved to be an excellent tool to promote the driveway rain barrel and plant sales, and to generate

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new members. An OHA Special Project Grant helped fund work on the National Historic Parkwood Estates Tennis Garden rejuvenation project. We worked in the Hearth Place Cancer Support gardens, a community butterfly garden and Giving Gardens, donating produce to *Feed the Need Durham*.

Pickering Horticultural Society

All meetings were held via Zoom which resulted in the loss of some members. Membership numbers were maintained through recruitment of new members. Flower shows, the annual plant sale and bus tour were cancelled and the yearbook and bookmarks were not printed. A COVID-19-safe tour of members' gardens was held for a \$2 admission to help raise some funds. A few plants were sold at the visited gardens which also helped with funds. Community gardening took place when allowed by the local health unit.

Pine Ridge Garden Club

Four general meetings with speakers and most Board meetings were held virtually. Members were regularly updated with Newsletters and Bulletins. In-person meetings were held in November and December which included a Christmas design workshop. The annual plant sale became a "contactless" event using order forms and timed payment and pick up. No bake and yard sale, bus or garden tours were held. The gardens at Scugog

Shores Museum were maintained with reduced participation because of COVID-19 restrictions.

Uxbridge Horticultural Society

Ten general meetings and executive meetings with speakers were held on-line via Zoom. Cards were sent out to members in January and April. No fundraisers were held and local business sponsorship was suspended because the 2020 yearbook was saved

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for the 2022 season. The Cenotaph, Library and Children's Gardens were maintained. We partnered with the Uxbridge Fall Fair for the "Fair around Town" and sunflower seeds were planted. The photo contest for the 2022 bookmark was also held and the Vicki-Taylor memorial scholarship was awarded.

OHA DISTRICT 18

Argyle Horticultural Society

We tried to hold Zoom meetings but have poor service in our rural area and many members do not use a computer. We continued gardening but with very few volunteers at a time. It has been very difficult to keep members.

Baysville Horticultural Society

Baysville relied on donations and grants as they held no fundraisers in 2021. Meetings and two flower shows were canceled with communication by email and Facebook. We promoted gardening via Facebook. A new president was sworn in but unexpectedly she and her family moved to Nova Scotia leaving the Society scrambling to rebuild an executive.

Bracebridge Horticultural Society

There were no bus trips, flower shows or luncheons but we did hold a small outdoor plant sale. We held regular meetings and a garden tour via Zoom. We held a picnic in the Rotary Gardens with full COVID-19 protocols and a horticultural scavenger hunt. We gave our usual grant to the nine schools within Bracebridge, but had no candidate for our \$1,000 bursary. We lobbied our MP to proclaim The Year of the Garden 2022. We passed a bylaw to allow electronic meetings as suggested by the OHA at our first hybrid AGM in November. We produced bimonthly newsletters and started a telephone tree to keep members in touch.

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Callander Horticultural Society

COVID-19 cancelled all events and there was little to no interest in electronic meetings. We put up a Christmas tree at the nursing station and looked after plantings individually. Membership was down. There was no cost for meetings as there were none. Our main expenses were for new flower pots and soil for our gardens.

Gravenhurst Horticultural Society

Gravenhurst had a very difficult year with COVID-19 and with the surprise move by their President and the death of their Treasurer. No meetings or fund raisers were held. Individual volunteers looked after the gardens as well as they could.

Huntsville Horticultural Society

Volunteers were reluctant to do community work. No public plant sale, teas or bus tours so we did not make any money but did not spend much either. The Annual General Meeting and Zoom meetings were poorly attended. We continued our regular projects individually. We sold some plants via Facebook and also continued improvements on Veteran's Memorial Garden. We plan to use our 2021 garden tour plans for 2022.

Magnetawan Horticultural Society

Bus tours, flower shows, garden tours and in person meetings were cancelled. Our big project was to plan and build a community garden. Vegetables were given to seniors in our community. We relied heavily on Facebook to keep members connected. We held a pumpkin growing contest for children, two silent auctions, and a plant sale, all on line. We held themed front door decorating contests in lieu of a front yard garden contest. We tried a "Name the Flower" competition with a new clue given on Facebook every few days. Materials for a Christmas workshop for students were handed out.

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North Bay Horticultural Society

We tried holding Zoom meetings but they were not as popular as in-person ones. It is easier to have a good speaker via ZOOM.

Several elderly members dropped out. It has been difficult to get new members without socials, dinners, and picnics. We tended our gardens and had students help with a 'contactless' small plant sale. We held a front yard garden contest.

Parry Sound and District Horticultural Society

No in-person meetings, bus tours, Geranium Tea or Volunteer Appreciation Dinner this year due to COVID-19. We did a virtual flower show and a garden tour via Zoom and Facebook, as well as a small plant sale. We held Zoom meetings but with the poor internet service in our rural areas there were few members at the meetings. Individual volunteers looked after the Tower Garden.

