

Keeping Ontario Beautiful

# Trillium

Ontario Horticultural Association

Summer 2021



Photo by Jacqueline Hemingway, Niagara Falls



## *A Rare Treat*

Although Hummingbird Moths are not uncommon,  
it is unusual to spot one in your garden.



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Ontario Horticultural Association

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## Editor's Message



It's remarkable how the many submissions that show up in my email "Inbox" grow into a wonderful, varied and informative newsletter. Each article is a new adventure that we are able to pass on to all of you.

Thank you to District 1 Director Candace Dressler and Gloucester Horticultural Society who led us to the "Earthworms of Ontario" article by John Warren Reynolds Ph.D., LL.B. and Annise Marie Dobson, Ph.D.

With Flower and Vegetables Shows scheduled for this summer, there are some helpful updates from the OHA Judging Committee.

Please consider attending the online 2021 OHA CONVENTION July 16, 17, and 18th. There has been a lot of work by OHA Executives, Officers, District Directors and many others to bring you a fun and exciting few days despite the restrictions of being held virtually. There will be Speakers, Video tours, Garden Walk tours, Vendors and Exhibitors, Friday night District-run event including a Silent Auction and a Saturday evening Awards Presentation. For more information, pricing and to register, visit: <https://gardenontario.org/convention/>

For those of you who will be attending the Annual General Meeting portion of the convention, the changes in the "Resolutions" and information on those nominated for President, Vice President and 2nd Vice President are here as well as online.

And who knew there was a mysterious, elusive pollinator like the Hummingbird Moth?

You will all enjoy this issue.

Laura Masterson  
[editor@gardenontario.org](mailto:editor@gardenontario.org)

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

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

### **What you need to know to send articles and photographs:**

Submission dates for 2021:

Sept. 1 – Autumn issue  
Dec. 1 – Winter issue

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

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

Articles can be emailed to:  
[editor@gardenontario.org](mailto:editor@gardenontario.org)

Laura Masterson, OHA Trillium Editor

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

When submitting articles and photos, please mention who wrote the article and who took the pictures so that a credit can be included. To avoid illegal copyright issues, please do not submit articles, artwork and photographs copied from the internet or elsewhere unless permission from the writer, artist or photographer has been given.

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

### Printed Version:

The black and white, printed version is mailed directly to you for only \$15.00 per year. Fill out the form on the right and mail it in to subscribe.

### Online Version:

The online version is free – just sign up and it will show up in your inbox 4 times a year. To subscribe today, email a request to the Trillium Distributor, Lisa DeYoung:

[ohatrillium@gmail.com](mailto:ohatrillium@gmail.com)

Available on the OHA website:

<https://gardenontario.org/2021-summer-trillium/>



# Trillium

Keeping Ontario Beautiful



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## President's Message

The First Annual Convention November 9, 1906, in Toronto, this poem by Whittier was quoted:

*Give fools their gold and knaves their power.  
Let Fortune's bubble rise and fall,  
Who sows a field or trains a flower  
Or plants a tree, is more than all.*

*For he who blesses most is blest  
And God and man shall own his worth  
Who toils to leave as his bequest  
An added beauty to the earth.*

*And soon or late for all that sow  
A time of harvest shall be given,  
The time the flower and fruit shall grow  
If not on earth, at last in heaven.*

### **Excerpts from the Story of Ontario Horticultural Societies 1854-1973** (aka "Story") were:

"Delegates were present from almost all parts of older Ontario and much enthusiasm was evidenced in the proceedings" at this first convention in Toronto City Hall. A grant of \$100.00 was given towards convention costs and reports of the convention would be printed by the government and distributed to the societies.

Vice-President Major Snelgrove said: "I think every Horticultural Society should be required to send representatives to this central convention because we are out to do the greatest good for the greatest number and it is only by a happy combination and co-ordination and co-operation that we can hope to succeed." In the annual report, Major Snelgrove is quoted as saying "I am delighted to see a lady present at the first annual meeting".

H.B. Cowan was the superintendent of the OHA in 1906 and was the leader in getting the Association started. Some of why the Association was started, and I quote Mr. Cowan again from the Story, "One of the first defects I found was that our societies had no central organization. Then you had no annual report. I had nothing by which I could find out what different lines of work the different societies were following. Only by writing to the different societies separately was I able to find out what they were doing." Another

issue was: "Some societies were getting large grants and other societies doing much more valuable work, were not getting anywhere near as much assistance."

In 1906, there were 57 active societies and a membership of 6367 receiving grants totalling \$5816.00.

At the 1909 convention, Vacant Lot Gardening was advocated. In 1910, school gardens were increasing and Superintendent J. Lockie Wilson told delegates at the 1910 convention "the best place to plant a seed is in the hearts of the children." Mr. Wilson also reported at this convention that C.P.R. had fifteen hundred gardens connected with its station grounds.

There were 105 people at this convention.

In 1964, a record was set at the Ontario Agricultural College of 1063 registered attendees at the 59th convention of the OHA.

Another little excerpt but a major one from the "Story": "Through the efforts of the Ontario Horticultural Association, the Trillium Grandiflora was adopted as the Provincial Floral emblem of Ontario by an Act of Parliament on March 18, 1937."



Katharine Smyth



Photo by Kelly Taylor

*Now, you may ask, why am I telling you all this.*

First, we are holding our first ever virtual convention. Some of you, who were able to attend our special meeting on May 28th, watched what District 10 is planning for a wonderful full three-day convention, all on Zoom. Those who register, which by the way – registration is up on the [gardenontario.org](http://gardenontario.org) website, will have the opportunity to revisit the convention site for six months. This will allow for a registered member to see all the speakers, rewatch the garden tours and bus tours. This is absolutely fantastic.

I want to thank those members who attended the special meeting and now I am asking that we exceed the number that attended that 1964 convention and break that record. We can do it, because all you have to do is register and we can handle the numbers through the platform that was chosen to go virtual.

Secondly, I know that in 2020, the start of the pandemic, we lost close to 6000 members about 20 per cent of our total membership. Yet gardening is 60 per cent of the searches on Google.

In our history, the OHA had to go through the Great Depression where the association lost many members. There were the two great World Wars and the Korean War where memberships were lost. And there were amazing years where membership neared 80,000. Yes, the Association has had its ups and downs. We are in a pandemic and in one of those down times but we will rise again.

Maybe all each member has to do is invite a new gardener to come to a meeting. We will have to do things differently to keep them engaged, such as new and wonderful speakers, libraries of gardening books available to new members, Master Gardeners to answer questions, unusual plant and flower shows, open discussions on community involvement and many other unique and better ways to get members involved. We must change and look at new ways to bring new gardeners from all walks of life into our midst and I know we can do it.

The Officers are talking and meeting with OMAFRA to say how we can get to reopening and doing the things we want to do – in our societies, in our communities, in our schools.

But to be able to do this, we need to get vaccinated. We need to get to that 70 per cent of all Ontarians vaccinated. Yes, there may still be rules to wear masks or social distance. These rules are for the good of everyone, especially those like my daughter-in-law who has Lupus, Rheumatoid Arthritis and other immunity problems, and can only get the vaccine once her doctors are sure that it won't affect her other medications. And I am sure there are others in the province with the same problems. Vaccination is not only for us but, to also protect others.

The Officers have received many emails from societies on how they can do this or that. Our answer has constantly been, check with your local Public Health Department, as each has their own rules. According to Shawn LaPalm, insurance does not cover any event that is illegal, neither will the OHA. The best practice is to get a letter of authorization with signatures of those approving the event.

Some of the Officers have also received questions on why societies must do certain things. Please read the first part of my message of why the Association was formed in the first place. We are the go-between, between your society and the government, and we will continually work for the good of all societies.

Hope is growing stronger by the day. We will have a new normal and be better for it.

I will leave you with another poem written by Philip Dodds, winner of the 1971 competition:

### ***Horticultural Theme Song***

*Praise God for gardeners everywhere  
They make the world so bright and fair  
Good fellowship it reigns supreme  
When horticulture is the theme.*

*All people who on earth do dwell  
Should gardens plant and flowers grow  
To beautify the land we love  
And satisfy the mind, the soul.*



Katharine Smyth  
President of the Ontario Horticultural Association



# Bits and Pieces from the Belleville Garden Club

*Submitted by Barb Hayward, Photos by Chris Green, Barb Hayward and Others*

## We are celebrating our 145th Anniversary!



We are already ramping up for our 150th! Thank you to our District Director Sue Carew for sending out our Certificate.

## Donation to our Gleaners Food Bank



Chris Green, BGC's Co-Chair presenting the Belleville Garden Club's donation of \$500 to Susanne Quinlan of Gleaners Food Bank (Quinte) to help with their vegetable patch and the purchase of gardening tools for their volunteers. It's been a tough year due to a lower number of donations and all the Covid-19 restrictions in place for the volunteers.

## Celebrating Our Sponsors!

We have been busy celebrating our Sponsors! Each sponsor has received a Certificate of Appreciation plaque and a cute wooden box with our business cards to hand out to their customers. Our sponsors provide our members with discounts for gardening merchandise. Introducing just a few of our local businesses:



Michelle at Thrasher's Garden Centre is the first recipient of our Certificate of Appreciation given to our sponsors. Thrasher's is a great place to purchase seeds, planting materials and plants. Belleville Garden Club members receive a discount on many items in the store (present your membership card first!)



Meet Mary at Avondale Flowers and Gifts; one of our sponsors.





Another of our wonderful sponsors displaying our Certificate of Appreciation – Ross Middleton of BMA Hydroponics

Catherine and John of Farmgate Gardens



It's official! Mini Monster Farms in Belleville, Ontario is a proud sponsor of the Belleville Garden Club!

The Village Green



"Last night at the Belleville Chamber of Commerce Awards Night, I received the Cornerstone Visionary Award in recognition of contributions to the prosperity of our community. Yay me!!! And this is just before we are to celebrate our 20th anniversary of having the Village Green open in Foxboro!"

Karyn Wright, March 27, 2021



# Blenheim-Harwich Horticultural Society

*From the Blenheim-Harwich Horticultural Team, Anne Henderson, Secretary*

During 2019, we held a 50/50 Lottery. We had originally selected Evergreen Cemetery as the recipient of the funds collected. We had planned to provide them with permanent plantings at their front gate but due to Covid-19 and other issues, we eventually abandoned that idea. Instead, we offered the money to the local Royal Canadian Legion #185 for a planting they intend to do to separate the parking lot from the actual Legion building. They want visitors to see a colourful border along the side of their parking lot. Two of the Executives, Gerri Delannoy and Anne Henderson, met with Don Scott from the Legion to help him select the plants. He chose Viburnum, Limelight Hydrangeas, Rheingold cedars and Burning Bushes. We are looking forward to seeing the border when it is planted – it should be glorious.

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## LaSalle Horticultural Society

*Jan Dugdale, President & Public Relations Officer, Photos by Jan Dugdale*

It was too bad the members were not interested in having general meetings by Zoom, so we have not seen a lot of our familiar faces and really miss them. We have though kept them up-to-date with what we are doing by email and phone calls to those that do not have computers. Some members came out to help plant our canna bulbs for our plant sale in May. It was great to re-connect in these odd times.



Our board has been busy on Zoom with planning two virtual plant sales, listing all plants with pictures on Facebook and accepting payment by Square (credit cards) and e-transfers. We delivered the plants to each customer on the date promised with a knock on the door and a mask. The minimal order had to be \$20 for the free delivery; there was no curbside at that time. Regulations changed for our third sale, but was still an order online process, and curbside pick-up was available for paid items. All three were successful sales.

