

Keeping Ontario Beautiful

Trillium

Ontario Horticultural Association

Winter 2023-24

From the 2023
OHA Convention
Flower Show
Competitions

*Best
in
Show*

Design by
Lil Taggart,
Georgetown
Horticultural
Society

District 6
Class 67:
Behind the Fence

Photo by Ursula Eley





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Editor's Message



See the winners lists from the 2023 OHA Competitions in July. A big thank you to those who bent over backwards to send them to me. There are wonderful photographs of some of the winning entries including the one on the front cover.

Rules, categories and guidelines for submitting your entries for the OHA Competitions in 2024 are on the gardenontario.org website and some of them have to be in early so please check soon. You'll want to enter for the fun as well as represent your club/society. Although they can be challenging, I find the competitions rewarding because I always learn something and am inspired to try something new. Many (that's very many) years ago, when I was a 4-H Club member, we were expected to enter our creations at "Achievement Day" when all the clubs in the county attended. It was fun to see what the others had created for the same sewing or cooking projects.

Thank you to Marjorie Tuck who proofreads all of the submissions in the newsletter. Between her skills and Spell check, we have a good chance of keeping errors to a minimum.

Thank you for all of the many amazing articles that kept me busy on so many sunless days. Since they could not all be included in the winter issue the overflow has been saved for the spring issue.

Laura Masterson
editor@gardenontario.org

The *Trillium* is the quarterly newsletter of the OHA

This newsletter is for all members of all Horticultural Societies and Garden Clubs in Ontario in every district. Here is where you'll find the latest gardening news. If your club/society has a special project and you would like to share the news, please send in a story and photographs.

Submission dates for 2024:

- March 1 – Spring issue
- June 1 – Summer issue
- September 1 – Autumn issue
- December 1 – Winter issue

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

To send articles and photographs: Articles should be emailed in Word format, LibreOffice or plain text. Photos and other graphics must have signed waivers from the photographer/artist and 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. Please mention who wrote the article and the name(s) of the photographer(s) for a credit.

These requests make it easier to work with photos submitted.

Articles can be emailed to:

editor@gardenontario.org

Laura Masterson, OHA *Trillium* Editor

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.

To avoid illegal copyright issues, please do not submit articles, artwork and photographs copied from the internet or elsewhere unless written, signed permission from the writer, artist or photographer has been given.

WAIVERS

FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS AND PHOTOS OF MINORS

Here is the link to waivers on the OHA site:

<https://gardenontario.org/wp-content/uploads/OHA-Release-Photo-Video-Testimonial-Form-March-2022.pdf>

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Keeping Ontario Beautiful

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The Trillium is also available on the OHA website: <https://gardenontario.org>

OHA 50/50 DRAW

Submitted by Marian Heil, OHA Treasurer



GardenOntario®

50/50 Draw

Next Draw Date: March 15, 2024

50% of all proceeds go towards Keeping Ontario Beautiful!

For your chance to win, visit

<https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/ontario-ha>

By March 15, 2024



OHA President's Message

Let me begin by saying that this has been an interesting and challenging, yet rewarding first five months of the OHA Presidency. I have learned a lot and certainly been kept on my toes but I have a fantastic team around me and some extremely knowledgeable individuals who have been wonderful resources for me. Thank you all.

I am pleased to announce that the Awards Committee has initiated a new grant and a new award for 2024. The Technical Award is an award given to an individual who has been an asset as a technical advisor/coordinator/website coordinator for a Society and/or a District and who has assisted with virtual meetings, coordinating virtual flower shows, assisting with TPON, etc. The Accessibility Grant will support people who experience disabilities, with respect for dignity, and responds to a person's individual needs and promotes integration and full participation. Examples could include but are not limited to: a sensory garden for the visually impaired, wheelchair accessible raised gardens or quiet meditation areas. We look forward to receiving applications/nominations for all grants and awards. Please see the forms on gardenontario.org.

The OMAFRA email requesting grant reporting has been sent to all Societies/Clubs for completion. Please ensure that you are registered with MyOntario so that your paperwork can be completed in a timely manner.

The first of two scheduled sessions by OMAFRA to help Societies/Clubs understand the TPON system took place on November 23rd with over 70 societies participating. The second session is scheduled to take place on January 10, 2024. More information will become available closer to the date.

New certificate folders have been created and ordered to care for your special achievements. They are black in colour with gold embossing of the OHA logo on the front cover. Inside, a plastic sleeve that your certificate slides into adds an additional layer of protection. Folders will be provided free of charge for Special Anniversary certificates and all OHA awards given out at the convention. For all other certificates, including Horticultural Service, Judging/Exhibiting, Life Member, Youth, Society President's Award and District Appreciation Award, the folders will be available for sale through supplies starting January 1st at a cost of \$5.00 each. Order for the year so you are ready for all those special events.

Please remember that when the OHA runs fundraisers, we do so in order to assist the Societies/Clubs. The fundraisers help us to maintain dues, assist us in putting on webinars such as Earth Day, allow us to create new grants and awards, as well as offer scholarships and educational opportunities, among other things. We need your support to allow us to continue. Please share information with your Societies/Clubs, family and friends. Thank you.

Please remember to submit your District Service Award nominations to your District Director or designate no later than January 20th of 2024 for inclusion in the voting process. We would like to see a deserving individual from each of the 19 Districts win an award this coming year.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very wonderful holiday season and all the best for 2024. For those that celebrate it, have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. For those that may celebrate in other ways, may your holiday celebrations be the best they can be with family and friends.

Please keep in mind that I am always available to try to assist you with any questions or problems that you may have and can be reached at president@gardenontario.org.



Sharlene Desjardins



Sincerely,

Sharlene Desjardins
OHA President

Leaside Garden Society

Submitted by Nora Campbell, Co-President



*Dianne Caister, Linda Wickland, Christine Simmons
(absent: Allan Caister, Jim Hartley)
Photo by Nora Campbell*

Five Leaside Garden Society members were honoured with the Ontario Volunteer Service Award in November. Each of them has contributed not only their enthusiasm, but also hundreds of hours of their time to keep our Society thriving. Several Members of Parliament were present to thank and congratulate them for their efforts.

Leaside Garden Society was privileged to have our new District 5 Director, Ursula Eley, attend our AGM in November. She not only presided over the installation of the incoming Board, but was on hand to present longtime member, Barry Schneider, with the prestigious OHA Award for 'Meritorious Service to Horticulture'. Over many years, Barry worked tirelessly planting and maintaining the eight gardens at Lyndhurst Rehab as well as the gardens surrounding our public library and tennis court. The entire community owes him a huge debt of gratitude for beautifying our neighbourhood.



*Ursula Eley with Barry Schneider
Photo by Sheila Brazys*

Waivers

Sharlene Desjardins, OHA President

This message goes out to all contributors of the *Trillium* newsletter, your Society/Club and District newsletters and anywhere else you may happen to post content which does not belong to you. The OHA has recently been involved in legal proceedings involving a couple of Societies who inadvertently posted pictures or cartoons that they did not have permission to post.

We are advising everyone to ensure that you have waivers for photographs and/or written permission for any type of content that does not belong to you, that you choose to post in your newsletters. There are individuals out there whose sole job is to sift through newsletters, websites, articles or anything else they find that may result in a potential lawsuit. Unfortunately, this is the sad reality.

We love seeing your articles and photographs in the *Trillium*, however, care has to be taken to ensure that permission has been granted for the use of the photographs or other materials. Please take the time to do your due diligence when submitting photographs or posting items for your own Society. Our *Trillium* Editor needs to ensure that what she places in the *Trillium* is permitted. You may send her the waiver or just confirm in your submission to her that the permission has been obtained. Also, please ensure that the permission you receive is in writing as word of mouth is not sufficient.

Waivers are to remain on file as long as the images/other materials remain in use. An effective way to store the waivers is to digitize them and store them with the original photo and video files.

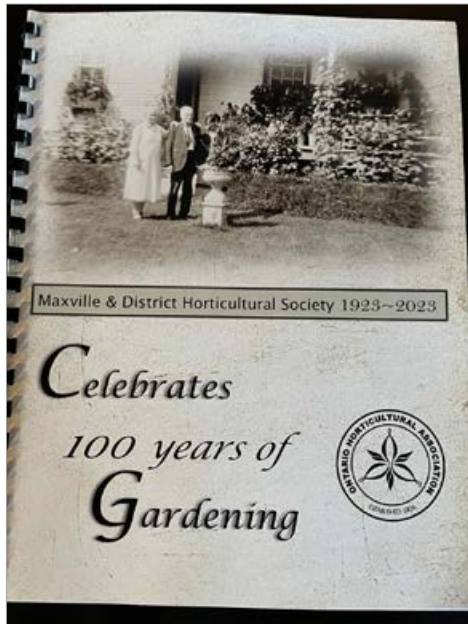
Here is the link to waivers on the OHA site:

<https://gardenontario.org/wp-content/uploads/OHA-Release-Photo-Video-Testimonial-Form-March-2022.pdf>

Maxville & District Horticultural Society Celebrates 100th Anniversary

Submitted by Phyllis Van Egmond

A special edition yearbook was created as well as a new banner for this Anniversary year. This was unveiled at our District 1 Annual General meeting on April 15th. As our Society was hosting this meeting, we gathered all the memorabilia and archived history as we could for a display. The 125 members attending enjoyed our "Spring in the Glens" theme. There were special presentations from Russell's Owen Clarkin in the morning and Kenneth Brown from Whitby in the afternoon.



*Yearbook – Photo by
Creator Tammy Johnston-Jodoin*



*Banner (above and right)
Photos by Creator Kim Burton-Schram*



*District 1 AGM
Photo by Tony Beaudette*



*Owen Clarkin
Photo by Tony Beaudette*

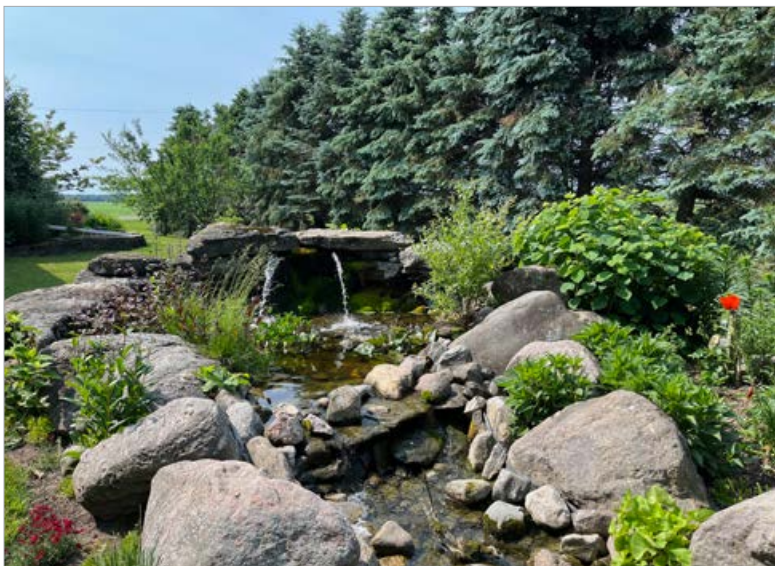




In June, we visited two lovely local gardens with water features. The highlight of this was photography instructions given by our Society member, Lindsay McIntosh-Mainville. This was followed by our favourite ice cream at MacIntosh's Ole Maple Barn.

Our Society was awarded an Arts, Culture and Heritage Grant from the Township of North Glengarry. One of our Society members, Ivan Coleman, created a new Highland Piper, Max. This figure is an icon of our community, even wearing the Glengarry Highland Games tartan and is placed in front of our Piper bed. This flower bed was re-done four years ago with the help of an OHA Special Project Grant. A presentation was held with Society members and also OHA President Charles Freeman and Louise Freeman, District 1 Assistant Director, as well as officials from the Township.

On August 16th, 35 members joined another garden tour visiting two Society members' village gardens. Then onto another member's beautiful country setting for a Victorian-style garden tea party with fancy cups and saucers, three-



June garden tour photos by Lindsey McIntosh-Mainville

tiered plates of delicate sandwiches and elegant desserts. Past-presidents were honoured by Society President, Phyllis Van Egmond and lovely potted chrysanthemums were given to each one.

As we continued to celebrate our 100th Anniversary, we also planted a tree, which we received an OHA tree grant for, in the Cemetery and dedicated a Memorial Bench. A plaque has been placed by these.

Our November 15th AGM was a tribute to our successful year. We reached 102 members and 100 tree seedlings purchased and given with membership. 73 members and guests enjoyed a delicious turkey dinner that was served on beautifully decorated tables. Many hand-crafted door prizes and flower arrangements were handed out. The 2024 Executive and Directors were elected and everyone is looking forward to another amazing year.



*August Tea
Photo by Kathleen Beaudette*



*November AGM
Photo by Glenda Villeneuve*



April District 1 AGM – Photo by Tony Beaudette



October – Memorial Bench and Tree– Photos by Glenda Villeneuve

OHA Trillium - Winter 2023-24

Out of Winter

Winter's icy grasping,
Spring's melodic rhapsody.
Cool, wet new growing
the flurry of rainbow hues...
Sunlight, daylight, diffusion, luminosity,
Our four seasonal contrasts happily return
Bringing warm, brightly coloured catalysts of the new growth...
and solitude carried on soft fragrant breezes.
Take it and use it wisely before it's too late.

Now is the moment of
renewal, rebirth,
a reincarnation.
Past life blooms anew
providing strength to all creatures once more.
Time to review life's journey, in the rays of the sun.
To begin the healing process. Peeling back the layers,
no going back without finishing.
Re-absorbing what is found in order to re-create the whole.
Take it and use it wisely before it's too late.
Furtively, rushing.
Hurriedly, questing.
Wandering, aimlessly.
Earnestly, seeking the light,
before each unearthing begins to decay.
For what use will it be to you the believer
If that which is sought is somehow so doomed?
Truth is the antidote used to chastise the unholy.
Take it and use it wisely before it's too late.

Lost in a sludge pond
days living a lie.
Querulous endings,
searching truly the prophet.
Suddenly life's reality blooms like spring flowering,
we break from tradition and look for the real saviour.
Understanding the paths
helps to foster forgiving,
fully embracing the present,
helps the future to unfold.
Take it and use it wisely before it's too late.

*Excerpt from the book "Consequences" page 45
By Leslie Daniels, D9 Director*

Thunder Bay Horticultural Society

100 Years and Growing

Written and Submitted by Vickie Bureau, President

The Thunder Bay Horticultural Society's slogan for the year has been perfect, "100 Years and Growing", as we have grown great gardens along with our society membership by 241%.

In September, we celebrated our 100th Flower Show with 223 entries. Our society members judged our Purple Flower Photo Contest entries, with the top 3 vote winners to receive a certificate and a society membership for 2024.

October found the society in the thick of growing our horticultural labours of love with the Garden Beautification Awards, Purple Flower Photo contest winners and the Thunder Bay Carvers at our last general meeting of the year. Another outreach event grew to fruition upon seeing an advertisement in our local newspaper – the Rotary Club Santa Claus Parade.

Society members gathered together in November for our AGM with a delicious Pot Luck, toonie bag sale, Christmas Flower Show and elections. Two days later, members gathered together with our society float in the Santa Claus parade. What an excellent way to windup our year-long celebrations of our 100th Anniversary of a Horticultural Society in Thunder Bay (Port Arthur/Fort William).

