Ontario Horticultural Association

Spring 2023



Photo by Mary Lou Young, Ennismore Garden Club



Secret Garden

During the spring and summer of 2022, Ennismore Garden Club volunteers worked tirelessly to create their worst-kept secret.

Editor's Message



Spring is finally here and the gardening season is in full swing! Please pace yourselves! You'll get more done by doing less (not to be taken out of context). Waking up with aching muscles the next day keeps you, not only in pain, but also from doing your beloved gardening.

I really enjoyed each and every article that was submitted, thank you for all of your extra effort. With all of the plans, it's easy to see that this is going

to be a great year for all of the Horticultural Societies and Garden Clubs in Ontario.

Are you looking forward to the 2023 OHA Convention and AGM in lovely Ottawa? It's July 21-23, 2023. More information is available at https://gardenontario.org/convention/ and in this issue of the Trillium. Under the leadership of District 2 Director, Anne Harbord, many volunteers have planned the best time ever!

Not only all of the fun activities, speakers, workshops and bus trips but also: you get to meet, *in person*, many of the OHA executive, directors and garden club members that you have been emailing back and forth and hearing about. They are all hard-working and wonderful people.

Remember to check out the competition schedule beforehand. Some of the entries have to be sent in early. The competitions are fun, you learn a lot and even if you only have one or two items to enter, please do.

As the weather gets warmer and sunnier, the days also get longer so there are more hours for gardening. Hooray! Take care, everyone...

Laura Masterson editor@gardenontario.org

"Never be so busy as not to think of others."

- Mother Teresa

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

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

What you need to know to send articles and photographs:

Submission dates for 2023:

June 1 – Summer issue September 1 – Autumn issue December 1 – Winter issue

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

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

Articles can be emailed to: editor@gardenontario.org Laura Masterson, OHA Trillium Editor

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

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

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



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Congratulations...

To Garden Clubs and Horticultural Societies throughout Ontario! Some of your groups have increased your membership despite the pandemic and are bigger, stronger and *Keeping Ontario Beautiful*™ more than ever! Some struggling Garden Clubs and Horticultural Societies are back with enthusiasm!

How did this happen? What steps were taken, we know that there was a lot of work involved!

Please send your success story for the summer issue of the Trillium by **June 1** to share with us!

Thanks to everyone for all of your hard work.

Laura Masterson editor@gardenontario.org



Online Newsletter Subscription

To Subscribe to the Trillium

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

ohatrillium@gmail.com

Printed Version: Please be advised that:

- a) As of December 31st, 2022, the OHA will not be accepting any new subscriptions for printed editions of the Trillium
- b) As of December 31st, 2022, the OHA will not be renewing any current subscriptions for the printed Trillium
- c) ALL current subscriptions will be honoured until their respective end date.

For more information, see the article
"Re: Trillium Newsletter End of Printing Decision" or visit
the OHA website: https://gardenontario.org

Online version of the Trillium is available on the OHA website: https://gardenontario.org

OHA President's Report

As I look out the windows, I see snow still covering the gardens and although spring is here, it has not really given us its seasonal best yet. I would like to share with you a little passage I found by Barbara Winkler which has been published in the past. As we all await the good growing weather, ponder these words:

"Every gardener knows that under the cloak of winter lies a miracle... a seed waiting to sprout, a bulb opening to the light, a bud straining to unfurl. And the anticipation nurtures our dream."

The time since the last Trillium publication has been occupied with many different matters which affect some or all of the Societies/Clubs as well as the Districts and the OHA.

The OMAFRA Annual Reports for 2021 have been a constant struggle for some of the Societies/Clubs and for the District Directors who are always there to help. Also in January, the 2022 Reports were upon us and hopefully, as we all move forward, the struggles have diminished.

As I write this message, there are one hundred and forty-six (146) days left before the 2023 OHA Convention and AGM. It has been a very long time, one thousand, four hundred and sixty (1,460) days since 2019 when we were able to get together in Windsor. The 2023 OHA Convention and AGM, to be held in Kanata (Ottawa), will be



Charles Freeman

a great reintroduction to "getting back to normal". As the Officers and District 2 and its busy host volunteers draw closer to the date, there will be updates and information on the gardenontario.org website. Some information is already there, including competitions, so please have a look.

The OHA 50/50 draw continues to be a source of revenue for the Association and for the lucky winners. It's easy to purchase tickets by simply querying "Ontario Horticultural Association 50/50" and clicking on the first item and you are there. Prize money is dependent upon sales and with the odds of winning the average 6/49 draw being around 1 in 14 million, your chances of winning the OHA 50/50 draw are much better. All proceeds go towards furthering the OHA through grants, awards, etc...

I note from the Awards Coordinator's list that there are a number of Societies/Clubs celebrating "significant" anniversary dates this year. Congratulations to all for achieving so many years of service to your communities. And for those Societies/Clubs not on that list, each year you celebrate your anniversary is just as important to your Society/Club and to your community whether that number be 10 years, 38 years, 67 years or whatever. Keep up your good work and as time moves on, your turn at reaching anniversary numbers like 100 years, 125 years and 150 years will come.

By the time you have read this superb edition of the Trillium, this year's deadline to apply for Awards and Grants will be past. For all of those Societies/Clubs and individuals who have applied for or nominated someone for an Award or Grant, thank you. I would be remiss if I did not say, "Please spend some time over 2023 and have a serious look at the Grants and Awards and please nominate or apply. It is really not that difficult and the possible rewards for your community are readily evident. For someone nominated, even if they are not successful, the recognition is of itself a tremendous honour."

Time to go and shovel more snow and let "anticipation nurture my dream".

Enjoy the Trillium and once again thank you to Laura for collecting and presenting such a worthwhile communiqué.

Take care Stay safe

Charles Freeman President, Ontario Horticultural Association

Ennismore Garden Club

Submitted by Gail Murray/Smith, Written by Helen Young, Photos by Mary Lou Young

In 2019, the Municipality of Selwyn decided to demolish an old barn located on the 51-acre Ennismore Waterfront Park. The park consists of a beach on Chemong Lake, children's playground, picnic shelter, disc golf, open space and trails through the forest.

One of our members lan Deslauriers, who served on the Township Trails Committee, heard of this project and approached our Club with the concept of creating a secret garden in the base of the barn. The idea was presented to Council and endorsed.

During the spring and summer of 2022, club volunteers worked tirelessly at the site laying mulch, moving debris and planting donated bulbs and hostas.

In the summer, the township roads crew spent many hours cleaning debris up inside the barn and loading the bigger pieces for disposal. They provided top soil for the barn floor and around the perimeter and limestone screenings for a path. The trail meanders through the forest and ends up at the "Secret Garden". Here folks can rest, admire the flowers and view the lake. It is our intention to use low maintenance shrubs, native pollinator plantings and flowering vines at the site. It will provide a spectacular habitat for birds, bees and insects.

On September 30, 2022, the municipality had an official opening of the secret garden to celebrate our collaborative beautification project.

Our Chair Ian, even had holes dug for the Council members to each plant a hosta.

The community has become enhanced by the idea of a secret garden and is approaching us to find its location.

In 2023, we hope to increase our planting in the barn basement and around the perimeter of the barn. When time and funds are available, we have a vision of creating a native garden down by the lake.

This was a big undertaking for us and we are very proud of how everything turned out. The address is 1054 Ennis Road, trails are marked to point you to the Secret Garden and we invite everyone to take the short stroll to see the worst kept secret, the "Secret Garden".

Front Cover Photo by Mary Lou Young











2023 OHA Convention and AGM



OHA 115th Convention July 21 - 23, 2023 District 2 - Ottawa Valley

District 2 is pleased to host the 2023 OHA Convention and AGM from July 21-23, 2023 at the Brookstreet Hotel, 525 Legget Drive, Ottawa, ON K2K 2W2 613-271-1800 • 1-888-826-2220

https://www.brookstreethotel.com/

Look forward to a great lineup of speakers, tours and entertainment for this first in-person convention in three years!

https://gardenontario.org/convention/

Highlights of the 2023 OHA Convention and AGM include:

Submitted by Anne Harbord, OHA Director, District 2

Be sure to enjoy the OHA 2023 Convention Welcome... video:

https://gardenontario.org/convention/

Booking:

Contact Brookstreet's INHOUSE Reservations Team either by phone or email.

Reservations can be reached Monday to Friday between 8 am and 6 pm, Saturday from 9 am to 5 pm.

Their telephone numbers are 613-271-1800 • 888-826-2220 and their email address is

reservations@brookstreet.com

When OHA members contact the hotel, please indicate you are staying with the "OHA 2023 Convention". By mentioning this, it ensures you will receive the preferred rate of $$165 + \tan p$ raight. Rooms are Queen or King with two beds in each room.

Amenities at Hotel

- Free parking both underground and above ground with in/out privileges
- Free Wifi
- Access to Flex Fitness including indoor and outdoor salt water pools.
- Special Rates at Marsh's Golf Club of \$70 per round including cart.

