

# KEEPING ONTARIO BEAUTIFUL®

A Year in Review

Corporate Report 2022

Garden Ontario®



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## THE ONTARIO HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

**OUR VISION:** *To be recognized as the primary gardening and horticultural Association by inspiring, educating and supporting gardeners and affiliated Societies/Clubs.*

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

**GOAL:** Provide recognition, awards and grants throughout Ontario.

**GOAL:** Develop and support programs for all ages encouraging gardening, community beautification, environmental enhancement and conservation.

**GOAL:** Provide resources for horticultural societies.

**GOAL:** Encourage the development of new horticultural societies.

The Ontario Horticultural Association depends on the support of its members and charitable donations to carry out its work. You are encouraged to support the OHA as a volunteer by joining an affiliated Horticultural Society/Garden Club or by making a charitable donation.

### **Societies/Clubs Are Keeping Ontario Beautiful™**

There are 264 affiliated Horticultural Societies/Clubs in Ontario hard at work *Keeping Ontario Beautiful™*. The projects include a wide variety of activities like beautifying local parks, planting boxes in downtown areas and creating and maintaining public gardens around government buildings, hospitals, health and hospice centres.



# 2022 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The year 2022 saw the challenges to the OHA related to the COVID pandemic lessen. Societies/Clubs and their memberships are getting use to the new technologies that are available and are adapting well to the “new normal” with how they hold their meetings and events.

In comparison to the year 2021, the OHA has weathered the adverse effects well. I am pleased to report that (1) membership numbers have started to climb., (2) Societies/Clubs are becoming more engaged with events and activities to beautify their respective communities, (3) the Societies/Clubs are on much better financial settings, (4) the number of volunteer hours contributed by Society/Club memberships and the OHA Board and OHA Officers has increased over last year's numbers. Combining, these improvements on the four (4) areas noted and other advances the Societies/Clubs, the Districts and the Association have made the OHA as a whole a stronger organization.

1. During 2022, membership numbers were up approximately 10% due to many people becoming comfortable with in-person contact situations at meetings and events, adapting to the technological changes which occurred and the influx of new members who bring with them the skills and knowledge to assist other members who may be experiencing technology issues (\*).

*\* What is important to note is that those people responsible for the increased numbers are, by in large, new to the Societies/Clubs although we are seeing a return by previous members who are becoming more comfortable with the “new normal”*

2. In 2022, reported activities such as in-person meetings, hybrid meetings and publicly centered activities were above the totals reported for the year 2021. This has positively affected many communities and Society/Club projects. The maintenance of gardens within communities, the creation of new gardens and the creation and maintenance of Community Gardens are all rejuvenating horticulture across the province.



3. As its own entity, the OHA has no external income resource other than membership fees from Societies'/Clubs' members and any self-generated events. It does not receive any financial assistance from any outside or government source. With the increase in membership numbers, the OHA has seen an increase in its income however this income was not such that it could be applied across the province to Societies/Clubs as a means of financial assistance (\*\*). With assistance from Ontario Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) through their various programs Societies/Clubs were able to maintain their financial viability and with the increases in membership fees collected and the onset of in-person fund raising events such as public plant sales the financial outlook is much improved.

*\*\* The OHA has increased the number of Grants and increased Grant funding available to Societies/Clubs for community improvement. The funding is being supported by the new GardenOntario 50/50 draw which sees all funds put back into these and other OHA initiatives.*

4. Volunteer time (\*\*\*) by the general membership of the Societies/Clubs as well as the OHA Board and the OHA Officers has always been of great assistance to Societies/Clubs, the OHA and the communities of the province of Ontario. The work done, especially in the communities contributes to community pride, physical and mental wellbeing, tourism and assists municipal governments with their budgeting in the area of garden maintenance and community beautification. In 2022, the number of hours donated across the OHA has increased and as a result, community work is being done and the communities are reaping the benefits.

*\*\*\*Reported volunteer hours are up from the totals reported for the year 2021 by approximately 20%.*

As predicted for 2022, the OHA and the Societies/Clubs grew as organizations as they experienced more contact with the public, had more of an effect upon the communities we all serve and become as strong as or stronger than they were prior to them experiencing the effects of the COVID pandemic.

Take care; Stay safe

Charles Freeman, President  
Ontario Horticultural Association 2021-2023



# EXECUTIVE AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2022

The President and Vice Presidents are elected by the voting delegates at the Annual General Meeting. The Secretary and Treasurer are hired by the board. The Past President remains on the board for one year.