Thank you to all the volunteers who assisted with the many outreach events, presentations, Society Gardens and in keeping with the vision of "100 Years and Growing".



Garden Beautification Awards

L to R: Shirley Robson, Garden Beautification Award Chair, Lois Sebesta, Luba Steblynski, Marilyn Yurick, Tara Monteith, Leola Palmer, Karen Bradley, Vickie Bureau, President Thunder Bay Horticultural Society.

Photo by Pat Izsak



Fall Flower Show

Photo by Vickie Bureau



Christmas Flower Show

Photo by Vickie Bureau

*Seasons Greetings to All –
May you have visions of
gardening and seed lists
dancing in your dreams
over the cold winter months.*



Shari F. #2



Luba S. #1

Purple flower contest winners
Photos by winners



Vanessa A. #3

Pickering Garden Club

Written by Jinna Findlay, President, Barb Nelson, Vice-President, Submitted by Barb Nelson

Year-end greetings from the Pickering Garden Club

This year felt like it was our first full post-pandemic year as evidenced by the return of many of our activities that had been halted or amended to meet the constraints of the last 3 years. It was so nice to see such great attendance both at our Zoom meetings over the winter months and at our in-person meetings from April onwards. Our membership numbers hit 130 in 2023 which is a number we haven't seen for quite some time.

In addition to a great selection of speakers, we managed to add a few new things to keep us engaged and interested. With our Zoom meetings, we added our "Plant Chat" hosted by Past-President Joanne Shaw who was always ready with a great question to get the dialogue going and the "Swap and Share" at our April meeting provided a great opportunity for people to give something and others to get something.

Also, Yvonne Nunes took it upon herself to get the club re-involved with Youth Initiatives. The smile on the kids' faces in their pictures and at the October meeting when they got their certificates was heartwarming. These will continue in 2024.



Youth Initiatives - Photo by Barb Nelson

It was good to re-start flower shows, post-pandemic and exciting to witness the efforts put in by our members as they entered their specimens and designs in the shows. The September show stood out as the largest show of the year with an impressive participation of 23 individuals with over 75 entries. For 2024, we added a new section in the flower show schedules specific to native plants. It will be a learning process for all of us.

And we have a photo show! Our shutterbugs have been busily taking pictures through the year so that we can sit back and watch a delightful slide show online, at our February 2024 meeting, and applaud the winners! (I'll have to find the clapping hands icon on Zoom...)



Flower Show - Photos by Elizabeth de Verneuil



Flower Show Winners - Photo by Karl Schmalz



90th Anniversary Celebration - Photo by Pete Carpino

This year marked a significant milestone as we celebrated our 90th anniversary. Mayor Kevin Ashe and Councillor Mara Nagy were on hand in October to present the Club with a Certificate of Achievement in recognition of our longstanding contributions to the city. 90 years and growing!

The long-awaited moment has finally arrived – the Yearbook has emerged from its hibernation since 2020! The team dedicated countless hours to revise and update the existing content to create a fresh and modern yearbook for 2024. We carefully reviewed and improved the layout, design and overall aesthetics to ensure it reflected the spirit and essence of our organization.

Behind the scenes, we've made a lot of progress on some key items for the club. From a marketing and promotions perspective, we are continuing our move to the more friendly Pickering Garden Club name. To support this change, we created a new logo and put it on our new banner in time for the Plant Sale in May. Then we did a refresh of the website with our new logo and colours. We've also partnered with a host of local vendors to enable our members to receive discounts on many of their purchases.



We are continuing the club's journey to be more technology and social media savvy. We are doing this to keep up with the times, be more paperless and meet the needs of our younger members while maintaining and respecting the needs of our core base of more experienced (dare I say perennial?) members.

Here's to a fruitful and fulfilling New Garden Year!

Paris Horticultural Society

Submitted by Margaret Collins, Photos by Margaret Collins unless otherwise noted

At this time of year, as our gardens are put to bed for the coming winter, our activities are winding down.



Photo by Serryn Stephenson

Our Adopt a Road program has done the last clean up on Keg Lane. This one took place on September 13th, right after the Paris Fair. This is usually the biggest clean up of the season. The team working are Kim Hutton, Patti Gladding, Pat Hasler-Watts, Pat Moore, Edith Stone, Anne Vernon, Nancy Chipman and Paula Atkinson.



There is no vacancy at the nearby "Bee" hotel



Hillside Crew: Pat Moore, Nancy Burkholder, Dave Collins, Larry Stewart and Doug Hanna

The work in our community gardens has also drawn to a close for the winter. The gardens have been cleaned up. Co-ordinators Doug Hanna and Dave Collins do a good job of keeping the weeding, mulching and planting up to date, with the help of other volunteers. The Hillside Garden at the fairgrounds was enhanced with 13 varieties, totalling 123 plants.

Members, Nancy and Gord Burkholder, on a walk on their property, discovered an unusual plant. After some research, it was discovered to be a Horse Gentian.



Also known as Feverwort. Dried and roasted seeds have been used as a coffee substitute. Medicinally used to treat urinary pain and applied topically to sore and swollen areas.

Two photos by Gord Burkholder



We are very grateful to our many volunteers in our society who put in many hours of their time to keep Paris beautiful and our society noticed. This year, at the Ontario Volunteer Awards ceremony, three of our members; Larry Stewart, Elaine Sywyk (*not shown*) and Edith Stone received recognition for their 20 years of volunteering. Thank you and congratulations to them.

Photographer unknown



The plant sale doesn't take place until May of 2024 but the committee has already started to gather plants. Anne Vernon, Pat Moore, Serryn Stephenson, Nancy Burkholder and Carol Reansbury received a last-minute request from a neighbour who offered her hostas for the sale. On a damp and windy fall day, they dug up four trunkfuls for the sale.

Photo by Serryn Stephenson



At the OHA Convention this past July, our society earned First Place Ribbons in the bookmark and the brochures categories. The design of these articles was a team effort.

Photo by Dave Collins



We are looking forward to our annual Christmas dinner. The decorating committee held a workshop to prepare the table centrepieces. The assemblers, in back row, Anne Vernon, Edith Stone, Pat Moore, Anne Wibberley and front row, Carol Reansbury, Nancy Slusarczyk, Margaret Hutchinson. Not in photo, Paula Atkinson.





OHA Flower Show Competition Results

*By Kathryn Lindsay, Show Chair (Ottawa HS)
and Linda Bartlett, Show Statistician (Carleton Place & District HS)*

Thanks to everyone on the Flower Show Committee and exhibitors for making this an outstanding show.

SUMMARY STATISTICS

34 Exhibitors – 19 Societies – 8 Districts

Total Entries = 280; Horticulture (209), Design (63), Special Exhibits (8)

HORTICULTURE DIVISION (209 entries)

Convenor: Helen Halpenny (Almonte HS)

SECTION A – ANNUALS (21 entries)

Class

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Amaranthus, any type, 1 cultivar, 1 stem (0 entries) | 2 nd Place – Toby Barratt, Pakenham |
| 2. Cleome, 1 cultivar, 3 stems (0 entries) | 3 rd Place – Joan MacKinnon, Gananoque |
| 3. Cosmos, 1 cultivar, 3 stems (2 entries) | 8. Salvia, 1 cultivar, 3 stems (0 entries) |
| 1 st Place – Toby Barratt, Pakenham | 9. Snapdragon, 1 cultivar, 3 stems (2 entries) |
| 2 nd Place – Candace Dressler, Gloucester | – no second place awarded |
| 4. Dianthus, 1 cultivar, 3 stems (1 entry) | 1 st Place – EP Power, Gloucester |
| 1 st Place – Gay MacQuarrie, West Carleton | 3 rd Place – Myrna Blair, Pakenham |
| 5. Pelargonium, 1 cultivar, 3 stems, own foliage (1 entry) | 10. Zinnia, 1 cultivar, 3 stems (1 entry) |
| 1 st Place – Candace Dressler, Gloucester | – no first place awarded |
| 6. Marigold, 1 cultivar, 3 blooms with own foliage (5 entries) | 2 nd Place – Judy Muldoon, Trenton |
| 1 st Place – Toby Barratt, Pakenham | 11. Any other annual or biennial not listed above – |
| 2 nd Place – Lani Holland, Pakenham | 1 cultivar, 3 blooms, stems, spikes or sprays |
| 3 rd Place – Lani Holland, Pakenham | (5 entries) |
| HM – Myrna Blair, Pakenham | 1 st Place – Gay MacQuarrie, West Carleton |
| 7. Petunia, 1 cultivar, 3 stems (4 entries) | 2 nd Place – Candace Dressler, Gloucester |
| 1 st Place – Joan MacKinnon, Gananoque | 3 rd Place – Gay MacQuarrie, West Carleton |



*Judge's Choice – Horticultural Division
Photo by Rose Odell*



*Judge's Choice – Design Division
Photo by Rose Odell*

SECTION B – PERENNIALS, BULBS, RHIZOMES and TUBERS (95 entries)

Class

12. Astilbe, 1 cultivar, 3 stems (3 entries)
 - No third place awarded
 - 1st Place – Toby Barratt, Pakenham
 - 2nd Place – Joan MacKinnon, Gananoque
13. Begonia, Tuberous, male bloom, one leaf unattached, displayed in low glass dish by exhibitor (1 entry)
 - 1st Place – Joan MacKinnon, Gananoque
14. Dahlia, under 10 cm (4"), 3 stems (3 entries)
 - No third place awarded
 - 1st Place – Mary-Ann Vercammen, Newmarket
 - 2nd Place – Mary-Ann Vercammen, Newmarket
15. Dahlia, 10 cm (4") and over, 1 stem, disbudded (4 entries)
 - 1st Place – Helen Halpenny, Almonte
 - 2nd Place – Mary-Ann Vercammen, Newmarket
 - 3rd Place – Candace Dressler, Gloucester
16. Echinacea, 1 cultivar, 3 stems (6 entries)
 - 1st Place – Toby Barratt, Pakenham
 - 2nd Place – Joan MacKinnon, Gananoque
 - 3rd Place – Myrna Blair, Pakenham
 - HM – Gay MacQuarrie, West Carleton
17. Gallardia (Blanket Flower), 1 cultivar, 3 stems (2 entries)
 - No second place awarded
 - 1st Place – Toby Barratt, Pakenham
 - 3rd Place – Jack Wilson, Nepean
18. A. Heuchera/Heucherella, 1 cultivar, 3 leaves (7 entries)
 - 1st Place – Gay MacQuarrie, West Carleton
 - 2nd Place – Marie Decker, Oakville
 - 3rd Place – Marie Decker, Oakville
 - HM – Joan MacKinnon, Gananoque
- B. Heuchera/Heucherella, 1 cultivar, 3 leaves (6 entries)
 - 1st Place – Judy Fine, Nepean
 - 2nd Place – EP Power, Gloucester
 - 3rd Place – Judy McGrath, Pakenham
19. Hosta, 193 sq. cm to less than 413 sq. cm (30 sq. in to less than 64 sq. in), 1 cultivar, 3 leaves (6 entries)
 - 1st Place – Joan MacKinnon, Gananoque
 - 2nd Place – Iris Waung, Ottawa
 - 3rd Place – Jack Wilson, Nepean
20. Hosta, 39 sq. cm to less than 193 sq. cm (6 sq. in to less than 30 sq. in), 1 cultivar, 3 leaves (9 entries)
 - 1st Place – Gay MacQuarrie, West Carleton
 - 2nd Place – Judy Fine, Nepean
 - 3rd Place – Marie Decker, Oakville
 - HM – Iris Waung, Ottawa
21. Hosta, blooms, 3 stems (5 entries)
 - 1st Place – Judy McGrath, Pakenham
 - 2nd Place – Joan MacKinnon, Gananoque
 - 3rd Place – Toby Barratt, Pakenham
 - HM – Gay MacQuarrie, West Carleton
22. Lily (Lilium), 1 stem (no more than 1/3 of stem to ensure future growth of the plant) (3 entries) – No second awarded
 - 1st Place – Candace Dressler, Gloucester
 - 3rd Place – Toby Barratt, Pakenham
23. Monarda, 1 cultivar, 3 stems (3 entries)
 - 1st Place – Penny Stewart, Gananoque
 - 2nd Place – Toby Barratt, Pakenham
 - 3rd Place – Myrna Blair, Pakenham
24. Phlox, 1 cultivar, 3 stems (5 entries)
 - 1st Place – Judy Muldoon, Trenton
 - 2nd Place – Toby Barratt, Pakenham
 - 3rd Place – Penny Stewart, Gananoque
 - HM – Candace Dressler, Gloucester
25. Ornamental Grass, 1 cultivar, not in bloom, 3 stems, max height 91 cm (36") from tabletop (6 entries)
 - 1st Place – Michelle Goff, Guelph
 - 2nd Place – Iris Waung, Ottawa
 - 3rd Place – Michelle Goff, Guelph
 - HM – Toby Barratt, Pakenham
26. Rudbeckia, 1 spray (6 entries)
 - 1st Place – Candace Dressler, Gloucester
 - 2nd Place – Judy McGrath, Pakenham
 - 3rd Place – Myrna Blair, Pakenham
 - HM – Toby Barratt, Pakenham
27. Sedum, low growing, foliage, 1 cultivar, 3 stems (3 entries)
 - No third place awarded
 - 1st Place – Elaine Petermann, Nepean
 - 2nd Place – Toby Barratt, Pakenham
28. Sedum, upright, 1 stem (6 entries)
 - 1st Place – Elaine Petermann, Nepean
 - 2nd Place – Iris Waung, Ottawa
 - 3rd Place – Judy McGrath, Pakenham
 - HM – Lani Holland, Pakenham
29. A. Any other perennial, bulb, rhizome or tuber not listed above, 1 cultivar, 3 stems, spikes or sprays (5 entries)
 - 1st Place – Michelle Goff, Guelph
 - 2nd Place – Jayne Huntley, Nepean
 - 3rd Place – EP Power, Gloucester
- B. Any other perennial, bulb, rhizome or tuber not listed above, 1 cultivar, 3 stems, spikes or sprays (7 entries)
 - 1st Place – Toby Barratt, Pakenham
 - (Best Cut Specimen)
 - 2nd Place – Judy Fine, Nepean
 - 3rd Place – Kathy Lindsay, Ottawa

SECTION C – ROSES (27 entries)

Class

30. Hybrid Tea, 1 specimen bloom (disbudded) (2 entries)
1st Place – Judy Muldoon, Trenton
2nd Place – Judy Muldoon, Trenton
31. English Rose (David Austin, Beales, etc.), 1 specimen bloom (disbudded) or 1 spray (4 entries)
1st Place – Marie Decker, Oakville
2nd Place – Myrna Blair, Pakenham
3rd Place – Joan MacKinnon, Gananoque
HM – Joan MacKinnon, Gananoque
32. Hardy Canadian Rose (Explorer, Artist, 49th Parallel, Morden, Parkland, etc.), 1 specimen bloom (disbudded) or 1 spray (5 entries)
1st Place – Joan MacKinnon, Gananoque
2nd Place – Marie Decker, Oakville
3rd Place – Penny Stewart, Gananoque
33. Any other Rose (Grandiflora, Floribunda, Polyantha, etc.), 1 specimen bloom (disbudded) or 1 spray (4 entries)
1st Place – Marie Decker, Oakville
2nd Place – Elizabeth Schleicher, Burlington
3rd Place – Elizabeth Schleicher, Burlington
34. Fragrant Rose, any kind, 1 stem (5 entries)
1st Place – Myrna Blair, Pakenham
2nd Place – Marie Decker, Oakville
3rd Place – Judy Muldoon, Trenton
35. Miniature/Patio, 1 specimen bloom (disbudded) or 1 spray (7 entries)
1st Place – Marie Decker, Oakville
2nd Place – Michelle Goff, Guelph
3rd Place – Marie Decker, Oakville

