

Keeping Ontario Beautiful

Trillium

Ontario Horticultural Association

Winter 2020-21



Photo courtesy of Palatine Roses



“Crimson Glory”

Our floral symbol is the Hybrid Tea Rose ‘Crimson Glory’ which was first introduced in 1936. St. Thomas & District Horticultural Society



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Editor's Message



Thank you to everyone who contributed to the winter issue of the OHA Trillium. Every article is appreciated. Long or short, they are well-written, include innovative ideas and are always encouraging to other gardeners. There is always space for a photo with a caption or a shorter article, too.

The articles that were submitted for (but not included in the autumn Trillium due to space) are in these pages.

The OHA Covid Idea (Piggy) Bank icon has been placed here and there again in this issue but many other articles have some great ideas for our current situation.

Enjoy reading about the milestone anniversaries of some of our Horticultural Societies and Garden Clubs.

There are tributes and remembrances to amazing people who contributed to the OHA and our clubs and societies.

Look under "District 11" for the behind-the-scenes information you need to think about planning a "Tulip Bulb Rescue Program" for your society. Although this project has been mentioned in previous issues of the Trillium, the details have been written out by Jan Dugale, LaSalle Horticultural Society. Other societies that have been rescuing bulbs may benefit from any tips mentioned and may have some good ideas to add.

The deadline for the spring issue is **March 1**. Articles and photos are welcome any time.

Let's hope that this winter is full of fun plans for spring and what can we do in our garden for 2021.

Laura Masterson
editor@gardenontario.org

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

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

What you need to know to send articles and photographs:

Submission dates for 2021:

- March 1 – Spring issue
- June 1 – Summer issue
- Sept. 1 – Autumn issue
- Dec. 1 – Winter issue

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

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

Articles can be emailed to:
editor@gardenontario.org

Laura Masterson, OHA Trillium Editor

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

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

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

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Ontario Horticultural Association President's Message

Hello Fellow Ontario Horticultural Association Members,

Here it is the end of 2020!!!

I want to welcome our new treasurer Marian Heil, member of Stoney Creek Garden Club and Horticultural Society from District 6, to the OHA and say best wishes for the future to our past treasurer Jane Leonard.

Who would have thought that 2020 would be the year of all the changes that we have seen this year – very few society meetings; hardly any plant sales; no anniversary celebrations; very few AGMs and if they were held, they were virtual; no convention or OHA AGM? I am sure there were other events that were not held.

And what about everything that has happened in our personal lives – funerals of family and/or friends where we could not hug to show our care and concern for those who are grieving; not being able to see or hug our children or grandchildren because of lockdowns; having someone deliver our groceries; not being able to go out to restaurants and so many events that we could not attend, because they didn't happen.

However, there were rainbows in the skies during the summer that gave us hope that we would eventually get through this pandemic. And from the news today, the vaccine will be here soon. The logistics are being planned and perhaps vaccines will be given out by the time you read this.

As I stated in my last message, the one good thing that happened is that gardening, be it floral, vegetable, container or whatever, exploded. More people asked questions about gardening than before. More vegetables were planted than ever before. My 80-year-old neighbour planted tomatoes for the first time ever. She forgot to water them during the hot days and was disappointed that she did not get a lot of tomatoes, but she tried. And she probably will try again next year, as will so many other new gardeners. And I will put some crumbled eggshells around her plants as I did last year. This is where we all can do our little part in helping those new gardeners, by showing them an organic way to get those tasty tomatoes or any other vegetables they might want to grow. I grew potatoes in black bags and ended up with 20 pounds to have this fall. I planted peas on Good Friday in my raised beds and ended up with enough peas to eat and freeze. I only receive 6-7 hours of sun in front of my husband's workshop, on a couple of my ground level flower beds and on my

raspberry/ strawberry patch. The rest of our property is partially to mostly shade. So, a few years ago I asked my husband to build a couple of raised beds – 6 feet long, three feet wide and three feet above ground. He calls them my "coffins". They work beautifully. He drilled holes in the bottom to let rainwater escape. I lined them with landscape fabric and put in sheep manure mixed with triple mix. I take out half the used soil each spring and add compost from my compost pile and add more triple mix.

Now enough about me and my gardens. What about our societies? We have lost a few this year because those in charge were getting tired and did not want to carry on. They also did not want to go out and recruit new members to take over. I am being very blunt here. We must make sure we let the newer members have a chance to give their opinions. Yes, they have new ideas which may not match with ours, but we must let them try and allow them the opportunities that we had when we first presented new ideas. We have so many excellent projects going on in our province that will not continue if we do not allow the younger members to step in.

The Directors in each district are there to help. But you must tell them what is happening and allow them the opportunity to come in and help. I and the OHA executive are here to help as well.

Kudos to those societies who stepped up and "thought outside the box" and to the members who said "yes, we can do this" with virtual meetings, flower shows, judges update. Way to go!! Some of these were at capacity for a virtual meeting. Amazing!! It can be done. I know it is hard for those, who do not have adequate band width on their Wi-Fi, to join some of these meetings. And I know having a meeting in person is the best and hopefully, we will have these again within the next six months. To have a speaker, enjoy coffee and treats while discussing



Katharine Smyth

garden problems, is what meetings and socializing with friends is all about.

The OHA officers, especially VP Charles Freeman, are working closely with OMAFRA to work out problems with grants. Thank you, Charles for all the hard work you have done and continue to do. I have been asked about reports by some societies. Yes, you will have to send a report into OMAFRA as you do each year. Yes, you will have to send in a report to the OHA as well. Yes, you will be able to use 2019 membership numbers for OMAFRA. As for the OHA report, please update the report for the year 2020. We need to know how many members you were able to sell memberships to. We need to know who the new/old executive and board members are – so the OHA secretary and the insurance company have the emails and addresses of the right people to send information to. We need to know if you held any events, etc. All this information is part of your historical records which we keep from year to year. Please enter all the information as asked. Please do not leave 2019 information on the 2020 report form.

The officers are having meetings to consider your suggestions on awards and grants and will be updating the booklet. Thank you for all your suggestions. But in the meantime, please look at awards that each society can hand out to those deserving people at your own meetings. There are certificates that can be printed. Just because it was not done before, does not mean it cannot be done this year. Acknowledgement of a member who has gone above and beyond, is good for the person to be recognized and is good for the society as well. Everybody likes an "atta boy/girl" occasionally.

I wish everyone a safe and healthy New Year and I know we will be meeting soon.

Take care and stay safe,

Katharine Smyth

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



Christmas Cactus
Photo taken on Oct. 24, 2020 by Katharine Smyth

St. Thomas & District Horticultural Society

150th Anniversary

Jean-Marie Steward, President

Photo, also featured on front cover, is courtesy of Palatine Roses



Our floral symbol is the Hybrid Tea Rose 'Crimson Glory' which was first introduced in 1936.

St. Thomas & District Horticultural Society was established in 1870. It arose from the agricultural societies of the 1800's with funding provided by government grants. The focus was primarily the fall fair whose competitions were designed to improve livestock and crops by the farmers. The prize lists were expanded to include classes for flowers, fruit and vegetables. It is thought that the purpose of the organization was to provide competent judging, prize money and proper staging of the horticultural items for the fall fairs. There were 22 classes for the first competition in 1870.

The East Elgin Fall Fair (Show) encountered changes in venues, waning attendance, economic challenges and lack of support by the general public even though the date of the fair was a half-day holiday for many. Despite the measures taken to redress the issues of our horticultural society and the fair board, they became more distant from each other.

In 1905, the society re-organized with specific objectives: encourage horticulture; improvement and beautifying of streets, lawns and buildings; the distribution of seeds and bulbs; offering prizes for best improvements; holding of exhibits of flowers and garden plots. There were 81 entries in 1906 for the lawn and gardens contest. The interest in the appearance of private spaces put pressure on the City of St. Thomas to improve vacant and public lands and by 1909, a

city-wide clean-up day was declared (May 14). Each subsequent year saw an expansion in offerings by the society, such as rose displays, monthly flower shows, tulip festival, tree planting and out-of-town field trips. Even the outbreak of the First World War did not deter public interest and projects; membership continued to increase and by 1919, there were 2,100 members.

A vast array of successful city-wide projects garnered the attention of horticultural magazines and American newspapers through much of the 1920's. The projects' costs mounted to a staggering \$21,436.22 in 1924. Unfortunately, this rate of growth and costs could not be sustained so, by 1926, there was a budget deficit of \$3,816.00. In 1927, there was a change in the Society's executive and a new organizational plan. The Great Depression was a difficult time as revenues including government grants and memberships fell; annual membership numbers averaged 268. However, the society continued to maintain certain city projects. In January 1937, it was announced that the St. Thomas Flower Growers Association would join forces with the St. Thomas Horticultural Society. The general meetings took on a more educational slant with the mandate to hold monthly lectures and discussions on the theory and practice of improved horticulture.

The ebb and flow of membership continued through the Second World War and beyond. There was continued interest in the annual flower show,

e.g. in 1947, the Fall Flower show had 225 entries (169 flower and 56 vegetable entries). Housing development continued the interest in home and garden competitions, and the Annual Rose Show became a tradition in 1961. Fluctuating membership numbers continue to be a source of concern to our Society. The 1950's and 1960's had an average of 425 members, by the 1970's, the number dropped to 337, and unfortunately, numbers continued to drop into the 1980's and then plateau in the 1990's.

St. Thomas Elevated Park (S.T.E.P.), Canada's first elevated park, was built by community donations. Our Society's members have donated time and money to the establishment of pollinator, scree and stumpy gardens along the eastern slope to the bridge. The work commenced in 2017 and is ongoing. The refurbished Canada Southern Railway Station (CASO) also has garden beds that have yet to be completed.

During the past fifteen years, we have seen an

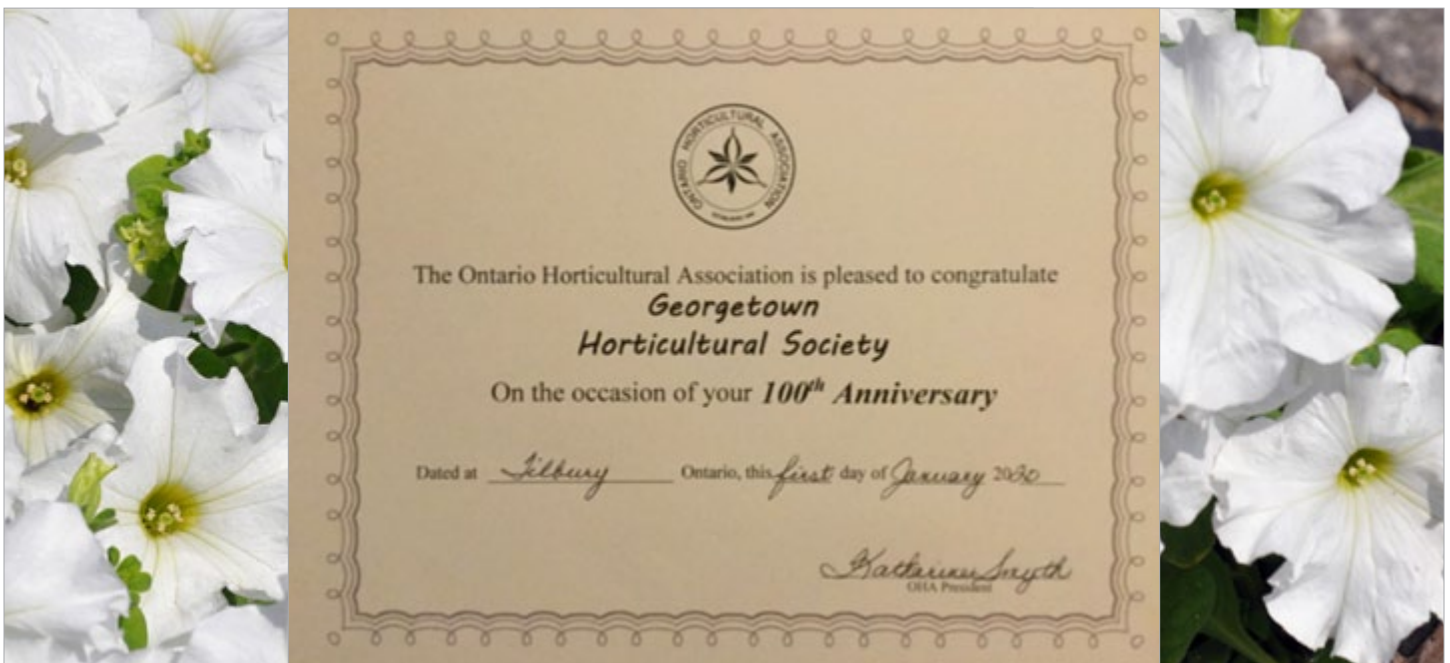
increase in the popularity of home gardening with an increase in the availability of diverse plant material. Our monthly speakers with the additional images from their slide show/PowerPoint presentations have become a staple of our meetings and our membership is becoming much more knowledgeable. Our Society's activities have remained consistent, with our mandate of *beautification and education*. The meetings, workshops, plant sales, flower shows and garden tours are still annual activities, that is until the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions stopped our gatherings. It too shall pass, eventually!

Like many gardeners, we have sought solace in our private spaces, expending our efforts in our gardens and plants. We miss meeting, sharing and learning about all things horticultural. Let us look ahead to another 150 years.

(Historical resource: St. Thomas & District Horticultural Society 1870-2020, by Richard W. Cartwright)

Georgetown Horticultural Society 100th Anniversary

Catherine McGill, District 6 Director



Congratulations to Georgetown Horticultural Society on 100 Years of gardening, beautifying and sharing.

Photo by Brenda Ley, VP of Milton

A Memorable 65th Anniversary Year for Eganville and Area Horticultural Society

By Judy Sauve, Past President and current Treasurer

First 3 Photos by Judy Sauve

The current pandemic has made it necessary for our Society to change how things are done, but it has not stifled the enthusiasm or determination of members to accomplish what we need to do. We were planning big celebrations for our 65th anniversary and did accomplish some, but decided to postpone others until later.