We have not forgotten our members in the community of LaSalle who might still be struggling because of Covid-19. Two \$50 gift cards were donated to the LaSalle Food Bank on our behalf. We did not stop there, we also donated \$1500 for 10 trees to The "Highway of Heroes" tree campaign and \$500 to the "Pelee Island Butterfly Sanctuary and Teaching Garden" that is just starting from the ground up through a previous member, Cherie Dillon. Check it out on Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/Pelee-Island-Butterfly-Sanctuary-and-Teaching-Garden>

A youth group was organized by our president Jan Dugdale and these helpers aid at our community gardens where we grow food for the less fortunate of LaSalle. They also help with our aging gardeners that are having a bit of trouble beautifying their places while gaining community service hours they require to graduate.

The OMAFRA grant was a welcomed surprise of \$1140.00 which will be put to good use.

A grant of \$3000 was won by Jan on behalf of the society for her written essay-type submission to the Rotary Club of LaSalle Centennial. All criteria were met by the Club and the Society won the grant to be used at our local LaSalle Community Gardens to purchase items needed and replace old beds, sun tarp and aging equipment used to maintain the gardens.

Scholarships remain especially important to our Society. So, we ensured we covered our two \$500 scholarships to St. Clair College students here in Windsor. We already received our thank you letters from the recipients.



**Highway of Heroes**



# Leaside Garden Society Committed to the Community

*Nora Campbell, Barry Schneider    Photos by Barry Schneider*



*The spring flowering bulbs on the Lyndhurst property May 2, 2021*

Since 1990, volunteers from the Leaside Garden Society have maintained the gardens at Lyndhurst Centre in the Leaside community. Lyndhurst is a spinal cord treatment centre administered by the University Health Network in Toronto. Every Monday morning, from April to October, volunteers gather to plant, weed, prune and water the perennials and annuals in the seven gardens on the property. Although there is a residential component to the facility, much of the treatment is done for day patients. As a result, there is a steady stream of traffic in and out each day so the gardens are on display to many. Visitors, staff and patients are appreciative of this bright spot in their day.



# Earthworms of Ontario

John Warren Reynolds Ph.D., LL.B. and Annise Marie Dobson, Ph.D.

Many of us grew up thinking of earthworms as essential for the creation and maintenance of healthy, fertile soil. However, the vast majority of earthworms found throughout Ontario would not have been present 500 years ago. Earthworms can be beneficial in their native ecosystems and agricultural settings, but their ability to re-engineer soil can completely change ecosystems and the microbial, plant, arthropod and vertebrate communities that live within them.

In the past several decades, 'jumping worms,' (the common name for several similar-looking species belonging to the family Megascolecidae), have invaded temperate and tropical ecosystems across the globe. To date, jumping worms have only been observed at a single site in Canada. Although their distribution is patchy throughout the United States they are spreading rapidly and have been observed in several counties along the US-Canada border (Fig. 1). Once introduced to a location, jumping worm populations can expand rapidly and can grow to high densities in 4-5 years (Fig 2). Due to their ecological, economic and recreational impact in the USA, and the difficulty in removing them once they have been established, we hope this article will help Ontario gardeners learn about how to prevent invasions by jumping worms before they become a widespread problem. The good news is that restrictions on moving soil, mulch, and plant material over the border have been very effective at preventing jumping worm invasion into Canada, and small additional changes can have big impacts in preventing or slowing their establishment here.

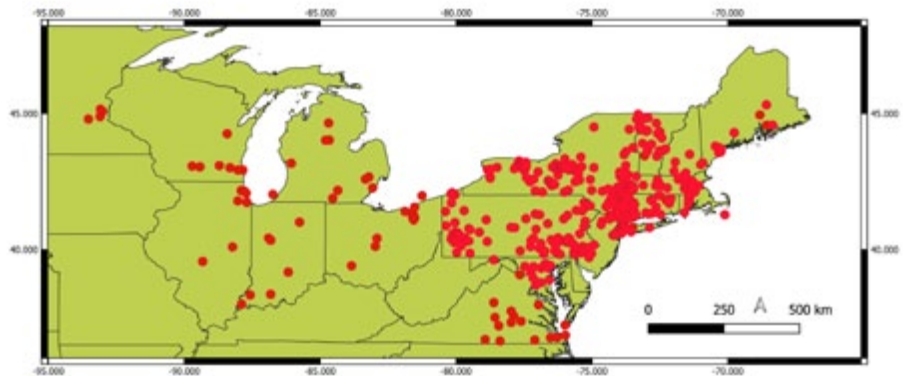


Figure 1. Confirmed invasive jumping worm sightings along the Canada-USA border, modified from Johnson et al. (in review).

## A History of Earthworms in Ontario

It is likely that every earthworm species you have observed in your gardens was originally introduced from Europe. However, Ontario is home to two native earthworm species. J. Percy Moore, an American biologist best known for his work on leeches, reported *Sparganophilus eiseni* (now *tamesis*) (American mud worm) (Fig. 3) from Long Point, Norfolk Co., in 1906. This remained the only record of this species in Ontario until 1977 when I (JWR) reported several other locations on the Great Lakes including one juvenile and 13 adult worms. The late discovery of these species is likely due to their relative rarity and unique habitat preferences. Most ecologists study earthworms in fields and forests, but these are found in



Figure 2. By mid-summer jumping worms can often be seen near the soil surface in high densities. Photographer: Annise Dobson



saturated wetland soils. It remained the only native species known in Ontario until 1972 when I (JWR) discovered *Bimastos parvus* (the American bark worm) in the National Arboretum in Ottawa. We know that this species is usually associated with rich organic places such as rotting logs and deep organic horizons, but relatively little is known about the ecology of these two native earthworm species.

Nearly all earthworms you will encounter in Ontario belong to eighteen species of European earthworms in the family Lumbricidae. This encompasses both the very common earthworms you are likely familiar with, such as nightcrawlers (Fig. 4), as well as species that have only been observed on one or two occasions. The very first species of earthworm described in Ontario were by Gustav Eisen in 1873 and 1874 when he described *Aporrectodea turgida* (pasture worm) and *Aporrectodea tuberculata* (Canadian worm) from the Niagara area. Eisen was a Swedish-American horticulturalist, a biologist, a zoologist, an artist and illustrator, an archaeologist, a viticulturalist, anologist, arborist, microbiologist, cartographer, explorer, and would be considered today to be a pioneer conservationist. Eisen also described *Dendrodrilus rubidus* (European bark worm), *Eiseniella tetraedra* (square-tail worm) and *Lumbricus castaneus* (chestnut worm) for the first time in Ontario. Unfortunately, most of these original samples of Ontario's earthworms in Eisen's vast collection of specimens from around the world were lost in the San Francisco earthquake of 1906.

The next earthworm species recorded in Canada came in 1902 when John Stafford added *Aporrectodea rosea* (pink soil worm), *Eisenia fetida* (manure worm), *Lumbricus festivus* (Quebec worm), *Lumbricus rubellus* (red marsh worm) and *L. terrestris* (nightcrawler), but he gave no information about where these earthworms were collected except Ontario. Frank Smith, an American biologist, archived specimens of *Aporrectodea longa* (black head worm) from Toronto, now housed in the Smithsonian Museum. Gordon Gates, another American biologist and a leading researcher in Asian and American earthworms, reported *Aporrectodea trapezoides* (southern worm) in 1972 from the province. Also in 1972, I (JWR) added *Allolobophora chlorotica* (green worm), *Dendrobaena octaedra* (octagonal-tail worm), *Octolasion cyaneum* (woodland blue worm) and *Octolasion tyrtaeum* (woodland white worm) all from Haliburton District. I (JWR) received a collection from the University of Guelph in 1976 containing *Aporrectodea icterica* (mottled worm) which remains the only collection of this species in Canada to date.



Figure 3. One of Ontario's two rare native earthworm species, the American mudworm, *Sparganophilus eiseni*. Specimen collected and photographed by John Reynolds.



Figure 4. The vast majority of Ontario's earthworms are invasive species from Europe. Nightcrawler (*Lumbricus terrestris*), photographed by Grant Dobson.

For the next 38 years, no new earthworm species were identified in Ontario. However, in 2014, I (JWR) identified two species of jumping worm, *Amyntas agrestis* and *Amyntas hilgendorfi* (also called *Metaphire hilgendorfi*) at the Bioblitz (a 48-hour intensive collecting of all plants and animals) at the Ojibway Prairie in Essex County. These were the first earthworms in the family Megascolecidae, often referred to as jumping worms, identified in Ontario. While this discovery was exciting as a taxonomist, it could lead to huge consequences for gardeners, conservationists and some of Ontario's largest industries (forestry, agriculture, recreation).

### Jumping Worm Natural History

Jumping worm invasions are unique in that they consist of multiple co-invading species including *Amyntas agrestis*, *Amyntas tokioensis* (also known as *Metaphire levis*), and *Amyntas hilgendorfi* in temperate North America. These species of jumping worms originate in parts of Asia (Japan, Korea), where they reside in heavily disturbed areas such as roadside ditches. However, when introduced to North America, jumping worms move easily into gardens, forests, and fields. Jumping worms grow and mature quickly, and most species can reproduce asexually, quickly reaching high densities from an initially small invading population. They grow and mature much more quickly than European or native earthworms. While both European lumbricid and jumping worms remove the organic horizon, the texture of soils invaded by jumping worms is more stressful for roots, fungi and soil animals. This is because jumping worm activities transform surface soils to a texture similar to ground beef or spent coffee grounds (Fig. 5). These changes in the soil lead to increased erosion, nutrient leaching, root desiccation, and plant death.

The cascading effects of jumping worms on other species are far-reaching. In areas of heavy infestation, organisms that rely on the forest floor for food and habitat, such as soil fauna, native plants, salamanders, birds and other animals decline. Furthermore, like the European species, jumping worm tissues can accumulate toxic metals, suggesting they could be a major pathway for metal bioaccumulation in higher organisms. In addition to deteriorating natural systems, jumping worm impacts are being felt by gardeners, plant nurseries, golf courses and community parks. The deep layer of loose castings created by jumping worms is particularly problematic for perennial plants (both native and horticultural), as well as parks and lawns used for recreation.



Figure 5. Invasive jumping worms are new invasive species in Ontario. Although they are not yet widespread, gardeners should be extremely cautious to not introduce them. Photographed by Annise Dobson.