SECTION D - POTTED PLANTS (11 entries)

Class

36. African Violet, single crown, in bloom (2 entries)
1st Place – Myra Takasaki, Waterloo
2nd Place – Michelle Goff, Guelph
37. Cactus, any, not grafted (0 entries)
38. Succulent, any other than a cactus (2 entries)
1st Place – Elaine Petermann, Nepean
2nd Place – Toby Barratt, Pakenham
39. Pelargonium (Geranium), in bloom (1 entry)
1st Place – Lani Holland, Pakenham
40. Any other plant grown to hang or trail, ready to hang (1 entry) – no First place awarded
2nd Place – Gay MacQuarrie, West Carleton
41. Any other plant grown principally for decorative foliage (4 entries)
1st Place – Gay MacQuarrie, West Carleton
2nd Place – Myra Takasaki, Waterloo
3rd Place – Elaine Petermann, Nepean
HM – Gay MacQuarrie, West Carleton
42. Any other plant grown principally for bloom, in bloom (1 entry)
1st Place – Toby Barratt, Pakenham (Best in Show; Best Potted Plant)



*Best in Show – Horticultural Division
Best Potted Plant
Photo by Rose Odell*



*Best in Show – Horticultural Division
Best Rose
Photo by Marie Decker*



*Best in Show –
Horticultural Division
Best Collection
Photo by Rose Odell*

SECTION E - FLOWERING/FRUITING BRANCHES OF SHRUBS, TREES, VINES

(19 entries) Note: Did not include Roses

Class

43. Clematis, any – 1 bloom or 1 stem not to exceed 76 cm (30") from the top of the container (6 entries)
1st Place – Joan MacKinnon, Gananoque
2nd Place – Gay MacQuarrie, West Carleton
3rd Place – Toby Barratt, Pakenham
HM – Judy Muldoon, Trenton
44. Hydrangea - 1 stem (8 entries)
1st Place – Judy Fine, Nepean
2nd Place – Toby Barratt, Pakenham
3rd Place – Judy Muldoon, Trenton
HM – Myra Takasaki, Waterloo
45. Any other flowering or fruiting shrub or tree, cut length not to exceed 76 cm (30") from the top of the container – 1 stem (5 entries)
1st Place – Myra Takasaki, Waterloo
2nd Place – Judy McGrath, Pakenham
3rd Place – Kathy Lindsay, Ottawa
HM – Toby Barratt, Pakenham
46. Any other flowering or fruiting vine, cut length max 76 cm (30") from top of the container – 1 stem (0 entries)

SECTION F – VEGETABLES & FRUIT (17 entries)

Class

47. Beans, any colour, 1 cultivar, 5 specimens (4 entries)
1st Place – Michelle Goff, Guelph
2nd Place – Helen Halpenny, Almonte
3rd Place – Lani Holland, Pakenham
HM – Marie Decker, Oakville
48. Cucumber, any kind, 1 cultivar, 3 specimens (1 entry)
– No First place awarded
2nd Place – Candace Dressler, Gloucester
49. Peas, 1 cultivar, 5 specimens (2 entries)
– No First place awarded
2nd Place – Helen Halpenny, Almonte
3rd Place – Marie Decker, Oakville
50. Rhubarb, 1 cultivar, 3 specimens (3 entries)
1st Place – Judy Muldoon, Trenton
2nd Place – Judy Muldoon, Trenton
3rd Place – Marie Decker, Oakville
51. Tomato, 1 cultivar, 5 specimens (1 entry)
1st Place – Judy Fine, Nepean
52. Vegetable, leafy - 1 head displayed on a paper plate or 5 leaves, 1 cultivar, displayed in water in a clear container (1 entry) – no First place awarded
2nd Place – Helen Halpenny, Almonte
53. Any fruit, 1 type, same cultivar, 3-5 specimens depending on type (see OJES 2019 p.108) (3 entries)
1st Place – Michelle Goff, Guelph
2nd Place – Kathy Lindsay, Ottawa
3rd Place – Judy McGrath, Pakenham
54. Any other vegetable, 1 type, same cultivar, 3-5 specimens depending on type (see OJES 2019 p.108) (2 entries)
1st Place – Gay MacQuarrie, West Carleton
2nd Place – Myra Takasaki, Waterloo



*Best in Show – Horticultural Division
Best Cut Specimen
Photo by Rose Odell*



*Best in Show – Special Exhibits
Photo by Lori Ray*

SECTION G - COLLECTIONS (19 entries)

Class

55. Roses, minimum of 5 different kinds/cultivars, 1 specimen bloom or 1 spray of each, named (1 entry)
1st Place – Marie Decker, Oakville (Best Rose)
56. Dahlias, minimum of 2 different kinds/cultivars, 3 stems of each, named (0 entries)
57. Mixed cut garden flowers excluding branches or vines – minimum of 5 different cultivars/varieties, 2 stems of each, named (2 entries)
1st Place – Myrna Blair, Pakenham (Best Collection)
2nd Place – Helen Halpenny, Almonte
58. Hosta, minimum of 5 different kinds/cultivars, 1 leaf of each, named (4 entries)
– No third place awarded
1st Place – Marie Decker, Oakville
2nd Place – Toby Barratt, Pakenham
HM – Judy Fine, Nepean (Judge's Choice)
59. Cut herbs, minimum of 5 different kinds/cultivars, 1 specimen of each, named (7 entries)
1st Place – Toby Barratt, Pakenham
2nd Place – Tony Petermann, Nepean
3rd Place – Judy Fine, Nepean
60. Cut garden foliage excluding branches – minimum of 3 different cultivars/varieties, 1 stem of each, named (3 entries)
– no third place awarded
1st Place – Elaine Petermann, Nepean
2nd Place – Toby Barratt, Pakenham
61. Vegetables/Fruit, a minimum of 5 different varieties, exhibited on a tray or in a basket, named (2 entries)
1st Place – Marie Decker, Oakville
2nd Place – Helen Halpenny, Almonte

DESIGN DIVISION (63 entries)

Convenor: Madeline Archer (Smiths Falls HS)

- Maximum of 6 entries per class

Class

62. Balancing Act – a design using the Pantone colour of the year Digital Lavender (6 entries)
1st Place – Sandra Williamson, Georgetown
2nd Place – Lil Taggart, Georgetown (Most creative)
3rd Place – Mary-Ann Vercammen, Newmarket
HM – Iris Waung, Ottawa
63. Minimal Material, Maximum Impact – a visible use of water design (6 entries)
1st Place – Myra Takasaki, Waterloo
2nd Place – Sandra Williamson, Georgetown
3rd Place – Judy McGrath, Pakenham
HM – Gay MacQuarrie, West Carleton
64. Created by Nature, Captured with Style – a design (5 entries)
1st Place – Lil Taggart, Georgetown
2nd Place – Marie Decker, Oakville
3rd Place – Mary-Ann Vercammen, Newmarket
65. Opposites Attract – a stretch design (4 entries)
1st Place – Sandra Williamson, Georgetown
2nd Place – Judy Fine, Nepean
3rd Place – Lil Taggart, Georgetown
HM – Iris Waung, Ottawa
66. A Different Slant – a design (6 entries)
1st Place – Sandra Williamson, Georgetown
2nd Place – Toby Barratt, Pakenham
3rd Place – Kathy Lang, Smiths Falls
HM – Marie Decker, Oakville
67. Behind the Fence – a transparency design (6 entries)
1st Place – Lil Taggart, Georgetown (Best in Show)
2nd Place – Michelle Goff, Guelph
3rd Place – Linda Bartlett, Carleton Place
HM – Sandra Williamson, Georgetown
68. All Together – a pavé design (6 entries)
1st Place – Judy Fine, Nepean
2nd Place – Rose Odell, Waterloo



*Best Use of Colour – Design Division
Photo by Lori Ray*

3rd Place –Toby Barratt, Pakenham

HM – David Archer, Perth

69. Mirror Image – a small design staged in a black niche
36 cm (14") wide x 36 cm (14") high (6 entries)

1st Place – Lil Taggart, Georgetown (Judge's Choice)

2nd Place – Judy Fine, Nepean

3rd Place – Toby Barratt, Pakenham

HM – Iris Waung, Ottawa

70. Delightfully Delicate – a miniature design with fresh
plant material staged in a black niche 20 cm (8")

wide x 20 cm (8") high, viewed at eye level (6 entries)

1st Place – Sandra Williamson, Georgetown

2nd Place – Sheila King, Manotick

3rd Place – Gay MacQuarrie, West Carleton

HM – Laura Hunter, Smiths Falls

71. Delightfully Delicate – a miniature design with dried
plant material staged in a black niche 20 cm (8")
wide x 20 cm (8") high, viewed at eye level (6 entries)

1st Place – Linda Bartlett, Carleton Place

2nd Place – Sheila King, Manotick

3rd Place – Laura Hunter, Smiths Falls

HM – Sandra Williamson, Georgetown

72. Summer Sorbet – a synergistic design, accessories
permitted; staged on a round cocktail table (to
be provided); 107 cm (42") high and 76 cm (30")
diameter on a black cloth. To be judged and viewed
from all sides (6 entries)

1st Place – Lynne Melnyk, Oro-Medonte

(Best Use of Colour)

2nd Place – Cindy Zorgel, Almonte

3rd Place – Michelle Goff, Guelph

HM – Judy McGrath, Pakenham

SPECIAL EXHIBITS DIVISION (8 entries)

Convenor: Madeline Archer (Smiths Falls HS)

Class

73. Herbs by Candlelight – a pot-et-fleur (4 entries)

1st Place – Gay MacQuarrie, West Carleton

(Judge's Choice)

2nd Place – Marie Decker, Oakville

3rd Place – Laura Hunter, Smiths Falls

HM – Kathy Lindsay, Ottawa

74. Summer in the City – plants and flowers, designed in
one or several containers (2 entries)

1st Place – Penny Stewart, Gananoque (Best in Show)

2nd Place – Kathy Lindsay, Ottawa

75. Rock Your Garden World – trough garden maximum
size (46 cm/18") wide x (46 cm/ 18"), no height
restriction (2 entries)

1st Place – Anne Harbord, Manotick

2nd Place – Penny Stewart, Gananoque

APPENDIX: Summary of Exhibitors

Exhibitor	Society	District
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EP Power	Gloucester	D1
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Candice Dressler		
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Helen Halpenny	Almonte	D2
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Cindy Zorgel		
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Linda Bartlett	Carleton Place	
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Sheila King	Manotick	
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Anne Harbord		
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Elaine Petermann	Nepean	
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Tony Petermann		
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Judy Fine		
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Jayne Huntley		
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Jack Wilson		
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Kathryn Lindsay	Ottawa	
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Iris Waung		
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Judy McGrath	Pakenham	
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Lani Holland		
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Myrna Blair		
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Toby Barratt		
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David Archer	Perth	
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Kathy Lang	Smiths Falls	
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Laura Hunter		
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Gay MacQuarrie	West Carleton	
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Penny Stewart	Gananoque	D3
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Joan MacKinnon		
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Judy Muldoon	Trenton	
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Mary-Ann Vercammen	Newmarket	D5
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Elizabeth Schleicher	Burlington	D6
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Lil Taggart	Georgetown	
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Sandra Williamson		
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Marie Decker	Oakville	
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Michelle Goff	Guelph	D7
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Lynne Melnyk	Oro-Medonte	D16
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Myra Takasaki	Waterloo	D19
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Rose Odell		
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34 Exhibitors – 19 Societies – 8 Districts

Total Entries = 280



FEATURED ON FRONT COVER

Best in Show

*Design by Lil Taggart,
Georgetown Horticultural
Society, District 6*

Class 67:

Behind the Fence

Photo by Ursula Eley

SPECIAL AWARDS *(Cash prizes from D2 Societies)*

Horticulture

- Best in Show (OHA Rosette & \$20 from Carleton Place & District HS) – Toby Barratt, Pakenham, D2 (Class 42. *Streptocarpus primulifolius*)
Judge's Choice (OHA Rosette & \$20 from Madeline & David Archer) – Judy Fine, Nepean, D2 (Class 58. *Hosta* Collection)
Best Rose (\$15 from Anne Harbord, CRS Rose Judge) – Marie Decker, Oakville, D6 (Class 55. *Rose* Collection)
Best Cut Specimen (\$15 from Manotick HS) – Toby Barratt, Pakenham, D2 (Class 29. *Ligularia wilsoniana* or *Wilson's leopard*)
Best Potted Plant (\$15 from West Carleton GC & HS) – Toby Barratt, Pakenham, D2 (Class 42. *Streptocarpus primulifolius*)
Best Vegetable or Fruit (\$15 from Stittsville Goulbourn HS) – Michelle Goff, Guelph, D7
Best Collection (\$15 from Manotick HS) – Myrna Blair, Pakenham, D2 (Class 57. *Mixed Cut Garden Flowers*)

Design

- Best in Show (OHA Rosette & \$40 from Marion Thompson) – Lil Taggart, Georgetown, D6 (Class 67. *Behind the Fence*)
Judge's Choice (OHA Rosette & \$25 from Perth & District HS) – Lil Taggart, Georgetown, D6 (Class 69. *Mirror Image*)
Best Use of Colour (\$25 from Anne Harbord, D2 Director) – Lynne Melnyk, Oro-Medonte, D6 (Class 72. *Summer Sorbet*)
Most Creative (\$25 from Pakenham HS) – Lil Taggart, Georgetown, D6 (Class 62. *Balancing Act*)



*Most Creative– Design Division
Photo by Rose Odell*

SPECIAL EXHIBITS

- Best in Show (OHA Rosette & \$20 from Ottawa HS) – Penny Stewart, Gananoque, D3 (Class 74. *Summer in the City*)
Judge's Choice (OHA Rosette & \$20 from Ottawa HS) – Gay MacQuarrie, West Carleton, D2 (Class 73. *Herbs by Candlelight*)

OHA Creative Writing Competition Results

Submitted by Sandra Mazur, Chair of Creative Writing

CLASS ONE – SONG

- 1st Place Winner: Bill Thiffault, Kapuskasing Horticultural Society District 12

CLASS TWO – FREE VERSE POEM

- 1st Place Winner: Veronica Heiderich, Oakville Horticultural Society, District 6
2nd Place Winner: Bill Thiffault, Kapuskasing Horticultural Society, District 12
3rd Place Winner: Deena Errampali, Grimsby Horticultural Society, District 9
Honorable Mention: Cathy Hugli, Pembroke Horticultural Society, District 2

CLASS THREE – NARRATIVE

- 1st Place Winner: Andrea Hester, Orono Horticultural Society, District 17
2nd Place Winner: Sylvia Grant, Guelph & Township Horticultural Society, District 7
3rd Place Winner: Ruth Robinson, Guelph & Township Horticultural Society, District 7
Honorable Mention: Tracy Bosley, Alliston Horticultural Society, District 16

Best In Show: Andrea Hester, Orono Horticultural Society, District 17

Statistics: Overall there were: 4 Entries in song
11 Entries in poem
11 Entries in narrative
Total = 26 entries
14 Societies had entries

Thank you to everyone for entering! Please read the "Notes from the judge" to assist you with this year's entries.