From January to June, our monthly meetings usually offer a very popular Speaker Series but in March, we had to suspend that. By then, a lot of membership renewals were received and others have trickled in by mail, thanks to reminders in our newsletter. A successful Seedy Sunday event was held but was so close to the provincial lockdown, that we received word that very day that the situation had changed and nearby Ottawa had to cancel theirs scheduled for the following weekend. The lockdown required us to begin holding Zoom meetings for our Board to make plans.

We had designed an anniversary window decal to send to local businesses and organizations as they sent in donations to support our activities. It would



Anniversary decal - our society logo, enhanced as a window decal for our anniversary, was distributed to businesses and organizations who supported us in the past

acknowledge them as supporters and increase our visibility at the same time, but we decided not to send out our appeal letters because businesses were suffering in the pandemic. Instead, we decided to use it as a goodwill gesture and sent it to past supporters, financial and otherwise, thanking them for helping us in the past and wishing them well in this difficult time. We gave the rest to members for a donation.

We received a Tree Award from the OHA which helped with planting a blue spruce at our Tourist Information Centre as part of our anniversary celebration. District Two Director, Anne Harbord, attended the tree dedication to present our 65th

anniversary certificate to a masked, appropriately spaced Board of Directors. President Heather Park-Wheeler faithfully watered the tree and it has survived to become the first live tree used for the village's annual Christmas tree lighting. As it grows, it will serve the community in this capacity for many years to come.

An OHA Community Garden Grant was also received. Five Board members formed a committee and they welcomed community volunteers who helped with the work. Although the project was delayed with



Building crew at work - some of the volunteer society members who constructed the community garden boxes



All finished - community gardens filled and ready

planning for Covid safety, six garden boxes were built outside our community library, and were filled by late September. Participants contributed hugelkultur for the bottom, and then a tri-mix was delivered from a local nursery. A Facebook page was created for this project to keep people interested and provide gardening advice. Covid prevented the planned winter workshops, but the project will be active in early spring and most boxes are already allocated.

We have carefully followed Covid protocols for all activities this year. We performed the village planting, involving five gardens, sixteen cement planters and a massive block-long rock garden, by creating assignments for household "bubbles". A driveway book sale kicked off the year's fundraising, with masks required and gloves provided. We switched to sanitizer and held driveway plant sales over several weekends, and a yard sale.

Our ninth annual Garden of the Month contest was adapted for Covid. Previously, judges drove around together to examine front gardens and choose a worthy winner for each of four summer months. That was clearly impossible this year so a different leader each month made the initial drive-around to identify five gardens and then the other judges voted for their favourite among the five, after doing the drive individually. It was not as much fun and the discussion of the gardens was missed, so the team is using a different method for 2021. But the winners proudly displayed our sign and momentum was not lost. The contest encourages beautification of properties in the village and has become well known through the newspaper and our Facebook page.

A member recently mentioned that the pandemic has provided some "Covidtunities", presumably opportunities or methods of doing things that would not have been found if not for the need to adapt to Covid. Our Fall Perennial Sale and Harvest Auction is a

great example. The Spring Plant Sale in May had been canceled so members had lots of plants to donate and the community was eager for our sale. We moved to an outdoor location that allowed us to expand and it was so popular that we plan to continue having our sale outside and at that site! Plants were arranged in long lines by price with directional arrows posted. Masks were required, sanitizer provided and contact tracing information was collected at the entrance. After the Plant Sale portion, the area was cleared and people set up their lawn chairs, spaced accordingly. The Harvest Auction began, featuring garden produce, jams, pickles, some incredible crafts and lots of other items. The auctioneer and his helpers wore disposable gloves. That joint event made more money than it ever has indoors. In fact, each and every fundraising activity we conducted this year was more successful than ever before. People were generous because they were so aware of the constraints on those activities this year.

We ended our year with another "Covidtunity" which will become an annual activity. When our village cement planters were emptied, a group of members decorated them with greenery, birch, red dogwood, etc. for the winter. It began with a demonstration by a very experienced volunteer from the community and then planters were done in a similar fashion by "bubbles". We had discussed this last year but found additional incentive this year, knowing that people couldn't travel and it would bring joy during this challenging winter.



D2 Director Anne Harbord (at front, directly to the right of the tree) celebrates Eganville's 65th anniversary by attending the dedication of the Society's blue spruce. Members of the Board surround her, many of whom later joined her with their picnic lunches at a nearby park.

Photo Courtesy of "The Eganville Leader"

We keep the community informed through Facebook and our President's monthly column in the local newspaper. Another huge achievement this year is our enhanced monthly newsletter, *The Daisy Chain*, which is sent to all members who provide an email address. It is packed with news, growing larger every month with member contributions. The editor also solicits write-ups and photos from each Director on the Board, and other long-time members, to help members get to know them. One Board member now contributes a link each month for a virtual garden tour of one of the world's magnificent gardens and also provides a review of gardening books with an invitation for others to submit reviews. The newsletter

includes stories and photos of all of our events and efforts this year and also features updates from Judith Cox, a Master Gardener for District 2. Judith offers advice on gardening questions and provides a weekly edition of her own newsletter, *Veggie Bites*, which is a publication to teach gardening. *The Daisy Chain* editor has received incredibly positive feedback and the ideas for content keep on coming.

Efforts are underway to hold our AGM via Zoom and we have a full slate of potential Board members willing to accept positions. This year of challenges has proven to us that we are up to the task of adapting as we need to and we'll continue looking for opportunities for doing things in new (and sometimes better) ways!



Joanne's wave from the Hill - Planting chair, Joanne Hoelke, with a victory wave at the end of planting on the mega rock garden called Welcome Hill. It cascades down the hill between two village blocks and includes two levels with benches. She organized a team of planters who spread out to work at different levels.

Photo by Heather Park-Wheeler



For information on awards and grants, manuals and guides, printed certificates, waivers and release forms, details of insurance coverage, supplies, OHA service pins and a lot of gardening information, please check the OHA website: <https://gardenontario.org>

Tribute to John David Money

O.M.C., OHA Past President

By Aruna Panday, Scarborough Garden and Horticultural Society, Master Gardeners of Toronto

An exceedingly kind person and an influential member of Ontario's horticultural community, Mr. John David Money, O.M.C., passed away October 22, 2020, in his eighty-sixth year.

In recognition of over forty years of outstanding contributions to the Ontario and Toronto horticultural and gardening communities, in 2018, he was granted the province's second highest civilian honour, the Ontario Medal of Citizenship. A past OHA District Director (1985-1991) and President (1992-1993), he has received the OHA's highest awards: The Silver Medal (1994) and the Silver Fir Award (2006).

Societies bestow 'lifetime memberships' to honour long time and active participation as well as significant contributions. Dave has four such accolades: Scarborough Garden and Horticultural Society, which he and Beverly, his wife and partner in growing, joined in 1975; The Beach Society, which they started in 1985; Leaside Garden Society, which they founded in 1986; and the Greater Toronto Bulb and Horticultural Society, which Dave cofounded in 2010.

From 1992-2019, Dave was the OHA representative at the CNE Flower and Vegetable Show – an event many have said would simply not have taken place if it weren't for Dave and Bev's contribution that included daily 5 am to 9 pm attendance.

In 1991, Dave and his friend, Canadian naturalist Charles Sauriol, laboured and set in motion the logistics to restore nine hectares of urban land to its pre-colonial condition, effectively creating the Todmorden Mills Wildflower Preserve.

As well as blooming a beautiful rose garden, he had many other achievements but his greatest legacy was the growing of communities and relationships.

Dave and Bev germinate and nurture strong alliances and friendships with their wisdom, patience and kindness. Everyone has agreeable things to say about Dave: "A positive influence." "Enthusiastic." "Knowledgeable." "Quiet and deliberate." "A volunteer's volunteer." "His great enthusiasm for gardening, motivates others." "Dedicated, passionate, enthusiastic, hard working." "Everyone loves him." They also speak of his character, from his willingness to "jump in and do any mundane task", to his leadership and his on-going devotion to Ontario's gardeners and horticulturalists.



Dave Money's O.M.C. celebration at SGHS's monthly meeting, March, 2019

Photograph by John Smee of the Bluffs Monitor

President of the Scarborough Garden and Horticultural Society from 1981-1983 and 2003-2008, Dave and his wife, his "backbone" (her words), have been the backbone of our Society. They've led outreach projects, donated awards, planned bus tours, participated in every function, flower show, garden tour and plant sale. When most people would have long hung up their gloves, Dave's endurance through his own aging and health concerns was inspiring – having endured a triple heart-bypass surgery in March 2017, two months later he was volunteering at the SGHS's annual plant sale, giving advice and, ever the "Money-man," acting as cashier.

Dave Money's impact is clear; there are more beautiful, healthy spaces for all, increased care for our natural environment and more forums for those who would like to work toward such aims. He and Bev have selflessly dedicated their lives to nurturing plants, horticultural and gardening societies and groups and most of all, people.

Leaside Garden Society

Deborah Browne, VP, Director, Public Relations

Loss of our Founding Member

John David Money passed away peacefully in his 86th year on Thursday, October 22, 2020. Dave as he was known, had many accomplishments and was seen as a mentor to many individuals. Dave was one of the founding members of the very successful Leaside Garden Society. In September, our recent Scholarship Award honoured Dave Money as one of the founders of LGS. Dave also headed up the Flower Show and Rose competition at the CNE for 28 years. He orchestrated the entire Horticultural program at the Loblaws garden centres for 24 years, covering stores from Ottawa to Sarnia. Dave was a wealth of information when it came to horticulture.

Dave and his wife Bev of 63 years always attended the monthly meetings at LGS and they were part of several other garden clubs and horticultural societies. Dave could always be seen tending various gardens with a team of horticultural friends. Many of the LGS members have fond memories of Dave, his passion for gardening and all his contributions. Dave was a wonderful soul and his friends at LGS will always remember him. For more details please see the obituary listed at ogdenfuneralhome.com.



John David Money

Leaside Garden Society Virtual Garden Tour

Deborah Browne, VP, Director, Public Relations

We have created a Virtual Garden Tour with the Leaside Garden Society members contributing photos of their gardens. Unfortunately with Covid-19, we were unable to have our annual Garden Tour in June.

The link is now on our website for everyone to visit: <https://gardenontario.org/society-listing/entry/320/>
Hope you enjoy it when you have a few minutes to sit back and have a peek.

Ice Wine on the Vine

Photo by Hilda Wiley, St. Catharines



Vidal grapes are waiting for temperatures to dip below minus eight for several hours to allow harvesting. The juice yielded after pressing the frozen grapes is more than double the sweetness had the grapes been harvested in October.

Leaside Garden Society

Connie Uetrecht, Scholarship Committee Chair

Photo by Nora Campbell

The Society awards its 2020 Founders' Scholarship to Paige Kobe

At a summer "distance" outdoor gathering in Nora Campbell's backyard on August 13, Paige Kobe was acknowledged as the LGS Founders' Scholarship recipient for 2020. This year the scholarship honours founder Dave Money. Members of the Scholarship Committee were on hand to congratulate Paige and her parents.

Paige has written the following acknowledgement for the award:

"Receiving the Leaside Garden Society Scholarship means so much to me. I am entering my fourth year of water resource science at Lakehead University and am also a varsity runner for Lakehead. Receiving this scholarship is helping my dreams become a reality. I want to become a professor which involves years of schooling to fund. As a professor, I want to conduct research to find ways to regenerate the environment and restore degraded lands and water. As a busy student athlete, finding time for a part-time job can be a challenge. The current state of the economy is making it especially tough this year. This scholarship will help me focus on my studies as well as training. Receiving this scholarship can give me the opportunity to attend events that enrich my university and life experiences. It will also help me fuel my body and mind to athletic and academic success."



Connie Uetrecht and Paige Kobe

In her application, Paige outlined her diverse interests in agriculture, locally grown food, gardening, soil and water resources. Her studies have led her to soil research where she focuses on studying sustainable agriculture, land use and restoring degraded soils. Her volunteer work with the Remedial Action Plan has allowed her to connect with the citizens of Thunder Bay and surrounding Indigenous communities to restore degraded lands and create

a more sustainable livable and beautiful community. In her application, she states that she stands for all the qualities identified by the Leaside Garden Society: love of gardening, sharing knowledge, preserving and restoring Ontario's natural environment and making communities beautiful, sustainable and livable. While growing up in Toronto, Paige trained with a running group out of Leaside and spent time with the group in our community.

After reviewing and discussing the applications of six well-qualified candidates from four different institutions, the Scholarship Committee had a difficult decision to choose one recipient. I would like to thank Joanna Blanchard, Carolyn Beange, Jim Hartley and Margaret Rousseau for their diligence in choosing a recipient. We owe a special thanks to Nora Campbell for hosting the outdoor celebration on a lovely summer day where we could keep our distance and stay safe.

Joshua Paull, the LGS 2019 Scholarship Recipient, Updates Us on His Career

The past few months definitely did not go as I had thought they would. The last two months of classes went online so my final project was completed from home which was not too troublesome.

As of June, I graduated from the University of Guelph earning a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture with Distinction. The 4 years flew by so quickly, luckily I saved some great memories and friends along the way.

As many landscape architecture firms were working from home and not hiring, I had to put my job search on hold until September but that gives me the summer to take some time off and just relax. I am currently working at the same landscaping company I worked for the past two summers.

The future is bright for the profession especially with the pandemic in regards to urban design, public spaces, and proximity, which I find increasingly interesting.

Finally, my neighbours have employed me to design their front garden so I have also been working on that. I have designed a pollinator garden with native plant species that will help increase biodiversity. I hope this garden will inspire other Leasiders to think about native species that benefit the environment more than other non-native, monoculture gardens.

I hope you and the other society members are staying healthy and still enjoying our green spaces. Say hello to everyone for me at the next meeting. Good luck on selecting the next recipient of the scholarship.

Bath Gardening Club

What's Happening in Bath!

Submitted by Pat Chown

Photography by Don Taylor

Members of the Bath Gardening Club have found ways to Share, Learn and to remain connected through Zoom and Face to Face interaction with Masks and Social Distancing

In early August, 32 Gardening Club members and guests were delighted to spend their morning exploring three well-established gardens in our own village. We renewed friendships in the great outdoors as we walked from one garden to another, acquired wonderful ideas for our own planting and appreciated the creativity of our host gardeners. The event proved to be an absolute treat!