Tours

- Preconvention Day Trip on Thursday July 20th will travel to the Bonnechere Valley in a large motor coach with visits to the Bonnechere Caves, lunch at the Schnitzel House, visit to Temperate Garden Centre, the Geological Park and a dig at Beryl Pit.
- Friday, July 21st includes tours to member Rock Gardens, Historic Perth, The Mill Town of Almonte and Merrickville on the Rideau.
- Saturday, July 22nd includes tours to member Water Gardens; Rideau Hall, The Rockeries and the AGA Khan Gardens; The Experimental Farm, Fletcher Wild Life Garden and Canadensis, the future site of Canada's National Botanical Garden; and Manotick, with its operating Mill, historic Dickinson Square and many gardens.

More info to come on the Convention and D2 websites: https://gardenontario.org/convention/

Speakers

Keynote Speaker Michael Runtz, Professor, Carleton University and field naturalist, speaking on *The Devious World of Wildflowers* at the Awards Gala.

Plenary Speakers – on topics such the future of Urban Farming, the Future of Bees, the Future Looks Green. Friday and Saturday afternoon there will be 8 seminars, workshops and/or demonstrations each day on a wide range of topics of horticultural interest.

More info to come on the Convention and D2 websites: https://gardenontario.org/convention/

Competitions – view on the GardenOntario Convention link. Make sure you check out the last date for entry as they vary on the Competitions.

Friday Night Entertainment is an Ottawa Valley Ceilidh (Kitchen Party) which will highlight award-winning talent from the District and surrounding area. There will be fiddlers, step-dancers, singers, songwriters and groups who will explore the music legacy of the Ottawa Valley and other parts of Canada. This will be a hand-clapping, toe-tapping night of great fun and music.

See you in July!

Thunder Bay Horticultural Society

Written by Vickie Bureau, President

Although it is only February, the Thunder Bay Horticultural Society has been very busy growing our society and spreading the seeds of knowledge to our members and the general public through our various venues to date.

Starting in January, the Thunder Bay Horticultural Society celebrated its 100th Anniversary on January 23, 2023. A well-attended celebration was held at the Oliver Road Community Centre on January 21st. Notable attendees were Thunder Bay Mayor, Ken Boshcoff, MP Patty Hajdu, MP Marcus Powlowski, Jennifer Pinder standing in for MPP Kevin Holland, City Councilor Dominic Pasqualino, and Sandra Mazur, District 14 Director, along with many society members both new and

old. The dignitaries spoke on how horticulture has played a role in their own personal family history and the many positive effects it has on a person's mental, physical and social wellbeing. A special thank you was delivered by the dignitaries on the continuous work done by the dedicated volunteers of the society at the various public areas within the city to help make it the beautiful place it is. On display at the celebration was the society's achievements, through the use of story boards, with a sampling of the highlights over the years and the Original Minutes Book, dating January 23, 1923.

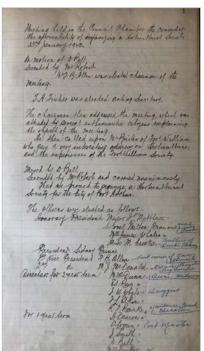
The slogan chosen by our society for this year is "100 Years and Growing" which fits in perfectly with the many events being held and the "100th Flower and Vegetable Show" on September 21, 2023. On a historical note, the 1st Flower and Vegetable Show was on August 7 and 8, 1923, with exhibits totaling 223. It was a distinct success and an awakening of horticultural interest amongst its citizens.

The society's booth has been set up again at *The Thunder Bay Country Market* since February 1st with Ian and Shirley Robson and myself, Vickie Bureau attending the display. The reception and interest in the society has been growing exceptionally well with our 100th membership sign-up being at the market. Mary Veltri, visited our booth and, through the information given about us and what we do together as a society, signed up as a new member. Mary was then informed that she was our 100th member to sign up for the year. A mini celebration took place with other vendors nearby helping in the recognition of this special occasion. Congratulations, Mary.

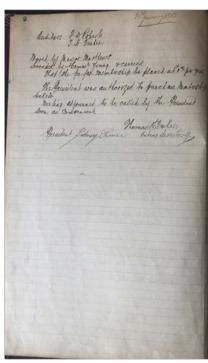
Our February general society meeting topic was *Heritage Seeds*. We were fortunate to have Wendy O'Connor, from *Superior Seed Producers*, give the members a presentation on seed saving and techniques along with society member, Linda Parker, "The 10 Minute Gardener", enlightening us on seeding annuals and vegetables.



Jennifer Pinder for MPP Kevin Holland, Sandra Mazur, District 14 Director, MP Patty Hajdu, City Councilor Dominic Pasqualino, Thunder Bay Mayor, Ken Boshcoff, MP Marcus Powlowski, Society President, Vickie Bureau (Linda Parker in front) Photo by Jessica Marr



Original Society Minutes Book, first entry and meeting pg. 1 Picture by Vickie Bureau



Original Society Minutes Book, first entry and meeting pg. 2 Picture by Vickie Bureau



Information and Membership Drive Booth, Thunder Bay Country Market Photo by Vickie Bureau



Mary Veltri, 100th Membership Sign-Up Photo by Vickie Bureau



Linda Parker – "Ten-Minute Gardener Tips" Photo by Vickie Bureau



Seedy Saturday Seed Swap – Vickie Bureau assisting attendee Photo by Lorna MacAskill

The Seedy Saturday events have started for the year and we were able to attend the Seedy Saturday seed-swap event organized by *Superior Seed Producers* and community partners such as *Roots Community Food Centre* (formerly *Roots to Harvest*). It was an exceptionally well-attended event. The knowledge passed on to people attending our booth and I might also add the tips and tricks given to us through other vendors and visitors was invaluable. Thanks go out to Lorna MacAskill for assisting me in this society outreach event and in her words: "It was a truly wonderful afternoon 'spreading seeds and novice gardening info' with you, Vickie!"

The next event is a Seedy Saturday at the Gillies Community Centre on March, 4th and I am looking forward to attending the event with long-time member Shirley Robson who has led this event on behalf of our society in previous years.



Superior Seed Producers – Wendy O'Connor Presentation Photo by Vickie Bureau

Pelham Garden Club

By Jeanette Dempster, Garden Tour Coordinator

Photos by Jeanette Dempster

Summer Garden Tour

I came home from shopping two days ago and on my doorstep was a white envelope with this note on the outside "We love your trellis and silhouette... Please read note inside, signed D and L."

The note read, "My wife and I walk by your place each afternoon and we have been quite admiring of your trellis and silhouette. It is beautiful. I've searched online but found nothing quite like it. Her birthday is mid-April and I was hoping you could call me and tell me where you bought it". A name and phone number was left with a request to answer their question. I did leave a message with the information they asked for.

Why am I telling you this story? Joanne Young suggested to the members of the PGC in her address on Feb. 27th that gardeners need to create a sense of entry as one of the 5 senses of a garden. My original intent was not to create a portal but a sense of the garden space around it. In the history of our garden, past features that were used in this same spot included an old Dutch kitchen door painted red with flower hangers positioned to the side of the door. Our neighbours used to kid us about the weird and different "portal" that could transport us to a different world, possibly after a couple of beverages. But I loved that red door. It was the focal point of our front garden and I feel it gave a sense of welcome to onlookers and visitors.

Eventually, the door became weather-worn and rotten and had to be torn down. Such is the life span of a garden forever changing.

Hence followed this new structure made of metal and encased in a wooden frame. Again, my desire was to create a focal point with a little drama. The winter shot, while not colourful, provides a winter silhouette for a person to ponder.

Looking at this picture stirs up thoughts of garden surprises to anticipate this year. One of them being the PGC Garden Tour held every year for the enjoyment of PGC members and friends.

This year, we will get to see how gardeners create their own sense of entry. I found such creative and wonderful surprises in our quest to find gardens that were inviting and had a story to tell. In the past, there was a remarkable garden that not only had a great sense of entry but the garden was segmented so that each area had its own focal point as if its own vignette or story to tell. The best entrance is one that just gives a glimpse of what may lay ahead. It gives the feeling of a secret garden just ahead.

Gardeners are such interesting story tellers, don't you know.

Please join me for this year's garden tour scheduled for Saturday, June 24th, from 10 am to 2 pm (rain or shine). Cost \$15 for non-members and PGC members have the privilege awarded at no cost! Discover the amazing local private gardens exclusive to this event date and time.

Tickets will be available online at https://www.pelhamgardenclub.ca/ Also printed in spring issue of "The Garden View", newsletter of Pelham Garden Club





Jeanette Dempster's Garden Structure

Nobleton & King City Garden Club

In Memory of Susan Beharriell

Submitted by Barb Downey, Co-President

Photos by Kelly Lavis, Past President

Susan joined the Nobleton & King City Garden Club in 2005 after she retired from an illustrious career in the Armed Forces. She was a volunteer in many activities within the Club and community activist who regularly voiced concerns at the King Township meetings. You could find her at almost every local event, festival and parade showing her pride for both our country and our community. She represented our Club by playing the part of 'Mother Nature' at the Victoria Day Parade in Nobleton. She was a strong advocate for veterans and happy to speak at any event to any organisation.