## Officers

NAME		POSITION
Charles Freeman		President
Sharlene Desjardins		Vice President
Vicky Culbert		2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President
Kelly Taylor		Secretary
Marian Heil		Treasurer
Katharine Smyth	Past President/Past Presidents' Council Representative	
Catherine McGill	South/West Regional Representative	
Sandra Mazur	North/East Regional Representative	



Left to Right: Catherine McGill, Marian Heil, Katharine Smyth, Sharlene Desjardins, Charles Freeman, Vicky Culbert, Kelly Taylor, Sandra Mazur





# OHA DISTRICT ORGANIZATION

The Province is divided into Districts as follows:

1. Dundas, Glengarry, Prescott, Russell, Stormont, the eastern portion of the city of Ottawa composed of the former municipalities of Gloucester and Cumberland and the municipality of North Grenville.
2. Lanark, Renfrew and the portion of the city of Ottawa excluding the former municipalities of Gloucester and Cumberland.
3. Frontenac, Hastings, Leeds and Grenville except the municipality of North Grenville, Lennox and Addington, Prince Edward
4. Haliburton, Kawartha Lakes, Northumberland, Peterborough,
5. Toronto East of Yonge Street, and York East of York Road No. 1 except Georgina East of Park Road
6. Brant, Halton, Hamilton, Norfolk and that portion of Haldimand known as Ward 1, Ward 2, Ward 3 and Ward 4.
7. Dufferin, Wellington
8. Bruce, Grey, Huron
9. Haldimand except Wards 1 & 2 & 3 & 4, Niagara
10. Elgin, Middlesex, Oxford, Perth and that portion of Lambton that is Lambton Shores
11. Chatham-Kent, Essex, Lambton, except for Lambton Shores
12. Territorial District of Cochrane, Territorial District of Timiskaming
13. Territorial District of Algoma, Territorial District of Manitoulin, Territorial District of Sudbury
14. Territorial District of Kenora, Territorial District of Rainy River, Territorial District of Thunder Bay
15. Peel, York west of Road No.1, Toronto west of Yonge Street
16. Simcoe
17. Durham and the portion of York that includes Georgina east of Park Road
18. Territorial District of Parry Sound, Territorial District of Muskoka, Territorial District of Nipissing
19. Waterloo

The Director of each District is elected by the affiliated Societies/Clubs of that District at a District Annual Meeting.