### Jumping Worm Identification

Jumping worms can be identified all year round by the distinctively granular soil, described as looking like ground beef or coffee grounds. Their presence can be confirmed in late summer when populations grow rapidly, reaching peak size and abundance (Fig. 5). *Amyntas agrestis* and *Amyntas hilgendorfi* overwinter as cocoons. Key features include:

- Thrashing behaviour and high densities
- Smooth, metallic sheen (frequently iridescent reddish, brownish, green, orange), often darkly pigmented, and 4-20 cm long



- Clitellum is often cream-coloured and goes all the way around the body (Fig. 4), unlike the lumbricid species which have a raised and brown (or bright orange during the breeding period) clitellum (Fig. 5)

## Jumping Worm Invasion Prevention

Jumping worms are almost certainly more widespread than what has been reported. Because we currently lack any viable control strategies, efforts should focus on limiting human-mediated dispersal of adults and cocoons. Fortunately, the worms don't move very quickly on their own! Best practices include:

- Check the soil and roots of potted plants and trees for jumping worms (summer and fall) or castings (all year round) before planting them. Better still, plant bare-root! Be aware that anything larger than a poppy seed could contain jumping worm cocoons.
- Check any new mulch, compost and soil for jumping worms or castings
- If you can't confirm the source is free of jumping worms, only use mulch, compost, and soil that has been heated to appropriate temperatures and duration following protocols for reducing pathogens (40°C for three days is sufficient).
- If you find jumping worms in materials you bring in, alert your local MNR office and us! (annise.dobson[at]yale.edu). Dispose of all contaminated soil and castings in the trash and kill worms by freezing or leaving in a bag out in the sun, then discard. Alternatively, worms may be killed using vinegar or rubbing alcohol.
- When working with logging and landscaping companies, request equipment arrive and leave clear of soil and encourage your neighbors and local government to do the same.
- Do not buy or use jumping worms for bait, vermi-composting or gardening. Purchased earthworms may be mislabeled, so learn to identify jumping worms by their look and behaviour.
- Help advance jumping worm research by taking part in citizen science, a Bioblitz, or use recording apps like iNaturalist.

## More Information

Homeowner checklist and information: <https://hdl.handle.net/1813/103692>

The works of JWR and AMD are available for free via Researchgate.

Follow @JUMPINGWORMS on Twitter

## About the Authors



John Warren Reynolds Ph.D., LL.B. is the first Canadian Oligochaetologist (earthworm specialist). He is the author of over 500 publications which have appeared in 60 different journals, in whole or in part in 69 languages and 16 different disciplines.



Annise Marie Dobson, Ph.D., grew up on a farm in eastern Ontario and is currently a postdoc at the Yale School of the Environment. She studies how global and local changes affect food webs. Currently she is researching jumping worm invasion and impacts in North America.

# Remembering Jim Anderson

## OHA Past President

*Kelly Taylor, OHA Secretary*



*Jim Anderson, OHA Past President*

It is with sadness that we share that Jim Anderson, OHA Past President, passed away on Thursday, May 27th. Jim was an active member in District 15 and served as President of the OHA in 1996. Jim was an immense contributor to the OHA for numerous years and had many, many friends and associates during his years of participation.

The OHA will be honouring Jim with a tree in the Oak Grove at the Guelph Arboretum. Condolences and words of comfort can be shared with his family at Wards Funeral Home in Brampton:

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/bramptonguardian/obituary.aspx?page=lifestory&pid=198850362>

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## Judges Reminders

### From the OHA Judging Committee

*Penny Stewart, OHA Judging Committee Chair*

Judges, we want to keep you updated on a few changes that you need to keep track of for renewals.

The forms for judges' renewals have been revised (April 25, 2021) and have been posted on the website. Please make sure you use a current copy to keep track of your information. Things to note are:

- The two required entry credits must be from two separate shows that are written as standard. Preferably one in Design and one in Horticulture.
- For 2020-2021, we are allowing you to do workshops, seminars demonstration, etc. virtually.
- For 2020-2021, you can count one virtual show as an entry credit.

Also, if your address, email, or phone number changes, you are responsible to send it to Sharon Nivins, Judges' Registrar, at: [ohajudges@gmail.com](mailto:ohajudges@gmail.com) or at 84956 Tower Line, RR#7 Lucknow, ON N0G 2H0. If Sharon does not have current contact information, then she cannot update the Judges list and Societies may not be able to find you. Please let her know if you become aware of a judge who has passed away so their name can be removed from the list in a timely way.

Judges without email should check the newsletter "SHOWTIME" either on the website or through their Society. Do not forget to contact us at: [ohajudges@gmail.com](mailto:ohajudges@gmail.com) if you have any questions or concerns. We are here to help you and would love to hear from you with ideas and suggestions.





# New OHA Virtual Flower Show Guidelines *Organizing, Judging, Exhibiting*

*Kathy Lindsay from the OHA Judging Committee*

We now find ourselves having to engage virtually in response to Covid-19. To help, the OHA Judging Committee has just released guidelines on how to organize, judge and exhibit in a virtual flower show. The guidance draws on the content provided on the OHA website under the Shows tab ([gardenontario.org/shows/](https://gardenontario.org/shows/)), in the recently revised edition of the Ontario Judging and Exhibiting Standards for Floral Design and Horticulture (OJES 2019) and from those who have been holding virtual shows at the time of writing.

OJES (2019) includes everything you need to know about staging a traditional in-person flower show, how to prepare your entries and what a judge will be looking for to assess the quality of exhibits and the awarding of prizes. OJES (2019) is available for purchase from the OHA Supplies Coordinator ([gardenontario.org/resources/#gardenshop](https://gardenontario.org/resources/#gardenshop)). You can also check with your local Horticultural Society/Club as they should have a copy to purchase as well.

If the virtual Flower Show is to be judged, organizers are encouraged to select someone from the OHA Judges Registry accessible on the OHA website ([gardenontario.org/judges-listing/](https://gardenontario.org/judges-listing/)).

These guidelines may also be useful in organizing other types of virtual competitions such as Photography, Arts or Youth. Judging criteria for these other types of competitions are not covered in OJES (2019). Show organizers should make an effort to find other qualified judges for these competitions. Schedules for OHA Convention competitions (Photography, Art, Creative Writing, Publications, Youth) typically include a scale of points for judging. In our experience as OHA Certified Judges in Horticulture and Floral Design, we are sometimes asked to also judge photography classes. To help with that, the OHA Judging Committee has recently produced more detailed Photography Judging Guidelines (January 2021).

The guidelines for Virtual Flower Shows provide detail and examples for organizing, judging and exhibiting. They were co-authored by OHA Judging Committee members, Kathryn Lindsay and Anne Harbord, with input from available sources, contributors, reviewers and other members of the OHA Judging Committee.

Both the Virtual Flower Show and the Photography Judging guidelines are available on the OHA website ([gardenontario.org/shows](https://gardenontario.org/shows), click on Useful Guides for Judges & Competitors). They will also be presented at the upcoming OHA virtual Convention in the Judges on Judging session on Friday, July 16th from 3-4 p.m. Attendance will count as a credit towards OHA Judges Registry re-certification.

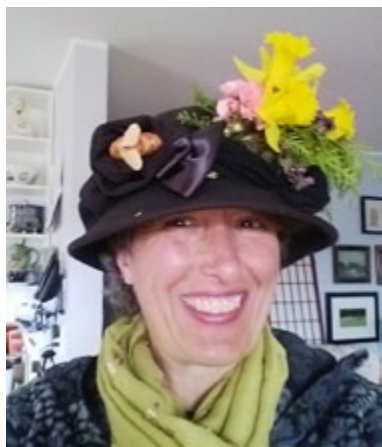
Given the recent rise in virtual flower shows, these guidelines are clearly a work in progress. We would appreciate learning about your virtual shows, along with your feedback and suggestions for additions and improvement as we all gain more experience. Please send your input to [ohajudges@gmail.com](mailto:ohajudges@gmail.com).



# East Gwillimbury Gardeners

## Host District 5 AGM

*Brenda Near*



*Brenda Near's Hat*



*Kathy Bruce's Hat*

The District 5 Annual General Meeting on April 17th, 2021, the first ever held online, was a resounding success. Our theme "Heart and Soul of Gardening" seemed particularly relevant considering the current state of the world.

Over a hundred participants joined in on the day, many wearing fancy hats and corsages to mark the occasion! There was a period of time for socializing which was really quite lovely since we hadn't seen each other in so long. We then presented our judged flower show that had many lovely entries. Virtual ribbons were awarded for 1st through Honourable Mention and for Best in Show, etc. Certificates were given out for "High Points in Horticulture" (won by Stouffville) and "High Points in Design" (won by Aurora). Aurora and Stouffville tied for the "High Points in Show" certificate.

Between the District business and the speaker, we had a 10-minute intermission. Participants could use this time to stretch out while our intermission show played in the background. The show, created by board member Charmaine Hunter, was a lovely display of all that we do and grow in East Gwillimbury set to the music of the Shout Sister Choir. The Flower Show, the Intermission Show and a Slide Show of the hats worn on the day are on our YouTube channel – search East Gwillimbury Gardeners on YouTube.

Following the intermission, we were honoured to be the first society to hear speaker Ingrid Janssen's newest talk, "Gardening in the Age of Coronavirus: Finding Solace in Uncertain Times". This was a fascinating look at why so many of us turned to gardening for solace during the pandemic. Many thanks go out to the members of East Gwillimbury Gardeners who made the day happen. Also, we extend a thank you to District 5 Director Cindy Scythes and Cliff Robertson, President of the Greater Toronto Water Garden Society who helped with the technical side of things, including providing the Zoom account. A Great day was had by all.

*Photos from PowerPoint Presentation*



**Aurora Garden & Horticultural Society**

**Silvana Croce**

*Heart & Soul*

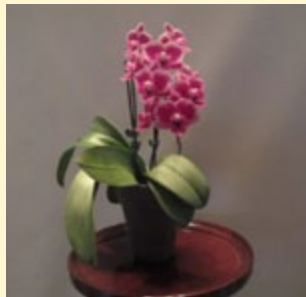


**North York Horticultural Society**

**Lorraine Luski**

*A Gardener's High Tech*

(A Mobile... Sumach Branches, Dried Allium Head, Dried Hosta Leaves, Oak Leaf, Other Leaf, Pine Cones, Dried Bean Pod, Dried Grapevine Ball)



**Newmarket Horticultural Society**

**Barbara Lo Patrello**

*Orchid Pink*



**Greater Toronto Bulb & Horticultural Society**

**Michael Erdman**

*Hippeastrum 'Exposure'*





## Resolutions To Be Voted Upon At The 2021 OHA Annual General Meeting

**RESOLUTION 21-2: Be it resolved that:** The Ontario Horticultural Association express appreciation to the Province of Ontario for assistance provided to Affiliated Societies/Clubs and to this Association by means of grants and by the continued review and implementation of policies aimed towards the promotion of interest and participation in horticulture.

**RESOLUTION 21-3: Be it resolved that:** The Ontario Horticultural Association convey to the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, their Deputies and Staff, our thanks for the support, assistance and co-operation accorded this Association by Ministry personnel.

**RESOLUTION 21-4: Be it resolved that:** The Ontario Horticultural Association extend its thanks to the District 10 Convention Host, Director, Assistant Directors, Affiliated Societies/Clubs and members of District 10 who worked to plan and conduct the 2021 Convention and to all others who had any part in contributing to its success.

**RESOLUTION 21-5: Be it resolved that:** Article II of the Constitution be repealed and replaced as follows:

### **CURRENT WORDING:**

#### **Article II Mission**

The mission of the Association shall be to provide leadership and assist in the promotion of education and interest in all areas of horticulture and related environmental issues in Ontario, through an expanding network of horticultural societies dedicated to the beautification of their communities, as outlined in Article 36 of the Agricultural and Horticultural Organizations Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter A.9, hereinafter called the Act.

### **PROPOSED AMENDMENT:**

#### **Article II Mission**

The Ontario Horticultural Association is a volunteer charitable organization that provides leadership, education and promotes interest in gardening and related environmental issues with affiliated Horticultural Societies/Garden Clubs and like-minded organizations.

### **Rationale:**

1. In an effort to give the OHA more visibility and to enlighten both the public and the Society/Club membership, the Strategic Planning Committee is revising the Vision, Mission and Goals of the OHA.