Rosseau Horticultural Society

We did work on the beautification of our village with flower boxes and displays. We helped with the Healing Garden for the nursing station and encouraged fall decoration of the village.

Thanks to District 18 we used Zoom for board and general meetings. Our virtual plant sale did well and we sold out of 2022 Horticultural Calendars.

Sprucedale & District Horticultural Society

Board meetings were held over the phone or Zoom. Members without a computer or internet couldn't attend meetings. With an already declining membership, now we had fewer members because of no in-person meetings or events like Seedy Saturday, local fall fairs and winter carnivals. The Second Vice President was challenged with the move to President when the Board lost members. Members do not want to take on positions, so there is

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talk of folding our society. Without the grants we would have lost money.

Sundridge Horticultural Society

General meetings were cancelled but we held two Executive meetings. New membership growth was zero. No group activities, bus tours, plant sales were held. Director Lois Tait made and sold face masks at the village store as a fundraiser.

OHA DISTRICT 19

Ayr Horticultural Society

The society adapted very well to on-line events during 2021. They are situated in a very small village but are very active within the community and have built an excellent rapport with the local government. The group looks after planters throughout the business area of the town and expanded their displays with the help of student volunteers. They used local newspapers and other methods to spread the word about their society and increased membership. Ayr hosted the District 19 AGM via Zoom which included an excellent speaker and draw.

Elmira and District Horticultural Society

The society was able to design and plant 12 flower gardens in Elmira and surrounding villages. Meetings and events were held via Zoom featuring speakers which were well received. It was noted that new members enjoyed the Zoom format and had joined because of that. The garden tour was held. A new central location was found for the plant sale and was very successful.

Galt Horticultural Society

The Galt Horticultural Society held their annual Dream Garden event via Zoom with Paul Zammit as speaker. Facebook was used for events such as online auctions and photo contests. Zoom was

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used for meetings and virtual open gardens in the summer. Plant and seed exchanges were held online with local pick up. The public gardens were able to be maintained by volunteers throughout the season.

Hespeler Horticultural Society

A photo roll call was held on Facebook over the summer. The Board did strategic planning to plan for the next years. The public gardens were maintained throughout the summer. Hespeler partnered up with another smaller society to offer Zoom presentations to their members.

Kitchener Horticultural Society

The society was able to offer a roster of monthly speakers via Zoom. An online version of Seedy Saturday was run with 12 speakers throughout the day. The bulb and plant sales were held and all inventory was sold out. Garden tours were recorded and shown via Zoom. The concerts in the park were held during the summer and were well attended.

Preston Horticultural Society

The society ran meetings with speakers via Zoom and invited members from other smaller societies to join in. The public gardens were able to be maintained through the season and more native plants were added. A vegetable patch was started to contribute food to the Cambridge Food Bank.

Waterloo Horticultural Society

The society ran nine meetings with speakers via Zoom. They participated with a presentation in the local Seedy Saturday. Programs were offered in conjunction with the local library. Bingo and Murder Mystery Nights were offered on Zoom. The annual Plant Sale was held online using the website to list all the items for

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sale. We collaborated with the local museum to offer historic information on the society.

Wellesley Township Horticultural Society

This society decided not to offer on-line activities due to the lack of internet available to most of their members. They were able to attend to the pollinator garden in the community garden. A group of volunteers was organized to remove garlic mustard from local trail areas. Two outdoor executive meetings were held for planning and holding the Annual General Meeting of the group.

Wilmot Horticultural Society

The society offered an on-line presentation with a speaker that was well attended. The horticultural society is heavily involved in a tree planting project in the township known as “Let’s Tree Wilmot”. Many horticultural society members planted trees over the year. Public gardens were maintained and the Junior Gardener program was held. Two outdoor events were held in the Fall.

OFFICERS ONTARIO HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

President	Charles Freeman
First Vice President	Sharlene Desjardins
Second Vice President	Vicky Culbert
Secretary	Kelly Taylor
Treasurer	Marian Heil
Past President and Past Presidents’ Council	Katharine Smyth
N/E OHA Representative	Sandra Mazur
S/W OHA Representative	Catherine McGill

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2021 SECRETARY'S REPORT

OHA MEMBERSHIP TURNAROUND

The OHA membership numbers reported for 2021 were 268 Societies/Clubs with 23,494 members. The membership number increased by 1443 members from 2020. This increase represents 6.54% of our overall membership and was a great improvement for the Societies/Clubs, Districts and the OHA.

Work on gardens in communities is moving forward. Our Societies/Clubs are moving towards in-person meetings. The number of events including public is soaring. Plant Sales and Fundraisers have been most profitable this year.

Thank you for staying the course through these tumultuous times and as we move forward cautiously, things will only get better.