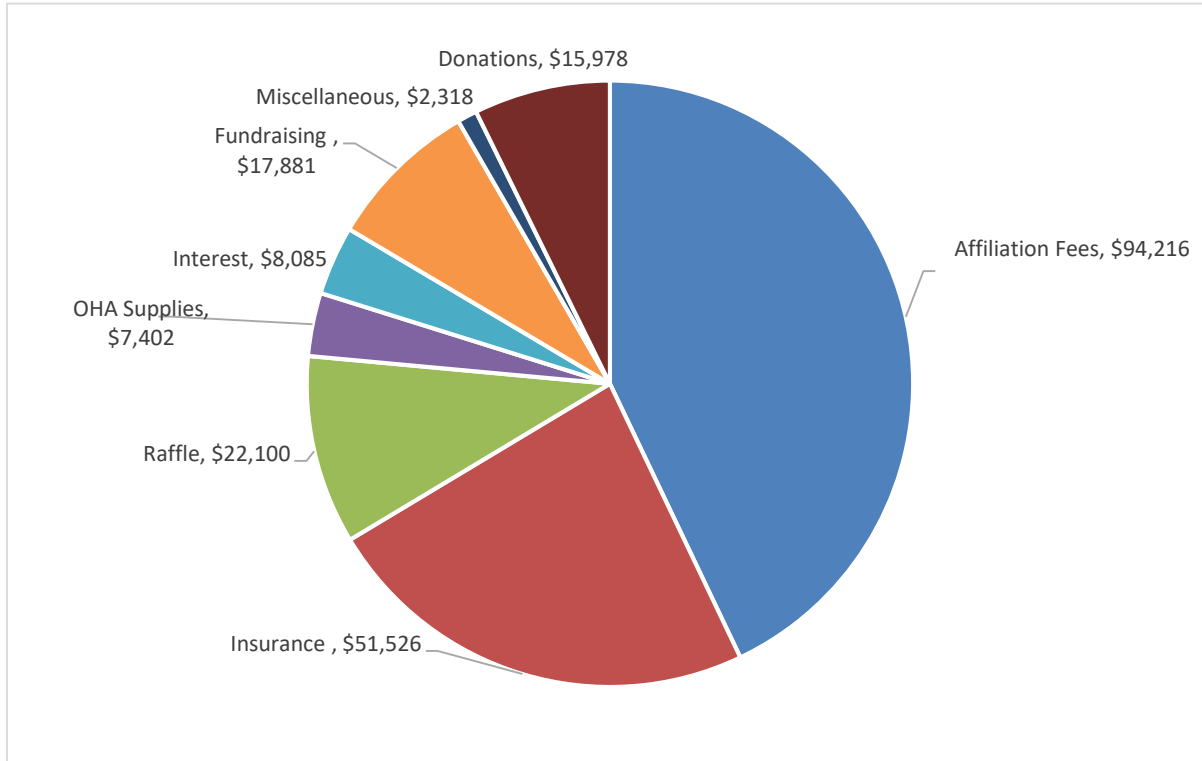
## District Directors

NAME	DISTRICT	NAME	DISTRICT
Susan Ramsay	1	Sandra Rammelaere	11
Anne Harbord	2	Rene Roy	12
Brad King	3	Denise Berg	13
Patty Carlson	4	Sandra Mazur	14
	5	Barb O'Malley	15
Lianne Krane	6	Barbara Collinson	16
Kathy Bouma	7	Debi Foster	17
Karen Redmond	8	Nancy Thompson	18
Leslie Daniels	9	Kathy Pearson	19
Dian Chute	10		

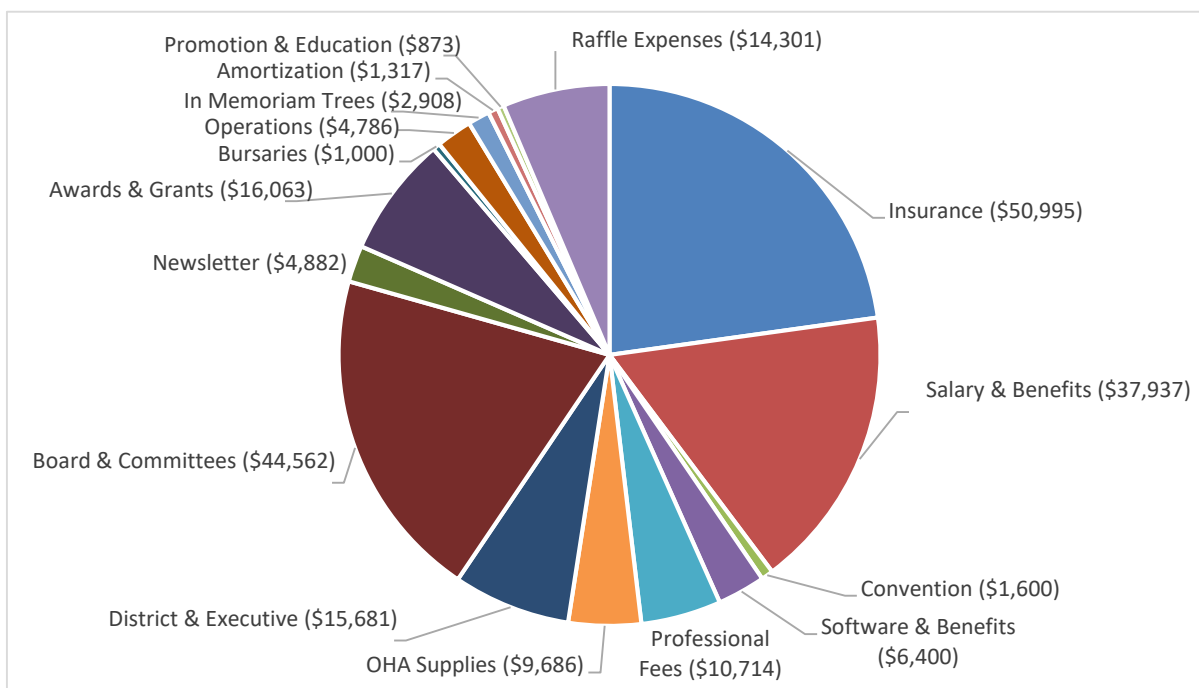


# THE FINANCIAL PICTURE - 2022

## 2022 OHA Revenue



## 2022 OHA Expenditures



# VOLUNTEER HOURS

Through our local affiliated Societies/Clubs, the OHA is active across Ontario improving urban and rural landscapes, giving seniors' residences a hand with gardening, planting roadsides with wildflowers, planting trees and shrubs - the list of OHA activities is unlimited.

Volunteers are the backbone of everything we do. Joining our organization gives you the opportunity to meet new people, create friendships, develop new skills and share your love of gardening.

In 2022, 264 affiliated Societies/Clubs, District Executives and the OHA Board of Directors recorded 406,497 volunteer hours in community service across Ontario. This is an increase from 2021 of 106,819 volunteer hours. This is an amazing achievement and shows the commitment and dedication of all members of the OHA, even in the continued pandemic!

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# BURSARIES



The OHA continues to provide two annual bursaries of \$1,000, awarded on the basis of financial need, to a second or third year student attending Lakehead University (Ontario Horticultural Association Bursary) studying Forestry, Biodiversity & Conservation, Plant Sciences, Botany, Biochemistry or Environmental Management and to a continuing student at the University of Guelph (Ontario Horticultural Association Scholarship) concentrating their studies in Horticulture Science.

