



CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION

118th OHA Convention

July 24-26, 2026

Host: Districts 4 & 17

Theme: "Gardening for Life"

Coordinator: Doris Cassan 116 Schmidt Drive, Arthur ON N0G 1A0

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1. **Theme:** This competition is inspired by the convention theme and linked to other competitions through the class title "Gardening for Life".
2. **Eligibility:** The competition is open to members In Good Standing of a Society/Club (hereafter society) In Good Standing with the Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA).
3. **Entry:** Entries may be **mailed OR emailed** to the Coordinator and postmarked or email dated **no later than May 1, 2026**.

a. MAILED ENTRIES:

- i Entries are to be typed or printed double-spaced, on white, letter-size (216 mm x 279 mm; 8.5" x 11") paper in size 12 font Arial (or similar) with no distinguishing features. i.e. **DO NOT include your name on the printed entry itself.**
- ii Each printed entry must have an entry tag attached (see appendix). The entry tag should be taped or stapled to the bottom right corner of your entry.
- iii Entries will not be returned by mail unless a stamped self-addressed envelope is included with the entry.
- iv Entries may be picked up at convention after judging. Please inform the Coordinator who will be picking up the entry. A signature will be required at pickup.

b. EMAILED ENTRIES:

- i Entries should be emailed to the Coordinator as an attachment in MS Word with **entry tag information within the body of the email** (see appendix).
- ii **As per mailed entries, do not put identifiers on the attached submission.**

c. ALL ENTRIES:

- i The submission of an entry implies that the exhibitor gives consent to the OHA to make further use of the entry in any way that it designates. For example, winning entries may be read or published either digitally or in print. Ownership of the content is retained by the exhibitor.

- ii Each exhibitor is allowed only one entry per class. All entries must be original and not previously published.
- iii Reasonable security will be supplied, but the OHA assumes no responsibility for loss or damage.

4. **Judging:** Class placements based on merit as follows:

- a. Interpretation of the title 20% Creativity 20% Originality 30% Skill 30% "Honorable Mention" (HM) Awarded at the judge's discretion.
- b. "Best in Show": based on merit and selected from the entries, placing 1st. "Judge's Choice" is based on personal preference from all other entries. Judges may withhold an award if, in their opinion, an exhibit is not worthy. The judge's decision is final.

5. **Awards:**
OHA ribbons and cash prizes.
1st prize: \$10 2nd prize: \$8 3rd prize: \$6 HM \$2
Best In Show- Rosette \$20 and certificate with exhibitor's name
Judges Choice - Rosette and \$20 (Donated by Kelly Taylor)
Note: No rosettes will be awarded on years when the competition is virtual.

6. **Viewing:**
All entries will be displayed with tags open.
Friday 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

7. **Return:**

- a. All entries must be left in place until after the competition closes on Saturday evening.
- b. Pick up of entries and prizes is on **Sunday morning between 7:30 - 8:30 a.m.**
- c. Should you not be in attendance on Sunday, please make arrangements with the Coordinator to either pick up your entry earlier, or to have someone else pick it up.
- d. A signature is required for return of all entries. Return by mail ONLY if a stamped, self-addressed envelope was included with the entry.

CLASS 1 **A SONG** - Create a song using the tune of one of these songs, and add your own lyrics related to the theme. “In my Beautiful Garden”.

Oh What A Beautiful Morning

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kukt026ssS>

Meet Me in St. Louis <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-QRoT2twxCU>

Fly Me to the Moon <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a-6qQ752pQk>

Quando Quando Quando <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GnF6jico5jU>

Dancing Queen <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qjMSGIfB1j8>

Can't Take My Eyes Off of You <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u-y4NiAmHLM>

CLASS 2 **A POEM** - Write a poem related to the theme of “The Sights and Sounds in my Garden”. Your poem must be a minimum of 8 lines and a maximum of 20 lines long. Free verse or Rhyming Couplets acceptable.

CLASS 3 **NARRATIVE** - Write about “Gardening for Life” 500-600 words. Fiction or Non-Fiction acceptable.

APPENDIX 1: ENTRY TAG

For Mailed Entries: Complete the entry tag and fold from bottom along the bold dashed line, so that only the Class, Section and Article are visible.

Attach to printed submission or include the same information in the email that accompanies your emailed submission. The work itself should contain no identifiers.

ENTRY TAG OHA CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION	
CLASS	
THEME	
ARTICLE	
FOLD SO THAT ONLY INFORMATION ABOVE IS VISIBLE	
EXHIBITOR'S NAME	
ADDRESS	
PHONE NUMBER	
EMAIL	
HOME SOCIETY	
DISTRICT NUMBER	
WILL BE PICKED UP BY	