She was a trailblazer, serving as a senior Air Force Intelligence Officer in the Canadian Armed Forces which she joined in 1973. She was one of the first women to complete the same Basic Officers' Training as the men. She was also the first woman accepted into the Security Branch and later the Intelligence Branch. She had extensive experience in Canada at the tactical, operational and strategic levels: in Colorado with NORAD, in Germany with NATO, in Ottawa was seconded to the Privy Council Office writing intelligence assessments for the PM, the Cabinet and our Allies and supported numerous peacekeeping missions and ran Intelligence for the entire Air Force. For her efforts in improving Canadian/ American Intelligence cooperation post 9/11, she was awarded the U.S. Meritorious Service Medal. Finishing her career on the National Security and Strategic Studies staff at the Canadian Forces College in Toronto, she retired in the fall of 2008 after more than 35 years of service. The Governor-General inducted her as an Officer of the Order of Military Merit, the military version of the prestigious Order of Canada.

Susan's marvellous dedication to the community and beyond is evident in her many hours of volunteering over the last 15 years; she served on the King Township Sustainability Advisory Committee chairing Climate Action King and welcoming newcomers to Canada through King for Refugees.

An active member of the Nobleton & King City Garden Club, she had a passion for creating gardens with native plants to attract pollinators and was happy to give guided tours of the fascinating multiple gardens in which you could see a sign post pointing in the many directions where she had been posted throughout the world and she was thrilled to discover a hibernaculum on her property.



Susan Beharriell playing the part of 'Mother Nature' at the Victoria Day Parade in Nobleton.



Susan Beharriell

She took an interest in the monarch butterfly and participated in science programs with special kits to see monarchs safely through their life cycle until the adults would emerge from their chrysalises and begin their journey to Mexico. She was thrilled when she got a report about one of monarchs carrying a microchip she had applied was tracked part of the way there. Her garden was recognized as a Monarch Way Station, a Canadian Wildlife Federation Certified Backyard Habitat, a Carolinian Garden and a York Region Water Efficient Garden and was named the North American Native Society's "Garden of the Year" in 2018. She inspired the Township to take the Monarch Butterfly Challenge and it subsequently became recognized as a Bee City.

We are grateful to have had Susan's expertise guide the garden club's board. Her propensity to ask many questions and to give us 'food for thought' always contributed to a better outcome for whatever we were planning. She was a unique individual who will be missed by all in the community and beyond

L. Col [ret'd] Susan Beharriell passed away on December 2nd after a tough battle with cancer.

Ancaster Horticultural Society

Established in 1906

Submitted by Rhu Sherrard, AHS Publicity Director 2022-2023

Photos by Rhu Sherrard

As we move into Spring 2023, we have experienced a mild winter. We have some significant events and gardening to look forward to whether you are adding something new, refreshing something old or just simply changing it up. Seed starters and indoor plants become our companions during the wintertime. Winter hikes are always lovely and winter foliage is, at times, breathtaking too.

AHS Heirloom Tomatoes are on sale, so please visit our website if you are in the Southwestern Ontario region. Our supplier will be Linda Crago. We are also planning our infamous Plant Sale for Saturday, May 20, 2023. We look forward to local donations. Please visit our website on Facebook or email us for additional information.

Our speaker for January, 2023 was a lovely young lady who is genuinely passionate about her garden and sharing her experiences with everyone. We would like to thank Emma Biggs who spoke on "Growing Food in Small Spaces and Containers". You can learn more about Emma's amazing work through her website https://www.emmabiggs.ca and her Instagram account @emmabiggs_grows

Our February meeting was hosted by Molly Shannon from Canadian Succulents and her topic was Succulent Gardening for Beginners.

A few members of the AHS attended the District 6 Breakfast hosted by the Brantford Garden Club on Feb. 25, 2023. A few volunteers will be also helping out at the Spring Tide Bulb Show at Gage Park from March 10 to March 19, 2023. Admission and parking are free. A request – *Hamilton Food Share* would appreciate donations of non-perishable food items.

We have the following speakers lined up for 2023, thanks to Betty Howitt:

- March 21, 2023: "Heirloom Tomatoes" with Linda Crago of Tree and Twig Farms IN PERSON and supplier of plants to our Plant Sale.
- April 18, 2023: "A Victory Garden for Trying Times" with Debi Goodwin IN PERSON
- May 16, 2023: "Horticultural Therapy" with Nancy Lee-Colibaba IN PERSON Horticultural Therapy and Program Co-ordinator, RBG
- June 20, 2023: "Harrogate Show England and a demonstration of how IN PERSON flowers are grown in England" with Roland Craig
- September 20, 2023: "Jumping Worms Community Outreach and Monitoring" IN PERSON with Michael McTavish, Post Doctoral Research Fellow
- October 17, 2023: "Demonstration and Learning about Dahlias" with IN PERSON Mike Parrish, President of Hamilton and District Chrysanthemum & Dahlia Society

Please follow us on Facebook https://ancasterhort.org and Instagram at ancaster_gardeners for updates.

Spring is nature's way of saying "Let's Party" - Robin Williams

Photos taken at the home of Rhu Sherrard







Garden City Gardeners

Pollinator Garden at Victoria Lawn Cemetery

Submitted by Anita Millar and Susan M. Lusted

Photos by Anita Millar

Leslie Daniels, District 9 Director of the OHA, wrote to the City of St. Catharines and was able to secure us some space to plant a pollinator garden in Victoria Lawn Cemetery. The bed was prepared with the assistance of the City of St. Catharines. Native seeds were purchased from a local supplier.

A group of us went out there in the spring last year and planted seeds. This same group of members set up a watering schedule and tended the seeds over the summer. By the early fall, our garden was flourishing! A sign was made by one of our members' children and posted in the garden.

We planted over 300 spring flowering bulbs in October. In the Spring, we will add more seed to the garden after our spring show of colour. In the summer season, the garden will again be alive with native plants, bees and butterflies of all kinds.

We are hoping to expand the pollinator garden this year at the cemetery. We are also seeking other locations in St. Catharines such as boulevards and small spaces to plant more pollinator gardens.







Twenty Great Native Groundcovers – Part I

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

In the residential landscape, lawns are both an ubiquitous groundcover and a dominant landscaping feature. The rich green found in the standard blend of Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*), fescues (*Festuca spp*), and perennial rye grass (*Lolium perenne*) serves as an outdoor carpet whether in a narrow urban backyard or a large public park. It beckons people to picnic on it, kids to catch frisbees on it, and dogs to chase squirrels on it. A common entrance foyer to a room of mixed perennial beds, the lawn is the essential green expanse foregrounding impressive homes and the closest to nature that many people get when seeking safe outdoor recreation.

Professor Doug Tallamy found that 92% of suburban landscaped plantings in the US consists of turfgrass. Susannah Lerman, a research ecologist with the U.S. Forest Service, calls lawn "a status symbol of leisure" that covers an estimated 163,800 square kilometers (over 40 million acres) of space across the country, including parks and golf courses. That approximates the combined land mass of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and Massachusetts.

While undeniably inviting and walkable, turfgrass comes with a well-known list of concerns. Lawn requires more maintenance than many people are able to provide. Irrigation, mowing, fertilizing, weeding, aerating, de-thatching, reseeding and top-dressing are required for a lawn to look its best. For those starting with sod, a topsoil depth of 15–20 cm is needed. Hard expenditures of time, labour, and cash are necessary to ensure optimal benefits.

Grooming the lawn requires machinery powered by fossil fuels. The Princeton Student Climate Initiative found that a four-stroke lawnmower operating for one hour burns the same amount of fuel as a vehicle traveling for five hundred miles. The two-stroke engines of many leaf-blowers pose a unique environmental hazard because they do not have an independent lubricant system; they mix oil and fuel. Since about 30% of the fuel does not combust completely, these engines release toxic gases into the air. This is how lawn maintenance contributes to rising carbon dioxide emissions.

Then there is the problem of fertilizer. To attain lush, fertile, green lawns, homeowners use about three million tons of nitrogen-based fertilizers every year. David Wolfe, a professor of plant and soil ecology at Cornell University, notes that for every ton of nitrogen in fertilizer, four or five tons of carbon are added to the atmosphere. A full 40–60% of nitrogen from fertilizers runs off into surface and groundwater. This exacerbates the problem of contaminated runoff after extreme weather events.

Watering is another problem. On hot days, turfgrass may need up to three light waterings every day to ensure that moisture penetrates the soil to a depth of 4 inches. A Scientific American blog posts that in 2017, lawns in the US required the equivalent of 200 gallons of drinking water per person per day. The National Resources Defence Council reports that this adds up to 3 trillion gallons of water a year. The unsustainable risks range from a depletion of water aquifers to the devastation of local ecosystems. While research is based on US data, it is instructive for Canadian gardeners where the love of lawns is alive and well.

In Canada, turfgrass species are cool-season plants that enter a natural dormant period in the middle of summer. As they brown out, they lose their appeal. This is just one reason why homeowners choose to renovate their lawn. Other reasons include poor fertilization, shallow soil, inadequate drainage, and damage from excessive traffic, weed invasion, excessive shade, dog urine, compaction, or drought. Turf is also vulnerable to insects such as chinch bug, sod webworms, white grub larvae and crane fly larvae.

Coaxing maximum performance from a lawn all season long requires a declaration of war on these chronic threats.

Gardeners are turning to lawn alternatives. The best one is native groundcovers. Attractive, sustainable, and cost-effective, these plants not only solve the multiple problems of maintaining turfgrass, they also make a positive and significant contribution to the environment by supporting native bees, butterflies and other insects. Native plants provide habitat in the form of food sources, nesting and overwintering sites for insects, birds, and mammals.