Districts and Societies/Clubs have also continued tremendous support to students with over \$51,000 provided in grants and bursaries in 2022.





# OHA BURSARIES REACHING THOSE IN NEED



THANK YOU

MIIGWECH ありがとう  
GRACIAS  
MERCI  
GRAZIE  
DZIEKUJE  
TAK  
OBRIGADO  
KIITO

## Ontario Horticultural Association Bursary

**A note of gratitude from your 2022–2023 Student Bursary Recipient**

*I would like to personally thank you for this donation.*

*As a full-time mature student with mental health disabilities, funding post-secondary education can be a difficult task. While having to balance work, mental health and full-time studies, I often find myself having to choose between finishing assignments, taking care of myself, or working to pay the bills. This bursary will help to lighten the load and take the stress off so that I can take the time I need to focus on learning.*

*I am a third year Environmental Sustainability student and I have a love for food, horticulture, and sustainability. My journey began as part of the ground's maintenance team at a private golf club in Mississauga. After my first year, I was appointed the head gardener where I took sole responsibility for the maintenance of over 30 gardens on the course while under limited direction of the off-site horticultural consultant.*

*From there I attended college for Food and Nutrition Management, where I developed an understanding of nutrition and food insecurity. I joined Garden Girls and volunteered at a community garden. Since embarking on my university journey, a curiosity emerged that combined my gardening and food experiences with an interest in sustainability.*

*I am currently working on my senior undergraduate thesis comparing the effects of conventional and organic agriculture on soil characteristics. Additionally, I am looking to determine if it is financially possible for growers to switch to a more sustainable approach to crop cultivation. I hope to one day help people become autonomous in their food decisions by growing their own food sustainably.*

*I choose to attend Lakehead because of the program offered and proximity to my home. It was the best decision I've ever made!*

*Again, thank you for your donation. It is because of generous donors like yourselves that I can be financially stable while pursuing a post-secondary education.*

*Sincerely,  
Robbin Fendley*

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# OHA PARTNERSHIPS

The OHA is working in partnership with the following organizations:

- Bee City Canada
- Garden Clubs of Ontario
- Landscape Ontario
- Lee Valley
- Ontario Gardener Magazine
- Ontario Invasive Plant Council
- Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
- University of Guelph Arboretum
- W. H. Perron



## OHA OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Outreach programs, through their directors and members, maintain contact with organizations and events in Ontario. OHA representatives attend events or serve on the boards of other organizations.

- **Ontario Invasive Plant Council**
- **Western Fair District**
- **Canadian National Exhibition (CNE)**
- **DISTRICT 1**
  - International Plowing Match – Kemptville
- **DISTRICT 5**
  - Canada Blooms, Toronto (cancelled for 2022)
  - Get the Jump on Spring, Toronto Botanical Garden, Toronto (cancelled for 2022)
- **DISTRICT 6**
  - Zoomer's Show
  - Hamilton Gage Park Mum Show, Hamilton
  - Royal Botanical Gardens Plant Fair, Burlington (cancelled for 2022)
  - Haldimand Seedy Saturday Event



# ONTARIO HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION SOCIETIES & CLUBS BENEFITING FROM THE GARDENONTARIO 50/50 RAFFLES



**GardenOntario®**  
KEEPING ONTARIO BEAUTIFUL™



***Did you know that our OHA 50/50 Raffle is actually enriching our communities one worthy cause at a time?***

The OHA believes gardening is a way to preserve and restore the natural environment which helps create quality of life that is accessible and sustainable for all communities. Our organization has been in existence since 1906 and is an integral part of this province's cultural fabric beautifying towns and cities with blooms and gardens and supporting our membership along the way of this 100 plus year journey.

*Funds raised by this raffle support our mandate to Keep Ontario Beautiful®. It also offers education for youth and adult members, environmental programs, awards and grants assisting with pollinators, tree planting and community beautification.*

We believe this is an amazing opportunity for the OHA to be able to offer so many benefits to our members without effort by our Societies/Clubs. This is not only your opportunity to support our membership, but also to have a chance at winning the jackpot!

***Buy A Ticket For Your Chance to Win it Big!***

In our first year, we paid out over **\$11,912.25** in grants to our Societies/Clubs. Even if you decide you do not want to purchase a ticket, which offers you a chance at winning, you can still support this draw by just sharing it on social media or by promoting it whenever you have the opportunity.



**GardenOntario®**



# OHA AWARDS & GRANTS PROGRAM

The OHA believes that members who provide the leadership and active participation which result in promoting the aims of and work done by the Horticultural Societies/Clubs, the Districts and the OHA should be recognized and rewarded.