**RESOLUTION 21-6: Be it resolved that:**

**By-Law 1, 8. be amended as follows:**

### **CURRENT WORDING:**

#### **By-Law 1 INTERPRETATION**

In the By-Laws and in the Constitution of the Association, unless the context otherwise specifies or requires:

1. "Act" means the Agricultural and Horticultural Organizations Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter A.9, as amended from time to time and every statute that may be substituted thereafter;
2. "Association" means the Ontario Horticultural Association;
3. "Audit" means an examination of books and records by a qualified Auditor;
4. "Auditor" is an individual or individuals who are qualified Chartered Accountants, and who are therefore qualified to conduct an audit of the books and records of the Association in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.
5. "Board" means the Board of Directors of the Association;
6. "District" refers to a group of societies designated by the Association as a geographic entity within the Province;
7. "Financial Reviews" are conducted by independent, objective and knowledgeable persons at least once a year, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. To meet the requirements of the Act, a financial review is considered a sufficient audit for societies and districts.
8. "Horticultural Society" or "Society" means Horticultural Society, Garden Club or Garden and Horticultural Society incorporated under the Act.

9. "Affiliated Society/Club" shall be any organization that has paid their current affiliation fees as set from time to time by the delegates at an Annual General Meeting and has fulfilled the duties which may be determined from time to time by the Board of Directors of the Association. (19-7)
11. "Member" – an individual who pays the annual fee to an Affiliated Society/Club according to the Act (19-9)

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT:**

**By-Law 1 INTERPRETATION**

**In the By-Laws and in the Constitution of the Association, unless the context otherwise specifies or requires:**

1. "Act" means the Agricultural and Horticultural Organizations Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter A.9, as amended from time to time and every statute that may be substituted thereafter;
2. "Affiliated Society/Club" shall be any organization that has paid their current affiliation fees as set from time to time by the delegates at an Annual General Meeting and has fulfilled the duties which may be determined from time to time by the Board of Directors of the Association. (19-7)
3. "Association" means the Ontario Horticultural Association;
4. "Audit" means an examination of books and records by a qualified Auditor;
5. "Auditor" is an individual or individuals who are qualified Chartered Accountants, and who are therefore qualified to conduct an audit of the books and records of the Association in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.
6. "Board" means the Board of Directors of the Association;
7. "District" refers to a group of societies designated by the Association as a geographic entity within the Province;
8. "Financial Reviews" are conducted by independent, objective and knowledgeable persons at least once a year, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. To meet the requirements of the Act, a financial review is considered a sufficient audit for societies and districts.
9. "Horticultural Society" or "Society" means Horticultural Society, Garden Club or Garden Club and
10. "Member" – an individual who pays the annual fee to an Affiliated Society/Club according to the Act (19-9)

**Rationale:**

1. Places the items in alphabetical order.
2. More importantly, addresses the fact that there is currently no #10
3. In 9. The addition of the word "club" follows the use of the term earlier in the section

**RESOLUTION 21-7: Be it resolved that:**

The following definition be added to By-Law 1 as 1, 2. and that if passed, all subsequent definitions be renumbered sequentially to reflect this addition.

1, 2. "Annual General Meeting" (AGM) also means Annual Meeting as is found in the Corporation Act RSO 1990 c.C.38 and the Agricultural and Horticultural Organizations Act RSO 1990 c.A.9

**Rationale:**

1. "Annual General Meeting" is not found in the governing legislation.
2. This allows for either terminology to be utilized within all of the Constitution, By-Laws and Policies & Procedures of the OHA without confusion.
3. By including the requirement to re-number as part of this resolution it eliminates the need for another Resolution regarding the re-numbering.

**RESOLUTION 21-8: Be it resolved that:**

**By-Law 6, 6.1 be amended as follows:**

**CURRENT WORDING:**

- 6.1 The Board shall hire the Secretary and the Treasurer. The Board shall appoint from within itself two Regional Representatives from different identified regions of the province to serve as Officers. The President, Vice President and 2nd Vice President are elected annually by the general membership. The two Regional Representatives shall be elected during the Post-Convention Board meeting held in conjunction with the Convention and AGM. The term of the Regional Representatives shall start at the time of election and terminate at the Post Convention Board meeting held at the Convention and AGM the following year. (18-13, 18-16)

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT:**

- 6.1 The Board shall hire the Secretary and the Treasurer. The Board shall appoint from within itself two Regional Representatives from different identified regions of the province to serve as Officers. The President, Vice President



and 2nd Vice President are elected annually by the voting delegates. The two Regional Representatives shall be elected during the Post-AGM Board Meeting .. . The term of the Regional Representatives shall start at the time of election and terminate at the subsequent Post AGM Board Meeting.

**Rationale:**

1. Use of proper term eliminates any perceived issue with the word "member"
2. Voting Delegates elect these persons, not the general membership.
3. There is no requirement to hold a Convention however an AGM is mandatory and this amended wording referencing the AGM would also cover any situation where the AGM is held in conjunction with the Convention which has been the practice of the OHA until the COVID-19 pandemic.
4. This amended wording allows for the Regional Representatives to be elected no matter if there is a Convention or not.

**RESOLUTION 21-9: Be it resolved that:**

**By-Law 6, 6.2 be amended as follows:**

**CURRENT WORDING:**

6.2 An Auditor(s) shall be recommended by the Board, and elected by the voting members at the Annual General Meeting to carry out the audit of the ensuing year.

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT:**

6.2 An Auditor(s) shall be recommended by the Board, and elected by the voting delegates at the Annual General Meeting, to carry out the audit of the ensuing year.

**Rationale:**

1. Eliminates the perceived confusion with the use of the word "member".
2. Delegates elect at the Annual General Meeting.

**RESOLUTION 21-10: Be it resolved that:**

**By-Law 6, 6.9 be amended as follows:**

**CURRENT WORDING:**

6.9 If the Immediate Past President is unwilling or unable to carry out the responsibility of the office, the Board will approach the Chair of the Past Presidents' Council for guidance to fill the position for the remainder of the term. The Board must review and by vote approve any person identified by the Past Presidents' Council to fill the position under this process. (17-8)

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT:**

6.9 If the Immediate Past President or the person identified in By-Law 6, 6.9 is unwilling or unable to carry out the responsibility of the office, the Board will approach the Chair of the Past Presidents' Council for guidance to fill the position for the remainder of the term. The Board must review and by vote approve any person identified by the Past Presidents' Council to fill the position under this process. (17-8)

**Rationale:**

1. There is no current method to give the Past Presidents' Council a voice on the Board should an appointed person be unable or unwilling to fulfill the obligations of this position.

**RESOLUTION 21-11: Be it resolved that:**

**By-Law 7, 7.1 be amended as follows:**

**CURRENT WORDING:**

7.1 President. The President, as Chief Executive Officer, shall be responsible for the general management and direction of the business and affairs of the Association, and perform duties incident to the office and those prescribed from time to time by the Officers and the Board of Directors. The President shall be a member of all Committees. The President or designate shall preside at all meetings of the Officers, Board of Directors and meetings of members. (19-38)

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT:**

7.1 President. The President, as Chief Executive Officer, shall be responsible for the general management and direction of the business and affairs of the Association, and perform duties incident to the office and those prescribed from time to time by the Officers and the Board of Directors. The President shall be a member of all Committees. The

President or designate shall preside at all meetings of the Officers, Board of Directors and any Special Meeting(s) and the Annual General Meeting of the Association. (19-38)

**Rationale:**

1. Eliminates the perceived conflict created by the use of the word "member".
2. Properly identifies the meetings conducted by the OHA.

**RESOLUTION 21-12: Be it resolved that:**

**CURRENT WORDING:**

7.5 Treasurer. The Treasurer shall receive and account annually, or as often as may be required by the Board and applicable government authorities, for all monies, bonds and other securities belonging to the Association, which shall be invested in accordance with the direction of the Finance Committee. All books and records of the Association shall be audited at the end of the fiscal year. The Treasurer shall submit all invoices for payment to the Secretary and the President or Vice President or 2nd Vice President who shall approve for payment. The Treasurer chairs the Finance Committee and on a regular basis reports all financial matters to this committee. The Treasurer has a voice but no vote. (18-16)

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT:**

7.5 Treasurer. The Treasurer shall receive and account annually, or as often as may be required by the Board and applicable government authorities, for all monies, bonds and other securities belonging to the Association, which shall be invested in accordance with the direction of the Finance Committee. All books and records of the Association shall be audited at the end of the fiscal year. The Treasurer shall submit all invoices for payment to the Officers who shall review same for approval for payment. The Treasurer chairs the Finance Committee and on a regular basis reports all financial matters to this committee. The Treasurer has a voice but no vote. (18-16)

**Rationale:**

1. This amendment mirrors the current process in use whereby the Officers review and approve invoices.
2. By including all Officers, this opens ability for more scrutiny of invoices as there are more Officers than simply the one person currently identified.
3. The current wording could suggest that all invoices are automatically approved when in fact all are reviewed for approval.

**RESOLUTION 21-13: Be it resolved that:**

**By-Law 7, 7.7 be created as follows:**

7.7 In the event that an Officer or District Director is unable to cast a vote at an Association Board Meeting, the proxy voting rights of the Officer shall be assigned to the Association Secretary and the proxy voting rights of the District Director may be assigned to the person identified in By-Law 7, 7.6 or another District Director who is present at the meeting or to the Association Secretary.

**Rationale:**

1. This allows an Officer or District Director, who would have, under normal circumstance, been able to vote on a matter, the right to vote by proxy.
2. Currently, Officers and District Directors hold the right to vote via proxy for all Annual General Meetings. This simply expands that voting right to the Board Meetings of the Association.

**RESOLUTION 21-14: Be it resolved that:**

**By-Law 11, 11.2 be amended as follows:**

**CURRENT WORDING:**

11.2 Each society shall be entitled to two voting delegates; any society having membership exceeding one hundred, shall be entitled to an additional delegate for each fifty members or fraction thereof up to a maximum of 20 delegates.

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT:**

11.2 Each Affiliated Society/Club shall be entitled to two voting delegates; any Affiliated Society/Club having membership exceeding one hundred, shall be entitled to an additional delegate for each fifty Affiliated Society/Club members or fraction thereof up to a maximum of 20 delegates.

**Rationale:**

1. Removes any perceived confusion with the use of the word "member".
2. Properly identifies that the persons are eligible to vote.



**RESOLUTION 21-15: Be it resolved that:**

**By-Law 12, 12.3 be created as follows:**

12.3 The Board may appoint a District Director or Officer to sign a contract related to the hosting of the Convention and Annual General Meeting subject to prior approval of the contract by the Officers.

**Rationale:**

1. Currently there is no method which allows a host District Director to sign any contract with an establishment where the Convention and Annual General Meeting is to be held. This places a possible cost upon the Association for anyone identified in By-Law 4, 4.2 to travel to sign such a contract.
2. Electronic signatures are not always acceptable to some establishments.

**RESOLUTION 21-16: Be it resolved that:**

**By-Law 13, 13.6 be amended as follows:**

**CURRENT WORDING:**

13.6 The Director or the person appointed under By-Law 13, 13.3.2 and District Secretary shall prepare an agenda and order of business for all district meetings. A copy of the agenda shall be distributed to all district societies prior to the meeting. The Secretary shall maintain the minutes of such meetings, and the other written records of the district. The minutes of the Annual General Meeting shall be made available to all members within two months of the meeting. (17-14)

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT:**

13.6 The Director or the person appointed under By-Law 13, 13.3.2 and District Secretary shall prepare an agenda and order of business for all district meetings. A copy of the agenda of all District Meetings to which Affiliated Societies/ Clubs are invited shall be distributed to all Affiliated Societies/Clubs in the District prior to the meetings. The Secretary shall maintain the minutes of such meetings, and the other written records of the District. The minutes of all District meetings to which Affiliated Societies/Clubs are invited shall be made available to all Affiliated Societies/Clubs in the District within two months of the meetings. This may be done by e-mail, posting to a web site, etc.