Another crucial reason why gardeners are turning away from turfgrass is discussed in Part II. Part I (spring) and Part II (summer) each list twenty plants organized into four categories: sedges and other grassy plants (for those who wish to mimic the appearance of turfgrass) and plants for sun to part-sun are found in Part I (spring). Recommended native groundcovers for shade and part-shade are found in Part II (summer). Most of the recommendations are herbaceous perennials. A photo, notes on height and spread (where relevant), hardiness zone, specific pollinator support, the plant's native range, and other details are provided for each plant.

How to Choose Native Groundcovers

When looking for plants to replace your lawn, the same factors come into play when shopping for other plants. These include soil and light conditions, moisture, hardiness zone and interactions with other plants.

When it comes to native groundcovers, there are additional considerations such as the amount of foot traffic expected and the desired appearance of the planted area. Some gardeners may want the look of turf and seek a groundcover they intend to mow. Others may prefer a more natural look with a mix of heights and textures. An area may be planted exclusively with low groundcovers or they may be integrated into beds with shrubs and trees or with paths, rocks and other hardscaping. Whatever the design, native groundcovers should be diverse for maximum benefit. This will ensure an attractive blend of foliage and blooms, offering a long season of interest to both people and pollinators.

SEDGES AND OTHER GRASSES



Oak Sedge (Carex pensylvanica)

Height: 15–30 cm Spread: 15–30 cm Hardiness zone: 3–8

Exposure: full sun to full shade Tolerance for foot traffic: medium

Native to Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario and Alberta, Oak Sedge (also known as Pennsylvania Sedge) is gaining popularity as an adaptable, semi-evergreen groundcover and lawn alternative. Growing at a medium rate, this is

a low-maintenance plant featuring soft, delicate, arching leaves. Tolerant of dry shade, it can handle sunny conditions if the soil is kept moist. It offers good fall colour. Use this sedge to stabilize shady slopes. In ideal conditions, Oak Sedge spreads by rhizomes at a moderate rate to eventually create a carpet of wispy grass-like leaves. It can be mowed once or twice a year if desired. This grass supports several specialist species of butterflies, skippers, and moths.



Path Rush (Juncus tenuis)

Height: 15–60cm Spread: 10–60cm Hardiness zone: 2–9

Exposure: full sun to part shade Tolerance for foot traffic: high

Easily grown and maintained in average, medium to wet soil in full sun to part shade, Path Rush is found in a wide variety of locations such as fields, woods, pastures and along roadsides. In Canada, the plant's native range is New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. Its stems are wiry and tough

and its medium green leaves turn brown with frost. Insignificant, tiny flowers are clustered at or near the stem tips. Rare among groundcovers, Path Rush tolerates heavy foot traffic and dry soil.



Canada Wild Rye (Elymus canadensis)

Height: 60–150 cm Spread: 60–90 cm Hardiness zone: 3–8 Exposure: full sun

Adapting to a wide range of soils and found all across the country with the exception of British Columbia, Canada Wild Rye attracts birds and produces an attractive flower for cutting or drying. Greenish flowers appear in terminal, arching, bristly spikes which, when mature, gracefully sway in the wind on stiff stems rising well above the foliage. Foliage and spikes turn tan in fall and

provide visual interest throughout the winter. Self-seeding in optimal growing conditions, this plant tolerates drought, salt and compaction. Its fibrous root system works well to control erosion. Canada Wild Rye provides shelter, food and forage for wildlife and good nesting, brood, winter and escape cover for birds.



Little Bluestem (Schizachyrium scoparium)

Height: 45–120 cm Spread: 45–60 cm Hardiness zone: 3–9 Exposure: full sun Water: dry to medium

Little Bluestem is tolerant of drought and humidity, dry soil and erosion, and it grows easily in average, well-drained soil. This plant is native to prairies, fields, clearings, hills, limestone glades, roadsides, waste areas and open woods across most of southern Canada. It features upright clumps of slender green leaves

tinged blue at the base. Flowers appear in 8 cm long racemes on branched stems rising above the foliage and are followed by showy clusters of fluffy, silvery-white seed heads that often persist into winter. In the fall, Little Bluestem is known for its bronze-orange fall foliage color. It is the larval host for several species of skippers and one species of butterfly.

More recommendations for grassy native groundcovers:

Wood's sedge (*Carex woodii*); Upright sedge (*Carex stricta*); Hayden's sedge (*Carex haydenii*); Bristle-Leaved Sedge (*Carex eburnea*); Bottlebrush Grass (*Elymus hystrix*); Sweetgrass (*Hierochloe odorata*); Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*); Sand Dropseed (*Sporobolus cryptandrus*)

GROUNDCOVERS FOR FULL-SUN AND PART-SUN



Silverweed (Argentina anserina)

Height: 15–30 cm Hardiness zone: 5–9 Exposure: sun to part sun Growth Rate: fast

Tolerance for foot traffic: low

Silverweed is most often found in moist, sandy soil but it is very adaptable. Found growing all over the temperate northern hemisphere and in Canada, from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Ontario, its silvery-green foliage is accompanied by long-lasting yellow flowers in the summer that support a few bee species – including three species of specialist bees – and hoverflies. It is resistant to grazing deer. Spreading vigorously by stolons, this plant may overwhelm smaller plants. Silverweed is excellent for erosion control.



Field Pussytoes (Antennaria neglecta)

Height: 10–40 cm Hardiness zone: 4–9 Exposure: sun Growth Rate: fast

Tolerance for foot traffic: moderate

Field Pussytoes is a low-growing groundcover with a high tolerance for drought. In early spring, white flower heads rise to a height of around 30 cm. The silver-green foliage covers the ground guickly and stays green until the

arrival of snow. Both the woolly foliage and fluffy seed heads are decorative. Tolerant of salt and poor soil, it is suitable for boulevard gardens. Field Pussytoes feeds caterpillars of the American Lady butterfly and its flowers are attractive to small solitary native bees. The plant is native to Canada and can be found coast to coast.



Virgin's Bower (Clematis virginiana)

Length: 2–6 m Hardiness zone: 3–8

Exposure: full sun to part shade

Typically grown as a vine with a native range from Quebec to Alberta, Virgin's Bower may be used as a groundcover where it grows easily and quickly in average, medium to wet, well-drained soils. If given support, it grows as a vigorous, deciduous, twining vine climbing to 6 m. Without support, it will sprawl and self-seed along the ground as a dense, tangled ground cover. Its white flowers are fragrant and bloom profusely from late August to October; they attract bees, wasps and flies. Like other clematis species, the flowers give way to ornamental, plume-like seed heads.



Moss Phlox (Phlox subulata)

Height: 5–20 cm Spread: 7–30 cm Hardiness zone: 4–8 Exposure: full sun

When in bloom in mid- to late spring in its native range of Ontario, Moss Phlox is very showy for weeks. It forms low-growing evergreen mats that spread quickly along the ground. A larval host for several species of moth, this plant provides nectar and pollen for bees, butterflies and skippers.



Bearberry (Arctostaphylos uva-ursi)

Height: 5–15 cm Hardiness zone: 2–6

Exposure: full sun to part shade

Bearberry is an easy-to-grow, drought-tolerant, evergreen groundcover (technically a shrub) that prefers average to dry soil. Its small clusters of flowers attract bees and its bright red fruits are eaten by birds. It spreads well on sandy sites and roots from trailing stems, creating colonies. When grown on a slope, it is a valuable plant for erosion control. Bearberry is native to Canada and grows from coast to coast.



Woolly Blue Violet (Viola sororia)

Height: 10–20 cm Hardiness zone: 5–9

Exposure: sun to part shade

Growth Rate: fast

Tolerates foot traffic: moderate

Woolly Blue Violet prefers light shade but will tolerate full sun in moist soils. Readily self-sowing, it will become a colony; use it as a groundcover around

taller plants that can compete with it or grow it in the shade where it is less aggressive. It greens up and flowers very early in the spring. The blooms are showy and long-lasting and attract bees, flies and skippers. Violets are larval hosts plants for Fritillary butterflies and many species of moths. *Viola sororia* is native to Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Ontario. Other native violets to consider are readily available in nurseries: sweet white violet (*Viola blanda*), bog violet (*Viola conspersa*), Canada violet (*Viola canadensis*), birdfoot violet (*Viola pedata*), and downy yellow violet (*Viola pubescens*).

More recommendations for native groundcovers in sun:

Canada Anemone/Canada Windflower (Anemone canadensis); Yarrow (Achillea millefolium); Juniper (Juniperus horizontalis); Common cinquefoil (Potentilla simplex)

Sources

Native groundcovers may be sourced at specialist nurseries. Network of Nature posts an interactive map of native plant nurseries in Canada (https://networkofnature.org/where-to-buy.htm).