In September, we met through Zoom, a first experience for many. Yes, the Zoom meeting was successful! 17 members took part in the meeting and we were immediately captivated by the presentation made by Dawn Harper as she spoke about small business flower farming at her "Oops a Daisy Flower Farm and Florist" located in Tamworth. Dawn started her business from scratch, clearing the land, installing an irrigation system and growing everything from seed! Sunflowers and gorgeous arrangements are not her only specialty. Check out more of her offerings at <https://www.facebook.com/oopsadaisyflowerfarm/>



In October, the Bath Gardening Club was presented with the Bill Lowry Volunteer Recognition Award by Loyalist Township. We are honoured to have been selected among several nominees. The award recognizes the significant contribution our society makes towards the beautification and enrichment of our community.



27 members Zoomed again in October with Catherine Plowright, a researcher into bee behavior from the University of Ottawa. Catherine's presentation was rich with information from the way bees "dance", the effects of climate change on bee behavior and how we can attract bees to our gardens. Did you know that one out of three things that we eat has been pollinated by bees?

In November, the Gardening Club offered its first face-to-face meeting at our regular meeting place, St. John's Hall. Our activity was a Gnome-making Workshop, a focus on fun and the festive season all the while wearing masks and following social distancing protocol. The workshop was a huge success. Members and guests created 24 gnomes which can be spotted on doorsteps all over our community. We consider our gnomes to be the newest residents of Bath!

Also in November, our members gathered to dress the Village of Bath for the holidays. We filled seven planters with winter boughs and bows. Then, in partnership with the Bath and District Lions Club, we strung Christmas lights on the gazebo, trees and paths in Centennial Park.

The Bath Gardening Club has monthly activities planned well into June, 2021. In addition, we are already planning our village gardens for the 2021 season. Our membership is very viable and, in fact, growing. Our focus is to find opportunities to remain connected in a safe manner and to thrive as a Club.

We are excited about 2021 season, so check us out: <http://www.bathgardeningclub.com/>



"Gnome-making Workshop, a focus on fun and the festive season all the while wearing masks and following social distancing protocol." *Pat Chown*

Chesley Horticultural Society

OUT OF DEVASTATION – BEAUTY

Submitted by Lorna Kingston, 1st VP

Photos by Elaine King, Secretary



*Completed planting with left to right:
Sandy Weatherall, Rose Weir, Lorna Kingston*



Part of the fountain bed

February 21, 2018, the Chesley Bridge was damaged beyond repair during ice break up. Over the next two years, the Oswald Bridge was constructed.

What has this got to do with horticulture? Right beside the bridge is Elliot Park. This Park, named after the founder, is the main park in Chesley maintained by the Horticultural Society. Historically, it was the location of the Woollen Factory. Foundation stones from the former railway station had been worked into the Park flower beds. The central feature of the garden was an antique water fountain, the oldest artifact in the town. Memorials for horticultural members were located on one side of this park. Elliot Park offered a peek into the past and a source of floral beauty.

Unfortunately, Elliot Park was an open, off-the-road access for construction equipment during the restructure of the bridge. Needless to say, the gardens were ruined. The Park obviously deserved and needed a makeover. No time was wasted in developing the "Big Project".

November of 2019, the Horticultural Society "Elliot Park Committee" presented a proposal to the town for a huge upgrade to the site. The plan was accepted and a partnership was formed. It was a busy winter, meeting with garden designers and making many decisions and revisions. The grant application for "Special Project" was submitted and then we waited to hear back. We were accepted! We were so excited for spring to come and actually get on the site.

However, Covid-19 restrictions were extended and

we waited... no one was allowed to work in Ontario parks. Such disappointment was felt by all involved with this project.

What do we do now? Ordered plants were arriving and no beds had been prepared for them. Luckily, one of the members took the plants home and cared for them until the grounds could be made ready. Finally, the word came! If members kept their distance, used their own tools and were masked, a select few could start the cleaning-up process in the park.

Old plants were removed to be used in other gardens. Then the Town crew came in with equipment to set aside the large foundation stones from the old train station to be recycled for the new Elliot Park design. Water and hydro lines were placed close behind the main bed area for easy maintenance. Drainage pipes were dug under the area marked out by the Society for the new garden. Top soil was added and all was finally ready for plants. It was now late August.

Community workers and pedestrians delivered plants, carried, watered and mulched. In one day, the garden was planted! It took almost a year to plan it. Cheers and thumbs up were heard and seen by many of the workers.

The old Elliot family fountain was restored to beauty with sandblasting and a new paint job. Walking paths were planted with grass.

Ideas are already coming forth for a stage two for this project.

What an experience to work with like-minded people. The "Project" was much greater than the Society could handle on its own. We were very fortunate to receive a grant to help pay for the flowers which were chosen to go with the heritage idea of

the park. From the start, Chesley Municipality saw the vision and was willing to help. We look forward to working with our town on other projects and getting support from the Ontario Horticultural Association. Thank you for the opportunity.



Newly renovated antique fountain



Flag pole bed with marker showing Woollen Factory

Ennismore Garden Club

Photo and write-up by Gail Murray

The Ennismore Garden Club was able to complete its Military Monument just in time for Remembrance Day 2020. The pandemic gave us lots of challenges but bit by bit, we were able to complete the monument. All masked up and working alone or many feet apart, we completed the stone monument: grading, sod laying, cooking, planting, garden lighting, new flag pole, dedication plaque and tri logo placement.



Ennismore Commemorative Military Monument

We were not able to have a Grand Opening or a Remembrance Day Service because of the Covid-19 virus but the Cairn Sub-Committee lead by Helen Young held a social distance event at the Memorial on November 11th. Music played, a prayer was said, "In Flanders Fields" was read and two wreaths were placed in remembrance. Our President Ethel Shackleton praised everyone's work and gave a history of the project, all which began well over a year ago. We are so proud and happy that even in challenging times, we were able to "enhance the natural beauty of Ennismore" which is our mission statement.

We cannot have our AGM with Christmas supper this year so Ethel S. will send out a Christmas newsletter for the year's activities and that will be all for 2020.

Hopefully, we can start our meetings up again in March. Holiday Greetings to everyone from Ennismore Garden Club, stay safe and tuck inside reading a good garden book.

Remembering Suzanne Hanna

OHA Past President

Kelly Taylor, OHA Secretary

Sadly, OHA Past President (2015-2017), Suzanne Hanna passed away peacefully Dec. 2, 2020, surrounded by her loving husband Michael and their children.

Suzanne will be remembered as a person with a zest for life, a passion for gardening and someone who loved teaching those who wanted to learn how to garden and grow food. Suzanne was a tremendous story teller and had an amazing sense of humour. She loved her family beyond words and adored her grandchildren.

Suzanne was highly involved in the Sault Ste. Marie Horticultural Society, the Ontario Horticultural Association (District 13) and worked to "sow the seeds of beauty in people's minds." The city of Sault Ste. Marie will be forever enriched by her invaluable contributions made throughout her life.

Suzanne Hanna was instrumental in the Pollinator Initiative across the province and worked closely with the Ontario Government to raise awareness of the need for pollinators and pollinator gardens and habitats. Suzanne's passion and drive to see the OHA's GardenOntario.org website recreated to its current state provided the OHA and the societies/clubs with a new and sustainable platform to move forward in the digital world.

In 2020, the OHA Trillium Award "for outstanding service to Horticultural Societies and/or the Ontario Horticultural Association for an extended period" was awarded to Suzanne Hanna. For more information about her many outstanding accomplishments, refer to page 43 of the autumn issue of the OHA Trillium newsletter:

<https://gardenontario.org/2020-autumn-trillium/>

Suzanne will be missed by all who knew her.



*Suzanne Hanna
OHA Past President*

SOIL YOUR UNDIES CHALLENGE

District 13

One of the most hilarious schemes Suzanne thought up was the District 13 "Soil Your Undies Challenge." Each of our 13 societies were given a pair of white cotton undies to 'plant' in one of their flower/vegetable gardens, and dig them up after two months. If your soil was good, it would have eaten up the cotton panties, leaving only the nylon waistband. If your soil was poor, the panties would still be intact. Suzanne was the one to plant the panties for the Soo.

ST. JOSEPH ISLAND HS



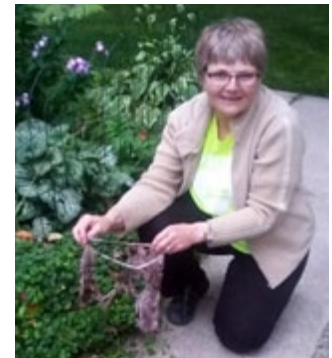
Planted in the flower beds at Richard's Landing Town Hall, Maureen Baker is holding them up.

THESSALON HS



Planted in Leigh Dauphin's Vegetable Garden on Frances St. Leigh had to dig two hills of potatoes to find the location.

CAMPBELL HS



Planted at Deer Foot Trail, Spring Bay, on Manitoulin Island (Lynda Peever's home), Lynda is holding them up.

BRUCE STATION HS

Buried TWO pairs



The men's medium cotton briefs (given by Suzanne) were buried in an established and weedy bed.



A pair of new ladies' briefs were also planted. They were buried in new topsoil on top of compost in a crowded, raised, tended bed.

The results should be no surprise but more dramatic than we expected!

The men's briefs had thinned a little over the two-month period from July 6 to Sept. 7

while the ladies' briefs had disintegrated, with multiple small pieces breaking up in our hands.

Weather sure was extreme during this challenge!



The picture above shows the results of the two pairs with the challenge papers in the background.

FRENCH RIVER HS

Donna Butson, President:
"Our clean, white, 100% cotton undies were planted during the first week of July. The summer was hot and dry and with my hip surgery, I wasn't able to water so we didn't expect much decay.
At the end of the first week of September, we carefully dug them up and surprisingly, there was a good amount of decay."



Fran Ireland is displaying them here outside of the French River Municipality tent at the International Plowing Match in Verner in 2019.

Our society had a table with the French River Municipality and had prepared 240 packages to distribute to visitors who would like to take on the 'Soil Your Undies Challenge' for 2020.

There was tremendous interest and a lot of laughs!"

SUDBURY HS



Sudbury planted their 'undies' in the John Street Park flower bed.

Shown displaying the dug-up result is Sudbury HS President Barbara Knuff.

ESPANOLA HS



A year late but better late than never, the underwear was planted in a quiet part of Sheila Pope's garden, July 1st, 2020 and dug up in the fall. Sheila shows the results.

BLIND RIVER HS



L-R: Sandy Lendrum and Deanna Morrisette



L-R: Sandy Lendrum and Deanna Morrisette

On July 1st, we officially "Soiled Our Undies" by planting them in the flower bed under the Blind River electronic digital message sign on the Highway.

After planting them in this spot, we were told that the soil was amended but still remains poor.

If the soil is healthy, the only thing left will be the elastic. If there is still cotton, then there are some soil issues.

After September 1st dig-up, we still had panties and not just the elastic band. Apparently, our soil is unsuitable. What kind of tests are required to show what is wrong with the soil?

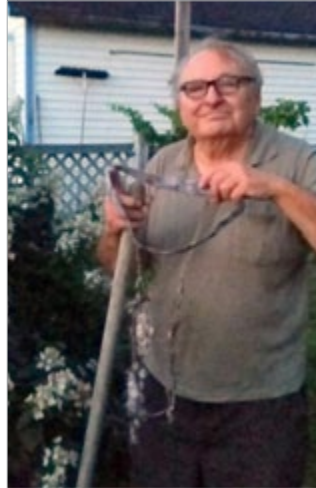
SPANISH HS



Barb Outhwaite (Past President) planted the undies at the beginning of June in our designated site at the Spanish Community Gardens, and the site was ceremoniously marked indicating where we would dig for recovery in the fall.

The grand unveiling took place at our Flower Show on September 7. Along with her two grandchildren and an audience of Flower Show attendees, Barb dug up the undies to reveal the result... a shredded and mostly unrecognizable pair of undies! She officially announced that our garden beds have great soil and should be able to grow lots of produce for the community. What a fun challenge this has been!

MASSEY-WALFORD HS



This photo is of member Fernando Espinosa, who planted the 'undies' in July near a potato plant, one meter behind a 'flowering bush', in his home garden in Massey. Fernando dug them up in October. Good thing that he doesn't have to wear them, as there is hardly anything left.

ASSIGINACK HS

President May Mervyn, planted the undies in her daylily bed beside her neighbour's cedar hedge, and there was no change when dug up. Soil needs to be amended.

SAULT STE. MARIE HS



The Sault Ste. Marie Horticultural Society took on this project with glee. The cotton underwear was planted by Suzanne Hanna and several young members in the Memorial Bed at the Forest Heights Community Garden which is located in a city park at the start of July. On September 1st, when the underwear was dug up, only the elastic waistband remained! See Suzanne holding it up. This bed was created in 2016 using soil known as Belleau Mix (loam & compost) from Lemieux's Composting. No amendments have been added in the past few years.

ELLIOT LAKE HS

Planted late. Might dig up in spring and send pictures then.

In Memoriam Project to Remember Suzanne

"Flash Your Boobies"

Fun-loving Suzanne Hanna suggested that District 13 have a District-wide challenge called "Flash Your Boobies" in which each society would plant flower arrangements in the cups of a bra and they could vote on which society had done the best 'job'. The District didn't get around to it for 2020 because of Covid-19. What an excellent way to remember Suzanne and it could be a fun project for all of the OHA Districts and Societies/Clubs. The District and OHA has approved going forward so why not?

The OHA will launch this initiative later in the Spring with a communication to societies, via email and through the GardenOntario Facebook page. GardenOntario is excited to see what photos will be uploaded to the GardenOntario Facebook page!

Sudbury Horticultural Society

Memories of Suzanne Hanna

Theresa Cullum, Lisa Robinson, Linda Hugli, Photos by Lisa Robinson

Suzanne was District 13 Director at the time of planning the 2011 OHA Convention hosted by Sudbury Horticultural Society. We have many fond memories of her visits during 2009, 2010 and 2011 for the planning and of her novel ideas to get all OHA Societies involved.