**Rationale:**

1. Properly identifies which Societies/Clubs are entitled to the information.
2. Removes any perceived conflict with the use of the word "member".
3. Ensures that all minutes of all meetings are made available.

**RESOLUTION 21-17: Be it resolved that:**

**By-Law 13, 13.7 be amended as follows:**

**CURRENT WORDING:**

The District Treasurer shall present to the Affiliated Societies/Clubs of the District at the AGM the reviewed financial statements of assets and liabilities as well as income and expenditures for the prior fiscal year, with copies for each society. The District Treasurer, having made copies, shall transmit the original documents, statements, bills and receipts, along with the reviewers' comments, to the Association Treasurer no later than 2 weeks after their AGM but no later than May 31st each year. The District financial year shall be from the 1st of January to the 31st of December.

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT:**

The District Treasurer shall present to the Affiliated Societies/Clubs of the District at the District AGM the reviewed financial statements of assets and liabilities as well as income and expenditures for the prior fiscal year, with copies for each society. The District Treasurer, having made copies, shall transmit the original documents, statements, bills and receipts, along with the reviewers' comments, to the Association Treasurer no later than 2 weeks after their AGM but no later than 30 days prior to the Association's AGM. The District financial year shall be from the 1st of January to the 31st of December. This amendment comes into force on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

**Rationale:**

1. The insertion of the word District removes any confusion with respect to the AGM being referenced.
2. By moving to 30 days prior to the Association AGM, this allows Districts to hold their AGM later in the year as dictated by either custom or climate.
3. By using 30 days prior to the Association AGM this allows all Districts to be able to forward their documentation to the Association Treasurer for proper recording, reporting and retention.

**RESOLUTION 21-18: Be it resolved that:**  
**By-Law 11, 11.4.2 be amended as follows:**

**CURRENT WORDING:**

In the event that any Director, the Immediate Past President, any person holding a position under By-Law 6, 6.9, any person holding a position under By-Law 13, 13.5.1 or any Officer is unable to cast a vote, the proxy voting rights of such person(s) shall only be assigned to the Association Secretary.

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT:**

In the event that [REDACTED] the Immediate Past President, any person holding a position under By-Law 6, 6.9 [REDACTED] or any Officer is unable to cast a vote, the proxy voting rights of such person(s) shall only be assigned to the Association Secretary.

**Rationale:**

- 1) The reference to "Director" in line one of the current wording is removed in order to comply with the Corporations Act.
- 2) The reference to "any person holding a position under By-Law 13, 13.5.1" in lines one and two of the current wording is removed in order to comply with the Corporations Act.

**RESOLUTION 21-19: Be it resolved that:**

The OHA increase the dues charged to each member of each Affiliated Society/Club by \$1.00 to a total of \$4.00 per Affiliated Society/Club member per year commencing with the billing in the fall of 2020.

**Rationale:**

1. Considering the overall financial status of the Association, the increase would generate some added income to reduce the trend of annual losses over the past few years.
2. This topic is best addressed by the Treasurer with a quick overview of the past 3 to 5 years and the financial losses incurred each year.
3. This increase is allowed under by-law 4, 4.1.

## ***Ontario Horticultural Association Proxy Authorization Form***

<https://gardenontario.org/wp-content/uploads/OHA-Proxy-Authorization-Form-May-28-2021-1-1.pdf>

### **Nomination Report for 2021 Convention – London**

It is with great pleasure that the OHA Nominating Committee presents the following slate of officers for election at the upcoming convention in London:

- Charles Freeman has been nominated to stand as President by the Russell & District Horticultural Society. Charles has agreed to allow his name to stand for President;
- Sharlene Desjardins has been nominated by the Deep River Horticultural Society for the position of 1st Vice President. Sharlene has agreed to allow her name to stand for 1st Vice President;
- The Goderich and District Horticultural Society has nominated Vicky Culbert for the position of 2nd Vice President. Vicky has agreed to allow her name to stand for 2nd Vice President;
- Katharine Smyth has agreed to stand for a term as Past President.

Calls for further nominations, for each position will be held each day of the convention. If there are any others that wish to have their name put forward, please contact Kelly Taylor at [secretary@gardenontario.org](mailto:secretary@gardenontario.org).

Please note that the nominating report and biographies will be posted on the <https://gardenontario.org> website.





## Charles Freeman for OHA President

Hello and Greetings to the Membership of Each and Every Affiliated Society/Club.



*Charles Freeman*

I have served as the Vice President of the OHA for almost three full years and am now seeking to step forward to the position of President. I have been nominated by the Executive of Russell & District Horticultural Society and graciously accepted the nomination and the opportunity to continue to serve the Association.

The past years have been a continual learning experience. It has also been an extremely busy time. Conferring with Societies/Clubs that are closing or fighting to stay open, keeping communication lines open with our newest O.M.A.F.R.A. Representative, answering to the best of my abilities the many different questions surrounding Society/Club governance, participating in monthly teleconferences as well as any other tasks all contribute to the continuing process of learning how best to lead the OHA.

The continuing effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and all of the issues we continue to have to face have caused the business of the OHA to become even more complicated, time consuming, challenging and ultimately rewarding as we navigate all of the changing legislation, rules, guidelines and their differing interpretations.

My time in policing both working on the road and instructing in the classroom, being a Scout Leader, chaperoning school trips and international exchanges and coaching and refereeing provincial basketball has served me well while conducting the regular business of the OHA and then navigating through the Covid-19 pandemic.

I would be honoured to represent the OHA as President. I thank all of you for everything that you have done and continue to do as you represent your Society/Club in your community.

To the Officers and the Board, my deepest appreciation for helping to “keep the boat afloat” and heading in the right direction.

Kathy, “Thank you” is just the beginning of my gratitude for your guidance, assistance and friendship that has developed during the past years. You are leaving large President shoes to fill and I will certainly try to follow your straight-forward example without losing sight of my desire to “have fun and just dig in the dirt”.

***Everyone, Please, look after one other....  
Take Care & Stay Safe***

Sincerely,  
Charles Freeman, OHA Vice President



## Sharlene Desjardins for Vice President



*Sharlene Desjardins*

Hello

I have been nominated, and have accepted the nomination, put forward by the Deep River and District Horticultural Society for the position of 1st Vice President for the Ontario Horticultural Association. I have been within the umbrella of the OHA since I joined the Deep River Society in 2012. Within the Society, I held the position of President for two years and am the current Past President. I was also the Membership Chair for one year, Yearbook Designer and Editor for one year, Photo Competition Chair for two years and I am the current Spring Flower Show Chair. I joined the Pembroke Society as well in 2017 and have been active at the meetings as well as helping with the Plant Sale and Flower Shows.

I took over the position as interim Assistant District Director for the Upper Ottawa Basin of District 2 in the Fall of 2015 and was elected to the position in Spring of 2016. I held that position until the Spring of 2017 when I was elected as the District 2 Director. In April of 2019, I resigned from the position of District Director to pursue the OHA 2nd Vice President position which I was filling on an interim basis. I was elected into that position at the 2019 OHA convention in July and I currently hold that position as well as the being the OHA Awards Coordinator.

I completed the OHA Judging School in November of 2020 and I am now a certified judge. I am also attending the RBG Horticulture Judging School which will be finished later than expected due to Covid-19 and I am in my last course of the Dalhousie University Master Gardener program.

I am married and have three children, two boys and a girl. During their formative years, we travelled extensively for hockey and figure skating. During this time, I sat on the Skate Canada Eastern Ontario Board of Directors as the Regional Representative for Region 6 and was also the test chair and secretary of two different skating clubs. Prior to having my children, I was the secretary of both the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 436 executive and the ladies' Auxiliary. I worked at Atomic Energy of Canada Limited for 26 years and I am currently retired and loving it.

I began gardening late in life and have since fallen in love with it. I continue to expand my garden beds and love experimenting with plants that push the boundary for my area. I grow vegetables, flowers and herbs and have several shrubs and two cherry trees. I have installed a pergola with a "Zen" feel to it and have four raised garden beds and over 1100 square feet of total gardening space.

I look forward to having the opportunity to continue to work with the OHA and the Districts and all the wonderful people that make up our organization. Remember the following:

***"There are no gardening mistakes, only experiments" – Janet Kilburn Phillips***

Sincerely,  
Sharlene Desjardins  
OHA 2nd VP





## Vicky Culbert for OHA 2nd Vice President



*Vicky Culbert*

I live in Goderich with my husband Doug and two small dogs, Boots and Charley. We have six children, four sons and two daughters and are blessed with fifteen beautiful grandchildren between the ages of eighteen and two. I began gardening as a child at the side of my mother and grandmother and continue to love it. I continue to expand my garden beds and plant at least five new trees a year. My garden has beds of vegetables, flowers, herbs, grapevines and many cherished trees.

I was nominated, and have accepted the nomination, put forward by the Goderich and District Horticultural Society for the position of 2nd Vice President for the Ontario Horticultural Association. I have been involved with the OHA, since I joined the Goderich and District Horticultural Society in 2007. Within that Society, I have held the position of President for five years and have returned as the President for the past two years. I have volunteered on all committees of the

society, including; administration, activities and events. I enjoy the planting and maintenance of community gardens, garden tours, plant sales, regular meetings and flower shows.

I was elected to the position of Assistant District Director for the County of Huron of District 8 in the spring of 2015. I held that position until the spring of 2017 when I was elected as the District 8 Director. As the Director for eighteen Societies in District 8, I have learned and experienced the many rewards and challenges faced in the societies. One of the most exciting challenges is District 8 working in partnership with District 7 to offer the 2022 Convention and Annual General Meeting in Guelph.

As the chairperson of the competitions for the Ontario Horticultural Association Annual Convention, I have met many of the OHA members from all over Ontario. Presently, I sit on the Executive for the OHA in the position of the South West Representative. I am currently attending the OHA Judging School for completion in 2022.

The three loves of my life are family, horticulture and Ontario history. I am a Horticulture Judge for the Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies and am the Past President for "Discover the Gardens of Huron Perth" and have my garden open to the public during the summer months. I am the current Chair of the Goderich Municipal Heritage and Marine Committee, a member of the Business Improvement Area Board, and the President of the local Seniors' Centre. I am an active member of the Association of Ontario Land Surveyors Archival and Historical Committee.

My wide range of experiences and organizational skills provide me with strong leadership capabilities that would be an asset to the Ontario Horticultural Association. I look forward to having the opportunity to continue to work with the Association and all the wonderful people that make up the organization.

Vicky Culbert  
District 8 Director  
OHA Officer as Southwest Regional Representative  
2022 Co-Convention Host

# Bath Gardening Club

## What's Happening in Bath!

*Submitted by Pat Chown    Photos submitted by Janice Firth, Don Taylor and Melissa Willis*



### **Village Planting – Colour and Joy for Bath**

Our village is alive with colour! 358 plants found a home in 47 barrels, 5 planters and in the gardens located at Schell's Market, the Bath Museum, the Post Office and the bridge.