OHA GRANTS

Tree Grants:

District 02 - Eganville &
Area, Madawaska Valley,
Perth

District 06 - Georgetown,
Stoney Creek

District 07 - Clifford
District 08 - Durham

District 10 - Tavistock,
Thorndale

District 11 - Amherstburg
Fort Malden, Essex, Sarnia,
Tilbury, Wheatley

District 13 - Thessalon
District 16 - Midland

District 17 - Cannington

Special Project Grants:

District 01 - Williamstown
District 08 - Chesley

District 16 - Midland

Community Garden Grants:

District 02 - Eganville &
District

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Technical Advancement Grant: District 04 - Peterborough

Pollinator Garden Grants:

District 04 – Brighton
District 05 - Leaside

District 06 - Delhi & District

Youth Grants:

District 01 - Williamstown

District 03 - Land O'Lakes,
Tweed

District 02 - Deep River,
Pakenham, Pembroke,
Perth & District

District 10 – Dorchester,
Stratford, Tillsonburg

District 04 – Cramahe

District 15 - Chinguacousy

District 05 - East

District 17 - Georgina-Brock

Gwillimbury

District 19 - Wilmot

District 07 - Harriston &
District

Seedy Saturday/Sunday Grants: District 19 - Galt

2021 OHA AWARDS

Community Improvement Award:

District 02, Joanne Hoelke, Eganville; District 06, Norfolk 4H

Youth Leader Award: District 16, Gloria Greaves, Oro-Medonte

Honour Roll: District 02, Sheila King, Manotick; District 03,
Adrian Cooper, Kingston

Technical Advancement Award: District 02; District 02 Ottawa

Award of Merit: D02 Allan Goddard, Almonte; D3 Ann Levison,
Kingston

Silver Fir/Trillium Award: District 16, Ron Nelsons, Oro-
Medonte; District 18 Isla Reed, Callander

Silver Medal: D03 - Penny Stewart, Gananoque

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VOLUNTEER HOURS

In 2021, 268 affiliated Societies/Clubs, District Executives and the OHA Board of Directors recorded 299,678 volunteer hours in community service across Ontario. This is an increase from 2020 of 46,779 volunteer hours. This is an amazing achievement and shows the commitment and dedication of all members of the OHA, even in the continued pandemic!

Through our local societies and clubs, the OHA is active across Ontario improving urban and rural landscapes; giving seniors' residences a hand with gardening; planting roadsides with wildflowers; planting trees and shrubs. The list of OHA activities is unlimited.

Volunteers are the backbone of everything we do!!

OHA FIRST VIRTUAL CONVENTION & AGM

The COVID-19 pandemic had, in 2020, forced the OHA to postpone its annual Convention and AGM for the first time in its (115) one hundred and fifteen-year history. The disappointment was readily obvious. Out of this arose a plan to not allow the COVID-19 pandemic to impede the OHA Convention and AGM in 2021.

The Officers, a number of members of the OHA Board of Directors as well as the Host District 10 Convention and AGM Committees went on the offensive and set about planning and navigating the pitfalls of having a virtual Convention and AGM. This was going to be a “first” for the OHA and after the letdown of 2020, the motivation was obvious.

The OHA engaged the University of Western Ontario’s Conference Services Team under the direction of Michael Zaigh to create a virtual Convention and AGM using the platform Pheedloop and Zoom. For the people from Western this was somewhat new, however, for the OHA it was uncharted waters.

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Lead by the OHA team of Secretary, Kelly Taylor, and Dian Chute from District 10, countless hours of time were committed by these two as well as many, many other people to make sure that not only would the plan for the Convention and AGM work, but that those from the OHA involved with running the events, or simply attending them virtually, could understand this new world and how to make it work.

On May 28, 2021 the OHA and Western put their work to the test with an OHA Special Meeting using the virtual platform Zoom. Key learnings from this meeting allowed them to make some adjustments for the Convention and AGM.

On July 16, 2021 the three hundred and fifty-four (354) members who registered for the Convention and AGM entered virtually. Over the next days, the Convention consisted of virtual Bus Tours, a number of Main Speakers, numerous one (1) hour speakers, Flower Shows, Photography and Literature Competitions, Youth competitions and the AGM business of the OHA. It was as close to being a “normal” Convention as it could have been and was considered to be a success.

2021 FINANCIAL REVIEW

In 2021, the total Revenue was \$161,254. This is up from the previous year but still lower than other years. There were several reasons for the decrease:

- In 2021, the convention was held virtually due to the Pandemic. Fees for attendance were able to be reduced. No convention was held in 2020.
- Membership across the province dropped by about 5,650 people in 2020. Affiliation fees are based on the previous year’s membership numbers; therefore, the fees revenue was significantly diminished.
- Many fundraising efforts were cancelled or reduced. – Supplies were not needed by societies and were not sold at convention,
- Donations increased slightly.

2021 Historical Record of the Horticultural Societies/Clubs of Ontario

In 2021, total expenses were \$176,888. This is also down from previous years due to several factors:

- Virtual convention, meant no expenses for hotel costs and competition costs were nil
- District Director and Officer travel expenses were small due to the lack of in-person meetings
- Some grant payments were postponed because the completion of the requirements was allowed to be delayed.
- Most committees did not meet or have expenses.

The result was a small loss for the year of \$15,634.

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