One such idea was the picket fence. Wooden pointed pickets were painted white, and were distributed to all Districts to then be distributed to their Societies. They were asked to paint their picket with a horticultural theme. The completed pickets were all brought to the 2011 Convention. Early that weekend, a "picket team" assembled the pickets into sections of five pickets. For the closing ceremonies, they were lined up on special stands along the front of the banquet room. Included were the pickets painted by the Youth during their fun weekend at OHA Youth Camp at Camp Falcona. Afterwards, the picket sections were all given two coats of outdoor urethane to protect them from the elements. Prior to the convention, Suzanne had offered them to Maison

Vale Hospice (now Maison McCulloch Hospice). Léo Therrien, then Hospice Director, was so grateful to have been given them. After the sections were fitted with re-bars, they were placed randomly throughout their gardens (and stored inside in winter). To this day (except in winter), you will still see them in the gardens atop the hill as you drive along South Bay Road, throughout the hospice gardens and in the reception area. We see this as a tribute to Suzanne Hanna!

Another novel idea of Suzanne's was the guerilla gardening event held in downtown Sudbury, on the Friday evening of the Convention, alongside where the McEwen School of Architecture now stands. Suzanne had previously organized some clay seedball workshops. These seedballs, along with a few donated plants, were planted late that afternoon. A good time was had by all.

Suzanne was a truly remarkable person – a pillar of strength, she kept everyone energized, interested, motivated and on the right track. She was liked and admired by everyone, and was everybody's friend.

Suzanne at the 2011 OHA Convention in Sudbury



Picket fence



Suzanne with geurilla gardeners



Suzanne geurilla gardening after dark

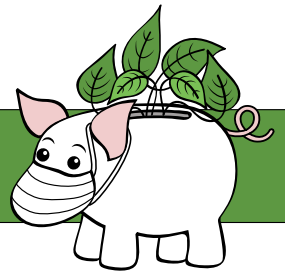


Tree planting at Jane Goodall Trail

District 6

Catherine McGill, Director D6

OHA COVID IDEA BANK



Here is what District 6 and societies/clubs have been up to during this summer of Covid.

Well, as all of the Districts across Ontario have found, business as usual was not the theme of 2020. We completed our Spring breakfast meeting, hosted by Bronte with 109 in attendance, this is our welcome back, lets us meet 'ole' friends and hear what is in store for the year. We have a speaker, light snacks and are finished at lunch time. Then; dum dum dum, Covid hit, just weeks before our AGM. Bags were, and are still, packed with lots of goodies to go to the societies/clubs, so we went with our first Zoom meeting in the hopes that would be our AGM and although it was not, we had a nice meeting with all 21 societies/clubs attending. We brainstormed ideas, with a push on maintaining communications with members: newsletters, virtual plant sales, online speakers, reaching out to community groups to make partnerships.

We pencilled in, and with much moving effort, tried to have our Fall Breakfast meeting in Simcoe take over the bigger event of AGM. This was to be Sept. 19 but with the current attendance only allowed at 50, it did not make sense, with 21 societies, exec and hosts. Basically, we could only have one person per society/club attend. We stretch across a fair bit of geography, so that has been cancelled now as well and another Zoom meeting will take its place on Sept. 19. It was also decided that our Fall Dinner that was to be hosted by Haldimand in the new Fair Exhibition centre will be cancelled as well, again because of numbers, we normally have 200-250 folks attend and that will not be allowed this year. Sad, I miss seeing everyone.

Looking forward to seeing and hearing from some of them at the next Zoom.

The District had a photography contest, it went out to all societies/clubs and on our District 6 Facebook page, we had just under 300 shots sent in and wow, we have some amazing photographers, hoping to have another with photos of designs.

Now, as Director, I have been a very pleased and proud parent to all the societies/clubs that took and ran with the suggestions from our first Zoom meeting and are growing! Only a couple clubs are down a dozen fewer members, happy with that! Many societies/clubs have upped their quality of newsletter, lots of photos, interest pieces and member highlights. They are

awesome, reaching out to membership for help with them and new folk now on the exec lineup because of reaching out. Facebook presence by D6 societies/clubs has increased. Zoom/internet meetings are happening, even monthly meetings, with garden tours of members' gardens and an internet safety speaker. I realize that some of the more rural groups with spotty internet coverage could not make use of it, but it is great that they are trying.

I unfortunately heard from two society/clubs so far that 2020 is a bust, with their meeting locations not opening for the rest of the year, but also some good news with others being allowed to open for Sept. meetings. The hope is that those that won't open will do online meetings.

Exec meetings for the majority have been on Zoom/internet, but they also happened in executive members' gardens, socially distancing of course.

District 6 societies/clubs have been active in our communities with planting town beds, articles in local papers and online.

I hope you all are staying healthy and in the gardens.

Celebrating our Judges



District 6 surprised Elizabeth Schleicher with a Judging/Exhibitor service certificate during their zoom AGM. Her husband Helmet was in on the surprise and gave her the certificate during the online meeting.

District 6 Flower Show

Catherine McGill-District Director

District 6 held a Photo contest with Horticulture and Design classes. Judged by member votes and viewed on our District 6 Facebook page. These are our winners:



1. Horticulture:

Doreen Scott, Haldimand
Pink Dahlia
(late summer bloomers)



2. Horticulture:

Irene Heltner, Brantford
Wreath



3. Design:

Irene Heltner, Brantford
Meal to Go
(design with seed heads included)



4. Design:

Dawn Suter, Haldimand
Fall is in the Air

District 6 Award to Jennifer Mirosofin



District 6 was proud to Award Jennifer Mirosofin from Milton & District Horticultural Society with our District Award during Milton's monthly Zoom meeting. She had a door knock during the meeting and was presented with her award! Surprise! Jennifer is a Past President and has held most other positions! She has been a member of Milton for almost 20 years and the driving force of the new Milton Hospital Serenity Gardens, an amazing garden for staff and patients to relax in. Milton is 110

years old and without the efforts of Jennifer, that birthday might not have happened. She stepped up and became a driving force to keep Milton HS going. Congratulations Jennifer and Milton!

Ripley and District Horticultural Society

"For Our Youth" Club Wraps Up the 2020 Growing Season With a Virtual Tour of Giants.

Linda Jaynes, Heather Newman, Tryntje Eisen

Despite being unable to meet in 2020, Ripley and District Horticultural youth club "For our Youth" had a very productive year. Its members have actively participated in growing challenges, sending online photos of their plants to be enjoyed by all. Parents were wonderful in supporting their children's green thumb adventures.



Riley solved the 2020 mystery seed challenge: it's a cucamelon!



Will, who became a club member in 2020, shows his fruiting cucamelon plant.



Natalie (l) with her giant sunflower, leader/videographer Heather and Jaclyne with her giant Persian corn.



Susie holds up the 17.25 inches in diameter sunflower head in one hand and her giant beet in the other.

It started with mystery bulbs, followed by the 2020 mystery seed challenge which produced the much enjoyed cucamelon. Eight members including Makayla, Mercedes, Jaclyne, Peyton, Will, Riley and Josie were successful in identifying this plant with its tiny watermelon look-alike fruits. This was one of the fun projects initiated by leader Linda Jaynes (Grandma J.) who won the 2020 Ontario Horticultural Association's Youth Leadership award.

Port Elgin Pumpkinfest organizers donated seeds to grow giants for any youth interested. The idea was to enter these giants in the October 3 Pumpkinfest. However, with Covid-19 on the rise, the Ontario Horticultural Association advised against club outings. Club leader Heather Newman came up with a fun alternative way of showing off our Giants by video-taping a virtual "Tour of Giants". See facebook @ *Ripleyhorticulture*.

The results were fantastic! Susie's sunflower-head was the largest with a diameter measuring 17.25 inches. Sunflowers typically have between 1000 and 1400 seeds per head, talk about multiplication! Kaylee's sunflower was the tallest, a towering 17 feet high. Jaclyne had the

tallest Persian corn, standing 153 inches tall. Her giant tomato weighed 2.11 pounds, her sister Natalie's was a close second, weighing 2.10 pounds.

In the beet (mangelwurzel) category, Natalie was the winner with a whopping 15.74 pound beet. Molly and Tayson entered a gigantic 72.5 pound pumpkin they discovered that had wandered from their garden into the adjacent cornfield. It was a challenge to get it on the scales. Amazing how from one seed can grow such a giant! We hope they will save us some seed from this winning heavy-weight for next year, before it gets turned into a jack-o-lantern.

For sisters, Lauren, Gabby and Ava, it wasn't so much the size, but amount of pumpkins that was amazing. Twenty-one pumpkins, with the largest weighing 18.6 pounds, make for a beautiful Thanksgiving display.

In this harvest season, we the leaders of the Ripley and District "For Our Youth" horticultural club, are thankful for the enthusiasm of our club members and the way each have cared for their plants, be it successful or not. They are all winners because they gained valuable experience for the future and had fun doing it.

October 2020

SCORE BOARD	Pumpkin	Mangelwurzel	Sunflower	BrusarCorn
Jaclyne	2 nd lbs	14 ⁵² lbs		153 ¹¹
Natalie	2 nd lbs	15 ¹¹ lbs	154 ¹¹	
Kaylee		12 ¹¹ lbs	204 ¹¹	
Susie		10 ¹¹ lbs	17 ¹¹	
Molly & Tayson	72 ⁵ lbs			

Scoreboard for giants that would have entered in Port Elgin's Pumpkin Fest, had not Covid-19 intervened.



Natalie and Jaclyne's giant mangelwurzel beets.



Sisters Ava (l), Lauren, wee sister and Gabby arranged their 21 pumpkins on the stairs.



Molly and Tayson with their 72.5-pound pumpkin that hid in the nearby corn field.

Flamborough Horticultural Society Navigates 2020

Liz Visentin

Photo by Susan MacMillan.

What began as a usual year of monthly meetings ended abruptly in March. In-person meetings were suspended until September. We did host one in-person meeting in September with the generous donation by Connon Nursery in Waterdown of their indoor greenhouse space. Afterwards, we adopted Zoom meetings, encouraging our members to attend online and to enter our flower shows by emailing photos of their entries.

The general shut-down did not deter all activities! Our Civic Improvement Committee, chaired by Jan Bignell, along with many volunteers, maintained gardens in our communities which was extra challenging this year due to the continued heat and drought. Gardens were planted and tended at local libraries, parks and in green spaces.

Flamborough Horticultural Society also contributed to the City of Hamilton Trillium Awards Program. Ann Cochren, a director of the Society, became the Chair of the Executive Committee of the Trillium Awards Program. Tina Coverly, the Co-Past President of FHS was also a member of the committee. The City of Hamilton EOC (Emergency Operations Centre) approved continuing the program by awarding mailed certificates to White Trillium winners. Judging would be done from pictures submitted to the City of Hamilton/Trillium awards website. More than a dozen FHS members volunteered to judge the awards.



One of the gardens in Waterdown that the volunteers tended this summer

Leamington Horticultural Society

Submitted by Pixie Shoult, President

Photos by Pixie Shoult and Erna Wright

The Municipality of Leamington was notified of a forthcoming donation of \$18,000.00 and that the funds were to be earmarked for a project that Communities in Bloom (CiB), along with the Leamington Horticultural Society, were to undertake within the Municipality.

Shotton Parkette offered the maximum exposure as it is on the main thoroughfare between Mill Street and Talbot Street West and also a centrepiece of the Mill Street Market.

A landscape architect prepared the concept plans for the whole park and included a garden area, built using the donated monies. The Leamington Horticultural Society and Communities in Bloom were responsible for the garden area.

We formed a committee to work on placing rocks within the garden, hiring an artist to design a sculpture for our garden and to purchase plant material such as shrubs, grasses and perennials. We also designed a

sponsor plaque as we wanted to recognize all contributors including the WindsorEssex Community Foundation for the donation of the monies for the Parkette.

We had to stop construction on this project due to Covid-19 as lockdown constraints were in place. Although we were not able to meet in person, the committee was able to hold Zoom meetings to ensure the project maintained its momentum.

In August, we were able to get out and weed the new area before digging in our plant material and covering it with Canadian Red Natural Brown mulch. The rocks were strategically placed throughout the garden and in September, our members planted 646 spring bulbs throughout the gardens.

Our sculpture, which we named "In Flight", shows the migration of the many birds within the Leamington area and is constructed of stainless steel.

If you are in the neighbourhood, we invite you to drop by for a stroll and enjoy the garden.



Miss Mary Yates – The OHA's First Female President

Malcolm Geast, OHA Historian

The year 2021 marks the 100th anniversary of the OHA choosing Mary Yates as its first female President. Although Mary is known also for creating and donating the chain of office worn by Association Presidents, little else has been written about her or her role in the horticultural history of Ontario.

In his President's address to the 1917 OHA convention, Rev. G.W. Tebbs noted that one of the functions of the convention was "to elect capable men", a phrase that wasn't entirely without foundation at that time. Women had played a part in the Association, but it was the male members of the organisation who had had the most prominent roles. Convention delegates were predominantly male and only one woman, Mary Blacklock, had served as a Director and that was several years beforehand.

But just one year later, the first sign of a change appeared, as Miss Mary Yates, as she always wished to be addressed, joined the Executive Board as a District Director. After moving on to serve as a Vice President in 1919 and 1920, in 1921, she became the first woman to serve as the Association's President.

Mary Yates was born on April 7, 1869 in Staffordshire, England. No documentation regarding her childhood or early adult years has been found but we do know that around 1902, she was in training at Lady Warwick's women's agricultural college, first at Reading, and then at Studley Castle in nearby Warwickshire. We know her for her interest in horticulture, but it was poultry farming that was her great interest at the college. Within just a couple of years, she was reported to be selling 2000 to 3000 eggs a week and had become an instructor at the school. At the same time, she had become inspired by the garden city movement, starting a cottage settlement at Royston, north of London.

Studley Castle, along with the similarly purposed Swanley Hostel in Kent and the Royston cottages, were all aimed at encouraging women to play a more active role in agricultural pursuits. In Ontario, similar thoughts led to the establishment of "Terrington Farm" on the

east side of Toronto by Helen Lissant Beardmore.