The OHA has a long-standing history of recognizing its affiliated Society/Club members with the first award to Societies and/or individuals (Award of Merit), which was announced at the 1932 OHA Convention, held at the King Edward Hotel in Toronto and was awarded to Mr. H. H. Groff from Simcoe.

A number of awards have been made available by the Association in appreciation of outstanding services in its long history. The OHA has updated its Awards and Grants Program over the years based on feedback from its affiliated Societies/Clubs across Ontario. The OHA also provides a variety of grants to its Affiliated Society/Clubs for projects that will have a long-lasting benefit to the society or community.

## OHA AWARDS (Awarded in 2022)

For full award descriptions and eligibility requirements, please visit Awards & Grants on the [www.gardenontario.org](http://www.gardenontario.org) website.

### Community Improvement Award

This is a plaque which may be presented to an individual, organization or company that, in the estimation of the OHA Awards Committee, has enhanced the beauty of the landscape and/or added to the quality of life of a community with a horticultural project.

- Wheatley HS, District 11
- Town of Petawawa, Parks & Recreation Department, nominated by Petawawa HS, D2

### Youth Leader Award

This is a plaque which may be presented to a person who has been a Youth Program Leader for a minimum of 5 years and is a member of an eligible affiliated Society/Club.

- Helen Stephenson, Oakville HS, District 6

### Environmental Award

This award is a plaque which may be presented to an individual, organization, municipality, company, school or other educational establishment that, in the estimation of the Awards Committee, has made a significant contribution to environmental preservation.

- Tilbury & District, District 11



## Honour Roll

The Honour Roll may be presented to a member of an eligible affiliated Society/Club with at least 5 years of service to one or more Societies/Clubs and have made a contribution of horticultural service to the community, District and/or Association.

- Joyce Schlegel, District 10
- Marie Decker, District 6
- Elaine Metzger, District 2

## Technical Advancement Recognition

This recognition is a framed special achievement certificate and is given to an eligible affiliated Society/Club or District in recognition of their demonstrated drive and determination to fulfil their mandate by using a virtual platform to remain engaged with their Society/Club or District members.

- District 6
- Markham HS, District 5
- Manotick HS, District 2
- Pelham HS, District 9
- Kingston HS – District 3
- Thorold HS, District 9
- Peterborough HS, District 4
- Galt HS, District 19
- East Gwillimbury, District 5



## Award of Merit

This award is a framed certificate and is given to a member for notable contributions to the programs of the Association, District or a Society/Club with 5 or more years of active membership in an eligible affiliated Society/Club, contribution to a special beautification project(s), who has outstanding work in the science or art of horticulture, in organizing shows, floral design, horticultural exhibits or horticulture /floral design photography, in judging shows or training judges.

- Cindy Zorgel, District 2
- Elizabeth Schleicher, District 6

*The OHA believes that members who show strong leadership and active participation within a Society/Club should be recognized. Check out the latest copy of the [Awards + Grants Booklet](#) to see how you can recognize someone too!*



## Trillium/Silver Fir Award

The Trillium award is a silver brooch in the shape of a trillium. The award was initially donated by Thelma Boucher who was the OHA President in 1941. The Silver Fir Award is a silver lapel pin that was initiated by Alastair Crawford. The Trillium/Silver Fir Awards will be accompanied by a framed certificate. This award may be given to a member of an eligible affiliated Society/Club for outstanding service to Horticultural Societies/Clubs and/or the OHA for an extended period, involvement giving outstanding service in the areas of beautification, conservation, ecology, administration, etc. at the Society/Club, District, and/or Association level, activities within or hosted by a Society/Club, District and/or the Association.

- Kathryn Lindsay, District 2
- Catherine Kavassalis, District 6

## Silver Medal

The OHA Silver Medal, with its associated framed certificate, is the highest award of the Association. The award may be given to a member of an eligible affiliated Society/Club for outstanding work in the advancement of horticulture in accordance with the Mission and Goals of the Association, meritorious service to beautification, conservation, or ecological work on a District or Provincial basis.

- Brian Carson, District 2

## OHA GRANTS (Granted in 2022)

For full grant descriptions and eligibility requirements, please visit Awards & Grants on the [www.gardenontario.org](http://www.gardenontario.org) website.

## Tree Grants

Starting January 1st each year, the OHA distributes to a maximum of \$300 each for the planting of a tree or trees to eligible affiliated Societies/Clubs on public land.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| • Cornwall and District HS, District 1 | • Haldimand HS, District 6               |
| • Williamstown HS, District 1          | • Kincardine and District HS, District 8 |
| • Petawawa HS, District 2              | • Ambassador LaSalle HS, District 11     |
| • Land O' Lakes HS, District 3         | • Greater Windsor HS, District 11        |
| • Stirling & District HS, District 3   | • Wheatley HS, District 11               |
| • Trenton HS, District 3               | • St. Joseph Island HS, District 13      |
| • Peterborough HS, District 4          | • Schomberg HS, District 15              |
| • Markham Garden & HS, District 5      | • Bracebridge HS, District 18            |
| • Delhi & District HS, District 6      |  |





## Special Project Grants

The OHA will provide grants to a maximum of \$1000 each for each project to eligible affiliated Societies/Clubs to create projects that are of a long-lasting benefit to the society or community.