Thank you to Dawn Ford for taking the lead in this project. Dawn was responsible for connecting with our plant supplier Sun Harvest, arranging for Loyalist Township to place the barrels once they were planted and setting up planting schedules for the many volunteers who generously offered their time... all the while being mindful of the Covid-19 protocols.

The Gardening Club members are responsible for weeding and maintaining the flowers during the season. We hope that once travel restrictions are lifted, you'll visit our part of Ontario and enjoy the beauty of our gardening!





## **The Bugtel Area – A B&B for Our Insects And a Memorial Grove for Reflection**

Insect hotels are the birdhouses of the insect world – they are easy to make or purchase and can easily fit in your yard. Beneficial insects can also help control pests in your garden so they will earn their keep! Did you know that one out of every three bites of food we consume depends on pollinators like bees, butterflies and moths, birds, bats, beetles and other insects? Our pollinators are in decline so this is something we can all do to help.

In 2017, the Bath Gardening Club built an insect hotel on Loyalist Township property behind the Bath Public School. The Bath “Bugtel” was named following a competition among grade 1 classes. The original Bugtel was nothing fancy... wooden pallets stacked and filled with a variety of materials that the insects could burrow in or make their nests. A small pollinator garden was built around the hotel to attract a variety of insects to the area.

Last year, business seemed to be very slow at the Bugtel – we were not sure whether there were fewer insect residents as a result of Covid-19 or if this was due to the poor soil around the structure. Covid-19 did, however, provide us with the time to reflect on how the Bugtel and the surrounding area could be improved. We came up with the ambitious objective of not only renovating the Bugtel but also creating a place of reflection, a memorial grove adjacent to the Bugtel for the whole of Bath to enjoy.

We started with the Bugtel facelift. One of our members built a roof structure to increase curb appeal for our insect residents. Within days, we had a bird move in and build a nest in the rafters of the roof! Loyalist Township was approached and gave permission for us to expand our present pollinator garden. Rather than excavating, we used the ‘cardboard garden’ approach and built a raised bed using log off-cuts donated by a member. Four yards of soil were shoveled and leveled by members, then the planting began. Our Club is fortunate to have a

former Master Gardener help with the planning and selection of native plants for the garden. We are most fortunate that Lafarge Holcim Bath Cement Plant also provided us with a very generous grant to cover the cost of trees, plants and a bench for the garden and the Memorial Grove.

Thanks to an amazing team effort, corporate sponsorship and community involvement, our Bugtel and Memorial Grove area is a vibrant work in progress. And it has been and is being created while respecting the existing Covid-19 protocol. Once travel resumes, you are very welcome to check it out!

### **Fertilizer Creation and Sale**

The Bath Gardening Club has been involved for many years in making a special fertilizer that, of course, helps to account for the magnificent gardens that can be enjoyed all over our Bath community. Our thanks to Laurie Minorgan for taking the lead on this project and seeing it to completion. In previous years, fertilizer-making consisted of an afternoon of fun, lively conversation and camaraderie involving an assembly line (in someone’s driveway) as the bags were filled with our special fertilizer ingredients. This year, making the fertilizer was a labour



of love. Because of Covid-19 protocol, one or two people from the same bubble filled bags over a four-week period! A huge thanks to the 15 volunteers who “stuck with it”. Their combined effort resulted in 900 bags of fertilizer being made! The fertilizer is in high demand with some being sold as far away as Brockville and Belleville.

### **Soil Your Undies: How good is your soil?**

In the Trillium 2021 Winter Edition, we read that District 13 of the OHA embarked on the “soil your undies” challenge. Thank you District 13! Bath Gardening Club has taken up the challenge!

The project began with “Bathers” planting their white undies on June 1st. The harvest date of the undies, or whatever is left of the undies, is August 1st. Participants will submit a picture of themselves and their undies and the winner of the best soil award, the person unearthing the least amount of cotton, will be announced at our BGC September meeting.

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## Hummingbird Moths

*Photos by Jacqueline Hemingway, Niagara Falls*



Imagine spotting one of these “creatures” and actually having the presence of mind to snap a photo before it flits away! Hummingbird Moths range throughout North America and may be seen May through to July if you are lucky. They sound like a hummingbird and dart away just as quickly. Caption by Laura Masterson





# Greetings from your OHA Past President

*By Rose Odell, Past President, Ontario Horticultural Association*

Who would have thought at this time last year we would still be dealing with many of the same problems as this time last year? I am hopeful that with many being able to get the vaccine that this will finally help to bring the problem to something more reasonable so we can again return to a more normal life. It has been difficult for many that do not work much with a computer to be able to order groceries or other items online. It has been my saving grace.

I can imagine by now, many of you have been working in your gardens and have everything looking wonderful or have your new projects underway. I love to see the posts on our **Facebook page for Garden Ontario** showing and sharing your ideas, comments and suggestions with the many that have joined up. Some still insist on harsh comments and we try our best to remove these offenders. We do like to know what your interests are and try to publish as much educational information as possible so please, if you have a particular area you would like to learn more about, share your question, please. Others may like to know also.

I am so excited for the team that is bringing you the first ever **virtual convention this year hosted by District 10**. To see all the Societies in that District go to <https://gardenontario.org/district-listing/entry/228/> This great team has been working diligently to put together and learn many new skills, to bring you this opportunity to join the **OHA AGM**, have the chance to **vote** on issues for your Society, hear some great **speakers**, view some breathtaking **gardens**, purchase items from **online vendors** and join in the fun of the **Friday night festivities** and **Silent Auction**. There are prizes to be won throughout the whole weekend so register and check out all the areas you can visit while staying in the comfort of your home.



*Rose Odell*  
*Past President, OHA*

The **Awards Presentation** will still be presented on Saturday night. We just will not have the chance to shake the many hands of those who have been nominated by their groups and have been honoured by their supporters.

By the time you get this publication, which is put together so well by our Editor, Laura Masterson, I will be finished my time sitting on the OHA board as an Officer. It has been a great journey, of 5 years as a Director and 6 years as an Officer where much has changed and been accomplished with the help of so many. I have met so

many wonderful people because of stepping up to take a position as a leader for this amazing group of Officers, Directors, Committee chairs, and all those on the many levels right down to our fabulous members that continue to give us a purpose. I hope my part in the leadership, and with the aid of so many, has provided you with the direction and support that you require to continue to do your work in all your communities. I will still be taking care of the Supplies so please contact me at [supplies@gardenontario.org](mailto:supplies@gardenontario.org) for anything on the list found on the website.

Continue to embrace all that Nature offers and keep it safe and healthy for future generations. Each one of you plays a part in the stewardship of this great space we have on this earth. Replace the aggressive plant species in your gardens with Native plants, continue the fight against all the invasive species that are invading our forested areas and highways and help to bring insects, pollinators, birds and small wildlife back into our area.

I thank all of you for your support and look forward to the time we can see each other again in person.

With warm regards,

*Rose Odell*

OHA Past President/  
Supplies/Speakers



*Nectar Love Photo by Rose Odell*



# Ancaster Horticultural Society

## Beautifying Ancaster for 60 Years

*By Betty Howitt, Program and Publicity Director*



*Ancaster Horticultural Society members receiving their 25-year service awards.*

*L-R. Donna Foster, Don Foster, Sheila Oddy and Don Grant*



*Ancaster Horticultural Society's 2009 Flower and Vegetable Show.*

*Photo by David Puskas*



*David Waddell and Richard Pattinson, both early presidents of the Ancaster Horticultural Society*

Summer is just around the corner and the Ancaster Horticultural Society, aka Ancaster Gardeners, is excited to be celebrating 60 years of beautifying Ancaster. We have been very busy and began holding our general monthly meetings online via Zoom starting in March 2021 and will continue for the foreseeable future. Our virtual meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month except July, August and December. Each monthly meeting has a wonderful speaker booked and gives us a sense of normalcy getting together, albeit at home and online. Please join us as the meetings are free and all are welcome. We are very lucky to have a wonderful Executive Director take on the technology side of our virtual meetings which allows us to stay in touch with the community.

Keeping the Ancaster Horticultural Society in the community has been different but through our local newspaper, The Ancaster News, and Mike Pearson, News Editor for the Hamilton Community News, various articles have been published including one in the Silver and Gold Magazine Summer Edition. Florascape, our quarterly newsletter, has been a wonderful way of staying in touch with members. The society also publishes a monthly News Flash article that summarizes our activities.

We kicked off spring 2021 with our very popular plant sale and it was a huge success. After losing our

annual fundraising plant sale in 2020, we restored the sale this year with Covid-19 constraints. Our annual plant sale was very different this year! In place of our usual sale at Food Basics Plaza, we held a pre-order online with curbside pickup of Heirloom tomato plants. 743 Heirloom tomato seedlings were grown in Wellandport at Tree and Twig Farm owned by Linda Crago. Linda has supplied our plants for the past 10 years and they are always of the highest quality. 93% of these plants were sold online, sorted and prepared by the Freshwater family at their farm for curbside pickup at the Ancaster Fairgrounds. The remaining tomato plants were sold at the farm roadside on a cash honour system. A huge thank you to Sue Freshwater for all the ordering, organization and to the whole family for all their help. Our annual May plant sale is our society's major fundraiser to support all our activities. This one day event is one of the largest plant sales within our OHA district and is well supported by our volunteers and by gardeners in the community.



### **AHS 2021 Heirloom Tomato Online Plant Sale**

*The plants arrived at the Freshwater farm for sorting and organizing. Remainder of the plants were sold at the end of the Freshwater farm's driveway via honour system.*

*Photos by Sue Freshwater*



### **Fieldcote Memorial Park and Museum**

*AHS helps maintain and care for the grounds around Fieldcote. Photo by Bob Wilt.*

We will be very busy in the Ancaster community planting and maintaining three large municipal garden beds. Permission has been granted from the City of Hamilton. We will start gardening on June 4 and follow all proper guidelines. Thank you to our society volunteers who work to keep Brandon Park, Millennium Park and Ancaster Square beautiful during the gardening season and help to achieve our mission. The gardeners have been given permission to go onto the grounds of Fieldcote, with a maximum group of five and heeding provincial regulations. There will be a one-week blitz to clean up the garden beds on the beautiful grounds of Fieldcote Memorial Park and

Museum and get them ready to plant, starting the week of May 31. So we are really not too far behind. Fieldcote is a cultural heritage centre with an emphasis on the collection, preservation and exhibition of local history, the promotion of fine arts and the celebration of natural heritage through beautiful landscaped gardens and walking trails.

The Ancaster Horticultural Society will be holding its annual Trillium Awards Program in the summer, using the same format as last year. It was a huge success in 2020 recording the highest cut-off mark of 93/100. The Ancaster Trillium Awards program promotes community pride by recognizing residents who, by landscaping and maintaining their property, contribute to a more attractive neighbourhood and community. People can enter their own property and those of friends or neighbours in Ancaster. Also, commercial properties have their own category and feel free to nominate any. This year, we are evaluating Heritage Properties (pre-Confederation) as the Trillium Award Committee felt it was a wonderful way to commemorate the Society's 60th Anniversary. This is one of the main functions of the Society with the aim of the program being to beautify Ancaster.

Follow us on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook or our website [www.ancasterhort.org](http://www.ancasterhort.org). Feel free to contact us at [ancasterhort.soc@gmail.com](mailto:ancasterhort.soc@gmail.com).