Helen Beardmore was a member of a wealthy family that was prominent in Toronto social circles and known for its tannery in Acton. After coming to a decision to leave the urban lifestyle, Helen bought a property atop the Scarborough Bluffs near the current Hunt Club golf course and named it "Terrington Farm" after the family's ancestral home in Yorkshire. Her goal was to develop a small co-operative settlement. While on a trip to England in 1903, she visited the agricultural college at Reading looking for information about poultry farming. While there is no direct evidence, it is highly likely that she met Mary during that trip. Three years later, Mary moved to Canada, and was soon providing advice to Helen about farming, helping with organisation, and living at Terrington.

Soon after her arrival in Canada, Mary began working for the Ontario Department of Agriculture in Toronto. But in 1908, her work took her to Guelph, at the MacDonald Institute. That same year, Helen sold the Terrington property, and relocated to the family home in Acton, where Mary joined her. Together, Mary and Helen were quite the team for the next three decades.

Even before the move to Guelph, Mary was on the road to becoming a prolific public speaker. In June 1907, she addressed the Winona Women's Institute (WI) about "Home Economics". Several other talks at WI chapters followed, as well as one on "The Effect of Co-operation Upon the Community" to the Daughters of the Empire.

It was poultry that was Mary's specialty, one for which she was not afraid to express strong opinions. At a 1908 meeting of the Grey County WI in Flesherton, as well as giving a talk on Home Economics, she



spoke about "The Management of Poultry" where, it was reported, "the mouldy, ill-smelling draughty hen house found scant mercy with her." Speaking to the Guelph Winter Fair in 1909, Mary hearkened back to her days in England, noting that "although Canadian eggs which had been exported to Great Britain had proved satisfactory, the poultry was not all that it should be. This was due to improper methods of feeding." But this was not just a complaint, it was a matter that she was determined to correct.

As the poultry expert with the Department of Agriculture, Mary appeared at fairs and other gatherings across Ontario, speaking about a host of poultry-related topics, among them, winter egg production, feeds and feeding poultry, candling eggs, and "poultry for townspeople". But some of these appearances were more than just standing up talking to people. In the fall of 1912, the Toronto Globe described a "clever demonstration of killing, plucking, shaping and preparing fowl by Miss Mary Yates, who prepared a live and kicking chicken for the table in less than five minutes."

Mary's speaking engagements weren't confined to Ontario. In 1911 and 1912, she also made several appearances in the US, including at the Connecticut Poultry Association conventions. In a number of American publications, she was referred to as "the greatest living authority on table poultry".

But it wasn't long before Mary's horticultural interests began to be just as prominent. By 1915, she and Helen had moved to Port Credit "for the country life", living on Mississauga Road, just south of the present-day QEW highway. Before long, she was playing a major part in the formation of the Port Credit Horticultural Society and then winning the society's Gold Medal for her hardy herbaceous perennials. As a representative of the Department of Agriculture, Mary also spoke at one of the founding meetings of the Orillia Horticultural Society and gave a talk in Newcastle along with judging the society's window box competition. The annual reports for both the Farmers' Institutes and the Women's Institutes for 1915 noted her "wide experience in training along horticultural lines" and listed half a dozen of her speaking topics, including "A Garden of Flowers from Seed", "Vegetable Gardens for Young People" and "The Old-Fashioned Hardy Flower Borders".

In 1916, we can see Mary's growing involvement with the OHA. She was listed as one of the Association's auditors and spoke at that year's convention on the subject of "Informal Planting of the Home Grounds." Space doesn't allow a full discussion of

her talk, but suffice to say, she had some views that may resound today and others that might receive some disagreement: "No mistake, indeed, is more general than to believe that, because a person knows something of methods of propagation, or of botany, he is necessarily able to plan the whole picture that should express the individuality, the ideals and the fancies of the owner." "The easiest way to spoil a good lawn is to put a flower-bed in it... The places for flowers are along borders, against groups, by the corners of the residence, in front of the porches..." As we've seen before, she was always willing to speak her mind.

At the 1918 convention, a presentation on roses prompted Mary to ask the question "Is there any authorised list of judges recognised by the Association?" Receiving an answer that there was no list, it appears that she was determined to encourage some changes and to introduce consistency to the way the flower show judging was done. Her response was a presentation at the following year's convention "Judging the Decorative Classes", in which she discussed two purposes of flower shows ("the enhancement of our home life" and "to strengthen the recognition of the fact that beauty depends upon elegance rather than upon rarity of bloom"). She laid out suggestions regarding classes, floral sources, judging systems and considerations and, for the first time in the OHA, a proposal for a points card that could be used at flower shows. Later in that convention, she was appointed to the Committee on Judging Roses, Sweet Peas, Peonies and Spring Flowering Bulbs.

Over the next two years, in addition to her ongoing role as the official Lecturer on Horticulture for the Ontario government, Mary continued her work with the OHA as a member of various committees, including a newly formed Hybridising and Experimentation Committee. At the same time, the decades-long struggle for women's suffrage in Ontario had reached its goal with the passage of two bills in April 1917. Within this political climate, and with her increasing visibility and influence within the horticultural community, she was soon playing an active part in the governance of the OHA.

And with this, on February 11, 1921, Mary Yates became the first woman to serve as OHA President. The next day, under the headline of "Lady President", the London Free Press proclaimed that "The Ontario Horticultural Society* got right up to date by electing a woman, Miss Mary Yates, of Port Credit, to the Presidency."

During her year as President, Mary was involved with a wide variety of issues, including working on

getting changes made to the Nursery Control Act, liaising with kindred organisations with the eventual goal of creating a Federal Registry of Plants and increasing the provincial grant. This last item was unsuccessful, in part because of insufficient lobbying by individual societies, but possibly also because of the 1920-21 depression. In addition to her provincial level activities, she had taken on the position of 2nd Vice President of the Toronto Horticultural Society and there are reports that she later moved up to President of the society.

After her year as President, Mary maintained her connection with the OHA, but as might be expected, she played a less noticeable part in its activities. That is not to say that she had no interest in the horticultural community, as she had a passion for Irises and also played a prominent role in the Ontario Rose Society. There at various times through to the late 1920's, she served on its Executive Committee, the Test Garden Committee and the Exhibition Committee. Her partner Helen was also involved, serving as the Rose Society's President for four years.

In 1920, Mary and Helen moved 10 km north of Port Credit to Meadowvale, where, for \$2500, they had purchased a mid-19th century house that they had renamed the Apple Tree Inn and had opened it up for "the accommodation of tourists whom the automobile brings to the place". With the landscape of the area as an attraction, the Inn soon became a favourite place for artists including A.J. Casson of the Group of Seven. A Tea Room and a Tea Garden with Mary's Irises and Helen's fragrant roses were also a part of the Inn. Reviews noted that it was a favourite location for tourists, many of whom would come to look at the gardens and then "find the place so alluring that they stay on for tea."

Mary and Helen had an energetic association with the Women's Institute, with each of them involved with the Meadowvale chapter. Mary was the Ontario government delegate for 18 years, and Helen was the national WI's corresponding secretary, the convenor for a national committee on agriculture, and the representative on the Girl Guides Council for Canada.

With both women now in their late 50's, and with the Inn and its gardens to look after, Mary retired from her position with the Department of Agriculture in the mid-twenties. A few years later, it appears that Mary and Helen had begun to tire of Ontario winters and



Headline in the Ottawa Citizen, February 12, 1921

had found relief to the south. As often announced in the society pages in Toronto and Montreal, they would leave Meadowvale in November to motor down to Florida, returning the following April or May. On at least one occasion, this departure was an occasion to be noted. In November 1929, more than 200 guests attended a send-off luncheon at the Eglinton Hunt Club. Helen wore a "French gown of black brocade", a diamond necklace and diamond earrings, and Mary was in an "ankle-length dress of black wool crepe, white gloves and hat, and a corsage of white gardenias". She had certainly come a long way from her days of killing chickens in front of a similarly sized crowd.

Little is known about how they spent their time in Florida. However, the few accounts that we have indicate that they fit in well with the social set in the Tampa Bay area. On the afternoon of March 5, 1939, Mary gave what may have been her last presentation, when she spoke about "Framing the Picture" to the Sarasota Garden Club at the home of one of the city's wealthier residents.

Life changed dramatically after their return to Toronto in 1939, when Helen became quite ill. Early 1940 saw the two of them living at the Hillcrest Convalescent Hospital on Bathurst St. in Toronto. It appears that they were briefly able to move back to the Inn, but on May 28, 1940, Helen died in hospital in Brampton, and was buried in the Beardmore family plot at Mount Pleasant Cemetery in Toronto.

* With regard to the articles in the London and Ottawa newspapers, it seems that some things never change. We've been the "Ontario Horticultural Association" since 1906. But almost from the very beginning, we've had various publications and people (including some OHA Presidents) calling us the "Ontario Horticultural Society".



Past Presidents at the 1942 OHA convention:

*Back row: A.H. MacLennan (1939),
J. Albert Smith (1931), F.C. Nunnick (1930),
Fred Collins (1933), Lionel Godson (1937),
Harry Occomore (1935)*

*Front row: C.A. Byam (1934),
J. Lockie Wilson (Life Director),
Dr. Frank E. Bennett (1917),
Miss Mary Yates (1921),
Rev. George W. Tebbs (1916),
James. E. Carter (1924)*

For the first few years following Helen's death, Mary continued to live at the Apple Tree Inn. But by 1944 she had sold the property and had relocated to an apartment in the old Aemilius Jarvis estate on Prince Arthur Street in downtown Toronto, a seemingly unusual change for someone who had moved to Port Credit "for the country life". However, it was a connection from her earlier life that may have been behind the move. The Inn had been purchased by Aemilius Jarvis's son, and as both Helen and Mary had connections to the family via the Rose Society and the Hunt Club, it seems likely that an arrangement had been made for her to live there.



The silver chain and badge donated by Mary Yates to the OHA in 1951

With a new location in the city, Mary involved herself in the Women's Art Association, where, as indicated by several newspaper accounts, she continued to be quite active.

Through the 1930's, she had also kept her connection to the OHA by providing advice to a judging standards committee, and, in the summer of 1934, by participating in an early cross-Canada radio broadcast series sponsored by the Association. In 1942, now no longer travelling down to Florida for the winter, she was able to attend her first OHA convention since the 1920's.

Mary was the OHA's first female President, but Thelma Boucher, who presided over the 1942 convention, was still only the second woman in the role.

In 1951, on the 30th anniversary of Mary's year as OHA President, she donated what has become her most visible legacy, a chain of 16 silver roses and leaves and a badge with the inscription on the back "Presented to the Ontario Horticultural Association by Mary Yates in memory of her many years of happy associations with the amateur gardeners of the province." It was her hope that it would "be worn by the President at conventions and other special functions." The sixteen silver roses represented the number of OHA Districts at the time. Three more were added in the 80's after the Association expanded to 19 Districts.

The donation of what soon became known as the Chain of Office was Mary's last contact with the OHA that we know of. Mary passed away at the age of 87 on December 30, 1956, at her apartment in Toronto. Her grave can be found in the eastern section of Mount Pleasant Cemetery.

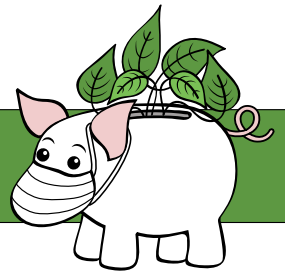


Photo by Malcolm Geast

District 11

Margaret Laman, District 11 Director

**OHA COVID
IDEA BANK**



The Rescued Tulip Bulb

By Jan Dugdale, LaSalle Horticultural Society

In 2011, our society realized that a lot of businesses were changing their garden décor, sometimes yearly. Jan Dugdale, committee chair of our rescue program, made a few phone calls to these businesses and asked what they did with their old décor, especially the tulip and daffodil bulbs. To her surprise, she found out that these lovely Holland bulbs were being tossed out because the business had nowhere to store them and ordered new bulbs every year or two.

Many years have passed since that first couple of phone calls. Forward now to 2020. The LaSalle Horticultural Society is in year nine of the "Tulip Rescue Program". This program has evolved from about 100 tulip and daffodil bulbs to over 3000 every year.

To start, contact is made with the businesses that are now involved every year. They give a day to the society when they are going to pull their bulbs. It is often around the second week of May. We rush to their location to pick them up as soon as possible.

What to do with so many bulbs and how to organize such an event with the bulbs coming straight from the ground and not being stored! How is this done? Well, we have a group called "The Tulip Crew". It's a great assembly line of volunteers that go through the bags of donated bulbs.

The next day, the crew sets up in a double garage of a local member to sort the bulbs. All the work is done on six-foot tables. If the colour is known, a table is marked with the colour to keep track. An assembly line cleans the bulbs, cuts off minimal greenery and puts the bulbs into flat boxes donated by local grocery stores. These old cucumber or strawberry boxes are marked with the recipients' names on the side and stacked by recipient for pick up or delivery if needed. The leftover greenery is recycled as compost at the LaSalle Community gardens. From pick up to delivery, this all takes place over two or a maximum of three days as the bulbs must get back into the ground at the recipients' prior to any mold setting in.

Finding homes for the bulbs is often an easy process with a couple of phone calls to the town and area schools, churches and any local businesses that may want to spruce up their gardens. There are not a



lot of folk that would turn down *FREE* tulip bulbs. Their minimal offer is 100.

LaSalle has really beautified their town with this great recycling program that only seems to get bigger. Maybe your society can get a program like this started. Even contact your area landscape companies that often

are digging out bulbs when someone changes their landscape in the fall. If you cannot find recipients at fall time, then just get them stored in the ground and give them away with your next May Tulip Rescue.



Tillsonburg Horticultural Society

Angela Lassam, Publicity

Photos by Angela Lassam unless otherwise noted

Tillsonburg Horticultural Society has continued to care for the town's gardens with fewer volunteers and a smaller budget. The gardens have been tended under strict rules but as you see by the photos, everyone has done a great job once again. Our gardens have historical connections to the town so I thought maybe a little information on them was appropriate. One of these is on the grounds of Annandale House built in 1883 and designated as a National Historical Site. This was

the home of Edwin Deleven Tillson, the first mayor of Tillsonburg.