Photo Credits for Twenty Great Native Groundcovers I (by C. B. Lauer, PhD)



Antennaria neglecta wackybadger, CC BY-SA 2.0 https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0, via Wikimedia Commons



Clematis virginiana
R. A. Nonenmacher, CC BY-SA 4.0 https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0, via Wikimedia Commons



Arctostaphylos Uva-Ursi
File: Arctostaphylos uva-ursi 25924.JPG|Arctostaphylos_uva-ursi_25924
Walter Siegmund, CC BY-SA 3.0 http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/, via
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Elymus canadensis
Matt Lavin from Bozeman, Montana, USA, CC BY-SA 2.0
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Argentina anserina
Photo credit: Sharon and Wayne Brandt



Juncus tenuis

Daderot, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons
https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/42/
Juncus_tenuis_-_Oslo_botanical_garden_-_IMG_8914.jpg



Carex pensylvanica Krzysztof Ziarnek, Kenraiz, CC BY-SA 4.0 https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0, via Wikimedia Commons



Phlox subulata Agnieszka Kwiecień, Nova, CC BY-SA 4.0 https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0, via Wikimedia Commons



Schizachyrium scoparium
Daderot, CC0, via Wikimedia Commons
https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/5/5d/
Schizachyrium_scoparium_-_Botanischer_Garten%2C_
Frankfurt am Main - DSC02409.JPG



*Viola sororia*Bernt Fransson, CC BY-SA 4.0 https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0, via Wikimedia Commons

Leaside Garden Society

Joanna Blanchard and Nora Campbell

\$2,000 SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY!

The Leaside Garden Society Founders' Scholarship

will award \$2,000 to a student in a Horticulture related program.

Goal:

to provide financial support to a student who will advance the knowledge of horticulture within the community

Eligibility:

a Canadian resident enrolled full-time in an eligible program at a post secondary institution (e.g. Botany, Ecology, Environmental Science, Forestry, Horticulture, Landscape Architecture, Plant Science)

Deadline:

June 30, 2023

For application, full scholarship details, eligibility and deadlines, visit:

www.leasidegardensociety.org

The Leaside Garden Society Founders' Scholarship

was established to honour the initiative of those who in the 1980's had the foresight and energy to form the Leaside Garden Society.

Leaside Garden Society

is an affiliated society with the Ontario Horticultural Association and is a not for profit organization. Part of its mission is to encourage, award and educate on the values and principles of gardening and the environment.

In keeping with the 110th Anniversary of the Town of Leaside, the Leaside Garden Society is once again hosting its popular Magical Gardens Tour on Saturday June 24. Check our website for details: www.leasidegardensociety.org



OHA 50/50 DRAW

Submitted by Marian Heil, OHA Treasurer



Heike Spohr, our winner from the December 16th, 2022 draw *Photo by Marian Heil*



Sally Drummond, our winner from the March 16th, 2023 draw Photo by Kathy Bouma - District 7 director

For the first year of running a province-wide raffle fundraiser, we have been reasonably happy with the results. There is always room for improvement. This has been a great fundraiser for the OHA and has helped our bottom line. As you know, the OHA does not receive any government funding so, we must depend on fundraising and membership dues in order to run our projects and pay grants and awards.

Our total ticket sales in 2022 were \$22,100. Of that, the 3 winners received 50% or \$11,050 with our December winner, Heike Spohr, taking home a nice cheque totaling \$4937.50.

From the proceeds of the raffle, the OHA was able to pay \$7214.64 in grants to Societies/Clubs towards their efforts in *Keeping Ontario Beautiful*TM in 2022.

From the proceeds we also pay fees to the Alcohol and Gaming Commission, to Rafflebox for using the website and to Stripe for Credit Card fees.

An application has been approved by the AGCO to run additional draws during 2023 which will include a \$500 early bird prize for each draw, so, buy your tickets early for a chance to win the early bird <u>and</u> the jackpot!

The next draw starts on March 17th and will include an early bird draw of \$500 sponsored by Shawn LaPalm Insurance Agency.

The early bird draw will be held on May 14th (Mother's Day) and the final draw will be on July 21st. The winning early bird ticket will be re-entered into the final grand prize draw.

For your chance to win, visit https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/ontario-ha

Draw #4 that took place on March 16th, 2023 was won by winning ticket number B-14001 and was held by Sally Drummond, a member of the Erin Horticultural Society in District 7. She is very excited to have won \$5670.

LaSalle Horticultural Society

By Jan Dugdale, President and Public Relations Officer

Photos by Jan Dugdale



New waterfront project

Spring is just around the corner and our gardeners are getting anxious to get into the soil and turn it over and plant. It's a bit early but you can plan. Our society is in the planning stages of helping the town of LaSalle put in a large entrance garden in front of the Event Center. It will be the entrance garden to the Small Coaster New Waterfront

going on Front Road in LaSalle. Our society will help the LaSalle community fundraise to help purchase the materials and build this garden. Representatives from the town came to our February meeting to show our members what the new waterfront will look like at each stage of a 60 million dollar plus project. Everyone was interested and we had a standing-room-only crowd.

Spring also brings the promotion for new members. To do this, we update our FB page almost daily to engage our members and now have over 738 followers. We've made new postcards with all our info on the back and placed them at the library and on the community board at Zehrs. We also updated our membership forms and put them at the library, showing all our interesting upcoming speakers.

We were happy to give out five-year pins to Barb and Marvin Gibb and ten-year pins to Usha and Satish Jacob.

May will bring our annual plant sale. We've joined with a new church in LaSalle to make it even bigger and more demanding than it is already. Great idea since this large church may have a few of their congregation that may wish to join.

In June, we will again present our "Egg to Butterfly" workshop in which we teach members of the public how to raise monarchs from egg to the butterfly stage. It is a four-hour seminar complete with lunch. It usually brings 50 to 100 people in attendance.

We can't wait to see our fall pollinator garden projects that we completed last year. You'll have to wait until the summer edition to see them.



Left: Jan Dugdale, President Centre and Right: Usha and Satish Jacob receiving their 10-year pins.

Bath Gardening Club

What's Happening in Bath

Submitted by P. Chown and J. Firth

Photography by D. Taylor and the following Pixabay photographers: rmc87; MB35; Hans; Alejandra Acosta Brncich; Erik Karits

We are beginning to think about spring!

After a wonderful fall and a Christmas celebratory lunch at the O'Connor Tea Room in December, we now turn our thoughts to a new year, gardens, growth and partnerships with the greater community.

We welcome our new Club members:

Kim Bonner Linda Dishy Margaret Maciver Keith McIlvanie Anna Salmon Marjory Brunsdon Judith Gould Donna Mills Irene Oudyk-Suk Esther Quirt

We look forward to getting to know and work with our new members on a variety of Club and community projects. Our Club membership now stands at 93 with 10 new members. Last year, Club members volunteered a total of 1325 hours. This works out to approximately \$20,000 of paid work at minimum wage. In all of Ontario, clubs contributed over \$4,500,000 of value last year. This is how we justify our requests for grants to the provincial government. We need your continued participation in order to flourish as a Club and to help our village move forward. No job is too little. Every job is important.

The village flowers have been ordered! They are currently being nurtured in the SunHarvest greenhouses and they will be ready for planting at the end of May. Our selection of flowers for 2023 was based on previous successes and the need to continually look for more drought-resistant species. We also are aware that we need to nourish the soil in our barrels, planters and gardens with moisture-retention materials. This will require the inclusion of compost, coconut coir,



Photo by A. Brncich-Pixabay



Photo by D. Taylor

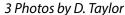
The Village Flowers



Photo by D. Taylor

Our Village Gardens









clay marbles and topping with new soil in our garden areas where needed. We felt that more time needs to be spent understanding and acting on the needs of specific plants in terms of weeding and watering for our flowers to thrive.

As in the past, the village will be awash with colour. Flowers and plants will include Cannas, Supertunias, Geraniums, Scavola, Cleomes, Vinca (the official flower of Bath), Impatiens, Begonias, Sweet Potato Vine and Portulaca. The bridge will include more perennials, rocks and perhaps hostas in the shadier areas. 347 plants have been ordered and will be planted in 42 large barrels, 10 small barrels, 5 planters, the gardens at the north and south bridges, Museum, Post Office and at Schell's Market. We thank everyone who has already volunteered to work on our village gardens.

The great tuber experiment by Susan, Dave, Val, Sylvia, and Janice

In the last newsletter, it was reported that many of the canna tubers were harvested from the barrels during our fall clean-up. The tubers were distributed to the above gardeners who, we know, have taken great care to pamper them over the winter before planting them in the early spring. Stay tuned for an update and perhaps a picture or two of the results of their labour.

Our January Meeting was attended by 28 members and 8 guests.

During this meeting, the Gardening Club was very pleased to welcome Pierre Spenard and Brian McLeod of Limestone City Hydroponics for a very informative presentation and discussion about hydroponics. We learned that even though the word 'hydroponics' suggests that the growing medium is limited to water, it is not so! Brian and Pierre spoke about using coconut coir, sphagnum moss and soil along with a variety of fertilizers that could be used in conjunction with water to grow healthy, robust plants in a relatively short time. Our guests introduced us to *The Kratky Method*, a quick and easy method for growing kale, lettuce, spinach and a variety of herbs in a relatively small growing area... on a deck, in an apartment for example. This is a great method if we do not have or want to have a huge garden, yet we want to enjoy eating the fruits of our labour. Here are a few details of the process.

The Kratky method involves water, but not a pump, so the material required is easily obtainable. Seeds are not used in this method. Leaves that have begun to root are ideal.