## **Stoney Creek Garden Club**

*Marian Heil Photo by Liz Chapple*

During 2020, with the help of a grant from OHA, Stoney Creek Garden Club planted a Forest Pansy Redbud tree on the grounds of the Church of Our Saviour the Redeemer where meetings are held. Members of the club faithfully watered it last year and this year, it is rewarding everyone with its beautiful flowers. We look forward to watching it grow.



# A Lasting Tribute from the Leaside Garden Society

*Joanna Blanchard, Past president*

As you know, Dave Money, one of the founders of the Leaside Garden Society, died in October 2020. Dave and his wife Bev were an integral part of the Society from its inception, Dave being its first president (1986-91). Dave's legacy goes well beyond Leaside: he was instrumental in the founding of other horticultural societies, served as OHA president from 1992-93, volunteered in gardens and green spaces in his home community of Scarborough, and worked with Charles Sauriol to create the Todmorden Wildflower preserve.

We at the Leaside Garden Society know that Dave could not have achieved these things without the quiet support of his wife Bev. The Board of the Society had many long discussions about how to commemorate our appreciation of the enormous influence that Dave and Bev have had on amateur horticulture over the years. Should we plant a tree; should we dedicate a bench; should we ask the city to name a parkette; or what? Finally, we decided that their contributions would best be marked in a simple but highly visible manner, and to that end, we have dedicated an urn to them that is planted and maintained by the Society outside the library where we hold our meetings. Everyone who comes to the library, or walks by, can see the urn with its seasonal planting. In this way we hope that any Leasiders who ever knew Dave and Bev will remember their remarkable influence and perhaps wonder how they too can contribute to making their community greener and more liveable.

Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, we were unable to have the formal dedication event with Bev in attendance that we would have liked. Instead, a framed certificate has been presented to Bev.



## Awards and Recognition – They are Important

*OHA Judging Committee*

We are sure if you look around your Society or Club, you would no doubt recognize people who have been steadfast year after year in helping with shows, always exhibiting, helping teach how to show, etc. Volunteers are the backbone of our groups, and we should be recognizing them for all that they do. Can you think of someone who deserves a "Judging and Exhibiting Service Certificate"?

The Judging/Exhibiting Service Certificates are supplied free of charge and are inscribed by the OHA. The criteria are:

- Ten or more years of active membership in Societies.
- Service on Society committees, contributing time or effort to organizing and/or exhibiting in flower shows or photo competitions, or in judging shows.
- Encouraged participation in exhibiting and showing by demonstrating expertise in organizing shows, floral design, horticultural exhibits, or horticulture/floral design photography.
- Inspired judging, shows, and/or exhibiting efforts of either individuals or groups.
- Showed sincere interest in and supported shows and judging of a Horticultural Society.

Please forward the name of someone you think should be recognized to the attention of your Society President or a Board member. Applications are available at [www.gardenontario.org](http://www.gardenontario.org).

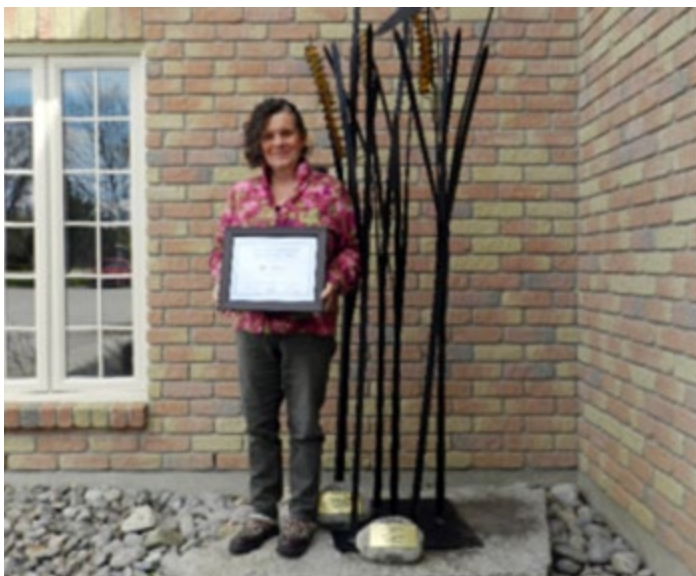


# Bobcaygeon & District Horticultural Society

Carol Peters

Photos by Carol Peters

## OHA President's Award 2021



**Ruth McIsaac**

Past President and 20-year veteran of the Society, she held the position of President for five years. Always active in gardening and planning ideas for the Community, Ruth is a past recipient of Citizen of the Year Award. She stands beside her design dedicated to "Gardeners Past, Present and Future".



**Rose Helliwell**

Life member Rose Helliwell of the Bobcaygeon and District Horticultural Society, now in her 106th year, is shown receiving the Ontario Horticultural Association Society President's Award in recognition of her outstanding work and dedication.

Rose held the position of President in 1988. Her husband Allen was also a very dedicated worker holding the office of President from 1974-1980 and 1985.

Together, they made a remarkable team growing plants from seed, planning gardens and planting trees. Rose was also a flower judge and did many beautiful flower designs.

***Congratulations Rose.***

***A well-deserved award.***



**Linda Friend (l)**

Garden Tour Extraordinaire for many years, Linda not only orders the flowers for the Town Gardens but plays an important part of organizing the planting. Linda maintains our most important gardens at the Village Service Centre.

# Haldimand Horticultural Society

Elsie Eubank, Publicity Chair

Photos by Sharon Slack

**"Yard of the Month"** would like to recognize residents of Haldimand who inspire others to take pride in their yard, their gardens and their front door. Sponsored by Haldimand Horticultural Society, these are the winning entries for May:



**Caledonia:** Catherine McGill with "Snow in Summer" that stole the show



**Cayuga:** home of Jody Cukrovani with mounds of hostas and sprinkler feature



**Hagersville:** Gerry Okimi has a secluded country property that features an inukshuk guiding the visitor to an oasis beyond the winding driveway leading the eye up to the entrance of a B&B with colourful Eastern Redbud trees, iris and flowers about to blossom and a multitude of tree varieties.



*All winners have a Yard of the Month lawn sign placed in their garden for 2 weeks.*





**Caledonia:** Melissa Valeitm won with a newly-built home featuring a "Home Sweet Home" theme with crescent-shaped wreaths on a double door entrance, a complementary pink and black seating area with soft pink pillows, white pillar candles and a napping Buddha statue.

HHS would like you to nominate your neighbour, family, friend or nominate yourself to enter for the June competition. Include your contact information, the name of the person you are nominating with their name, street address, phone number and email. A brief description of why you think this nominee deserves the recognition and a photo of the home you are nominating. Email the nominations to: [haldimandhorticulture@gmail.com](mailto:haldimandhorticulture@gmail.com)

Good luck to all and thank you for keeping Haldimand a beautiful place to live.



Haldimand Horticultural Society is also hard at work in our public gardens.

Haldimand Horticultural Society will be hosting a garden tour July 10th and 11th

## "Blooming on The Grand"

Featuring 6 gardens: 9 am to 4 pm each day

Tickets can be purchased on our website which will be live very soon:

[www.bloomingonthegrand.com](http://www.bloomingonthegrand.com)

\$10 per person, under 12 free and no pets allowed please. There will be a mix of town and country gardens, something for everyone. The first 125 people will receive a swag bag of goodies. If Covid-19 prevents us from having this tour in person we will be presenting it virtually.

For more details email:

[info@bloomingonthegrand.com](mailto:info@bloomingonthegrand.com)



# Haldimand Horticultural Society Is Challenging Gardeners to Create a "Hope is Growing Garden"

*Elsie Eubank, Publicity Chair*

*Photo by Sharon Slack*

In this challenging time when people are discouraged and tired of all these Covid-19 problems, HHS would like to promote and encourage hope through bright cheerful gardens. Yellow is the international colour of hope and a bright and cheerful colour. As we know, people who garden are happier, healthier and more relaxed with less stress and anxiety. Gardening is therapeutic and good for the soul.

So HHS would like to see our county covered in bright yellow gardens from one end to the other: a sign of hope, a sign that we will defeat Covid-19, a sign that better times are coming. We have a few suggestions to help you plan your Hope is Growing Garden. In your veggie gardens, you can plant yellow beans, yellow peppers, yellow tomatoes and I'm sure you can think of a few other yellow veggies to grow.

You can have beautiful bright yellow flower beds with pansies, marigolds, daylilies, corydalis, petunias, impatiens, nasturtiums and many more.

2020 was a difficult year and so far 2021 is just as bad or worse. So let's plant some bright yellow gardens for a positive, peaceful change and opportunities to bring brightness and light into our lives. It will be fun and easy.

You can visit the Communities in Bloom website to find out about the national "Hope is Growing Gardens". Anyone can take part in this challenge: organizations, churches, clubs and individuals. Hope is for everyone!! You can even register your "Hope is Growing Garden" at [www.hopeisgrowing.ca](http://www.hopeisgrowing.ca) You can share photos of your gardens on Communities in Bloom social media platforms with the hashtag #Hopeisgrowing

HHS is inviting you to make a positive, peaceful change to your life while enjoying your beautiful yellow garden where "Hope is Growing".

Haldimand Horticultural Society is also going to do an event or activity for Earth Day. Unfortunately with Covid-19, we can't invite everyone to join us as a group. We will all have to do what we can while obeying the Covid-19 rules. But we will be out there picking up garbage and cleaning up our environment.

April 22, 2021 was the 51st anniversary of the start of Earth Day, a modern environmental movement which began in 1970. The theme of Earth Day is to restore the Earth. It's all about reducing our environmental footprint. Some ideas for Earth Day are: be energy efficient, focus on recycling and find ways to reduce waste, say no to single use products. Of course growing gardens is a good Earth Day activity.

You can do your part by picking a spot public or private away from other people and pick up garbage.

Let's all get out there and do our part to make sure our world is a better cleaner place to live.



# Let Those Milkweeds Grow!

*Story and Photo by Stephanie Wilson*

Many of us have been hearing about the welfare of the Monarch butterfly for the last number of years. Thankfully, many groups are paying attention to some of the things that can be done to improve their lot. For instance, milkweed (which is the **ONLY** food that a Monarch caterpillar will eat) has been taken off the noxious weed list and as a result, spraying these plants is no longer recommended for gardeners and farmers. It is due to the milk in the milkweed leaves that makes the Monarch poisonous to animals who might otherwise make a meal of these butterflies.

It is very encouraging to note that many homeowners are now planting milkweed in their gardens. In the photo, Gerrie Randall is enjoying watching a butterfly lay her eggs on the milkweed which she has grown in her garden. This week alone (in the last 3 days) she has found over 20 eggs on these plants. The leaves which have eggs on the underside should be carefully removed and relocated to a protected spot so that tachinid flies and wasps will not lay their eggs inside a monarch caterpillar and consequently cause its death. For the next four weeks, we watch the eggs hatch and develop into caterpillars or larvae, then cocoon and eventually emerge as a magnificent Monarch butterfly. *(Don't try this without first getting instructions from an expert)*. What a feeling of elation to have this beauty on your hand then lift off into the air, either to mate and create new butterflies, or, later in the summer, to head off to Mexico to spend the winter. Even better, it's exciting to know that the offspring of these Monarchs will visit your garden next summer to start the cycle all over again.

So, let those milkweeds grow! They're beautiful, smell wonderful, and are critical to the monarch's existence.



Gerrie Randall from Port Dover is enjoying watching a Monarch as it lays an egg on a milkweed plant in her garden.