His father was George Tillson, the founder of Tillsonburg, who settled in the area in 1825 on the Big Otter Creek. He cleared the land and a forge and sawmill were built. He had a small house on the site of mineral springs. These were later fenced off in a park and opened in 1881. A hotel was built there that later became a sanitarium because of the medicinal sulphur springs.



Annandale House



Mineral Springs

Photo provided by Laurel Beechey

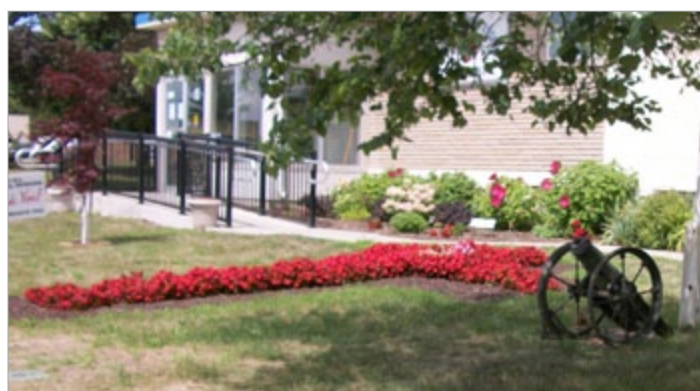


Mineral Springs



Station Arts Centre

The Station Arts Centre is housed in the former railway station and retains many of its original features including small gardens. It is the location of the summer Farmers Market.



Royal Canadian Legion

The Royal Canadian Legion boasts an original 1943 MK1X anti-aircraft gun and has a cross made up of flowers, also a sidewalk garden which is tended by members.

At the Tillsonburg Community Centre – Senior Centre, the landscaping outside the Centre is another garden area we care for. It is where we have our monthly meetings.



Senior Centre, Photo by Monique Booth

A newer park in the centre of town is Bert Newman Park. It has been recently taken on by the Society and includes many perennials. Photographers have found it a lovely spot for wedding and graduation pictures.

Fundraising for the Tillsonburg Horticultural Society has usually been through an annual garden sale and auction but Covid-19 put a stop to any society events and even now into the foreseeable future.

Catherine Burke and Judi Misener, two of our executives, stepped up and, spending countless hours, organised a social media fundraiser which has proved successful called 'Spin the Wheel – Beautify Tillsonburg'. They searched out items that could interest people in purchasing a slot on the wheel – typically researching stores that offered free shipping. Items of interest were: many home items, some sports items, office equipment, electronics and gift certificates. They costed out each item including taxes, added a profit amount and then divided the cost into the number of slots. The wheel was not spun until all payments by e-transfer had been made. This was posted on Facebook live. The items were only purchased when there was a winner. This meant there was no outlay of money until there was a winner.

Spin the Wheel was a trending online fundraiser that was based on purchasing slots of the wheel. An app called Wheel of Names was used to enter the names of those who purchased and then the computer did the spinning. They chose to do a "last man standing" format – meaning they spun the wheel until only one name remained, making that individual the "winner". The winner then received the prize by courier so no contact was necessary.

Congratulations and many thanks to Catherine and Judi who spent those two months doing this for the Society although they did say 'it was fun!'

Our Executive and Board of Directors have met within the restrictions but very little is happening now. We decided, due to our mature membership, that webinars and tutorials online would require many hours work with little reward although some booked speakers were willing to help us. Memberships for 2021 were reduced to \$10 for returning members, \$20 for new members. The Society is speculating on offering a plant sale of a different kind to the public, a Junior Gardeners program, a Garden Tour and other ongoing ideas.

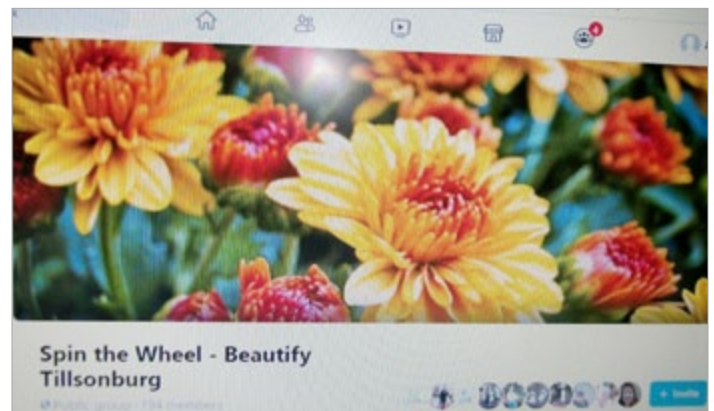
Our hope is that 2021 serves us all better going forward when we can meet again and return to a new normal. Stay safe, stay well.



Bert Newman Park



Bert Newman Park



Spin the Wheel fundraiser



Haldimand Horticultural Society

Annual Seasonal Urn Workshop

Elsie Eubank

Photos by Elsie Eubank

Our annual Christmas Urn Workshop was overflowing as usual, even though we had a different structure this year because of Covid-19. Like everyone else, we had to change and adapt to suit the situation. Instead of one large class in the morning of Nov. 7, 2020, we had 2 smaller classes, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, to allow more people in and still obey all Covid-19 rules and restrictions. As these classes filled up and there was an overflow, we did a smaller pre-workshop on the Thursday before as well so no one got left out.

Everyone was happy to be able to get out and enjoy an activity with fellow gardeners and have a visit while still wearing masks and social distancing. It was a very productive day with everyone leaving with a beautiful urn that they had created themselves under the skillful instruction of Catherine McGill D6 director and HHS member.

Thank you to all the participants for your lovely comments and emails letting us know how much you enjoyed the workshop.

Watch our facebook page @haldimandhorticulturalsociety for monthly contests and future workshops follow us on Instagram @haldimandhort for more info contact us at haldimandhorticulture@gmail.com



Barb Matten, Chris Mickeloff, Nancy Spellen



Lianne Krane



Catherine McGill



Alison Williams



Michael Richards, Erene DeSilva

Dunnville Horticultural Society

Thompson Creek Nesting Structures

Submitted from Dunnville Horticultural Society by Debbie Thomas, DHS Past President and Thompson Creek Eco Centre Co-Chair, in collaboration with DHS member Dan McKay, Thompson Creek Project Lead

This is a follow-up to the article submitted to the Trillium newsletter Spring 2020 edition.



Dan McKay DHS volunteer and Thompson Creek Project Lead is shown with Barn Swallow structures



The underside of Barn Swallow structure with individual nesting platforms or cones

Since the Grand Opening in September 2019, the trails within the 43-acre Thompson Creek Eco Centre (TCEC) have been utilized by daily walkers, hikers, nature enthusiasts, bird watchers, dog walkers, community groups and is currently home to seven geocaches.

Local school groups were preparing to commence using the site as an outdoor classroom, and plans had been made for travel and washroom accommodations.

Then Covid-19 shuttered these plans. The Pandemic also stalled many planned activities for TCEC including plans by DHS to add nesting structures within the Centre in time for 2020 nesting.

30 birdhouses/nesting boxes, designed for both Bluebirds and Tree Swallows were installed late March by loyal DHS (socially-distanced) volunteers and spread throughout the 23-acre established Tallgrass Prairie. The Tree Swallows had 90% occupancy this year with multiple broods and we remain hopeful of attracting Bluebirds in the future.

Barn Swallow structures that had been planned for the 2020 nesting season were not completed until Fall, but DHS is happy to report, they are ready for occupancy spring 2021. DHS would like to thank Dan McKay for researching and building these very important structures.

Barn Swallows are designated as a Species at Risk in

Ontario, brought on by nesting habitat loss mainly due to the disappearance of traditional barns that dotted rural Ontario. The purpose of this latest DHS project is to replace some of that habitat for local populations and to act as a demonstration site for others to possibly replicate and do the same.

Two eight-foot-long, free-standing structures made of waterproof materials stand on timbers twelve feet above ground and include predator guards on the legs. The height helps with predator control and supports sightlines to food sources and needed ventilation. The attic area is sealed so that larger birds can't nest there as they would be a deterrent for Barn Swallows. The nesting platforms or cones are placed in individual compartments as these birds do not like to see other birds while brooding. The cones mimic the mud and straw nests they will build and offer a head start for them to finish their adobe nests. The cones are located just four inches from the ceiling providing them with a feeling of security from predators. The skirt around the structure provides protection from wind while still allowing adequate ventilation.

The two structures have been placed in optimal habitat, far from trees and fence rows that harbour predators. Situated in the Tallgrass Prairie that has abundant insects for food and nesting materials, the

nearby wetland provides the mud and water which are important components in building their nests.

DHS plans to place some old nests in the structures to entice tenants and perhaps some silhouettes for the



One of 30 Bluebird/House Swallow houses added to Tallgrass Prairie

birds along with a feeder to hold egg shells, a source of calcium for egg development.

Dan McKay's research for design included Bird Studies Canada, Province of Ontario documents, Long Point Bird Observatory and Cornell University Ornithology Studies. The design honours the various research sites while incorporating a bonus feature into the design with an access point for Brown Bats, another species at risk. They can access and use the attic area of the structure for roosting and breeding needs. There is an inch and a half landing area in front of a three quarter inch access point, the optimal opening for bats and too small for birds.

DHS is proud to have been involved in this ongoing project and is grateful to our many community partners, including Haldimand County and Ducks Unlimited Canada.

DHS encourages everyone to visit Thompson Creek Eco Centre located in Dunnville. It is open year round with no admission cost... same park as Muddy the Mudcat and the iconic Centennial Fountain monument.

Pine Ridge Garden Club

Rita Barrell, Executive Member

Photos by Rita Gaia



During the last weekend of September, one of our members happily shared her garden with us. Linda Brunton, of Scugog Island, hosted an open garden tour complete with a Covid-19 check-in station. Here she is with a huge batch of white anemones. I hadn't realized they would be in full bloom so late in the year. Every corner had an interesting delight. She was very generous in sharing her knowledge AND cuttings!

Callander Horticultural Society

Memory Tree Park

Brenda Jansen, President

Photos by Brenda Jansen



It has been a very hard year for all of the Horticultural Societies when it comes to getting the General Members involved and keeping them interested. Many of our members are getting up in years so they were not physically able to help out in our Memory Tree Park. Some of our Executives were out doing what they could as stipulated by our Town Council, so the Park got to look really nice. Unable to have our usual plant sale posed another problem as it is usually our big fundraiser for the year. A Geranium Tea was on the calendar as well and has been postponed to another year. Hopefully in 2021, we will get more on-track with events and speakers. We did have a couple of open-air meetings when the weather was nice. Then we were able to have our Executive meetings in our Community Center, once the weather got colder as long as we followed the Covid-19 rules. It gave us a chance to connect and put on our thinking caps for when this is over.

Emails were sent out to our members including tips on certain garden problems that usually crop up and news from the OHA and District. I also invited them to email me with any questions that I would try to answer or pass on to someone who might know how to fix their problem. Sometimes, it was just to let them know that they were not forgotten and that we valued their membership and input.

Sympathy cards were sent and calls were made to those that were having hard times or just to say a quick, "How are you doing?" It was the least we could do to

keep in touch. A home video will be sent to everyone for Christmas as regretfully, our usual AGM and dinner have been postponed.

It was nice to be able to keep in touch with some of the societies close to us and pass on info and ideas.

Hopefully, everyone is getting through this terrible time without getting sick. Time spent outside gardening was a great way to forget that we were bored and lonely. The plants got to hear our voices more than usual, I am sure. I think that I did hear that they like being sung to but since that is out of the question, they had to do with a talking-to once in a while.

While spending time watching the bees do their work, I noticed that a lot of new bugs seemed to have appeared. Some were good and some bad and some we are not too sure about. Flowers that have not done well for a few years put forth an abundance of blooms. In years past, we might have missed their beauty as we were too busy doing other things. The life of the garden continues to amaze us with its wonder.

It has been a time to do some research on new plants and problems in the garden, both flower and vegetable. We will be all that much better informed once we get back to doing our regular meetings.

We have a large sign board in Memory Tree Park where people who buy a plaque for a loved one can have it placed. All of our past Presidents of the Society are also listed there so that people know that we share their memories as well.



Memory Tree Park in Callander

Blenheim-Harwich Horticultural Society

Anne Henderson, Secretary

Photo by Douglas Pipe

We are pleased to announce that Ruth Clark, a long-time member and past Director of the Blenheim-Harwich Horticultural Society, will receive the OHA Horticultural Service Certificate for Meritorious Service to Horticulture. Ruth has spent 35 years as a member and, within her many positions on the Board of Directors, has provided guidance and wise instruction. She also serves as our Historian for the many artifacts from our 103-year history. Ruth has always been among the first to volunteer for our various endeavours over the years and we are grateful to her for all of her thoughtful counsel and hard work. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the certificate will be presented at a later date.

Ethan Sauve, a Blenheim native, has been awarded the \$300 Blenheim-Harwich Horticultural Society Bursary. Any local post-secondary student in Horticulture or Environmental Science is eligible. Ethan is currently studying Environmental Science at the University of Guelph and we wish him ongoing success in his studies.

The Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 185, in Blenheim is the recipient of \$450 from the Society's 50/50 draw held last year.

A presentation was made to Legion President Fred Burchiel and Don Scott, Canteen Chairman, on Monday, November 23, 2020. The Legion plans to landscape around the banner poles next to the Legion building in spring, 2021. The poles display banners of War Veterans and are typically erected in late October of each year.



From left to right: Anne Henderson, Secretary, Blenheim-Harwich Horticultural Society; Fred Burchiel, President, Branch 185, Royal Canadian Legion; Julia Sambo, President, BHHS, Gerri Delannoy, Treasurer, BHHS and Don Scott, Canteen Chairman, Branch 185, Royal Canadian Legion.

North Bay Horticultural Society

Maureen Ranger, Co-President

Nipissing Serenity Hospice Gardens

The Nipissing Serenity Hospice director, Gil Pharand requested design and planting help from the North Bay Horticultural Society. One of our members, Ning Sutor took the project on! She created the design for six flower beds and a request for specific plants was announced. Plants were generously donated by our members along with some of the hospice volunteer co-ordinators and the North Bay and Area Master Gardeners. The North Bay Heritage Gardens shared many plants from the waterfront gardens. Everyone was pleased that the plants they shared would be enjoyed at the hospice.