Words of Advice from Judge Marilyn For All Creative Writers

Submitted by Sandra Mazur

Here are some thoughts on what to look for when either creating a poem (free verse) and/or writing a short story or narrative.

Free verse – I call that the lazy man's poem. (This is strictly my opinion!) I am not really a lover of free-verse poetry as it does not have rules to go by and can be all over the place and makes judging it difficult. But, I think that there are some guidelines that can be followed.

First of all – punctuation. It helps with the flow of the poem and can give it a continuity and/or "pow". It creates tone and emotion. **So use question marks or exclamation points, periods and commas, etc.**

I knew I was going to make this kill

Though my heart cried: Don't do it!

Next – stanzas or verses. Keeps ideas together. It's a way to give pause to emphasize certain lines or related content. Put in as many as needed. They tell when you're switching time, place, topic or speakers. They break the page up so it is not just a solid block of writing. Example: excerpt from a free verse poem:

My eager hands

Turn the pages of an old album

I found in the attic just this morning.

Photos, old, faded.

Pages, yellowed, crumbling.

Great-Grandma seen in apron

And stockings rolled to the top of sturdy shoes,

Hoe in hand;

Great-Grandpa bending over the peas in the midday sun.

The first house built, standing in the background.

There are no officially sanctioned rules of free verse poetry. However, as with all creative writing, having some degree of structure can only help in getting your idea across where it captures your audience's attention.

On Writing Creative Narrative

Most important: The first few lines need to catch the reader's attention and want them to read more.

"Her hand trembled as she picked up the key" makes you want to hear more of why she was trembling –
Was she afraid? Was she cold? What's this about a key?

You can start with a question, with dialogue, an interesting fact or with a bold statement (such as: "The gold was in plain sight.")

Sometimes this line has to be left by itself and the rest continuing in the next paragraph. If you're writing about a garden, don't make a list of all the flowers and shrubs. This is a story you are writing, not a grocery list. Mention a few, the colours, how tall, low-lying, their scent, how they're "dozing in the cool shade over near the stone fence..." Talk about the overall view of the gardens rather than individuals unless they stand out in some way. "The blue flag irises with their feet in the edge of the pond."

- Put in as many paragraphs as needed. They tell when you're switching time, place, topic, or speakers. They break the page up so it is not just a solid block of writing.
- Watch your capitalization and punctuation marks, these are important.
- Use interesting verbs. Don't say she "walked over to him." Rather "she flew to his side." Don't say "she dropped the bucket as she turned around." Say "the bucket fell with a thud, spilling its contents as she whirled around."
- Vary your sentences. Some can be short while others are long. Start sentences with different parts of speech. "Mary had a lot to say." Change to "There was so much Mary had to say."

This is just a quick guideline. One that I like and have used.

In one category, there was only 1 prize awarded because others had not followed the rules. Please be careful. Some are still not including the name of the song it is written to. That is how the judge knows what tune to use. Also, you cannot use too many lines out of the original song. Additionally, some writings ask for double spacing. Please pay attention. One entry would have scored much higher with double spacing.

Thanks to everyone for entering. I look forward to receiving entries from you again next year.

OHA Youth Competition Results

Submitted by Karen Redmond, District 8 Director

Age groupings for Youth Competition Classes were as follows:

A 6 – 8 years	B 9 – 11 years	C 12 – 14 years	D 15 – 18 years
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Section A

Class 1 Grounded by Soil

1. Hailey Thompson (Wilmot)	1. Tyler Thompson (Wilmot)	no entries	no entries
2. Chloe Thompson (Wilmot)			

Class 2 Solid Partnership

no entries	Judge awarded 2nd place 2. Ava Waung (Ottawa HS)	no entries	no entries
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Section B – Artistic Creativity Open (Don Matthews)

Class 3 Rocking The Bloom

1. Hailey Thompson (Wilmot)	1. Tyler Thompson (Wilmot)	1. Ezekiel Baer (Wilmot)
2. Hannah Baer (Wilmot)	2. Ava Waung (Ottawa HS)	
3. Lia Waung (Ottawa HS)	3. Chloe Thompson (Wilmot)	
4. Ophelia Kennedy (Deep River)		
5. Emma Pehkenon (Deep River)		

Class 4 Crop Circle

1. Lia Waung (Ottawa HS)	1. Chloe Thompson (Wilmot)	1. Ezekiel Baer (Wilmot)	no entries
2. Hailey Thompson (Wilmot)	2. Tyler Thompson (Wilmot)	2. Katelynn Cressman (Wilmot)	
		3. Joslynn Curran (Ripley)	

Best in Show – Ezekiel Baer

Section C – Floral Design Open to all Youth

Class 5 Pebbles and Seeds

1. Hannah Baer (Wilmot)	1. Ava Waung (Ottawa HS)	1. Katelynn Cressman (Wilmot)	1. Laura Kuepfer (Wilmot)
2. Hailey Thompson (Wilmot)	2. Tyler Thompson (Wilmot)		
3. Matthew Kuepfer (Wilmot)	3. Chloe Thompson (Wilmot)		
4. Lia Waung (Ottawa HS)	4. Eliza Baer (Wilmot)		

Class 6 Herbs are foundation of the Recipe

1. Matthew Kuepfer (Wilmot)	1. Tyler Thompson (Wilmot)	1. Katelynn Cressman (Wilmot)	1. Laura Kuepfer (Wilmot)
2. Hailey Thompson (Wilmot)	2. Chloe Thompson (Wilmot)	2. Samuel Kuepfer (Wilmot)	
		3. No prize awarded	
		4. Joslynn Curran (Ripley)	

Class 7 Firm Footsteps (Floral Design)

1. Hailey Thompson (Wilmot)	1. Tyler Thompson (Wilmot)
2. Lia Waung (Ottawa HS)	2. Ava Waung (Ottawa)
	3. Chloe Thompson (Wilmot)

Judge's Choice – Hailey Thompson

Special Awards for All Youth Members Class 8-11

Class 8 Start of Time

Hannah Baer (Wilmot)	\$6.00
Lia Waung (Ottawa HS)	\$5.00
Ava Waung (Ottawa)	\$4.00

Section D – Photography

William D Clingersmith Photography – (Best in Show)

1. Katelynn Cressman (Wilmot) Best in Show - \$20.00 5 points

Class 9 Rocks are Cool

1. Katelynn Cressman (Wilmot)

Class 10 Field Stone Photography

1. Katelynn Cressman (Wilmot)

Section E – Fine Arts

Class 11 Harry Wyma

1. Katelynn Cressman (Wilmot) \$10.00 prize 5 points

Section F Horticulture

Open all OHA membership

Class 12 Past Year Chair Awards (Cat McGill)

1. Katelynn Cressman (Wilmot) Varieties of herbs/flowers etc. 0 points

Class 14 Maisie Bray Award – Club – No entries

Section G – Special Awards

Class 15 – Ruby Bryan Award (club only)

1. Ripley FOY (Ripley HS) (Joslynn Curran) 5 points

Section F

Class 13 Ruby Lobban Highest Points Award

1. Katelynn Cressman (Wilmot) 29 points total

Total of 4 youth groups participated – Wilmot, Deep River, Ripley and Ottawa with cheques issued to the 4 societies

Prize Winners/ Entrants

Exhibitor	Prize Money	Society
Hailey Thompson	\$27.00	Wilmot
Tyler Thompson	\$28.00	Wilmot
Chloe Thompson	\$22.00	Wilmot
Ava Waung	\$21.00	Ottawa HS
Hannah Baer	\$15.00	Wilmot
Lia Waung	\$18.00	Ottawa
Ophelia Kennedy	\$1.00	Deep River
Emma Pehkenon	\$1.00	Deep River
Ezekiel Baer	\$10.00	Wilmot
Katelynn Cressman	\$65.00	Wilmot
Joslynn Curran	\$4.00	Ripley
Matthew Kuepfer	\$ 8.00	Wilmot
Eliza Baer	\$1.00	Wilmot
Laura Kuepfer	\$ 10.00	Wilmot
Samuel Kuepfer	\$4.00	Wilmot
Ripley For Our Youth Group	\$15.00	
Lennon Rochon	\$ 0.00	Deep River
Marven Lundie	\$0.00	Deep River
Xavier Goddard	\$0.00	Deep River

OHA Arts Competition Results

Submitted by Vicky Culbert, OHA Vice President

Class 1: Drawing: “A Sculpture in a Garden”

- First: –
Second: Sandra Rammelaere
Third: –

Class 2: Watercolour Painting Framed: “A Garden Paradise”

- First: –
Second: Sandra Rammelaere
Third: –

Class 3: Oil or Acrylic Painting: “Vegetable Garden”

- First: –
Second: Gay MacQuarrie
Third: –

Class 4: Mixed media Art: “From a Distance Landscape”

- First: Sandra Rammelaere
Second: –
Third: –

Class 5: Glass Art: “A Flower with Bird and/or Pollinator”

- First: Sandra Rammelaere
Second: –
Third: –

Class 6: Reclaimed Art: “For my Garden”

- First: Gay MacQuarrie
Second: Anne Harbord
Third: –

Class 7: Fabric Art: “Native flowers”

- First: Joan MacKinnon
Second: Laura Hunter
Third: –

Class 8: Carving: “Flower or Bird”

- First: –
Second: –
Third: Anne Harbord

Class 9: Paper Art: “A Get Well Card for a Friend”

- First: Veronica Heiderich
Second: Gay MacQuarrie
Third: Laura Hunter

Class 10: Jewellery Art: “Garden Jewels”

- First: Joan MacKinnon
Second: –
Third: –

Best in Show and Judge’s Choice
were presented to Joan MacKinnon

OHA Publications Competition Results

Submitted by Kathy Bouma, District 7 Director

Yearbook

Class 1 Yearbook Cover:

Primarily computer-generated graphics

- 1st Georgetown Horticultural Society
- 2nd none
- 3rd none

Class 2 Yearbook Cover:

Cover illustrations primarily photographic

- 1st Russell & District Horticultural Society
- 2nd Ore-Medonte Horticultural Society
- 3rd Parry Sound & District Horticultural Society
- HM Alliston & District Horticultural Society

Class 3 Yearbook: Full letter size

- 1st Nepean Horticultural Society
- 2nd Thunder Bay Horticultural Society

- 3rd Richmond Hill Garden & Horticultural Society
- HM Georgetown Horticultural Society

Class 4 Yearbook: Letter size folded into booklet style

- 1st Ore-Medonte Horticultural Society
- 2nd Russell & District Horticultural Society
- 3rd Alliston & District Horticultural Society
- HM Guelph Horticultural Society

Class 5 Yearbook: Legal size folded into booklet style

- 1st Newmarket Garden Club
- 2nd Parry Sound & District Horticultural Society
- 3rd none

Class 6 Yearbook Youth – no entries

Other Publications

Class 7 Special Event Poster

- 1st Schomberg Horticultural Society
- 2nd Georgetown Horticultural Society
- 3rd Richmond Hill Garden & Horticultural Society
- HM Guelph Horticultural Society

Class 8 Special Event Brochure/Pamphlet/Flyer

- 1st Chinguacousy Garden Club & Horticultural Society
- 2nd Ontario Horticultural Association District 2
- 3rd Schomberg Horticultural Society
- HM Orono Horticultural Society

Class 9 Brochure, Pamphlet or Flyer

- 1st Paris Horticultural Society
- 2nd Ontario Horticultural Association – District 2
- 3rd East Gwillimbury Gardeners
- HM Pelham Garden Club

Class 10 Newsletter:

Cover illustrations primarily photographic in origin

- 1st Richmond Hill Garden & Horticultural Society
- 2nd East Gwillimbury Gardeners

- 3rd Newmarket Garden Club
- HM West Carleton Garden Club & Horticultural Society

Class 11 Newsletter:

Cover graphics primarily computer-generated

- 1st Chinguacousy Garden Club & Horticultural Society
- 2nd West Carleton Garden Club & Horticultural Society
- 3rd Oakville Horticultural Society

Class 12 Youth Journal/Scrapbook/other – no entries

Class 13 Bookmark

- 1st Paris Horticultural Society
- 2nd Russell & District Horticultural Society
- 3rd Ore-Medonte Horticultural Society
- HM Elmvale & District Horticultural Society

Class 14 Promotional /Partnership

- 1st Ontario Horticultural Association – District 2
- 2nd Schomberg Horticultural Society
- 3rd Russell & District Horticultural Society

Show Schedule

Class 15 Show Schedule from the current year

- 1st Richmond Hill Garden & Horticultural Society
- 2nd Parry Sound & District Horticultural Society
- 3rd Chinguacousy Garden Club & Horticultural Society
- HM Alliston & District Horticultural Society

Best In Show – Chinguacousy Garden Club & Horticultural Society

Judge's Choice – Thunder Bay Horticultural Society

OHA Photo Competition Results

Submitted by Brad King, Photography Competition Chair



Class 01 Rock Your Garden World
1st place Gay MacQuarrie (shown above)
2nd place Marie Decker
3rd place Sharon Slack



Class 02 Stoney Art
1st place Judy Grasmuck (shown above)
2nd place Deena Errempalli
3rd place Marie Decker



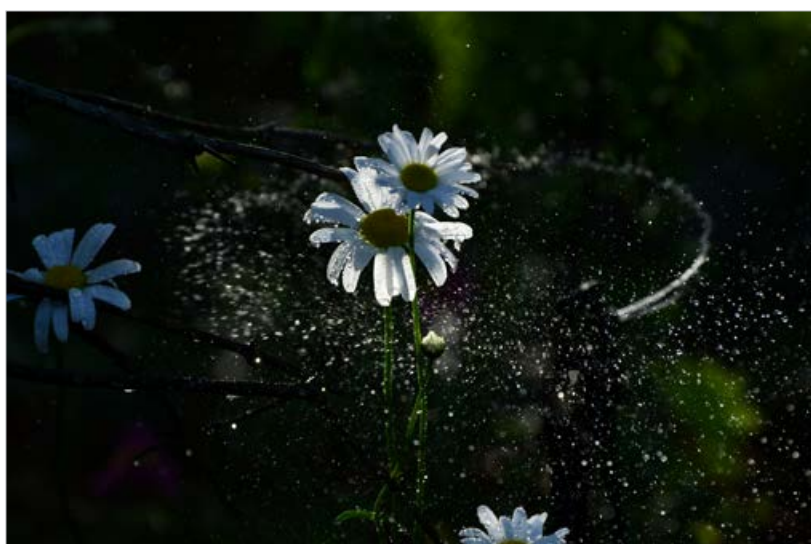
Class 03 Garden Wall
1st place Sharon Slack (shown above)
2nd place Ana Shantz
3rd place Deena Errempalli