# District 6 Fundraiser

Catherine McGill – District Director



District 6 is having a Tenna top fundraiser! These were originally for car antennas which some cars still have but we use them for some planter fun! They also go on crayons for little ones. We recommend selling them for \$2 each or 3 for \$5 and they sell well. If any District or Society would like a case of 288 assorted tops selling for \$100. This photo is from the last box opened, great assortment – please contact [district6@gardenontario.org](mailto:district6@gardenontario.org)





## Meet Your New District Directors

### **Debi Foster** **District 17 Director**



Watching the flowers bob and weave in my Great-Aunt's English garden and being ensconced in the fragrance of her many roses are my first memories of gardens. My Grandmother loved the challenges of propagating plants and liked to share her successes with me.

Many years later in our first house in Cold Lake AB, I began growing veggies to help feed our young family. Returning to Ontario, perennials popped up in the beds around the vegetable gardens in Kitchener, Sudbury and Thunder Bay.

I joined the Oshawa Garden Club (OGC) in 2002 and was part of the Executive for 9 years, including 3 years as President. I filled the role of D17 Treasurer for the last three years. The OGC doesn't have flower shows so in 2017, I also became a member of the Brooklin Horticultural Society and have been part of their Show Committee since. Taking it one step further, I completed the OHA District 5 Judges' School earlier this year.

Two of my three sons have now started playing with veggies in their own gardens. Presently, my biggest gardening challenge is keeping our two Australian Shepherds out of the flower beds. I take great pleasure in representing the horticultural societies and garden clubs of District 17.

### **Susan Ramsay** **District 1 Director**



I grew up in Barrie and after high school, attended Georgian College and graduated with a 2-year Art and Interior Design Diploma.

In Orillia, I worked in retail, then took a bookkeeping course.

In Terrace Bay, ON, I worked as a payroll clerk and was the Formation President of the Terrace Bay Kinettes.

I moved briefly to Guelph, then on to Cornwall where I attended St. Lawrence College and graduated with a 3-year Finance Diploma. I worked as a bookkeeper/accounting clerk until retirement 2 years ago.

I joined the Board of Directors for Community Living Stormont County which provides support services and advocates for developmentally challenged adults. I have held the position of President and am currently the Treasurer as well as a member of several committees.

I joined the Women Entrepreneurs of Cornwall and Area to support and encourage their members. I was elected Chairperson for a one-year term. It was a great group to network with and meet lots of women.

After moving to Lancaster ON, I soon joined the Williamstown Green Thumb Horticultural Society.

I am currently the Past Co-President and email communications to our members.

I was the Assistant Director for OHA District 1 and have now been elected as the District 1 Director.

I love gardening, walking, hiking, and snowshoeing.





## Meet Your New District Directors

### **Dian Chute** **District 10 Director**



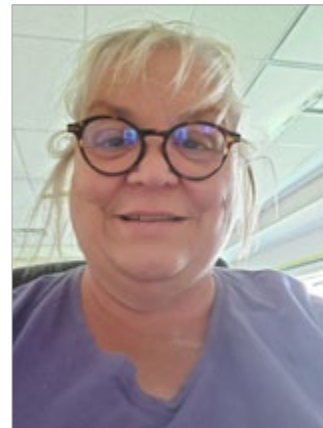
I was born and raised in Toronto. For 34 years, I worked for Bell Canada. My most recent position at Bell was as a business analyst. My husband and I moved to the Thorndale area in 2000. We live on a 10-acre property which has groomed and bush areas. I have perennial gardens and a raised bed vegetable garden. I am the Past President of the Thorndale & Area Horticultural Society, a position that I have held twice. I volunteer at the Thorndale Fall Fair and for the VON Blood Pressure Clinic in Thorndale. I was the Flower Show Chair for the D10 AGM. I became an OHA certified judge in 2014. I currently co-chair the D10 Judging School Update with Jim Mabee.

### **Kathy Pearson** **District 19 Director**

Kathy Pearson has been a member of the Waterloo Horticultural Society since 2000 and on the Board since 2002 serving in various roles including Membership Director, Secretary and President. She is currently serving as Co-President of the Society. Kathy became an Associate Director of District 19 in May 2019 and took over as Director in January 2021. Upon her retirement in 2016 from a career in customer service management, Kathy decided to take the self-study program for Master Gardeners.

She received her designation in September 2020 and is an active member of Kitchener Master Gardeners. As a member of Master Gardeners and the Waterloo Horticultural Society, Kathy gives presentations to community groups on various gardening topics. Kathy and her husband enjoy their home garden and have community garden plots in uptown Waterloo.

### **Denise Berg** **District 13 Director**



I am a teacher for the Algoma District School Board. I have been teaching for over 30 years. I love teaching! I am also a pet parent. At this point, I have a Shep/Lab mix and a Husky/Australian Cattle Dog mix.

My gardening interests are mainly roses and lilies. I have been a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Horticultural Society for about three years. I am the President of the Society. This is a terrific role. I work with a great group. I have recently become the Director for District 13. This too, will be a fun job. Again, I work with an awesome group. **Garden on!**

Do you have a new Director in your District? Please email a photo and short bio for the next issue of the "Trillium" by Sept. 1, 2021 to: [editor@gardenontario.org](mailto:editor@gardenontario.org)

# 2023 OHA Convention Theme Contest

*Anne Harbord, OHA Director, District 2*

*Photo credit goes to Judy's husband, Dr. Stephan Grasmuck.*

It is never too soon to start planning for a Convention, so District 2 is well underway with developing plans for the 2023 OHA Convention. Our District encompasses Central and Western Ottawa, Lanark County and Renfrew County. The Convention will be held in western Ottawa at the Brookstreet Hotel in Kanata.

Our Convention Planning Committee started meeting at the end of February and one of the first topics was how to select a theme. We decided to involve all Society members in a contest "Name the Convention Theme". The contest was announced to all Societies in March and 25 submissions arrived. The Convention Planning Committee reviewed all submissions, voted, then selected one from the top seven.

Congratulations to our winner, Judy Grasmuck, of the Eganville and Area Horticultural Society with the theme "Rock Your Garden World". In her own words, the following is her thought process behind the development of her great theme.



*"To begin with, much of our broader horticultural district topography includes rocky, combination soils given that we are located on the edge of the Canadian Shield. As children, my brothers, sister and I helped our Dad pick rocks every year from the fields in order to try to avoid damage to our farm machinery. Then, not surprisingly, following each severely cold winter when the fields were ploughed each spring, there would be yet another bountiful crop of stones pushed to the surface by the deep frost! So, every year, we had to pick the fresh crop of rocks from the fields before any seeding could occur. Now, living on the very same property where I grew up, in my flower and vegetable gardens each year I still try to do something creative and useful with rocks even though our soils have excellent mineral content for our plantings.*

Another inspiration for me is that our area has beautiful stone fences built by pioneers as they cleared the land for agriculture. These stone fences were put in strategic places, some to be structural windbreaks to help prevent soil erosion from the winds and others that simply demark property boundaries. The stone fences are such a beautiful part of our area's landscape that they inspired a local theatre company to use that feature as their name. In addition, our horticultural district has several quarries, many of which provide limestone rocks for landscaping projects. Within much of the limestone deposits are fossils unique to the area and more can be learned at one of our Canadian tourist attractions, the Bonnechere Caves, as well as at the exhibits at the Bonnechere Museum and other museums throughout our district.

A third inspiration for me is the heat retention property of rocks. Stones, rocks and boulders in our gardens provide not only structural and aesthetic features, including terraced rock gardens and boulder-formed waterfalls such as in-water garden features, but also, they provide a natural component for the growth cycle. We know that rocks attract and retain solar heat/energy. It's easy to see every spring when snow and ice melt most quickly from our rocky garden areas and the rock walls. I find that spring bulbs appear first in our gardens when the bulbs have been planted next to large stones and boulders.

Finally, I felt that "Rock your Garden World" is a theme that is broad enough in scope so as to be helpful for the 2023 Convention Planning Committee in providing them lots of leeway with the directions in which they might wish to go in the process of developing the speakers' list, exhibits and excursions."

Brian Carson, a member of our Convention Planning Committee, provided an amazing prize for the contest winner — a hand-made hypertufa container, fully planted. Many thanks to Eganville and Area Horticultural Society Members, Val Collins, as well as Val and Chris Hinsperger, who co-ordinated pick-up and delivery of this spectacular container, which you can see in Judy's photo. Also, many thanks to Connie Cull who interviewed Judy for an article in their Society Newsletter, The Daisy Chain.

*Watch for more plans as they progress.*

## Insurance Queries?

Contact:

Shawn LaPalm

Non-Profit & Charity Insurance

The Co-operators

1-888-712-2667

[shawn\\_lapalm@cooperators.ca](mailto:shawn_lapalm@cooperators.ca)

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

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





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This donation is to be used to:

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- ☐ Donate to the OHA In Memoriam Fund (supporting Tree Grants). For more information about In Memoriam donations, email [inmemoriam@gardenontario.org](mailto:inmemoriam@gardenontario.org) or phone 905-476-3000

Name of deceased person:  Year of death:

District No. (if applicable):  This information will be added to the OHA In Memoriam Book

Do you wish to have the deceased person's name acknowledged at the OHA convention? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you wish a family member to be notified? ☐ Yes ☐ No

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# Scarborough Garden & Horticultural Society

## Get the Dirt on Plants

Lee MacLeod, Past President

Photo by Lee MacLeod

### Encouraging Young Gardeners!!!!

We wanted to encourage gardening with our junior gardeners, developing gardeners of the future but the Toronto Police Service does not recognize the OHA as a legitimate youth outreach organization under the Vulnerable Persons Act.

We turned to a charitable organization, Scientists in School, who had developed a grade 3 Science workshop based on the Ontario Grade 3 science curriculum – plants and soils. In 2019, we sponsored science workshops, “Plants do Amazing Things”, for two schools in priority areas of Scarborough. The young scientists loved the activities – dissecting leaves, using a microscope to see unique leaf structures and exploring leaf and tree shapes.

When Covid-19 arrived in 2020, all workshops stopped. Scientists in School, a charitable organization set up to enhance the STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) decided to explore the use of virtual technology to reorganize their workshops.

During the pandemic, group learning was replaced with individual student activity with the appropriate classroom distancing. The new Grade 3 Science workshop “Get the Dirt on Plants” combines two former workshops on plants and soils. The workshop reaches out to students virtually, using computer technology to provide a safe way for the instructor and students to interact. Scientists in Schools can now reach a much wider audience in Ontario, the other provinces in Canada and remote communities.

Before the workshop takes place, the classroom teacher receives a mini-kit for each student to use during the presentation. Students explore the relationship between plants and the everyday items we use. Students dissect a bean, soaking it first to take off the seed coat, and then splitting it along its natural break to reveal the two cotyledons. This reveals the embryonic plant inside with its radicle which develops into the root and the plumule which becomes the stem and the leaves.



*The photo shows a Lima bean dissected into two halves to show the radicle (embryonic root) and the plumule (embryonic stem and flowers). Our students (and adults) were fascinated with this activity.*

Students learn about seed dispersal. They investigate soil layers and experiment with water retention. At the end of the workshop, they plant seeds allowing for weeks of tracking and observing plant growth. These follow-up activities are very popular with the young scientists.

The funds which we had donated (pre-Covid-19) to Scientists in School will now be used in the fall to bring this virtual workshop “Get the Dirt on Plants” to two schools in priority areas of Scarborough.

We think this investment in youth is a positive step forward, encouraging young gardeners to appreciate and enjoy gardening.

For more information on gardening and plant science workshops for the young gardener, please contact:

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