Over a few days, the gardens were planted by members of the North Bay Horticultural Society with the assistance of John Piekarski, the hospice Maintenance Co-ordinator.

We are anxious to see the gardens flourishing in the spring with Vickie Wiemer's memorial bench surrounded by plants in bloom.



Photo by Maureen Ranger



Photo by Hospice Staff

Left to right: Maureen Ranger, Gail Ayotte, Flo Leblanc, Janet Phillips, Debbie Clark, Isabelle Lafond, Ning Sutor, Cathy Hogan

Vickie Wiemer Memorial Bench

A memorial bench honouring Vickie Wiemer has now been installed near the entrance of the newly opened Nipissing Serenity Hospice. It was placed in the garden with a plaque honouring her significant contributions to horticulture locally and across Ontario. Vickie's bench was donated to the Hospice by the North Bay Horticultural Society, the Societies of District 18 of the Ontario Horticultural Association and the North Bay and Area Master Gardeners.

Vickie passed away on September 7, 2017 and is greatly missed. She was admired for her enthusiasm, kindness, knowledge and commitment to the varied projects she would engage in. She and her husband Rupert enjoyed gardening, sharing their gardening expertise and participating in the many OHA meetings and activities.

Vickie was a dedicated member of the Ontario Horticultural Association for 52 years, serving in many capacities. As a lifelong learner, she was always eager to take on a new interest or challenge. On joining the North Bay Horticultural Society, she stepped right in to volunteer where needed and so her journey began. She served on the executive, was a Past President of the Society and she and Rupert were honoured with Life Members Awards. She was a 25-year member of the Callander Horticultural Society, a District 18 Past President receiving a District Service Award in 2008 and was the OHA president in 2010-2011.



Photo supplied by family

Vickie Wiemer

She studied to become a certified OHA judge and was a charter member of the Master Gardeners and always encouraged new and seasoned gardeners. As a past member with the North Bay Heritage Gardeners, she served on the Design Team. Vickie was very active with her church, the YMCA and synchronized swimming teams.

For 56 years, she was the beloved wife to Rupert and proud and loving mother of Anita Romanoff (Leigh Ridenour), Rose Brown (Scott), and Doug Wiemer (Sandy), grandmother of four and great-grandmother of two.

Rupert and their family are so appreciative of this special tribute to Vickie. When their family can safely travel, we hope to have a small dedication with photos taken.

We know Vickie would love that the hospice staff, visitors and patients can rest awhile on her bench and enjoy the beautiful gardens.



Photo by Maureen Ranger

Vickie's Bench

The Garden Bench

Hidden in a quiet garden,
Stands a bench serene and bare.
There I sit when I am tired
To think, and dream and stare.

See a butterfly on a flower,
Watch it flit here and there.
A chipmunk rustles in the bower,
Bees are busy everywhere!

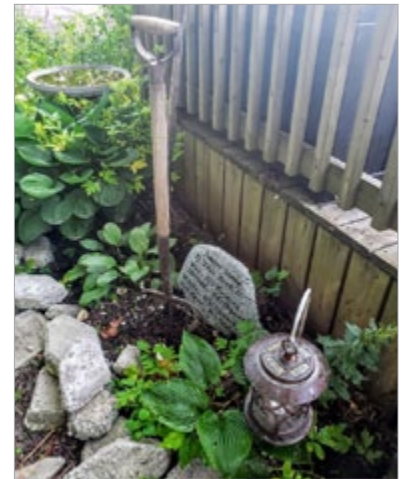
The world rushes by with such speed and clatter,
But on the bench, it doesn't matter.
I think of slower, quieter times,
Of horses and buggies, of sleigh bells and chimes.
When neighbours walked, and sat a spell.

Oh, what stories Grandpa would tell
Of working in fields and milking cows.
Long hours of walking behind the plow.
So on this garden bench of mine,
I sit and dream of other times.

*By Diane McMillan
The Countryside Book of Verse*

Tilbury and District Horticultural Society

Photos and submission by Joy Davis



Everyone followed rules, wore masks, social distanced and enjoyed seeing the gardens at the Tilbury and District Horticultural Society Garden Tour held on August 24, 2020. Organized by Katherine Smyth and Joy Davis, the garden tour was for members only.



Wheatley Horticultural Society

Donna Matier

On October 3, 2020 at 1:00 p.m., the Wheatley Horticultural Society was delighted and proud to host the Grand Opening of the Grant Bowman Trail.

The event was made possible through the: "Together CK (Chatham-Kent) Municipal Grant Program", with proceeds from the Wheatley Trails Committee and the Dave Grant Memorial GoFundMe Account.

In preparation for the Grand Opening, the Wheatley Horticultural Society cleaned up the gardens and added fall mums.

As well, new trees and flowering shrubs were planted along the trail. A special thank you to Mr. Steve DeGoey and family from Peanut Nursery who helped to pick out the trees and ensure they were planted in spots that would allow proper growth.

Two signs were fabricated and placed at each entrance to the trail. Special thank you to Mr. Rob Schep from Impact Graphics & Signs Inc. in Chatham for the design of these signs.

A park bench was fabricated and placed in a spot along the trail where Mr. Bowman felt it would be most used by trail users to sit and watch the birds and enjoy the scenery. Special thank you to Matt Robinson & Partner from County Coatings in Merlin for the design and fabrication of the bench.

CK Parks & Recreation, specifically Rob Veccia, Kevin Ford and Caleb Beauprey, installed the signs and bench and completed the maintenance around the trail.

Speeches were given by Dianne Flook from CK Trails, by Ms. Drew Bowman, Mr. Bowman's granddaughter, by Mayor Darin Canniff, by Mr. Dave Epp, member of Federal Government and by Mr. Grant Bowman who shared with everyone how the trail was first developed. He also addressed the need to maintain the trail in years to come.

There was a tree planting, sign unveiling and many took the time to walk and enjoy the trail.



Park Bench



Grant Bowman, Lauren Anderson,
Wheatley Trails Committee Member
and Donna Matier



Mr. Grant Bowman



Above and right: New trees and flowering shrubs were planted long the trail.

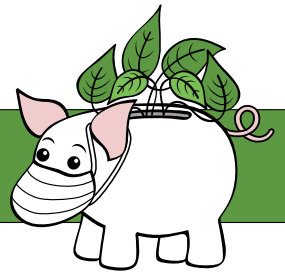
Except for centre top picture,
photos by Donna Matier



Bancroft Horticultural Society Fall Plant Sale September 10-13th, 2020

*By Kristena Schutt-Moore
Submitted by Kathleen Postance, President*

**OHA COVID
IDEA BANK**



Normally held at the Club 580 in Bancroft, the Bancroft and Area Horticultural Society's annual fall plant sale took on a new look this year due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Unfazed, the volunteers held the sale in two locations on society members' front lawns. In order to help promote physical and social distancing, tables were stretched out the length of the driveways so that customers could browse through the selection, but stay separated from each other and the volunteers.

This past spring, the Horticultural Society had planned to begin work on the garden in Millenium Park. Wendy Melanson, a volunteer with the society, said that the planned changes could cost the Horticultural Society \$3,000 to \$4,000. If Covid-19 restrictions allow, the plan is to make the changes to the garden and pathway next spring.

The plan is to upgrade the area around the marble bench in the middle of garden, increasing accessibility with a walkway between the bench and the garden. On either side of the walkway, shrubs will be planted to delineate the path and prevent damage to the garden by those who might walk off the path. The garden itself will hold flowers that are specific to this growing region that will help promote butterfly, bee and hummingbird populations.

The Bancroft and Area Horticultural Society take care of many area gardens. They spend many hours caring for the gardens at the Bancroft Post Office, Bancroft Hospital, Hastings Centennial Manor and several area parks.



Photo by Asna Black



Photo by Kristena Schutt-Moore

Wendy Melanson was one of the Bancroft and Area Horticultural Society Volunteers who were selling plants in their front yards for the society's annual fall plant sale. This year's sale was to raise funds for the Millenium Park garden.

Rosseau Community Garden Comes to Life

By Sarah Lehman

Photos by Linda Sellers



Rosseau Community Garden



Linda Sellers

2020 did not stop the Rosseau Horticultural Society (RHS) from bringing their dreams to life despite new challenges and setbacks (e.g., no traditional meetings or fundraising). The RHS was more determined than ever to share their purpose: to encourage and promote gardening and landscaping, to contribute to civic beauty, the preservation of the environment and the conservation of wild plants and animal life.

The most notable dream realized by the RHS this year was finishing the community garden that had been started in 2019. It was the brainchild of a RHS member and home veggie gardener and an enthusiastic group of RHS members ran with it. The path to completion was paved with the hard work, good nature and tenacity of volunteers.

We knew that if we were going to embark on such a project, it needed to be done well. To help understand what that meant, the RHS reached out to their neighbours at the Bracebridge Horticultural Society who had been down a similar path before and were very helpful in sharing their insights and suggestions for the project.

A plan was developed that called for building four raised garden beds (essential for the rocky terrain), a fence to keep the critters out (e.g., deer, bear), a gazebo for shade, a shed for storage and picnic tables for working and relaxing. A suitable spot was selected and readily approved by Seguin Township. The space was just a short walk away from other activities in the Village and adjacent to the RHS healing garden at the Rosseau Nursing Station.

A promotional live music event was held outdoors in the summer of 2019 (when we could still get together and sing and dance with reckless abandon). It was a huge success and generated real enthusiasm for the

project. The event's proceeds, together with generous donations from many sources, contributed greatly to covering the costs of building the community garden and other RHS initiatives.

Excitement for the project continued to grow as boxes for the raised beds were built on site by a team of volunteers, then filled with good soil and mulch at the end of the growing season in 2019. Gardeners signed up over last winter for available plots, needing only to become members of the RHS at a nominal cost to qualify. As the plots became useable in the Spring and gardeners began to 'get at it', everyone enjoyed seeing the different plantings, growing techniques and fun decorations selected.

As the community garden came to life, so did the landscaping of the surrounding area. Apple trees were added on a path leading to the adjacent healing garden. Bird houses, garden gnomes and other garden flair appeared. Milkweed, Bee Balm and Echinacea clumps also popped up as the area was transformed. Just wait until those butterflies appear next year!

With so many people pursuing outdoor activities this year, touring the Village of Rosseau on foot or simply enjoying a daily walk included visiting the community garden as a focal point for many.

The positive impact of the RHS was also evident elsewhere in Rosseau as it continued with its annual beautification project. Garden boxes were planted throughout the Village in the spring and maintained during the summer and into the fall, providing some wonderful floral displays.

Great support for these projects was provided by RHS members, community volunteers and Seguin Township staff. We are all truly thankful to have this group contributing to enhancing our community.

Thorndale and Area Horticultural Society

By Dian Chute

Photos by Nancy Abra

The Thorndale and Area would like to thank the OHA for our Tree Grant.

We had approached the Thorndale Lions Club about planting a tree at the Lions Pond at the Wye Creek Subdivision, a natural area with trees, shrubs and paths. The planting of a tree here was fully supported by the Lions and The Municipality of Thames Centre. Approval had been required as it would be planted on township property.

In September, we planted a Sugar Maple, an easy choice for the board since it is a native tree for our area.

Two of our board members live in the subdivision so their task was to determine where the tree would be planted. After that, we needed to decide who was going to plant it. Thames Centre did volunteer to do this for us but it was too big of a job for our Horticultural Society to take on. We contacted the tree company for their opinion and the cost to plant it for us. We went with the tree company to do the planting for a number of reasons: they guarantee the tree, they make arrangements for cable locating and, most importantly, they have the equipment to plant a 10-foot tree that weighed 250 lbs. Having the tree company plant the tree would encourage other Horticultural Societies contemplating planting a tree to seriously consider this option. The other item that the tree company did for us was buy and install a barrier around the tree. We have beavers in the pond who have destroyed many of the trees that have been planted near the pond. We contacted the Upper Thames Conservation Authority for some direction on this issue. This was their response:

The UTCA have wrapped 100's of trees in London, using a wire fencing from Home Depot. It's Peak Products, galvanized utility fence with a spacing of 2" x 4" at 36" wide. They come in 50' rolls at Home Depot for \$69.99.

We did purchase a roll of the wire and the remaining wire is in our Horticultural Society's inventory and has been offered to anyone planting a tree in that area.

A few of us came out to watch the planting of the tree; we had our pictures taken for the local newspaper. A student from the local school came and watched the entire process. He was interested so we hope he is a future gardener/horticulturist.



Present for the tree planting: Shirley Hacon, Dian Chute, Barb Krasnicki, Jackie Malleck and Marylou Bontje.

Amherstburg Fort Malden Horticultural Society

Linda Jackson, President

Photos by Larry Amlin and Donald McCarther

Signature Garden at Community Hub

The Town's Director of Parks approached the Amherstburg Fort Malden Horticultural Society in December of 2019 to take on the challenge of designing, purchasing material and creating a garden at our new Community Hub in Amherstburg. We were given 'carte blanche' and saw it as a great opportunity to showcase our skills and give back to the Community we've served for 114 years.

Unfortunately, Covid-19 dashed our hopes of a spring planting and eliminated our usual revenue sources. As the budget evolved, it became apparent that the Garden would cost approximately \$7,000.00.

At that time, there was grant funding for non-profit organizations through the Amherstburg Community Foundation called 'Believe in Amherstburg'. We applied and were successful in obtaining a \$5,000.00 grant from the ACF.

We were on our way!

The project, facing south, runs the length of the front of the building, approximately 1,375 square feet. We felt a total of 300 perennials with 41 species would create a welcoming and harmonious effect.

The plan included:

- A Pollinator Garden at the main entrance
- Carolinian species such as Amelanchier and other native species wherever possible.
- A mix of specimen bushes, standards, evergreens, anchors, and perennials satisfied our goal for a succession of blooms and interest.

The project began on Saturday, September 26th and 160 hours later, saw the culmination of our journey to design, create and execute our "Signature Garden". 18 volunteers turned out to finish the task we had taken on.