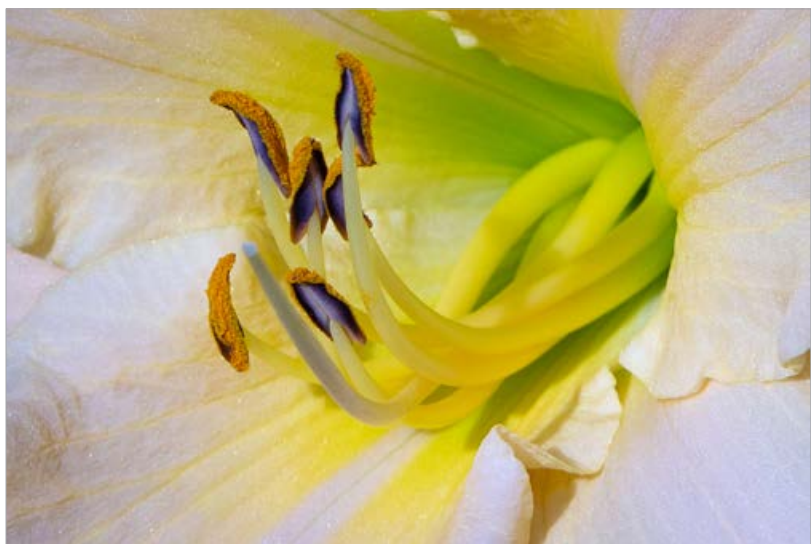
Class 04 Like a Rock
1st place Judy Grasmuck (shown above)
2nd place Stephen Grasmuck
3rd place Jack Van Gemeren



Class 05 Rock the Night Away
 1st place Sharon Slack (shown left)
 2nd place Deena Errempalli
 3rd place Ana Shantz



Class 06 Dancing Angels
 1st place Jack Van Gemenen (shown left)
 2nd place Not awarded
 3rd place Not awarded



Class 08 The Devil is in the Details
 1st place Larry Chamney (shown above)
 2nd place Deena Errempalli
 3rd place Jack Van Gemenen



Class 07 Wild About Gardens
 1st place Judy Grasmuck (shown above)
 2nd place Deena Errempalli
 3rd place Stephen Grasmuck

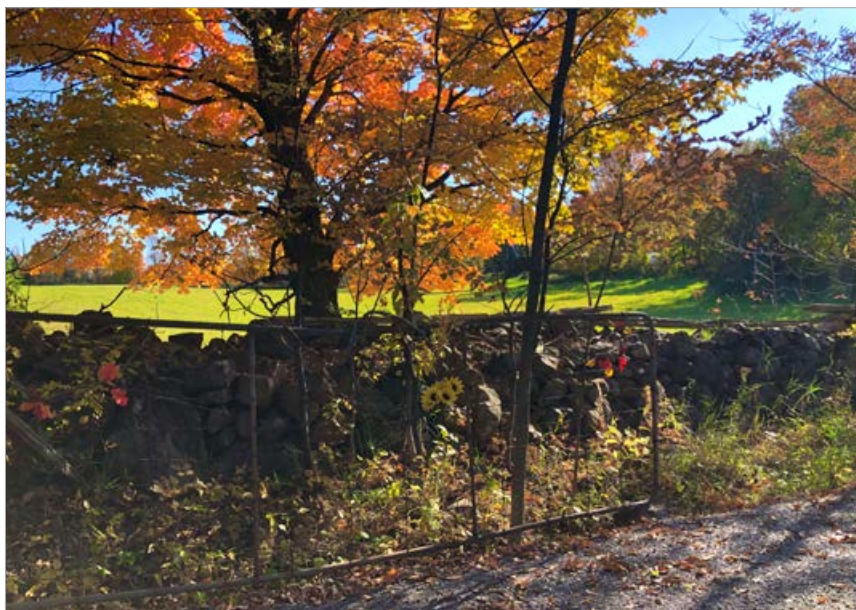


Class 09

1st place
2nd place
3rd place

The Voice of the Garden

Larry Chamney (shown left)
Micklos Gallata
Ana Shantz



Class 10

1st place
2nd place
3rd place

Falling For Autumn

Judy Grasmuck (shown above)
Gay MacQuarrie
Micklos Galata



Class11

1st place
2nd place
3rd place

Noir et Blanc

Larry Chamney (shown above)
Jack Van Gemen
Deena Errempalli



Grand Champion: Chilled Out Larry Chamney

Class 12

1st place
2nd place
3rd place

Chilled Out

Larry Chamney (shown above)
Deena Errempalli
Marie Decker

Winter Greetings from the Haldimand Horticultural Society

Submitted by Barbara Wilson, Publicity Chair Photos by Barbara Wilson

“39 Years of Growing”

As our gardening season comes to a close, we can be proud of the many accomplishments achieved this year. With the continued support of our 143 members, the Society looks forward to our 40th Anniversary celebrations in 2024.

Here is a recap of the past few busy months:

- September’s General Meeting featured a lively silent auction, peach social and mini flower show (with our wonderful “Town Crier” auctioneer, Bob Heil).
- The Green Gardian’s Youth Group entered a display at the Caledonia Fair and won first prize. We are proud of the “Fireplace Mantle” creation that they prepared.
- Our Poppy Project created last year for a display at the Caledonia Cenotaph expanded this year to include the Hagersville cenotaph. One thousand nine hundred and seventy poppies were fastened to mesh for this display. We are so grateful to our generous community volunteers for their time and effort to knit or crochet poppies for these projects. Two thousand two hundred and eighty-four were collected for Caledonia in 2022. Next year, we plan on displaying poppies at the cenotaph in Cayuga and we hope volunteers will continue making poppies for this project.
- A new sign has been erected at our Burke Estates Pollinator garden in Caledonia. Many community members and school groups have visited this special garden and the sign will explain about the garden and why pollinator plants are so important to our environment.
- Workshops: Two workshops, making hypertufas and our annual Christmas urn workshops were well-received and enjoyed by all those participating.
- Awards were presented in November to: Sharon Slack – the Horticultural Service Certificate and to Catherine McGill – the Judging and Exhibiting Certificate. Congratulations to both of our members for these achievements.



Hypertufa Workshop



Member Sharon Slack with her urn creation

Wishing you all a season filled with joy!



OHA Awards and Grants

By Sharlene Desjardins, OHA President

The Ontario Horticultural Association sponsors various awards and grants each year. Awards are presented annually during the Convention and throughout the year by the District Directors. Grants are approved in March and reimbursed throughout the year. The new downloadable and printable Awards Booklet is now available online at www.gardenontario.org. The booklet is designed to inform the members of the awards and grants available and the procedure to follow to submit a nomination/application.

Awards presented at the convention are:

- Silver Medal Award
- Trillium/Silver Fir Award
- Award of Merit
- Community Improvement Award
- Environmental Award
- Youth Leader Award
- Honour Roll Award
- ***Technical Award* NEW**

The Technical Award is a plaque which may be presented to a person who has been an asset as a technical advisor/coordinator/webmaster for a Society/Club and/or a District and who has assisted with virtual meetings, coordinating virtual flower shows, assisting with TPON, etc. Please see the nomination form for more information.

Nominations, with supporting information, should be sent to:

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

The deadline for receipt of nominations is February 28, 2024. The Awards Coordinator will forward the nominations to the Awards Committee for selection of the winning recipients.

The OHA Awards Committee is comprised of the President, Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Past President, North/East Regional Representative, South/West Regional Representative, Secretary, Awards Coordinator and the Chair of the Past Presidents' Council. Any decision of the Committee will be considered as a decision of the Board of Directors.

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

Plant a Tree

The Ontario Horticultural Association is continuing its Tree Planting Grant whereby an affiliated Society/Club of the Ontario Horticultural Association may apply for up to \$300 for a special tree planting. Up to 20 tree-planting grants will be awarded in 2024.

The grant is to be used for the purchase of a tree(s) to be planted in a community or public space. A request by a Society/Club outlining the species of tree to be purchased, where the tree will be planted, a permission letter from the township and whether the planting commemorates a special event for the Society/Club/Community should be sent to the Ontario Horticultural Association's Awards Coordinator at the address above. The tree grants will be awarded on a **first come basis**, up to a maximum of 20 awards per year. This grant is available every second year. The awarded Society/Club must complete the planting of their tree by the end of the year. For example: if the grant is awarded in 2024, the tree must be planted and receipts received by the Awards Coordinator by December 31, 2024.

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

Begin a Special Project or Environmental Project

The Ontario Horticultural Association is offering up to 4 Special Project/Environmental Grants of up to \$1000 each as part of the ongoing support of affiliated Societies/Clubs. These projects must have a long lasting benefit to the Society/Club, community or environment. There are two subcategories on the application form and you must choose the one your Society/Club wants to complete. When preparing your application, be sure to include information about the location and use of the project, a budget for the project, one or two photographs of the site, the estimated costs and any other criteria required for the project you wish to undertake. Please keep your application to a maximum of 10 pages.

Any Society/Club that receives this funding cannot apply again for five years.

To be considered for a Special Project/Environmental grant in 2024, an application form and the accompanying information should be completed, sent to and received by the Awards Coordinator no later than February 28, 2024. Application forms are available on the OHA website at www.gardenontario.org.

To be reimbursed, the reporting form and accompanying documents must be received by the OHA Awards Coordinator no later than December 31 of the next year. For example, a grant awarded in 2024 must have all documentation submitted to and received by the Awards Coordinator no later than December 31 of 2025.

OHA Community Garden Grant

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

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

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

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

To apply, complete the Community Garden Grant application form and send it to the Awards Coordinator, who must receive it no later than February 28 of 2024. If your community garden project is awarded a grant, payment will follow receipt of a completed reporting form including copies of original receipts and pictures of the completed project.

The reporting form must be received by the OHA Awards Coordinator before December 31 of the next year. i.e. a grant awarded in 2024 must have all paperwork submitted to and received by the Awards Coordinator by December 31 of 2025. If a reporting form accompanied by copies of original receipts is not received by this time, it will be assumed that the community garden project was not completed and the grant will be cancelled.

Pollinator Project Grant

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

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

To apply, complete the Pollinator Project Grant application form and send it to the Awards Coordinator who must receive it no later than February 28 of the current year. If your pollinator project is awarded a grant, payment will follow receipt of a reporting form including copies of original receipts and pictures of the completed project.

The reporting form and accompanying documents must be received by the OHA Awards Coordinator no later than December 31 of the next year. For example, a grant awarded in 2024 must have all documentation submitted to and received by the Awards Coordinator by December 31 of 2025.

Youth Help Program Grant

To assist Societies/Clubs working with youth, the OHA will be offering up to 20 youth grants of up to \$75.00 each.

The Youth Help Program Grant provides Societies/Clubs that work with youth financial support. Any Society/Club working with youth and in good standing with the OHA may apply for the grant. The grant may be used for programming, seeds, special events, supplies, start up of a youth program, etc. for the Society/Club applying for the grant.

Updated youth grant forms are available on the OHA website at www.gardenontario.org. This grant is available yearly.

Technical Advancement Grant

The Technical Advancement Grant was introduced in 2021 to an overwhelming number of applications. This grant is awarded on a first come basis and in 2024 there will be up to six grants available of up to \$250 each. A Society/Club may only receive this grant twice with a three-year waiting period between applications. The Society/Club may choose to purchase a web-based subscription or technical equipment.

Youth Project Grant

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 a grant of up to \$150 may be awarded annually to up to three Youth Programs/Clubs. Applications forms are available at www.gardenontario.org. This grant may be applied for annually.

Accessibility Grant *NEW*

For the purposes of this grant, an accessible garden is defined as a plot of land, either publicly or privately owned, that will support people who experience disabilities, with respect for dignity, and responds to a person's individual needs and promotes integration and full participation. Examples could include but are not limited to: a sensory garden for the visually impaired, wheelchair accessible raised gardens or quiet meditation areas.

Please see the application form for more details.

Ontario Horticultural Association 50/50 Draws

Please note that the OHA 50/50 draws are helping to support the Awards and Grants Program. If you would like to purchase tickets, you may do so through the GardenOntario Rafflebox website at the following link: <https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/ontario-ha>

Also available are applications for Horticultural Service Certificates, Judging/Exhibiting Service Certificates and District Service Plaques. Please read the application form carefully and take the time to consider all the volunteers in your Society/Club and community that help to keep your area beautiful. Nominate a deserving individual or group for 2024.

OHA Competitions 2024

OHA 115th Convention • July 12-14, 2024 • Host: District 7 & 8 • Guelph

Theme: "The Heartland of Gardens Growing and Rivers Flowing"

Visit these sites for the rules and amazing categories to inspire your entries. It's fun and some of these have to be in early!

OHA 2024 – Arts Competition Schedule

<https://gardenontario.org/wp-content/uploads/2024-OHA-ARTS-COMPETITION-Schedule-2023-11-09.pdf>

OHA 2024 – Publications Competition Schedule

<https://gardenontario.org/wp-content/uploads/2024-OHA-PUBLICATIONS-COMPETITION-Schedule-2023-11-14.pdf>

OHA 2024 – Youth Competition

<https://gardenontario.org/wp-content/uploads/2024-OHA-YOUTH-COMPETITION-Schedule-2023-11-07.pdf>

OHA 2024 – Photography Competition Schedule

<https://gardenontario.org/wp-content/uploads/2024-OHA-PHOTOGRAPHY-COMPETITION-Schedule-2023-11-11-.pdf>

Ancaster Horticultural Society

Keeping Ancaster Beautiful for 62 Years

Submitted by Rhu Sherrard, Publicity Director

On October 17, 2023, the Ancaster Horticultural Society hosted guest speaker Chantal Theijn. Chantal founded the Hobbitstee Wildlife Refuge in 2007. Since that time, Hobbitstee has grown into a facility where annually upwards of 3500 animals find help. Chantal provided an informative and inspirational presentation and provides wildlife refuge services in the Southwestern Ontario area and is supported by local SPCA and various conservation groups. Chantal can be found on Facebook at <https://www.hobbitstee.com/>.

The City of Hamilton hosted their annual Mum Show. The event is not to be missed. The spectacular mum theme was Medieval Mums and presents over 100,000 mums grown in the Gage Park greenhouse. The event this year was from October 20 to 29th, 2023. Various volunteers from District 6 were able to attend and enjoy the beautiful displays.



Mum Show Photos by Rhu Sherrard



Our Annual General Meeting was held on November 17, 2023, with an open invitation to all members, their families and members of the community at large. Susan MacMillan, OHA Assistant Director of District 6, was able to join us and confirm our Executive for 2023-2025. All attendees were provided with the 2023 Annual Report with the reports from our Executive Council: Jill Macaulay, Bob Wilt, Donna Parker and Betty Howitt.

A review of our successful events was highlighted including the maintenance and beautification of the various gardens, Fieldcote (Sharon Lee) and Memorial Gardens (Sue Groleau) in Ancaster. Our annual plant sales are a significant fundraiser.

We are also now more reliable on social media, Facebook and Instagram. Our local newspaper, the Ancaster News, is no longer in publication. Donna Parker manages the plant sale, website, Our Florascape newsletter and the Instagram account. Membership is managed by Ingrid Davitsky.

Our Trillium Awards were presented to 125 homeowners in the neighbourhood and headed by Carol Howe and her committee: Marilyn Burjan, Kelley Gowland Carolyn Bondarenko and Sharon Ciraolo.

Our in-person social events are hosted by Wendy Spangenberg. The program director, Betty Howitt, is always seeking and securing various speakers and presenters for our meetings starting fresh in 2024. As a society, we continue to hold the January and February meetings via Zoom.

David Puskas continues to provide various photos representing the hard work of all our volunteers and the lovely town of Ancaster from a photographer's lens.

Bob Wilt, presented the following awards of recognition:

- President's Award: Rhu Sherrard, Marda Jeffrey and Carrie Browne
- Blue Ruffle Award: Joyce Radford, Marilyn Burjan and Carol Howe
- Life Membership: Anthony Vallentin and Dianne Vlahovich
- The Mayor's Award was presented to Anthony Vallentin

It was a lovely evening of friendship and community and a potluck of various dishes to be enjoyed by all



President's Award

L-R: Marda Jeffrey, Carrie Brown, Rhu Sherrard and Bob Wilt
AGM Photos by David Puskas



Life Memberships were presented to Dianne Vlahovich (absent) and Anthony Vallentin (left) by Bob Wilt (right).