Materials needed:

- A container/reservoir. The size of container that you choose will depend on how large the plants are and how big you want your Kratky system to be. A milk jar works if the plants grown are small. A seed tray, storage bin or a bucket are also viable options.
- A lid. The lid is very important. It helps to prevent pests and disease from getting into the water and prevents water in the container from evaporating. The lid supports the 'net pots' so that most of the roots are submerged in the water but the leafy part of the plant remains dry. If your container already has a lid, no need to get another. If the container has no lid, a piece of Styrofoam that covers the lid securely is an option.
- **Net pots.** These vary in size depending on the size of the plant you are growing. A 3-inch diameter net pot is sufficient for lettuce for example. For more information on net pots, check out the following: https://www.greeneryretail.com/post/how-to-choose-the-best-net-pots-for-your-hydroponics-system
- pH measurement tools. A pH meter checks the acidity and alkaline level of your water. A correct pH level is important because it affects the nutrient assimilation of your growing plants. A pH level that is too high or alkaline can prevent nutrient uptake and lead to deficiencies in the plant. On a pH measurement tool, the number "seven" is considered neutral or balanced between acidic and alkaline. If water is below 7 on the pH scale, it is "acidic." If the pH level is higher than 7, it is described as being "alkaline." Products are available to help balance the pH level of the water so that the most advantageous balance is achieved for the particular plants that you are growing.
- Growing medium. Clay marbles are a good medium as they provide aeration and have a neutral pH.
- **Hydroponic nutrient.** All plants need nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium to grow. However, to achieve the best results, plants need these three main nutrients supplied in specific ratios suited to their individual needs. The importance of these three macronutrients cannot be overstated and you will often see references to the NPK ratio, which stands for nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), and potassium (K) using their symbols from the periodic table of elements. When deciding on a fertiliser or plant feed for your hydroponic lettuce for example, you will want to find one with a reasonably balanced NPK ratio, one where the three numbers representing the nutrients are roughly the same, such 5-5-5, or 3-3-4. Check out the label on the container. You might also consider a ratio that is higher in nitrogen. Nitrogen is the main nutrient responsible for leaf growth and is therefore important to the development of lettuce plants. The best hydroponic nutrients for lettuce will also include micronutrients in trace amounts. Some of the most important micronutrients for growing lettuce are boron, copper, iron and manganese. Nutrients in liquid form which dissolve easily are best used in hydroponics.

For more information on the "NPK" ratio check out the following site: https://www.bacfertilizers.com/mineral-fertilizer/nutrients-for-hydroponics/best-hydroponic-nutrients-for-lettuce

6 Steps to setting up your Kratky System:

Step 1: After you have chosen a tight-fitting lid for your container (plastic or Styrofoam), drill holes in the top large enough to hold the net pots.

Step 2: Fill your container with water

Step 3: Add the nutrients that are suggested for the particular plant that you will be growing.

Step 4: Check the pH level of your solution with the pH meter. If it is within 5.5 to 6.5, the nutrient solution is acceptable.

Step 5: Adjust the pH level with the pH kit if it drifts out of the recommended range.

Step 6: Place the net pot with growing media (clay marbles), and plants onto the drilled lid. Keep parts of the roots hung freely in the air, and the other parts sunk into the nutrient solution. Plants roots are partly submerged into the water and partly exposed to the air. This ensures that plants are exposed to water as well as oxygen.

For fast-growing plants, like lettuce, kale, spinach and herbs, the time to harvest is often reached when most of the water is gone. The time period could be as short as 30 days. If you want to let the plants to continue growing, you can add more water and nutrient solution and recheck the pH level. To harvest the plants, simply cut off the greens and enjoy!

For more information, the following site explains the process in detail: https://www.trees.com/gardening-and-landscaping/the-gratky-method

The following YouTube presentations might also be useful:

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5z0NaYpVHMs
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hfOlj4_Z1hQ

For more information about Limestone City Hydroponics, check out their Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/LimestoneCityHydroponics/



Hydroponics Salad Photo by MB35-Pixabay

Bath Gardening Club begins to partner with local business, the Township and Council. Working together to create a better Bath

In November 2022, Bath Gardening Club met with representatives of Loyalist Township to investigate ways that we could more productively work together to achieve a more beautiful and appealing village. The meeting was a brainstorming session but also the beginning of a discussion about the needs that the Gardening Club has identified that could be supported in a concrete way by the Township. We are fortunate that the Township already provides us with the manpower to place and remove barrels in the spring and fall; placing and removing wreaths at the beginning and end of the festive season and water for our village flowers. A follow-up meeting with Township personnel to outline a list of expectations and actions needed by both groups will take place in March.

The Gardening Club has since received a request to partner with the local businesses of Bath. The businesses are currently discussing preparations for a "Bath in Bloom" event on the last weekend in May to highlight businesses and Bath to people who live locally and to people living outside Bath. We welcome opportunities to work in partnership with other community groups as well in order to create a more appealing and welcoming Bath. Stay tuned!

Spring meetings:

March 20 at 2:30 St. John's Hall - Joyce Hostyn of the 1000 Master Gardeners will make a return visit to our Club to speak about "The Ins and Outs of Pruning Garden Shrubs and Trees."

April Meeting: We are fortunate to have Carson Arthur of Wellington, Prince Edward County, join us for an evening meeting that will be open to other Gardening Clubs in the area. Carson is a landscape designer, television personality and author of the books: "Garden Designs for Outdoor Living" and, "Vegetables, Chickens and Bees". He is the editor of

Outdoor Lifestyle magazine, spokesperson for Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate and has a syndicated radio show, "Take it Outside". He is active in Wellington with his Garden Market but still has time to host many gardening and home renovating shows for HGTV, Discovery and Hallmark Channels and Global. Stay tuned for the date and time of Carson's presentation.

Future meetings: Later in the spring, we welcome the return of physiotherapist Dan Chen who will speak to us about "Body Mechanics & Gardening" and we are arranging for the staff of Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington (KFL&A) to address the topic, "All About Ticks".

And, finally we welcome all readers to keep up with our news on our website: https://bathgardeningclub.ca/



TickPhoto by Erik Karits-Pixabay

Port Burwell – Bayham Horticultural Society

Submitted by Jude McHugh

Hello from The Port Burwell – Bayham Horticultural Society. Bayham Municipality is on the north shore of Lake Erie, in Southwestern Ontario. There are 11 communities including Port Burwell, Vienna, Eden, Straffordville and Richmond. The Township, now Municipality, is named after Viscount Bayham, a friend of Colonel Talbot. We are a small Society with big hopes, dreams and plans. Our new Board was elected in November, 2022 and we would like to introduce ourselves.



L to R: Patti Culford, Stan Rushton, Rita McPhail, Jude McHugh, Leann Walsh, Marg Rushton, Cheryl Klenot, Lindsay Walsh, Susan Lampman and joined by Jim Mabee – Absent is Polly Shelly

We meet on the third Monday of every month @7:00 pm at The Periscope Playhouse in Port Burwell. We host speakers, workshops and a chance to hang out with like-minded people and learn something new. We also have free draws for door prizes every meeting. We purchase, plant and maintain the containers throughout the Municipality with watering help from the Municipality. We host an annual plant sale on the Saturday of the May long weekend as well as participating in a couple of other community sales and festivals.

This year we are hoping to enter a float into The Canada Day Parade, The Santa Parade and The Watermelon Fest Parade. We are also exploring a partnership with local schools and The Community Garden.

We are hoping to build our membership by offering information, fun and community. We are all counting down the days until spring has sprung. We would love to have you visit if you are in the area.

"To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow "A. Hepburn

Dunnville Horticultural Society

By Jennifer Miller and Melanie Ruigrok

The Dunnville Horticultural Society (DHS) is back up and running full steam ahead, with an amazing lineup of speakers at the monthly program nights (every third Thursday of the month) and a number of other projects in the works.

The Annual General Meeting happened in November, 2022, with our President Deb Zynomirski stepping down after serving a number of years in that role. Recording Secretary Petra Kruis-Daly agreed to take on the additional role of Vice President. Jennifer Miller joined the board and has assumed the role of Corresponding Secretary. Miller expressed great excitement in joining this community organization and working alongside the other board members.

This spring is going to be a busy one for DHS! With the return of the Dunnville Lion's Home and Garden Show, DHS plans to have a 'Flower Power'-themed booth where visitors can see demonstrations, meet members and learn more about what DHS does in the community. Come check it out at the Dunnville Arena and Lifespan Centre on Friday, April 14th from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday, April 15th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

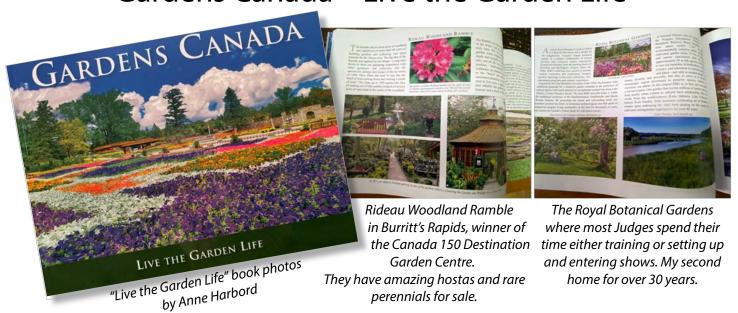
DHS will be working in combined collaboration with Haldimand Horticultural Society to present 'Seedy Saturday' on April 29th from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Cayuga Memorial Arena. Cost is \$5.00 for those 13 and older. There will be vendors, prizes and interesting guest speakers including Kevin Kavanagh – 'For the Birds and Bees', Darren Heimbecker – 'All About Peonies' and Sean James – 'Looks Good Enough to Eat'. In addition, there will be other presentations between the main speakers. Don't forget food drive donations will be collected for local food banks as well. This is going to be a huge event that will be fun for the entire family. Make sure to save the date and come out to 'Seedy Saturday'.