The synergies of our new Community Hub are amazing. From seniors to youth and all in between, our goal is to encourage



New Signature Garden



Our challenge



Planning stage



Rototilling, soil amendments and some good dirt to make us smile



Taking shape and ready for planting, September 26, 2020



Some of the 18 volunteers

people to find ways to nurture our environment and create gardens of their own, particularly pollinator gardens. We believe, by creating a diverse garden, we will tempt others to follow. We hope to spread the news that bees, butterflies and birds are integral to our survival.

Monday Night gardening will see us transplanting, pruning, trimming and urging people to come out, watch and ask questions.

"Volunteerism is a work of Heart" and a lot of heart, not to mention 'sweat equity', went into our new Signature Garden.



Planting Day

A YEARLY TRADITION "DECKING THE PLANTERS"

Linda Jackson, President

Photos by Larry Amlin and Gloria Price



November 7th, found the Amherstburg Fort Malden Horticultural Society out on the streets of our beautiful Town. The day was warm and sunny, a definite contrast to last year when pickaxes were needed to loosen the soil.

For a month, we had been gathering plant material 'over hill and over dale' so to speak. Planning was done and our caravan was on the move. Approximately 60 Town planters were decorated that day with 21 volunteers participating. At lunchtime, we gathered at the Community Hub to share a bag lunch, then off again to finish our task.



Hope you enjoy the pictures.

*"Happy Holidays"
to all the Societies who
make up the OHA.
Please enjoy, stay safe
and take care.*

Fenelon Falls Horticultural Society

Kathy Armstrong, President

Fenelon Falls Horticultural Society began its second century exactly as it began its first: postponed by a pandemic. The founding meeting of 1918 had to be delayed until 1919 due to influenza but we kept going.

Even though we couldn't meet in person this year, a lot was accomplished in the gardens while practising social distancing guidelines. As well as maintaining our current gardens and growing vegetables in the Victory Garden for the food bank, new projects were undertaken.

Several grants (from Kawartha Conservation, City of Kawartha Lakes and others) enabled the creation of a **rain garden** in 2018 and a large expansion this year. Previously, stormwater rushed down the street across a boggy area into the canal between Cameron and Sturgeon Lakes on the Trent-Severn Waterway. This boggy area became the rain garden to filter stormwater. The area was excavated, filled with sand, top soil, river rock and native shrubs to absorb the stormwater. Native plants include red osier dogwood, snowberry, high bush cranberry, big blue stem grass, asters, hyssop, echinacea and rudbeckia.

A 450-seat outdoor **amphitheatre** is being built in Fenelon Falls and the horticultural society was asked for advice on how to enhance the tree canopy to keep the setting secluded in a grove of trees. We embraced this request enthusiastically and a substantial grant allowed us to dream big. Plans were drawn up for each area: backstage, seating area, entrance and parking.

Immediately backstage, there are high bush cranberry, purple sandcherry, nannyberry and ninebark. Further back we have linden, ginkgo, Rinki columnar crabapple, sugar maple, Autumn Blaze maple, Kentucky coffee, white spruce, white pine, basswood, beech and trembling aspen.

The sloping sides of the seating area are planted with smokebush, cranberry, northern bush honeysuckle, Firefly Nightglow honeysuckle, Coppertina ninebark and hedging cedar.

The entranceway includes blue spruce, pagoda dogwood, linden, Royal Raindrops flowering crabapple, purple sandcherry, meadow rose and snowberry.

The parking area now has a row of red-osier dogwood, serviceberry, elderberry including common, black lace, black tower and golden to demarcate the swale running along one side. We are excited to see how this huge planting will fill out in future years. We will continue with more planting next year adding perennials (mainly natives) and more trees.

We received an anonymous donation to plant **trees** in Fenelon and used this money to replace the dead trees along Lock 34 on the Trent-Severn Waterway. It is the centre of our village and a focal point for visitors watching



Rain Garden

Photo by Dan Burnie



Amphitheatre

Photo by Kathy Armstrong

boats going through the lock. Here we planted 3 common hackberry and are hoping they live up to their reputation of 'one tough tree'. We also planted 2 Royal Raindrops crabapples and a sugar maple.

Hanging baskets of cascade geraniums decorated the downtown all summer. The baskets were cleaned out, cuttings taken and then filled with greenery and sumac and rehung for the holiday season. As well, we planted hundreds of daffodils, grape hyacinths and alliums to add a burst of colour in the spring. Every fall, we do a walk about and examine the gardens noting what adjustments should be made for next year. Plans are well under way for next year's gardening season with some new ways once again to enhance the beauty of Fenelon Falls.



Hanging Baskets

Photo by Dan Burnie

Horticultural Therapy and Psychological Benefits of Gardening

By Elsie Eubank, Haldimand Horticultural Society

Haldimand Horticultural Society members know from experience that gardening is good for the soul.

Why I love gardening. It keeps me grounded. Something about digging in the dirt, it's a connection to nature and very rewarding and calming to see beautiful plants growing and the wildlife that comes to visit them like the butterflies, bees, birds, etc. It's amazing the variety of wildlife that will come to your garden. The rewards of growing your own healthy fruits and vegetables keeps you happy and healthy.

Gardening can be an escape from other people and calming when you need that distraction from the hectic world around you. Just being in the garden with all the nature around you.

Simply having plants in your home or at the office can reduce stress and make you feel more energized. They are beautiful and calming to look at. Gardening and caring for plants have been proven to be beneficial in relieving anxiety and depression.

Gardening and its rewards can benefit everyone as well as helping to relieve anxiety and stress. It can help keep you more limber as you are active and stretching as you work in the garden. It helps to improve your mood and take your mind off other troubling thoughts. It provides a way to relax and connect with nature. We all have a need to have green space and a connection with nature.

Your mental and emotional wellbeing get a boost from a walk through a garden.

Gardening makes you feel happy. Getting your hands dirty in the garden can increase your serotonin levels. According to research, there is a natural anti-depressant *Mycobacterium Vaccae* in the soil that triggers the release of serotonin in our brain. Serotonin is a happy chemical that is a natural anti-depressant and strengthens the immune system.

Research has also shown that gardeners generally have greater life satisfaction, enhanced self-esteem and fewer feelings of depression and fatigue than non-gardeners.

PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL BENEFITS OF PLANTS AND GARDENING

- Boosts air quality with indoor plants that help clean the air
- Promotes exercise working in the garden
- Healthy eating growing your own veggies
- Decreases risk of illness
- Improves mood
- Relieves stress and anxiety
- Promotes longer attention span
- Boosts self-esteem

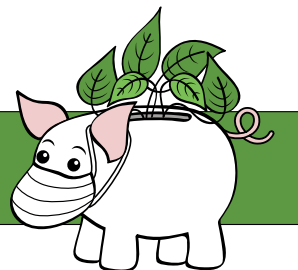
BEST INDOOR PLANTS TO KEEP IN HOME OR OFFICE TO RELIEVE STRESS

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| • Basil | • Chamomile |
| • Jasmine | • Areca Palm |
| • Aloe Vera | • Peppermint |
| • Snake plant | • English Ivy |
| • Lavender | • Chrysanthemum |

Brockville & District Horticultural Society

Submitted by Danielle Laurier, President

**OHA COVID
IDEA BANK**



We ran our first on-line AGM and here's what we learned:

The Brockville & District Horticultural Society has been adapting to the 'new normal' in all sorts of ways since the start of the pandemic. The Society used the Annual General Meeting to test the migration to virtual meetings for next year in light of the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions. And we're pleased to say we pulled it off! We were thrilled that almost 25 of our most dedicated members showed up virtually to support us. Attendance at an in-person AGM is higher but that includes a number of spouses and guests who may or may not be members.

The annual meeting was held on November 23 via Zoom link/invitation that was sent with the accompanying documents that members would need for voting. We used Zoom's built-in "polling" feature for voting on motions. The formal part of the meeting lasted about a half an hour. Our D3 Director Sue Carew, conveyed greetings on behalf of the OHA and presided over our elections. Following that, we adjourned, showed a 9-minute photo review of 2020, presented awards and ended with a "show & tell" of member videos and a slideshow of our photo competition. The meeting lasted from 7-8:30 p.m.

Hosting our AGM online was a quick learning curve. So we wanted to share some of our top tips and tricks for other societies and garden clubs who find themselves in the same situation. We are by no means the experts, but we hope our experience can make the process a little easier for someone else.

1. Choose an accessible platform

Make sure all your members can access your online meeting: not everyone is used to working and living remotely. We chose to use Zoom because it lets people call in on the phone if they don't have access to a computer. It also doesn't require individuals to create an account or username to take part. Once you've chosen your platform, make sure you understand it. Check the default settings and security features for your meetings.

2. Set your meeting up for success

A few options to consider are:

- Running a meeting vs. a webinar – meetings allow for more interaction, while webinars have a more formal feel. We opted for a more informal meeting.
- Attendee video and sound – it can be great to see everyone on the screen, but hearing background noise can be a distraction. We chose to automatically mute and turn off the video of everyone who joined the call.
- Voting – As mentioned above, we chose the poll function in Zoom, which was quick and straightforward to use.

3. Create clear roles for your team

AGMs have lots of moving parts. There's various speakers, official business, votes, and often updates from the Board and District too. If we ever need to host another complex meeting like this one, we will certainly revisit how to assign clear roles to our key members running the show, so that presenters can stay focused on communicating with the audience.

Some of the key roles to consider are:

- **Presenter** – We had 4 presenters. In future, we will ensure that all material is included in the main presentation — i.e., no switching back and forth from presenter to presenter.
- **Slide Advancer** – Assign someone to navigate the slideshow and one person to share any other documents. This means presenters won't be distracted by technical issues.
- **Poll/Motion Manager** – If you have votes that need to take place in your AGM, make sure someone is assigned to manage the polls. They will share polls with attendees and communicate to the presenters when motions have been passed. Again, this stops the Chair having to deal with the technical side of things.
- **Chat Manager** – Assign someone to keep an eye on the chat function. Attendees will often use the chat to ask for technical support, or ask questions for presenters in the chat.

Some of these roles can be done by the same person.

4. Communicate clearly

Navigating life online is new to all of us. Make sure you communicate clearly with all your attendees before, during, and after your AGM. That could include:

- Clear emails to attendees beforehand that contain an agenda, instructions on how to access the meeting and contact details in case anyone needs support.
- Computer skills and default settings vary -- make sure to provide back-up methods of logging in just in case someone uses plain text for their e-mails and the Zoom link won't work.
- Create a slideshow and share the screen with all attendees. Initial slides could include housekeeping items (like muting microphones), the agenda, and motions.
- After the AGM, follow up with an email and links to more information, in case some attendees missed things. Our meeting was recorded on YouTube and we sent everyone a link afterwards in case those who missed the AGM were interested in seeing it.

5. Practice, practice, practice

We found the key to our success was practice! Get together (virtually) with everyone who will play a key role in the AGM. Run through the AGM from start to finish, as if you were delivering it for real.

This took some time, but it was invaluable. Our practice runs threw up lots of questions and issues about the technical side of running an online AGM. We were able to do some troubleshooting and worked out the best way to approach things like voting, questions, and presentations. On the day, there were still glitches but things ran far more smoothly!

6. Accept it won't be perfect!

Finally, remember that we are still living through a crazy, difficult, unprecedented global pandemic. No one expects your online AGM to be perfect. Instead, members want to show they support you, find out how business can be conducted during Covid-19, and understand how they can help. Things can always go wrong in the online world, and most people will understand.

We hope these tips will help you have a successful virtual AGM too! I've attached the YouTube link in case anyone is interested in having a look. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zh54iudAa6l&feature=youtu.be>

Insurance Queries?

Contact:

Shawn LaPalm

Non-Profit & Charity Insurance

The Co-operators

1-888-712-2667

shawn_lapalm@cooperators.ca

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

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



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Ontario Horticultural Association In Memoriam Book

Donor's Name and Address: _____

_____ Postal Code: _____

Name of Deceased: _____ Year Deceased: _____

District No. (if applicable): _____

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

Circle title: Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss Other

Name and Address: _____

_____ Postal Code: _____

Relationship to Deceased Person: _____

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

Ontario Horticultural Association

c/o Marilyn Cox

86 Church Street

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

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

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

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

Circle your preference: Yes No

Convention Acknowledgment

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

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



Hello from OHA Past President

Photos by Rose Odell, Past President, Ontario Horticultural Association



A few photos of my amaryllis which are so lovely this year. The deepest red – the blooms are larger than my hand. They both have 2 flower stems and the first of each, both had 5 blooms.

Greetings everyone

I truly hope everyone has managed to stay safe through this year that has been unlike anything that we have ever had to endure.

I have seen in posts on Facebook how ingenious so many of you have been with staging your plant sales, gardening, virtual meetings, workshops, updates, competitions, garden tours and making new spaces in your communities a new local landmark.

Bravo to all of you. It makes me feel proud to be a part of this team.

Please remember that there are grants and awards to highlight many of these accomplishments that can be given to individuals who led the way or communities who helped make these successes happen. It only works with a team effort, but it takes a special person to come up with the idea to begin with.

This is a special time of year coming up that we are usually digging out a favorite recipe to share at a pot-luck dinner with our gardening friends. Perhaps you could share these recipes on the Facebook page of Garden Ontario and as we make these recipes in our homes, we can think of the fun times we will share again

in the future. And maybe when these dishes are made, they could be shared with someone in your community that has been shut in, or just a friend as a way to say "Hello, I am thinking of you." It is a depressing time for so many and just the simplest gesture can make someone's day.

Now you have dug up your bulbs, and planted spring bulbs, put your gardens to bed and mowed the grass one last time to mulch the leaves on top to add nutrients. The next thing we get into is to start browsing through the seed catalogues and planning what we would like to grow and/or add to our space for next year.

I also really enjoy growing Amaryllis this time of year to bring some colour and joy into my home. I am sharing some photos of what mine are like this year.

Sending all of you wishes for great plans for the coming season. Stay safe so we can meet again in the New Year. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, with warm wishes,

Rose Odell

Past President, Ontario Horticultural Association