The Mayor's Award was presented to Anthony Vallentin (left) by Bob Wilt (right).

Photos by David Puskas

attendees. I personally was very surprised and truly appreciated receiving the President's Award. We have a dedicated group of members and Executive who continue to make a difference both within our society and the community.

The following will be available to anyone who is interested:

- December 6, 2023 IN-PERSON: Decorating the Old Town Hall, Ancaster Ontario
- January 16, 2024 ZOOM: Dr. Gregor Beck, Birds Canada Wildlife Biologist "Gardening for Birds"
- February 20, 2024 ZOOM: Carol Pasternak, "Drama in the Butterfly Garden"
- March 19, 2024 IN-PERSON: Adrian Hodgson, Regenerative Landscape Design "Let's Talk Permaculture"

Our full program can be found on the Facebook page and will be updated in my next report.

Please follow us on Instagram @ancaster_gardeners and Facebook Ancaster Horticultural Society

"The garden reconciles human art and wild nature, hard work and deep pleasure, spiritual practice and the material world. It is a magical place because it is not divided." – Thomas Moore

Happy Holidays and all the best in the New Year

OHA Awards and Grants

The OHA believes that members who show strong leadership and active participation within a society should be recognized. For the latest copy of the **Awards + Grants Booklet**, and a list of those available visit:

<https://gardenontario.org/resources/#awards-toggle>

Click each award or grant name for the application form. Each pdf form has been created as a "fillable form" so all you need to do is click in the space and type to fill it in. Please download, fill in, and email the appropriate forms, in pdf format, to nominate someone for an award or apply for a grant (there are also links for reporting and submitting receipts afterwards).

The Therapeutic Garden

By Cynthia B. Lauer, PhD (Sociology); member, Simcoe County Master Gardeners

*Evidence-based designers create therapeutic gardens for people struggling with a wide range of illnesses.
But the healing properties of plants can be enjoyed by anyone seeking well-being and renewal.*



Butchart Gardens

CREDIT: 林俞安 at zh.wikipedia, CC BY 1.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/1.0>>, via Wikimedia Commons



Butchart Gardens

CREDIT: TravelingOtter from Houston, Texas, USA, CC BY-SA 2.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0>>, via Wikimedia Commons

Gardens Are Good for Your Health

Wisdom of the restorative effects of green spaces is as old as plants themselves. Now scrutinized by scientists, the rewards of the therapeutic garden can be enjoyed by anyone, anywhere.

One approach is horticultural therapy found in institutional settings such as acute or chronic care hospitals and care facilities for seniors, disabled persons or psychiatric patients. These programs are led by professionally-trained horticultural therapists and may involve structured interactions with plants in an activity room or an on-site garden. A second approach, therapeutic horticulture, facilitates interaction with plants in non-clinical settings. Oriented toward stress-reduction or resilience-building, activities are led by lay persons or may be self-directed.

While the burgeoning wellness industry attests to the appeal of plants, many of these products have not been adequately tested. Scientific evidence does exist, however, for the benefits of horticultural therapy and therapeutic horticulture. Differences in research design means that conclusions are not always generalizable to all populations in all locations. Nonetheless, they are valid and reliable within meaningful parameters. Published in international scholarly peer-reviewed journals by qualified specialists in their fields, the research indicates a strong positive relationship between green space and health.

Nature as a Clinical Intervention

In a consolidation of research on the effects of natural environments on physical and mental health, a Toronto Public Health report notes reductions in obesity, cardiovascular disease, all-cause mortality and improved birth outcomes. One systematic review found strong evidence for a positive association between the quantity of green space in people's living environment and perceived mental health and mortality due to all causes. The effects are general and lifelong.

Simply looking at nature reduces anxiety, stress, and heart rate. In 1984, a now-classic study on gall bladder patients in a Pennsylvania hospital showed that post-operative healing took less time for patients whose windows offered a view of trees compared to patients with a view of a brick wall. The first group of patients also required less potent pain medication and had fewer postsurgical complications.

Presence in nature is most rehabilitative for people experiencing the highest levels of stress. This result is unaffected by sex, socioeconomic level or age. Living without access to green space compared with living near dense green space is associated with 15–55% higher risk of most psychiatric disorders. This effect remains after adjusting for urbanization, socioeconomic factors, and family history of mental illness.

Moving through natural environments results in improved cognitive function, academic performance and the ability to perform mentally challenging tasks. Nature is restorative in that it improves one's focus and reduces mental fatigue. With respect to emotional well-being, there is evidence of nature's beneficial changes on feelings of energy, anxiety, anger, fatigue and sadness.

Nature as Wellness Factory

Whether in the form of wilderness backpacking, gardening or simply having a view of nature, plants have been linked to a long list of good things. Walking amidst green space relieves stress, improves cognition, increases physical activity and enriches social interaction. Long duration in nature is unnecessary. Studies have shown that large benefits can be achieved with a minimal investment of time. In fact, the largest gains are observed within the first five minutes of activity.

Spending time in woodland areas decreases stress and blood pressure, lowers heart rate and cortisol levels, and boosts mood. Benefits of "forest bathing", the Japanese tradition of *shinrin-yoku*, have been measured in those with early dementia, post-traumatic stress disorder, hypertension, alcoholism, breast and lung cancer, major depressive disorder, chronic widespread pain and substance abuse.



Japanese Garden

CREDIT: krantzpeter posted on Pixabay, <https://pixabay.com/photos/japanese-garden-path-trees-nature-2898777/>



Urban Rose Garden

CREDIT: Cynthia B. Lauer

Evidence shows that the activity of gardening reduces depression, anxiety, and body mass index as well as increases in life satisfaction, quality of life, and sense of community. While more research is needed on the duration and frequency of gardening and health outcomes, it is clear that, in the words of one group of researchers, a "regular dose of gardening can improve public health".

BioPhilia, Phytoncides and Bacteria

A few theories explaining the links between health and plants are attracting attention. As evidence for these explanations grows, researchers expect further confirmation. For now, these ideas improve our understanding of the processes involved in our rewarding engagement with nature.

Coined by American biologist E. O. Wilson, biophilia refers to the deep satisfaction we derive from our affiliation with other living beings and the environment in which they flourish. American horticulturalist Diane Relf discusses hortophilia as a sub-category of biophilia in which we need to not only interact with nature, but also to enter into a caring relationship with it. Gardening, specifically, entails a dynamic relationship with plants.

Phytoncides, or wood essential oils, are antimicrobial organic compounds emitted by plants for defense against decay or attack by herbivores. Phytoncides permeate the air in natural environments and are inhaled during nature walks. Forest bathing studies have collected data on phytoncides emitted by Japanese cedar, beech and oak trees. Some phytoncides have been found to be antimicrobial while others have been found to increase immune system activity.

When we inhale the soil bacteria *Mycobacterium vaccae* in water, soil, and vegetation, it activates a set of serotonin-releasing neurons in the brain affecting mood, arousal and learning. Injected into rodents, *M vaccae* alters the animals' behaviour in a way similar to that of antidepressants. Some research shows that it has long-lasting anti-inflammatory effects on the brain and may activate immune cells. But *M vaccae* is not unique. There are millions of other strains of

bacteria in soils. "We are just beginning to see the tip of the iceberg in terms of identifying the mechanisms through which they have evolved to keep us healthy", neuroscientist Christopher Lowry says.

The therapeutic garden delivers abundant gifts to those who tend it. You don't have to be suffering from stress or any other problem in order to experience the rewards offered by plants whether in a forest or in a balcony container garden. Access is open, free and generous.

Bio: Cynthia B. Lauer is a member of Simcoe County Master Gardeners, a writer for *The Gardener* magazine, a retired sociology professor and proprietor of Plum Publishing Development Services for academic and nonfiction writers.

Trenton Horticultural Society

Submitted by Judy Muldoon, President

The Trenton Horticultural Society enjoyed a productive year of garden activities and fellowship in 2023. The year started with Zoom meetings highlighting knowledgeable speakers who shared their passion in their respective fields. Our winter Zoom meetings allowed our members to access these presentations when driving could be a challenge.



Plant Sale

Once spring brought forth the rain and longer days, we were ready for our annual Plant Sale. This year, the rain did indeed catch us and we were soaked! Nevertheless, the rain did not stop the many customers that were delighted to find an extensive variety of plants for very reasonable prices. The local Community Garden was the thankful recipient of the many plants we were able to donate to them. And we raised quite a bit of money in 3 hours.

Before we knew it, our members had beautiful arrangements ready for our flower show in July. Our accomplished members displayed gorgeous specimens, displaying the techniques they had learned from the many speakers we have had the privileged to host. They also took the time to share a cup of tea and enjoy the delicious treats while sharing a laugh.

Our mystery bus tour took our members to unexpected garden gems throughout our region and was once again an enchanting experience for all. Soon after, our vegetables were ready to be in the spotlight and they did not disappoint!

A charming Vegetable Competition and Pie and Plant Auction in August was enjoyed by our members. They put on display their horticultural knowledge and delectable baking skills while having fun during the auction.

We closed our summer with our first Garden Party in August. This elegant occasion highlighted the friendship and fellowship we share in our club and our fun spirit. As we waved our farewells to summer, we were ready to welcome fall and its iconic colours.

Our members were ready to donate their time to decorate the local YMCA for Remembrance Day and later on for Christmas. Our October meeting featured a swap of plants and seeds for continued success in the garden.



Christmas YMCA Urns

Our year closed with our AGM, a potluck and Christmas Gifts Auction. Our dependable, involved and creative members have once again brought forth their very best. They have made it possible for everyone to enjoy a marvelous evening of great food and a fun auction, the proceeds of \$355 going to the local food bank. But most importantly, the priceless memories we have made together.

We grow, we laugh, we hold each other.



Mystery Tour



Garden Party

Bobcaygeon & District Horticultural Society

Submitted by Carol Peters

Gnome Workshop, November 24, 2023

Organizers: Eva Touchburn and Joyce Bryon

Photos by Eva Touchburn



Creating Gnomes



Carol Collins



Faye Crerer



Carol Peters



Joyce Bryon



Joyce Ingram

Annual General Meeting

Awards Photos: April Scott, Ric Scott



Carol Peters
President's Award for
time served as Secretary
Life Membership Award



April Scott
President's Award for
outstanding contribution as
Director of Social Media



Ric Scott
President's Award for
time served as Treasurer



Margaret McIsaac
President's Award for
time served as a Director



Directors 2023-2024
Foreground: Patty Carlson, President
L-R: Back row: Carol O'Leary, Treasurer, Carol Chellew, Secretary,
Helen Kaphammel, Sylvia Green – Vice-President,
Front Row: Laura Chattaway, Eva Touchburn, Joyce Bryon,
Ruth McIsaac – Past President

Oak Tree Health

By Sharlene Desjardins, OHA President

With respect to notifying all members of the OHA about important plant health issues, please review the notification below from the CFIA.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) needs your help as a leading voice in the field of tree and plant health.

Oak wilt has been found in Canada, specifically in the province of Ontario. We are strongly advising arborists and landscapers not to prune oak trees until November to help prevent the spread of oak wilt.

As you may be aware, oak wilt is a disease that can cause serious damage to Canada's oak tree population.

There are several pathways by which oak wilt can spread, including:

- via root grafting where the fungus travels through the interconnected roots of infected and healthy trees growing in close proximity.
- via insects such as sap and bark beetles that carry spores of the fungus from an infected tree to a healthy one.
- human-assisted spread through the movement of things such as firewood and pruning during high-risk periods.

This is why the CFIA is asking the public not to prune oak trees between April and November as oak trees are at high risk for oak wilt infection during this time.

By working together, we can help ensure Canadians are well-informed on the signs and symptoms of oak wilt and how to report sightings:

<https://inspection.canada.ca/plant-health/invasive-species/plant-diseases/oak-wilt/eng/1325624048625/1325624535106>

Please share this information to keep our oak trees healthy. Thank you.



Bath Gardening Club

What's Happening in Bath

*Submitted by Pat Chown, Written by: Pat Chown, Jane Ledingham, Sylvia Whalen
Photography by: Sandra Lowman, Laurie Minorgan, Sue Nilsson, Don Taylor*

The objective of the Gardening Club is to help create a more beautiful Bath and to foster a culture of learning among members and our greater community as we work with the challenges often posed by our environment. We are extremely proud of the work that we do; well over 1000 hours of volunteer participation per year. We welcome new ideas, new members and participation from all. Everyone has knowledge or a skill to share. We need people who can garden but also those who can bake, set up tables and chairs, make coffee, provide contacts for interesting speakers, etc. We know that with greater participation, we will become a more vibrant Club and community.

We are proud to have four media platforms that we can use to help communicate who we are and what we do. In addition to the newsletter that is published 4 times annually, we have: our website, bathgardeningclub.ca, which contains our history and constitution; information about membership; minutes of meetings; current projects and activities; previous newsletters and many valuable gardening resources.



November Workshop – Building a Suet Bird Feeder

Over 30 people attended an evening workshop lead by Linda and Avi Dishy. A big "thank you" to both presenters for supplying drilled-out logs and all of the material needed for participants to leave at the end of the workshop with a feeder ready for hanging.

Note: During the workshop, a discussion ensued about how attractive the suet would be to hungry squirrels lurking in the area. It was suggested that a dash of cayenne pepper added to the mix might be helpful in keeping our furry four-legged friends at bay.

Like humans, not all birds favour the same meal. Check out recipes and suet-making ideas at the following site: <https://www.familyhandyman.com/article/homemade-suet-recipes-and-suet-feeding-tips-for-birds/>



*Suet Bird Feeder Workshop
Photos by Don Taylor*

Bath Gardening Club Hosts the District 3 Meeting

In early November, our Club hosted the District 3 Fall meeting. Approximately 41 people attended from 12 of the 13 Clubs/Societies within the District. The focus of the meeting was to review and provide input into the draft of the Constitution and the Code of Conduct for the District's Board. This work will continue at the Spring meeting. The budget for the upcoming year was approved. The meeting concluded with a fundraising auction of items donated by each of the societies. Kudos go out to Janice Firth, Co-ordinator, and all of the BGC volunteers that made this day such a success!



District 3 Meeting – Photo by Sandra Lowman



Wreaths and Bows – Photo by Laurie Minorgan



Decorating Bath for Winter – Photo by Laurie Minorgan



Wreaths and Bows – Photo by Laurie Minorgan



Decorating Bath for Winter – Photo by Sue Nilsson

Readying our Village for the Winter Season

Whether it involves putting up lights, filling our gardens with boughs, or making huge red bows for our outdoor wreaths, once again our many volunteers happily take part in creating a festive and welcoming ambiance so we can all enjoy a more beautiful Bath.

December 7th was the kick-off of our village winter festivities. Our local entrepreneurs opened their doors for shopping in what has become the annual "Merry Little Main Street". The Gardening Club sponsored the Carol Sing in Centennial Park complete of course, with hot chocolate and cookies!

Our next Gardening Club meeting will take place on Monday, January 15 at 2:30 pm in St. John's Hall.

Happy Holidays!