In the next issue, DHS looks forward to sharing more about the other community projects that are shaping up in 2023. This includes collaborating with the local branch of the Royal Canadian Legion to crochet poppies for a display, day trips, workshops and supporting Haldimand 4-H's 'Cut Flowers Club'. So, if you are in the area, please be sure to check out our splendid Grand River views, amazing gardens and fun monthly meetings. DHS looks forward to seeing you.

District 2

Submitted by Anne Harbord, OHA Director, District 2

Gardens Canada – Live the Garden Life



District 2 will be selling this beautiful book to raise funds for their expenses related to hosting the 2023 OHA Convention in Ottawa next summer at Brookstreet Hotel, Kanata. Contact District 2 Director, Anne Harbord at anneclark.flowers@gmail.com or call her cell at 613-850-8022 to order a book for \$39.95. Shipping costs may be incurred but every effort will be made to deliver the books or organize a pick-up time and location. Anne will be in Milton on April 24 for the GCO Judges Council Meeting and can bring books there for delivery.

District 2

Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Tree Planting

Written by Anne Harbord

Photos by Brian Beattie

The OHA and District 2 Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Tree Planting took place on Canada's National Tree Day, Wednesday, September 21st, 2022 on the grounds of Canadensis, the new National Botanical Garden of Canada. OHA representatives in attendance included: Charles Freeman, President; Sharlene Desjardins, 1st VP; Anne Harbord, District 2 Director; Susan Ramsay, District 1 Director; District 2 Board Members and many District 2 Society Presidents and members. Special thanks go to: Anne Harbord for all her efforts to organize this important event; the Almonte Tree Group for providing the Bur Oak trees; to Canadensis Board members who provided the first two spaces in the Master Tree Forest as well as parking, signage and tents and last, but not least, Allan Goddard for sourcing the OHA and District 2 trees as well as the hole prep, planting and installing the plaque for the D2 tree. As well, thank you to the Almonte Tree Group, Baker Bob from Almonte, Allan Goddard and Anne Harbord for providing the cake, special cookies and refreshments. Daniel Richer dit Laflèche, Ottawa's Town Crier and the only Provincial Town Crier in Canada, opened and closed the ceremony. Sylvia McDonald, a singer from Manotick, sang "God Save the King" to open the ceremonies and closed them with "Amazing Grace". Mayor Jim Watson addressed the group and gave a heartfelt speech about the Queen who had just been buried a few days earlier and the significance of her Platinum Jubilee being recognized in such a permanent fashion. In total, there were 45 people in attendance.



Left to right: Sharlene Desjardins, OHA 1st VP; Charles Freeman, OHA President; Susan Ramsay, OHA Director; District 1; and Anne Harbord, OHA Director, District 2



Town Crier, Daniel Richer dit Laflèche, paying his respects



Jubilee Tree Planting – The Almonte Tree Group



District 2 Members at the tree and plaque



Wilmot Horticultural Society

OHA Fall Fun Art Contest

Submitted by Lianne Krane, District 6 Director

Chloe Thompson won the Fall Fun Art Contest for the 6-8 year-old class. Chloe is a proud member of the Wilmot Junior Gardeners, associated with the Wilmot Horticultural Society. Thank you for entering and congratulations, Chloe.

Happy Spring from the Haldimand Horticultural Society

Barb Wilson, Publicity Chair

"Every gardener knows that under the cloak of winter lies a miracle... a seed waiting to sprout, a bulb opening to the light, a bud straining to unfurl and the anticipation nurtures our dream."

We look forward to 2023 being a year of more wonderful times in our gardens. Many activities are being planned by the HHS and as the colour of the year is purple, we will all be thinking of how to incorporate that colour into our gardens at home and in the community gardens our volunteers maintain throughout the Spring, Summer and Fall. Many thanks to all our volunteers for the time and care they take to beautify our surrounding communities of York, Cayuga, Caledonia and Hagersville. Two new pollinator gardens have been added also in the past few years – one at Lafortune Park in Caledonia and at the Burke Estates Park in Caledonia.

This year marks the 39th year of the Haldimand Horticultural Society which began in December, 1984. Plans for our 40th Anniversary year are underway to mark this memorable milestone.

Our January and February General Meetings have featured interesting speakers. Lynn Leach, a registered horticultural therapist for over 30 years, spoke about Therapeutic Plants. In February, we had Heidi Mungal from Generations Marketplace & Learning Centre sharing her family's experiences in having a sustainable homestead.

March's General Meeting will feature the Raw Carrot Enterprise from Paris, ON. They are a non-profit that creates meaningful employment for individuals living with disabilities and mental illness who are hired to make tasty gourmet soups.

The Haldimand Horticultural Society sponsors scholarships each Fall to 3 Haldimand County Secondary Schools: Caledonia, Hagersville and Cayuga. The recipients for the 2022 year are continuing their education in horticulture and were thrilled to receive their awards.

Upcoming Society Events:

- Competitions are held at every General Meeting we also practice "lug a mug" to do our bit for the environment.
- •The "Green Gardians" Youth Group special thanks go to our youth leaders who organize activities every Saturday morning at the Caledonia Library.
- •Our annual Seedy Saturday Event, presented by the Haldimand and Dunnville Horticultural Societies, will be April 29th at the Cayuga Memorial Arena.
- Plant & Bake sale May 13th.
- Garden Tour July 15th and 16th.
- Ongoing "Big Yellow Bag" fundraiser

Enjoy the Spring season!

Please check our website for more information about our society: https://www.haldimandhorticulture.com

Streetsville Horticultural Society

Monica Ross, Co-President

Photos by Monica Ross

How To Make Sure Your Amaryllis Will Rebloom

This article was originally published in the Streetsville Horticultural Society February, 2019 newsletter. I have updated it to add some more information and hopefully simplify the details.

Most of us have probably bought or been given an Amaryllis. When it blooms, we are thrilled by the size and colour of the flowers. The blooms fade after 2-3 weeks. Many people just throw them out when the blooms die but it isn't difficult to make sure it will rebloom.

In this picture taken in mid-January 2022, the red flowered plant is flowering for the 4th time; the bulb has grown big enough to have 2 flowering stems. The white one is 3 years old, the tall stem with a bud on the right is also 4 years old and will have pink flowers. The plant with bi-coloured blooms is in its first year. In the summer of 2022, the red and pink bulbs bloomed outside in mid-August. In the winter of 2023, I had 7 flower stems in bloom at the same time.

The Basics

The plant we refer to as Amaryllis, is **not** actually a member of the Amaryllis family. It belongs to the Hippeastrum species and is native to the tropical and subtropical regions of South America and the Caribbean.

The actual Amaryllis genus is native to South Africa where winter temperatures are between 0°C and 10°C. So we have 2 plants called the same, one is a botanical name, the other is a common name and it gets confusing.

You can Google how to get your Amaryllis to rebloom and will get many results. I have success with my plants re-flowering but often other people seem to have no success. I think some of the techniques that don't work well are because there is confusion about the climate in the areas where these plants are native. Or an assumption that a bulb is a bulb and they can all be treated the same no matter where home is.

Tropical and subtropical areas such as the places where Hippeastrum/Amaryllis grow, usually have a dry or drier season, not a cold season when plants die back to the ground. In the dry periods, many plants die back and then regrow when rain starts again. If we look at the directions given for planting a newly purchased Amaryllis/Hippeastrum, it says all you need to do to start growth is water them. That makes sense as they start new growth after a dry period.

The Instructions

If you have a new bulb: follow the planting directions. Plus, I usually fertilize them **once a month** from when the leaves or flower shoots start growing. I usually use a 20-20-20 water soluble fertilizer.

Read the Instructions

The Plant Prod or equivalent water soluble fertilizer instructions say: for houseplants use 6 mL in 5 litres of water, if you only have one amaryllis, 5 litres is a lot of prepared fertilizer. You could use the extra on other houseplants or you can use ¼ of a teaspoon of fertilizer in 1 litre of water.



Mid-January, 2022



February, 2023

Do not overwater, the soil should be just damp, not wet, they rot easily. If you have a tendency to be overly kind to your plants, this is another option; feed them half the recommended amount, twice as often. That way, you don't run the risk of over-fertilizing, half the amount every two weeks seems to work.

After the Flower Dies

Cut down the flower stems to the bottom. Just as with other bulbs, the leaves need to keep growing to regrow the bulb for next year's flowers. Keep the pots in a sunny location inside and fertilize them as described above.

After night temps are above 1°C I put them outside on my front path in a planter box. The area gets lots of light but little direct sunlight. Don't over water them, the soil should be barely moist, the bulbs can rot easily. Make sure your container has drainage holes.

I usually use a granular fertilizer when the plants are outside, just because it's easier. I have thought about putting soil around the pots, but haven't because it would keep the soil in the amaryllis pots too damp. Continue fertilizing until late August. They stay outside until late September – early October.