- Deep River HS, District 2
- Stratford HS, District 10
- Pembroke HS, District 2
- Wilmot HS, District 19
- Land O' Lakes HS, District 3

## Community Garden Grants

The OHA encourages its member Societies/Clubs to create or contribute to community gardens whether urban or rural. The OHA will award grants up to a maximum of \$500 each to eligible affiliated Societies/Clubs to assist in the funding of a new community garden or the upgrading of an existing community garden.

- Petawawa HS, District 2
- Peterborough HS, District 4
- Tweed & District HS, District 3
- Beeton HS, District 16

## Pollinator Project Grants

The OHA will provide grants up to a maximum of \$200 each, to eligible affiliated Societies/Clubs, to create habitat in the form of pollinator friendly gardens or nesting sites on public land.

- Eganville HS, District 2
- Collingwood HS, District 16
- Petawawa HS, District 2
- Ayr HS, District 19
- Stoney Creek & District HS, D6
- Galt HS, District 19
- Ambassador LaSalle HS, District 11
- Schomberg HS, District 15



## Seedy Saturday/Sunday Grants

The OHA will provide grants up to a maximum of \$250 each, to eligible affiliated Societies/Clubs, to organize a first-time Seedy Saturday/Sunday Event in their community.

- West Carleton GC & HS, District 2
- Elora & Salem HS, District 7
- Peterborough HS, District 4
- Markdale & District HS, District 8
- Haldimand HS, District 6
- Essex & District HS, District 11
- Beaverton HS, District 17

## Technical Advancement Grants

The OHA will provide grants up to a maximum of \$250 each, to eligible affiliated Societies/Clubs to purchase a new license/subscription to an online web conferencing platform or for the purchase of equipment (i.e. laptop, projector or microphone system) for use in engaging their members to see and hear speakers and presentations, enter online competitions and contests, and hold/attend a virtual Annual General Meeting.

- Martintown and District HS, District 1
- Pembroke HS, District 2
- Trenton HS, District 3
- Grafton Green Thumbs HS, District 4
- Thorold HS, District 9
- Hespeler HS, District 19

## Youth Grants

This program was developed to provide financial support to societies who are working with youth. Any Society/Club working with youth, in good standing, with the Ontario Horticultural Association may apply for the grant. The grant may be used for programming, seeds, special events, supplies, youth start up, etc. for the Society/Club applying for the grant.

- Tweed & District HS, District 3
- East Gwillimbury G & HS, District 5
- Haldimand HS, District 6
- Grand Valley & District HS, District 7
- Stratford & District HS, District 10
- Caledon HS, District 15
- Chinguacousy GC, District 15
- Etobicoke HS, District 15
- Wilmot HS, District 19

## Youth Project Grants

The Ontario Horticultural Association developed this grant to assist Youth Programs for their work on a public beautification/native/pollinator project. OHA outdoor signage and grant of up to \$150 may be awarded annually, to be given to up to three (3) Youth Programs/Clubs, for a public beautification/native/pollinator project undertaken by a Youth Program/Club.

- Ambassador LaSalle HS, District 11



## OHA GRANTS PROGRAM IMPACTING COMMUNITIES

**A Commemorative Healing Garden, authentic and inspired by local First Nations and Metis, a place of healing, a place of reflection, a peaceful place for all the community.**

**By Nancy Strachan, Land O' Lakes Horticultural Society**

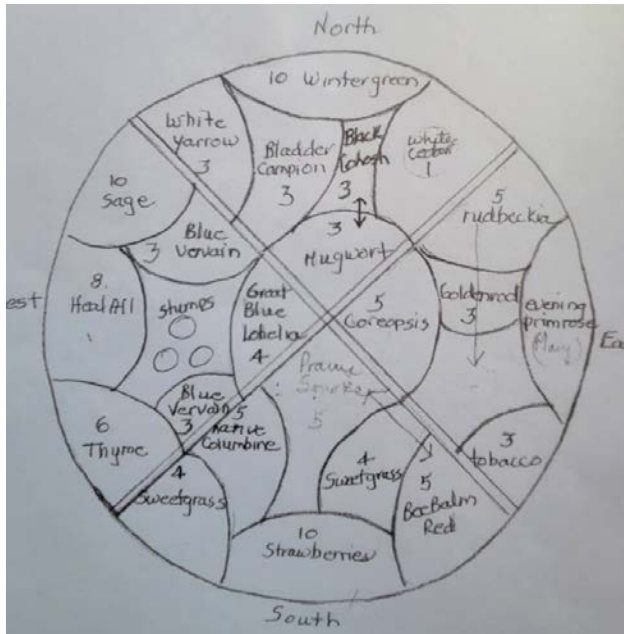
The Land O' Lakes Horticultural Society, is also known as The Land O' Lakes Garden Club (LOLGC). In July 2021 a LOLGC member suggested we create a garden to commemorate the Indigenous children lost to residential schools and a place of healing for survivors. Our Garden Club approved the idea and set aside funds towards the project. The seed was planted....