Decorating Bath for Winter – Photo by Laurie Minorgan

Dunnville Horticultural Society

Community Connections

By Deb Zynomirski, Past President

Submitted by Melanie Ruigrok, Vice President



Photo by Melanie Ruigrok



Photo by Melanie Ruigrok

2023 was an eventful and productive year for the Dunnville Horticultural Society (D.H.S.). It started with a number of successful program nights in which members learned about fantastic online gardening resources, our local Carolinian Forests and the effect of mushrooms and fungi on various tree species. Heading into the spring months, members heard a talk on foraging from the local nature's bounty, were treated to a magical demonstration on creating fairy gardens and learned about Loyalist's kitchen gardens of the past.

In April, D.H.S. partnered with the Haldimand Horticultural Society to run a 'Seedy Saturday' event and participated in the Dunnville Lions Home Show. Both of these events were well attended by the community and gave D.H.S. plenty of exposure. The annual Plant Sale started off the busy month of May. It was a successful fund raiser. Next, three days were spent planting petunias and other annuals in the 20 gardens that are located around Dunnville and cared for by volunteers. Once again, Konkle Greenhouses in Dunnville supplied over 200 flats of annuals for free!

In June, D.H.S. partnered with Haldimand-Norfolk R.E.A.C.H. to create a pollinator garden for the benefit of the children and youth who visit the Ramsey Drive location. Volunteers then undertook the refurbishment of the gardens at the east and west parking lot entrance off Main St. in Dunnville. With help from our local Home Hardware, the unproductive portions of the gardens were dug out and filled with a thick layer of mulch and a large boulder was placed on each side. It is now a popular spot for local dog owners to bring their pooches.

While taking a break from monthly meetings in July and August, members of the Board of Directors were still hard at work planning and working on grants and applications. The volunteer weederers were kept busy staying ahead of the weeds! At the end of July, D.H.S. installed two miniature lighthouse features in prominent downtown gardens. They look great and complement the larger lighthouse feature located near the bridge crossing the Grand River.



Dunnville Legion Branch#142



Photo by Deb Zynomirski



Photo by Deb Zynomirski

The arrival of September meant the return of monthly program nights. There was an entertaining and educational talk about the bird banding station at Ruthven National Historic Site and a presentation on preparing your bulbs, corms and tubers for winter. At the end of October, D.H.S. finalized plans with the Dunnville B.I.A. to install a flagpole within the downtown core. A Canadian flag and a flag of Remembrance were quickly raised when the project was finished. This flagpole will serve a double duty as it will also hold lights for an illuminated Christmas tree during the holiday season. At the end of October, D.H.S. partnered with Dunnville Legion Branch #142 to create a beautiful display of crocheted poppies behind the cenotaph on Queen Street.

D.H.S. proudly attended the Haldimand County recognition night in October with nominations in two categories: the first being for a project under \$5,000 (miniature lighthouse project) and the second being the Thompson Creek Eco Centre in the over \$5,000 project category. We took home the award for the Thompson Creek project! Special recognition goes to Dan McKay and Debbie Thomas who spearheaded this project! A feather in the cap of D.H.S.!

The D.H.S. Board of Directors continues to be grateful to its membership for their ongoing trust, support and encouragement. D.H.S. will continue to wisely use resources to work hard for our town and be good stewards of all we are entrusted with.



Photo by Marilyn Stavinga

Tilbury and District Horticultural Society

Submitted by Joy Davis Photo by Gloria Mailloux



The Tilbury and District Horticultural Society honoured long-time member Linda Henderson in September by planting a butterfly garden in Tilbury Memorial Park. Linda was our secretary for many years and is the head of our Beautification Committee. She co-ordinates and plans our annual flower-planting downtown and is always willing to help keep our town looking good. Horticultural members and friends surprised her with this beautiful flower bed.

Georgina-Brock Garden Club

*Submitted by Denise Sheedy, President
Photos by Denise Sheedy and Fran Morrison*

First Year Success for Georgina-Brock Garden Club's Community Garden

With its first growing season concluded in the fall of 2023, the Pepperlaw Community Garden can claim success of how a vision became a dream come true.

The idea of a Community Garden to grow vegetables in the village of Pepperlaw was envisioned by Georgina-Brock Garden Club, an Ontario Horticultural Association District 17 horticultural society, which meets monthly at the Pepperlaw Lions Hall. President Denise Sheedy was fully committed to seeing the idea through to completion. She submitted the concept to the Town of Georgina in the winter of 2022. The timing was perfect to coincide with the Town's initiative to enhance recreation amenities within Pepperlaw, an under-served community on the eastern side of Georgina. Everyone knows that gardening ranks among the top recreation activities of happy, healthy citizens. The idea was readily adopted by Town officials and a budget set to create a Community Garden as part of the recreation project to be constructed on municipal property at the Pepperlaw Community Centre.

During the summer of 2022, plans were drawn up for a Collective-style Community Garden behind the Pepperlaw branch of the Public Library. It was to include full amenities: accessible raised beds, in-ground bed, walkways, tool shed, compost bin, water access point, fruit trees, planting bench/table. Eventually, a final layout was approved, the job was tendered and a contractor was hired by the Town to build the Community Garden. Work was completed on schedule in early May 2023 and the ribbon-cutting ceremony to officially open the Community Garden quickly followed.

A total of 13 residents joined the Collective, comprised of various ages and gardening experience. All agreed to work together and use natural gardening methods (no chemicals). Planting got off to a great start: seeds and seedlings were put into the soil in neat rows. By mid-June, most of the garden space had been utilized and the gardeners eagerly watered and watched the new plant growth. Passers-by using the central walkway frequently stopped to comment to the gardeners how much they enjoyed observing the progress.

A serious and unforeseen problem arose in early July when seedlings and plants stopped growing; many turning yellow and shrivelling. Most of the tomato plants died and had to be replaced. Investigation determined that the problem was with the soil – it appeared fine but was basically infertile. Looking with a microscope revealed the soil had few microorganisms (fungi, bacteria, protozoa, nematodes and other microbes) necessary to sustain healthy plant life.





What a dilemma! What saved the entire crop was composted horse manure, donated and applied just in time by dedicated members of the Collective. A lot of aged manure was top-dressed around all plants in mid-July which is peak growing season. The plants rebounded and the season was salvaged – thank goodness for this free and natural emergency remedy!

The harvest of vegetables was less than hoped for but acceptable, considering the soil challenge and knowing it's not unusual for new gardens to encounter issues the first year. In October, five bags of raked leaves and one cubic yard of composted horse manure mixed with aged wood chips were dug into all beds and then covered with straw for the winter. This should boost levels of microorganisms which constitute the web of life and foundation of healthy soil. Over 400 cloves of garlic were planted, which is an excellent start to next year's bounty of vegetables.

The 2023 growing season was a positive experience for everyone. The Community Garden is recognized as a benefit to residents and a feather in the cap of Georgina-Brock Garden Club. Focus in 2024 will be optimizing group participation, expanding in-ground garden space and public engagement and education. A high yield of vegetables is hoped for next year, for the gardeners' own use and excess production being donated to Georgina Food Pantry for use within the community.

Garden City Gardeners

Submitted by Anita Millar, Director, and Linda Olsson, Newsletter Editor

Photos by Anita Millar

Update on the Victorian Lawn Cemetery Pollinator Garden

431 Queenston St., St. Catharines, ON

The garden is doing well this summer despite the lack of volunteer assistance. We have been able to plant a number of native perennials that will provide a solid base for the coming years. Many thanks to Master Gardener Cathy Kavassalis for her generous donation of her speaker fee to us for purchasing native plants. We also need to thank members who donated plants, especially Diana Tracey for supplying us with many perennials from her own garden to supplement the native plantings. We lost a tree in one of the recent storms but the City of St. Catharines will replace it in the fall. I selected an Eastern Redbud as a replacement, a strong long-lasting tree.



Weeding is still very much an issue. A group of 4 of us have been visiting the garden since the beginning of the season to try to get the thistles and bindweed under control but it's an ongoing task. Hopefully, the hard work will pay off and next year will be less taxing. We still need help!

Agincourt Garden Club

Submitted by Cheryl Penner, President

Photos by Cheryl Penner

A new topic and speaker for us was: "Designing with Hosta Leaves" by the very entertaining Mary Ann Vercammen. We recently had Marie Decker "Vegetables – Harvesting to Table".

In April, 2023, the Agincourt and Scarborough Garden Club joined forces for a 4-week Floral Design Course with Ursula Eley as our teacher. The course was held Saturday mornings at the Knox United Christian Education Center. New, novice and expert gardeners joined together to learn and laugh. By all the feedback, it was a great success and perhaps another course will be held this year.

The May plant sale was held outdoors for the second year in a row. We were blessed with perfect weather. This enabled more people to participate comfortably, eliminating the stairs into and out of the hall. Our White Elephant Table, Peter Keeping with his truck full of Clematis and Sheila Cule with her perennials, annuals and cactus were added attractions plus the tables of indoor/outdoor plants and veggies. Our club expert, Herta Matz, sold over \$300 home grown tomatoes herself! And donated that back to the club. It was held in the parking lot of Knox Education Centre and coincided with "Open Doors" at Knox Church, next door. This location let us meet many more members and visitors. It was a great boost to everyone to be able to chat in the fresh air and reconnect. The sale was also a good success.

In September, the Annual Flower and Vegetable Show filled the hall with all the entries. Again, we had perfect weather. A steady stream of visitors kept us hopping on the plant, vegetable and design floor and in the tea room. The public was pleasantly surprised to find out you could keep your geraniums year after year. We had an abundance of help from our volunteers that we really appreciated.

Agincourt decided to keep having executive meetings by Zoom. But it is our habit to visit 1 or 2 of our board members' gardens for our meetings and we continued that. The board travelled to our place for lunch, our board meeting and a garden tour of the premises with nothing in bloom unfortunately, everything was finished. Maybe I need more plants?

We will have our usual pot luck dinner in December along with live entertainment.

We don't feel comfortable reinstating bus tours yet.

Public plantings were held to a minimum but we purposely embellished the existing gardens with more perennials.



2023 Agincourt Garden Club Board



Smiths Falls Horticultural Society

Smiths Falls Food Bank Garden

Summary from Linda and Steve Svarckopf

Submitted by D2 Director Anne Harbord

We are a small town, not unlike many other towns in Ontario, but I like it to think we are a little special. We have a Food Bank Garden!

If you have never had to worry about what you have to make when it comes to dinner time, then you are a lucky family. However, with the increasing cost of produce, then you will understand the importance of a special group of people.

Since 2021, several members of the Smiths Falls Horticultural Society volunteer to manage the Food Bank Garden under the leadership of Steve Svarckopf. The Garden is located on a plot donated by the Heritage House Museum. The Town rototilled the first year and Steve found volunteers to pull weeds, rototill, lay garden fabric and plant seedlings. The garden will eventually put food on a table each year.

A schedule for the summer was made up and, like clockwork, the volunteers came to water and harvest for two-week stints. By summer's end, baskets of food, fresh from the gardens, had been delivered to the Food Bank in Smiths Falls. In 2022, they donated 385 pounds of food with a huge increase in 2023 to 705 pounds. All this was harvested from the following plants:

20 Cucumber, 32 Tomato, 20 Sweet Pepper, 10 Zucchini,
10 Butternut Squash, 75 Yellow and Green Bean plants.

Those in need are sent away with a smile and a good selection of fresh veggies.

Our thanks go to the Smiths Falls Horticultural Society volunteers and other businesses in town who provide needed items for the garden. They made a huge difference in many lives! The photo shows some of the volunteers getting ready to plant after the garden cloth was put in place.

It is good to know that, when help is needed, our neighbors are there, and we care!



*Photos of vegetable harvest
Photo by Laura Hunter*



*Photos of vegetable harvest
Photo by Laura Hunter*



*Left to right: David Forest, Brian Bellevue, Anneke Graham, David Archer and Steve Svarckopf
Photo credit Debra Bellevue*

Omeme Blooms Garden Club

Scarecrow Festival in Omeme 2023

Article prepared by Joan Harding, Master Gardener
Submitted by Heather Grassie, Secretary

Photos by Joan Harding, Master Gardener

Omeme Blooms Horticultural Society started to 'Celebrate Fall' with its 4th Annual Scarecrow Festival. Residents, local businesses and many non-profit organizations were invited to display all types of scarecrows; store bought or homemade, on their lawns or in their windows. Everyone was asked on September 4th to have their scarecrows ready for viewing by Friday, September 22nd. Photos were sent to the Omeme Blooms web page.

In addition, this year, Omeme Blooms members gathered up items to decorate the main street of Omeme. Cornstalks were generously donated by Kennedy Farms. Doug and Linda Howden donated straw bales. Pumpkins, mums and scarecrows finished the look.



Some the Omeme Blooms members stuffed our **Scarecrow 'Bloom' Family**. At the Omeme Village Hall in 2021, **Herb and Violet** met each other sitting on a bench. Many visitors stopped and posed for photos with the two of them. In the fall of 2022, Herb and Violet appeared on the bench again with their precious little baby boy, **Sweet William**. Thus began the **Bloom family**. This year in 2023, Herb and Violet Bloom welcomed a new darling baby girl, **Sweet Pea**. Along with this little bundle of joy came Herb's mother, **Grammy Gladiola Bloom** to assist the family and look after Sweet William and Sweet Pea. The family members were snuggled together on a bench this year near the Foodland store due to the construction of the village roads and sidewalks that has been ongoing for several months. They are a colourful, very quiet family until someone who speaks "**Scarecrow**" stops by for a chat. Now the speculation begins. Where will the Bloom Family appear in 2024 and will they have any new additions to present?

The local library had fall-themed crafts throughout this time period as their contribution to the Scarecrow Festival/Family Fall Festival.

A number of non-profit groups continued on with a '*Fall Family Festival*' on October 28th. A Halloween-type event was held at the Omeme Legion from 11-2 p.m. Children dressed up, brought in decorated pumpkins, had their faces painted, played Velcro Axe Throwing and a Pumpkin Bean Bag toss. They went home happy having participated in the activities and with lots of candy and loot bags. The organizing group appreciated all the support they received from the various non-profit groups. The Scarecrow Festival has led to the introduction of a '*Family Fall Festival*' being held close to Halloween. Various non-profit groups including the Omeme Blooms will be supporting this new village activity in 2024.

Spotlight Kawartha

By Joan Harding

Omeme Blooms Garden Club/Horticultural Society was approached in August by 'Spotlight Kawartha' of Rogers TV North Durham-Kawartha about doing an episode. The Executive agreed and an episode was filmed on September 29th.

Mel Shannon covered topics about the Garden Club activities in the Omeme Community. Four members of the Omeme Blooms completed a walkabout with Mel to most of the gardens that they maintain. The activity at that time, in addition to working in the beautiful gardens, had been decorating downtown in Fall colours and vignettes for our 4th Annual Scarecrow Festival/Invasion. The 'Blooms' Scarecrow family made their Annual appearance and had added a couple of new members this year.

Spotlight Kawartha can be accessed on YouTube with the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uqrlKpNRQ1c&t=1s>. There are 3 episodes. They left the best till the last! The Omeme Blooms episode starts at the 17.17 minute point if you do not wish to view the other 2 episodes.

The Garden Club members, especially the Green Team, were really glad that the gardens and the downtown area of Omeme were in tip-top shape for this fun activity.



OHA 50/50 Draw Winner

Submitted by Marian Heil, OHA Treasurer, Photo by Vicky Culbert

The OHA is pleased to announce the winner of the 50/50 Raffle. Sincere thanks goes to all Districts, Societies/ Clubs who promoted the draws this year and to everyone who participated in the draws.