I have a large potted tree that is outside on my back patio in the summer that has to come inside at the same time. The large pot spends the winter in my kitchen by the patio doors, a sunny location. When I bring the amaryllis in, I put the pots on top of the soil in the large pot. I water very little for about 6 weeks; don't fertilize during this time, the leaves will dry out and probably die back. The dry period is when the bulb is dormant.

This is where some directions tell you to put the pots in a cold, dry place such as a cold basement or garage for up to 2 months, I have never done this. It seems this idea is suggested because spring blooming bulbs like daffodils, or tulips require a significant cold, dark period in order to bloom. Always think about where plants originated and try to duplicate those conditions.

After the dry period, water well once, keep the pots in a warm, sunny spot, don't water unless the soil is dry or fertilize at all until you see new growth. Remember that sometimes the leaves will start to grow before the flower spike and sometimes the flower spike will come first. You can tell the difference right away because the leaves will be flat and thin, and the flower spike will be thick and fat. If leaves start growing first, it doesn't mean it won't bloom. After the flowers die back, start the same method again.

If your Amaryllis is new and was bought in the fall for blooms at Christmas, it has been conditioned to flower during the Christmas season. After the bloom has finished, the bulb will have from January to May to regrow inside and then from May to October to grow outside, about 9 months.

If you are trying to get your Amaryllis to rebloom, don't be surprised if it doesn't start to regrow a new stem or leaves until January or sometimes later when the days start to get longer. Last year, I had one that didn't rebloom until March.

Failure to flower can be due to drying off bulbs too early, growing in excessively shady conditions, under-watering or under-fertilizing the previous summer.

Theoretically, you can count back 10+ weeks from when you want the plant to rebloom and that will tell you when to start the dormancy stage. I think this suggestion is one of the reasons for no repeat flowers, because it shortens the amount of time the bulb has to regrow, the same way that cutting back daffodil or tulips leaves too soon reduces flowering in subsequent years.

The pictures were taken by Monica Ross in her kitchen and family room. The photo of the red amaryllis blooming in August, 2022 was taken in a front garden border about 8 feet from her front door.



January, 2019



January, 2021



August, 2022

Rose's Amaryllis

Photos by Rose Odell

Rose had some amazing blooms on her Amaryllis this season.







It's Not Too Early to Dig Up and Pot Up!

Everyone looks forward to the Garden Club and Horticultural Society plant sales in the spring.

Some members have already started seeds and the new plants will be ready! While you're digging your extra treasures, you are making room for new ones for your own garden.

Tips for better sales:

- Remember to get rid of the detritus, dead leaves and any unpleasantness.
- Add new soil and/or bark chips/mulch to the pot.
- Be sure there are lots of roots.
- Clean the plant and the pots.
- Name the plant. Add information about sun or shade, watering requirements and how large it will grow.
- · Add a price.
- Contact your local Garden Club/Horticultural Society for the best time to drop off your perky plants and offer to help.



"Shall we take 2 cars to get everything in?"

Tell your neighbours about the fun and be sure to go early for the best selection!



OHA Districts, Societies and Clubs October 24, 2022

Re: Trillium Newsletter End of Printing Decision

Dear Districts, Societies and Clubs:

The Trillium has been a staple of the Ontario Horticultural Association and all of the members of the Affiliated Societies/Clubs for many years. As a way of keeping all "in the know", the editions were by far the best way to communicate. This being said, there was never any intention that the Trillium be a money-making endeavor for the OHA and as a result, pricing was always set at a "break even" point.

At the October Board Meeting this year, it became quite clear that the OHA was losing money on the sale of the printed Trillium even with the last pricing increase when the Trillium went to colour. The costs of printing and mailing the Trillium has increased substantially.

The only two (2) options for the Board were to increase the price of the annual subscription by over twenty-five (25) dollars per year or to look at ending the printed Trillium program. Either option comes with its own respective concerns.

The Board, after much conversation and deliberation has decided that ending the printed Trillium program will occur.

Please be advised that:

- a) As of December 31st, 2022, the OHA will not be accepting any new subscriptions for printed editions of the Trillium
- b) As of December 31st, 2022, the OHA will not be renewing any current subscriptions for the printed Trillium
- c) ALL current subscriptions will be honoured until their respective end date

This means that as time moves forward, there will be fewer and fewer printed editions and by the end of 2023, there should be no more printed Trillium editions available.

The Trillium will be and is available by checking the gardenontario.org site and clicking on "news" on the top row of icons. This will open all electronic editions which may then be printed. The Trillium will also be sent out to all Societies/Clubs and District Directors to share with your membership via email.

Yours truly,

Charles Freeman
Ontario Horticultural Association President



Garden Ontario Memorial Cards

Are you aware that they exist?

Submitted by Sandra Mazur, Member of the Garden Ontario Fundraising Committee

The practice of including flower arrangements at funerals dates back thousands of years. They used to be considered a very important part of most funerals. Today, more and more people are looking at eco-friendly and affordable burial options. We are seeing more and more people declining flowers and asking for donations to charities that an individual or family member had a connection to.

As a result, people are making charitable donations in the name of the deceased. Charitable donations demonstrate the same respect and admiration that flowers did in the past.

Your donation in honour of a loved one, friend, family member or even a co-worker should be directed to an organization with a personal resonance. Your contribution will carry your loved one's legacy forward and support a project or organization they had a passion for.

Did you know that Garden Ontario (OHA) has memorial cards available to have at your memorial service? We as gardeners and environmental stewards are passionate about what we do. Why not direct your family to ensure that when you pass on to the next life your work on earth will still be supported by donations going to a charitable organization that you had a passion for?





For more information on making a donation to Garden Ontario (OHA), please visit our website at https://gardenontario.org/donate/ or contact us directly at treasurer@gardenontario.org

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



OHA Contact Information

OHA Officers

President
1st Vice President
2nd Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Past President and PP Council Representative
Southern and Western Regions Representative
Northern and Eastern Regions Representative
OHA Directors

Charles Freeman Sharlene Desjardins Vicky Culbert Kelly Taylor Marian Heil Katharine Smyth Catherine McGill Sandra Mazur president@gardenontario.org vp@gardenontario.org vp@gardenontario.org secretary@gardenontario.org treasurer@gardenontario.org pastpresident@gardenontario.org swrep@gardenontario.org district14@gardenontario.org

District 1 - Dundas, Glengarry, Prescott, Russell, Stormont, Grenville and the eastern portion of the city of Ottawa

District 2 - Lanark, Renfrew and the western and central portion of the city of Ottawa

District 3 - Frontenac, Hastings, Leeds, Lennox & Addington, Prince Edward

District 4 - Haliburton, Northumberland, Peterborough, Victoria

District 5 - Toronto East, York Region East
District 6 - Brant, Halton, Hamilton, Norfolk
District 7 - Dufferin, Wellington Counties
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District 9 - Haldimand, Niagara North, Niagara South

District 10 - Elgin, Middlesex, Oxford, Perth

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District 16 - Simcoe County
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District 18 - Parry Sound, Muskoka, South Nipissing

District 19 - Regional Municipality of Waterloo

Susan Ramsay district1@gardenontario.org

Anne Harbord district2@gardenontario.org

Brad King district3@gardenontario.org

Lianne Krane
Kathy Bouma
Karen Redmond
Leslie Daniels
Dian Chute
Sandra Rammelaere
Rene Roy
Denise Berg

Patty Carlson

Sandra Mazur
Barb O'Malley
Barbara Collinson
Debi Foster
Nancy Thompson
Kathy Pearson

district4@gardenontario.org district5@gardenontario.org district6@gardenontario.org district7@gardenontario.org district8@gardenontario.org district9@gardenontario.org district10@gardenontario.org district11@gardenontario.org district12@gardenontario.org district13@gardenontario.org district14@gardenontario.org district15@gardenontario.org district16@gardenontario.org district17@gardenontario.org district18@gardenontario.org district19@gardenontario.org

Other OHA Contacts

Awards Co-ordinator
OMAFRA Rep.
Convention Registrar
OHA Historian
In Memoriam
Judging School Co-ordinator
Judges' Registrar
Supplies/Speakers
Trillium Editor
Website Coordinator

Youth Chair & Youth Competition Chair

Co-operators Insurance Rep.

Sharlene Desjardins Natalie Beckford Donna Hussey Malcolm Geast Marilyn Cox Jim Mabee Sharon Nivins Rose Odell Laura Masterson Tim Lascak

Karen Redmond/Lianne Krane Shawn LaPalm awards@gardenontario.org
natalie.beckford@ontario.ca
registrar@gardenontario.org
history@gardenontario.org
inmemoriam@gardenontario.org
judging@gardenontario.org
judges@gardenontario.org
gardenshopsupplies@gmail.com
editor@gardenontario.org
webmaster@gardenontario.org
youthchair@gardenontario.org
shawn_lapalm@cooperators.ca



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

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 Support grants, awards, convention, Donate to the OHA In Memoriam For donations, email inmemoriam@gar 	und (supporting Tre	ee Grants). For more in	formation about In Memoriam
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District # (if applies): Do you v Do you wish to have the deceased Do you wish a family member to be	person's name ackn	nowledged at the OHA	noriam Book? Yes No Convention? Yes No
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