***The Commemorative Healing Garden was to be authentic and inspired by local First Nations and Metis, a place of healing, a place of reflection, a peaceful place for all the community.*** The committee decided on the location in Cloyne at Benny Lake Heritage Park. The park is in the hub of Cloyne, between the North Frontenac Township Community Hall and the Pioneer Museum. After presentations and meetings with the community we received a grant and permission from North Frontenac Township, grants from Addington Highlands, the Land O' Lakes Lions Club, the OHA and individual community members. The local school, North Addington Education Centre (NAEC), wanted to be involved with students volunteering. Word was out and the community was excited.

We reached out to local Indigenous groups, but it was a Metis woman, Tawny Stowe, that completely embraced the idea and suggested a Medicine Wheel. Tawny visited the site, she gave a tobacco offering to the land, we had a smudging and traditional drumming. She helped us plan the location, the size, gave teachings on the Medicine Wheel and sent us lists of native plants that would work in each quadrant.







Over last winter we prepared the detailed garden design plan and with funding in place, we began asking community members if they could help with excavating, building natural log benches for a sharing circle, sourcing local soil and to our amazement all this was done pro bono. What a generous community. We talked to Bea at Natural Themes Native Plants and got our order all lined up. North Frontenac Township agreed to reroof an already existing gazebo and provide garbage cans.

The NAEC applied for a grant to have their carpentry class make the kiosk for our information signage. In the Spring we excavated and were quite pleased with the soil, not too many of the

notorious Cloyne potatoes (rocks). None the less we added the truck load of local soil and lots of sheep manure (the only amendment we used). One of our members offered flagstone and brought that up to the Medicine Wheel which was used to divide the quadrants and provide footpaths.

We are very fortunate to have Benny Lake right next to the park and had a local plumber install a water pump from the lake to a simple irrigation system with a timer. Worth every penny! No looking for volunteers to water, no lugging hoses back and forth and always worrying if everything is too dry. The Medicine Wheel is 30 feet in diameter, so it was quite the project to begin planting! We had 4 groups, each doing a quadrant. Each quadrant represents a direction (we did use a compass), colour, sacred plant, a season, time of day, stage of life and state of being. North is white with white cedar as its sacred plant. It also represents Winter, night, elder and spiritual being. East is yellow with tobacco. It represents Spring, morning, childhood and the intellectual state of being. South is red with sweet grass. It is Summer, afternoon, youth and the physical state of being. West is black (we used purple) with sage. It is Fall, evening, adulthood and the emotional state of being. After planting, mulch was placed in the garden, as well as around the outer circle to keep weeds at bay.

The committee made plant tags out of natural wood cookies, a beautiful quartz rock was brought by a member and placed at the centre of the Medicine Wheel representing the Creator. Temporary signage was written up explaining the Medicine Wheel, the importance of the sacred plants in relation to Indigenous culture. The signage was mounted on a larger wooden cookie.





The garden was genuine, authentic and natural. The Medicine Wheel was completed by June 21st, National Indigenous Peoples Day. Tawny, our Metis teacher and spiritual guide, visited the garden and made a tobacco offering. A grade 3 class from NAEC came over to the garden to celebrate the day by creating talking sticks, all colour coordinated for each quadrant, decorated with feathers, string and beads. Tawny was also our guest speaker at the July Garden Club meeting. All the members were asked to bring a special stone to place around the Medicine Wheel. At the garden, we all made a tobacco offering, we had a smudging, we placed our stones enclosing the outer circle of the Medicine Wheel (not quite enclosed yet). Tawny spoke to us about “getting to know plants in a spiritual way.” Most fascinating!



Over the summer we were amazed at how many visitors came to the garden. They were interested, they wanted to learn, they felt the peace that the garden offered. Some came every Friday on their way to Bon Echo or the cottage, local families would stop by in the evening and visitors to the Pioneer Museum would come by for a look. On the National Day For Truth and Reconciliation, September 30th, we proudly hung an Every Child Matters flag and Tawny met with every NAEC class (K-12) at the Medicine Wheel. The park and surrounding area resounded with the sounds of drumming as Tawny met each class and drummed and sang with them. She explained the significance of the plants and what each of the four quadrants meant. The children all went home having participated in Indigenous teachings and with an understanding of what we had achieved and why.