The next draw starts with an Early Bird prize, sponsored by Dubois Agrinovation for \$500 on January 27, 2024. The winning early bird ticket will be re-entered for the grand prize draw on March 16, 2024.



The Winning ticket number, B-8748, was selected on December 16 and was held by Joann Burke from the Minden Horticultural Society.

Joann won a total of \$3197.50 just in time for the Holiday Season.

Photo by Connie Walker



At a recent meeting of OHA District 11, Early Bird winner, Lori Thwaites accepts the cheque for \$500 from the Early Bird Sponsor, Doug Culbert of D. Culbert Ltd - Ontario Land Surveyors. Thanks Doug for being a sponsor and congratulations Lori!

Photo by Vicky Culbert

For your chance to win, visit <https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/ontario-ha> by **March 15, 2024**

Brantford Garden Club

2023 A Busy Year In Review

Written and Submitted by Pat Veale, Publicity Director

Photos by Pete Byerlay



After celebrating 170 years, we're taking on 2023 with a promising comeback from Covid restrictions. Word has gotten out that Brantford Garden Club (aka Brantford Horticultural Society) is a great organization to be a part of. This year, our membership total has gone from 250 ending September 30th, 2022 to 291 as of October 1, 2023. Membership fees did increase a minimal amount but the benefits of membership certainly appeal to young and old alike. The volunteer hours accumulated this year totalling 3,753 hours certainly exceeded all expectations of our Society.

Brantford Garden Club took on the task of hosting the District 6 Spring Breakfast meeting in February. Along with supporting vendors and a team of many volunteers, over 110 OHA members from 21 Societies conducted business and enjoyed Diane Hutchinson's presentation from Walter's Greenhouse and Garden Centre.



In April, our Club had to relocate our monthly meetings to an alternate venue. From our new location, the Brantford Garden Club worked with the Faculty of Niagara School of Horticulture and we subsequently presented 2 students studying horticulture \$500 under-graduate scholarships.

As May rolled around, planning of our annual May Plant Sale headed into 4th gear. Many volunteers took on the tasks of setting up, sorting, pricing, identifying and clean-up. In a time frame of 4 hours, the visitors cleaned us out. Once income and expenses were tallied up, our

major fundraiser realized a profit of roughly \$3,300. We certainly found it took a village to make this happen and can't thank our volunteers enough.



May and June had another crew of volunteers, headed up by John Anderson, proceed with planning and planting of the garden plot we started last year at the local Stedman Hospice. Annuals grown from seed and other vegetables and perennials were planted with much anticipation of being used by the hospice staff in meal preparation and site decoration.



In July, our 168th Annual Flower and Garden Show took over the room at Lion's Park Auditorium. With 396 entries set up, it was the largest participation ever for our Society. The public took in all of our efforts for over 2 hours with many expert photographers getting great shots and volunteers being commended for their excellent efforts in design and horticulture.

As the fiscal year came to an end October 1st, our Club thanked the Executive and Board that served us well throughout the year. With a membership that continues to thrive and promote new features like our new Little Sprouts and Budding Gardeners Youth Program, 2024 is looking very promising.

Orangeville and District Horticultural Society

The “Opportunity Garden” Project

A Collaborative Effort between Orangeville and District Horticultural Society (ODHS)
and Branching Out Support Services (BOSS)

By Vivian Petho

Photo credit to Sam Odrowski

“Gardens are For Sharing” is the motto of the Orangeville and District Horticultural Society (ODHS). To this, in recent times, we have seen an unprecedented spike in the cost of food and the term ‘food insecurity’ mentioned repeatedly. However, beyond Food Banks and community outreach by various organizations, our society decided to take a different approach.

We looked to reach out and create a community connection with a local Orangeville organization called Branching Out Support Services (BOSS). Their website states: “it is our daily responsibility and joy to serve people who have neurodiversities and their families. We do this with community, choice, and creativity.” This is something near and dear to David Vahey, the horticultural society member who came up with the idea. Recently diagnosed as an autistic adult, he knows the challenges that people with neurodiversities face daily. His son, Solomon, is also a horticultural society member and is also autistic. People who are neurodiverse have to find their way in a world not designed for them. Even though people who are neurodiverse have always been a part of society, they are often a footnote in history. Lately, things have changed and people with neurodiversities are being more accepted for their abilities and what they can contribute to society. In this, the “Opportunity Garden” Project was born. The name of the project is a homage to pages from Orangeville’s own history.



In Wayne Townsend’s book: *Orangeville: The Heart of Dufferin County*, he writes about Joanne Malouk, the first woman councillor in Orangeville. He notes she was “one of the pioneers in education for the developmentally challenged children of Orangeville and Dufferin County area.” Subsequently, in the 1950’s “she took a job in Orangeville, Ontario, as the principal of a newly opened ‘Opportunity School’ for mentally handicapped students.” In the way that she set a precedent in our community decades ago, ODHS looks to do something similar with neurodiverse individuals now.

In this way, we pay tribute to our past and look to the future. Participants from BOSS are already involved in our community tending the Orangeville Food Bank Garden. This Opportunity Garden Project strives to provide food security to neurodiverse adults by providing an opportunity to grow their own food, no matter how small the space they have.

The Opportunity Garden Project is a multi-point collaboration. After receiving two grants: one from Rotary (Community Choice Grant) and another from Dufferin County (Food for Thought Grant), our last piece of the puzzle was James Richards of Am Braigh Farm. He will be helping with the initial setup of a light table and teaching the process of growing microgreens. Through this December at BOSS, we will be growing a variety of microgreens including peas, sunflowers and sweet corn for harvest by the participants. In the spring of 2024, this project will continue with growing a variety of vegetable seedlings for transplanting into pots or garden beds.

All of us at ODHS and BOSS are so excited to bring The Opportunity Garden Project to the neurodiverse community in Orangeville. Although just starting out, we hope that this collaborative effort demonstrates how a small idea can grow into greater opportunity for all.

Work Cited: Townsend, Wayne. *Orangeville: The Heart of Dufferin County*. Toronto: Natural Heritage/Natural History Inc, 2006. 215-216. Print.

Schomberg Horticultural Society

Submitted by Eleonora Schmied, Photo credits: Maria Ruksa, Eleonora Schmied

AGM and Year In Review

The Schomberg Horticultural Society has a lot to be thankful for which was evident at the recent AGM.



After reading the Land Acknowledgement, Co-Presidents Kathleen Gorsline and Eleonora Schmied welcomed members and special guests to the Schomberg Horticultural Society's AGM and introduced the head table: The Honourable Mayor, Steve Pellegrini, Ward 4 councillor, Mary Asselstine, District 15 Director, Doreen Coyne, treasurer Pat Janse and acting secretary Lisanne Gavigan on behalf of Judy Henderson. A warm welcome was also extended to Nancy McNally of Arts Society King.

The AGM committee outdid themselves. Never has the Community Hall looked so fabulous. The flower arrangements were festive, complementing white table linens. The door prizes were well-arranged and distributed. Our wall of fame, all the awards the Society has gotten over the 88 years, was proudly on display.

Our members are not only fabulous horticulturalists, but also experts in the culinary department.



Compliments were plentiful for the beautifully arranged charcuterie boards that preceded dinner.

Special guests were presented with gift bags, containing homemade jellies and jams, generously donated by members.

The flower show committee chairs, Chris Somerville and Mary Tzarik, presented awards to the top Flower Show winners: Linda Jessop, Eleonora Schmied and Maria Ruksa. Eight others also achieved awards. There were 59 entries from 9 members in the Photography Contest.

All photos were organized by Linda Jessop and judged by Shirley Miller of Heirloom Photography, with total overall points going to Maria Ruksa and Susan Zweep.

Awards were presented by our Co-Presidents, Eleonora and Kathleen.



The most prestigious Schomberg Horticultural Society's Service Award, presented by Doreen Coyne, District 15 Director, was awarded to Jill Watts-Hayward for her exceptional commitment as the longest serving president of the Society.

- Volunteer Award: Linda Jessop
- President's Awards: Donna Parrish and Chris Somerville
- Lifetime Member Award: Beverly Lunau

Congratulations to all award winners, well deserved.

Volunteers are the backbone of the Society and various committees were acknowledged for their immense contributions. Membership pins were handed out to members for their years of participation in the society, ranging from 5 years to 40+ years.

A Memorial Candle was lit for two members who passed away last year: Frank Talenti and Louis Morrettin.

District 15 Director, Doreen Coyne, installed and reconfirmed the new executive board.

Officers:

President: Co-chairs Kathleen Gorsline and Eleonora Schmied

Past President: Jill Watts-Hayward

1st Vice-President: Angela Rose

2nd Vice-President: Beth Egan

Directors:

Garden Tour Directors: Barb Niemeyer & Eleonora Schmied

Flower Show Directors: Chris Somerville & Mary Tzarik

Public Relations Directors: Susan Zweep & Claire Murphy.

Welcome Claire!

Social Directors: Sheila Kelly and Ruby Stoffregen

Appointed Officers:

Secretary: Judy Henderson

Treasurer: Pat Janse

Various officers and committee chairs will be appointed at the next board meeting.

Mayor Steve Pellegrini congratulated the SHS on their exceptional year and wished the members a happy holiday season.

It takes a village to put together an event like this, so many details to be considered. A sincere gratitude to the AGM Committee: Sheila Kelly, Ruby Stoffregen, Kathleen

Gorsline, Eleonora Schmied, Linda Jessop, Susan Zweep, Denny Starritt and Dana Ladd.

The Society participates in the King Township's annual "Tree of Giving" campaign. Volunteers Ruby and Michael Stoffregen, Angela Rose and Co-President Eleonora Schmied presented their 'Enchanted Forest' tree. Proceeds go to the Oakridges Trail Association.

Time is one of the most precious commodities. Once spent, you never get it back. Many thanks to all those who contributed to making this past year memorable.

Holiday Greetings to everyone

Brampton Horticultural Society

Submitted and Written by Lynn Viau-Morin

Photographed by L. Viau-Morin, B. Hill, K. Marques, S. MacLeod and the City of Brampton

As gardens go dormant and the Society business year winds down, it's nice to reflect on what has been accomplished. After a very busy spring, we kept right on going...

Annual Flower Show – 'Brampton Blooms'

In June, we had a standard show in both the Horticultural and Decorative divisions. This was the first since 2019. The total number of entries was 324, just shy of pre-Covid numbers. The 4 judges were very impressed with the quality of entries. Here is a sampling:



Board of Directors Retreat

Brampton Horticultural Society had two special meetings over the summer to work on updating our official documents. It was nice to meet in person (usually Zoom) and to make time for these important, but often deferred, tasks.

Volunteer and New Member Social

In August, volunteers and new members were celebrated with a garden tea party (right).



Family Life Resource Centre Gardens

There has been a long-time relationship between the BHS and the gardens at the Family Life Resource Centre (a temporary shelter for women). For a few years, the gardens were neglected but they've been restored and faithfully tended by a loyal group of BHS volunteers.





Annual Photography Contest (left and below)

The Photo Contest had 10 categories with 80 entries that our members had an opportunity to enjoy in June. The awards were presented at our September meeting.



Gardens of Brampton (right)

The Chinguacousy Garden Club and BHS partnered with the City of Brampton again this year to recognise the members of the community that made an effort to maintain and beautify their gardens and thereby enhance their neighbourhood and, in turn, our community.



*In a moving Celebration of Life,
family and friends of
Marge Branigan/Winchester
recalled "A Life lived Well"
Marge passed away in July
after a short illness.*

In Memoriam

Marge Branigan/Winchester was a Life member of the BHS and had been a very, very active member for many years. Her rich smile and laugh would brighten anyone's day. Always ready for a joke, loved butter tarts and made terrific devilled eggs. Marge was very talented, which meant she was a successful flower designer. Her contribution to our group was immense. Her history of participation spans many years and is too numerous to list. A great organizer, she was a Board member who diligently took the minutes, making sure we kept the correct protocols in place and had good recall, if needed. Some of her long term involvement was as Membership Chair, Newsletter Editor and Flower Show Convenor. She was the recipient of several awards including the OHA Award of Merit, BHS J.A. Carroll Trophy and Mayor James Archdekin Ceremonial Spade with her husband, Past President Bill Winchester, and individual Monthly and Annual Flower Show Awards. She was recognized by the Province of Ontario with a Long Term Service Award.

Marge will mostly be remembered by those who knew her for her passion for our Society, her kind soul, wonderful smile and joyful laugh and for that we are forever grateful.

OHA Sip n Seed Fundraiser

Submitted by Marian Heil, OHA Treasurer

The OHA held a Sip n Seed fundraiser in December. The OHA teamed up with Sipology – an amazing tea company located right here in Ontario. Sipology has donated over \$100,000 towards the Crisis Text Line and the Kids Help Phone Line through sales of its Magical Fruit Tea. All products are certified organic with no added sugars unless stated in the ingredients.

The Fundraiser helped to build funds towards *Keeping Ontario Beautiful* and also helped purchasers with their Christmas shopping. Many ordered items to use as hostess gifts or to enjoy for themselves while looking through the Seed Catalogues for the new year. Here's what one happy customer had to say:

"I am a tea granny who loves to give (and receive) tea gifts. I purchased three different tea blends as well as a hot chocolate pouch to give as hostess gifts. If you add some homemade goodies and a pretty set of napkins or a lovely mug to the gift, you have said thank you in a heartfelt manner.

I placed my order last Monday and received the entire order on Friday by UPS. The packaging is subtle and gives perfect instructions for a perfect "cuppa".

This fundraiser is great for everyone throughout the province. I raise my flowered mug to the OHA's successful venture!

– Louise Freeman, Hawkesbury, Ontario"

This tea fundraiser might be offered again next year, so, watch for it and take advantage of getting some great products and helping the OHA raise funds. Thanks to everyone who participated this year.



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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Complete our online donor form: <https://gardenontario.org/donation-form/> or complete this form and mail to:
Ontario Horticultural Association, 56 Glen Cannon Drive, Stoney Creek, ON L8G 4E1

DONATION REQUEST FORM

DONOR INFORMATION

My donation is (please select one): ☐ Personal ☐ Company ☐ In Memoriam

Company/Society Name (if applicable):

Name: First

Last

Address:

Email:

Phone:

DONATION INSTRUCTIONS

This donation is to be used to:

- ☐ Support grants, awards, convention, community initiatives, website and the general operations of the association
☐ Donate to the OHA In Memoriam Fund (supporting Tree Grants). For more information about In Memoriam donations, email inmemoriam@gardenontario.org or phone 905-476-3000

Name of deceased person:

Year of death:

District # (if applies):

Do you wish to have it recorded in the OHA In Memoriam Book? ☐ Yes ☐ No

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

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

If yes, complete the following: Relationship to the deceased:

Name: First

Last

Address:

☐ Other:

DONATION AMOUNT & PAYMENT

Payment Method: ☐ E-Transfer treasurer4oha@gmail.com ☐ Cheque Payable to: Ontario Horticultural Association
☐ Debit or Credit by Paypal

Please choose your donation amount (Minimum \$25 for inclusion in the OHA In Memoriam Book):

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ Other Amount _____ ☐ Total Donation _____

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Permission & Acknowledgment: Please indicate if you give the OHA permission to publish your name and/or company name on marketing materials, our website, on social media, in print, at our convention or in the OHA newsletter. For company contributions, we would be happy to also add a link to your website from ours.

- ☐ Yes, I give you my permission to use my name as listed above.
☐ No, I do not give you permission to use my name as listed above.