Once school began in September, we were told the NAEC had received the Grant for the carpentry class to build the kiosk for the permanent signage. It will be a timber frame design with signage both front and back. This is where we are now. The school is working on the kiosk and we are working on wording and Indigenous language translation. This should all be completed by June 2023. On June 21st, 2023, National Indigenous Peoples Day, we hope to have a ceremony at the Medicine Wheel garden. A beautiful peaceful space for sharing, reflecting, healing and learning, a commemoration of all the Indigenous children lost over decades to residential schools, a garden for their families to heal, to know their loss is acknowledged and never to be forgotten. Thank you to the OHA for all your support.

# COMMUNICATIONS

Several tools are used to communicate within the OHA to keep in touch with our affiliated Societies/Clubs and to increase our exposure within the general population.

- The OHA website, [www.GardenOntario.org](http://www.GardenOntario.org) continues to be our major source of communications and transmission of information with Social Media now used to communicate information out as well.
- In 2022, the OHA and its Districts continued to use virtual means to communicate with Societies/Clubs such as Zoom, WebEx and Microsoft Teams. In person meetings were held when COVID rules allowed for gatherings.
- The quarterly publication, the *Trillium*, is emailed to a majority of affiliated Societies/Clubs and donors, with a hard copy mailed to those requiring it. All issues of the *Trillium* are posted on the [www.GardenOntario.org](http://www.GardenOntario.org) home page. Past issues are archived on the website. In 2023, the *Trillium* will only be made available via electronic means and on the website.
- Many District Directors generate their own newsletters and communicate important information to the Societies and general membership. All affiliated Societies/Clubs have access to OHA material for distribution.
- The OHA offers promotional items to Districts, affiliated Societies/Clubs and members through the virtual Garden Shop and through the GardenOntario Vista Print Store where items such as Pins, Certificates, T-shirts, Sweaters, Mugs, Hasty Note Cards, the *Ontario Judging and Exhibiting Standards* booklet and a variety of free promotional materials are made available.
- Publicity and promotional pieces are developed and circulated to various locations and are available at our outreach events.
- Normally, the Annual Convention of the Ontario Horticultural Association includes the Annual General Meeting of the organization. At this meeting, affiliated Societies/Clubs receive necessary financial and business reports. Election of the Officers for the coming year takes place. Networking, attending workshops and speaker sessions, as well as fostering social interaction are just some of the important benefits of attending the Annual General Meeting of the OHA. In 2022, the OHA AGM was held virtually and the convention was postponed.
- The Ontario Horticultural Association Officers and Board Members met four times last year via virtual means using WebEx technology, teleconference calls and in person. Decisions made at those meetings were made by the members of the board which they considered to be in the best interest of the affiliated Societies/Clubs they represent. The OHA Officers met monthly via WebEx and teleconference to continue the business of the Association.



# THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS AND SPONSORS

The Ontario Horticultural Association would like to thank our donors. By generously donating to the OHA, you are supporting the Association in its efforts to continue its support of our affiliated Societies/Clubs and communities across Ontario. Your gift helps us in Keeping Ontario Beautiful®

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# SUPPORT THE ONTARIO HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

The Ontario Horticultural Association is a volunteer, charitable organization whose mission is to provide leadership and assist in the promotion of education and interest in all areas of horticulture and related environmental issues in Ontario, through an expanding network of affiliated Societies/Clubs dedicated to the beautification of their communities.



The OHA pursues its mission with the volunteer support of its members and depends on charitable donations to fund a number of its key activities. Support the OHA with a charitable donation. Your donation supports OHA grants for trees and community beautification projects throughout Ontario or programs in the areas of conservation and the environment, youth and horticulture.

You may also be interested in the OHA's In Memoriam Program. The Ontario Horticultural Association "In Memoriam" book is an opportunity for gardeners in the Province of Ontario to be remembered by their peers, affiliated Societies/Clubs or individuals who have devoted their lives to the joys of tending their own land, and, in many instances, public gardens.

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## LEGACY GIVING

Remembering the OHA in your will is a wonderful way to continue to foster and support eco-friendly horticultural practices and continue to promote "Keeping Ontario Beautiful™".

The Planned Legacy Giving Program simplifies the charitable giving experience by handling administrative tasks (i.e. issuing cheques, record-keeping, grant reporting and tax receipts) for each account.



The OHA encourages you to speak with your family and your professional advisors to learn more about the benefits of a Charitable Giving Program or Legacy Giving.

For more information on donations and legacy giving, please visit:

<https://gardenontario.org/donate/>

