



**ONTARIO HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
July 16, 2022, 9:00 am
via WebEx**

SATURDAY, JULY 16, 2022

QUORUM: Kelly Taylor, OHA Secretary, reported that we have 165 voting delegates on the call today.

President's Welcome: Charles Freeman, OHA President brought greetings from the OHA and welcomed everyone to the virtual AGM at 9:00 am.

Greetings From The Office of the Honourable Lisa Thompson, Minister of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs: PA Trevor Jones, attended on behalf of the Honourable Lisa Thompson to bring greetings to the OHA and to all of the Societies/Clubs and voting delegates participating in today's AGM.

Land Acknowledgement Statement: Charles Freeman read a Land Acknowledgement Statement on behalf of the OHA.

Question & Answer Process and Voting Process: Kelly Taylor shared that all questions would be submitted via the chat function in WebEx and our Moderator, Kathy Smyth, OHA Past President would read them aloud. Questions will be accepted from those on the phone as well. The voting delegates have all been sent links for each Resolution and Motion for today's AGM. When directed the link for the voting form will be lived and voting delegates will be asked to place their vote either via the link or over the phone.

OHA Annual General Meeting Opening: Charles Freeman, OHA President opened the 115th OHA AMG.

ROLL CALL: Kelly Taylor recognized the OHA Officers, District Directors, Districts and Past Presidents at today's AGM.

IN MEMORIAM: Kelly Taylor read 2 poems for those that we have lost since the last convention. OHA Past Presidents, Pauline Richards and Albert Card were acknowledged. The names and several pictures were highlighted on the screen by District. The In Memoriam presentation will be added to the GardenOntario.org website.

MOTION 22-66: **That the time allotted to each resolution brought before the membership for debate and consideration be limited to ten minutes. M/S: Susan Ramsay, District 1/Nancy Thompson, District 18. 324 For, 3 Opposed, 15 Abstentions. CARRIED.**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Charles Freeman presented his President's Report for 2021 with highlights from the past year. Charles reported that the OHA has completed the trademark for GardenOntario®. Charles noted that when anyone is using GardenOntario® it should be used with the registered mark. The OHA has updated several documents for Society/Club use including the General Guide for Horticultural Society Officers and the District, the Society/Club Code of Conduct template, the OHA Photography-Video-Testimonial Waiver and Release Form, the Pollinator Brochure and all of the Youth forms and documents. The OHA has created a Society/Club door hanger for use in their communities in an attempt to increase awareness and membership. The OHA, in collaboration with the Cooperators, has developed a vendor's insurance program through DUJO which offers vendor insurance starting at \$12/day. The OHA held our first-ever virtual Earth Day Celebration where we had a floral demonstration, and 2 presentations including special guest speaker, Sean James join us.

For those Societies/Clubs who are looking for information on insurance coverage, please visit the GardenOntario website under Resources where there is a summary of Society/Club coverage. The Awards and Grants Booklet was updated in November and can be found on the GardenOntario website.

The OHA is in the process of conducting a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) Analysis. This review will assist the association in working to the best of its abilities and intentions. This is an ongoing process and will take time to achieve a better association. After careful consideration the OHA Board Meetings

are moving to a new venue for some meetings which will save the OHA money and facilitate in-person meetings which are generally more productive.

The OHA is a garden-family partner for the Year of the Garden initiative. Everyone in Canada is invited to plant red during the year of the Garden 2022. Societies/Clubs are encouraged to nominate someone for the Canadian Garden Heroes initiative.

The OHA has requested legal opinion on whether the Ontario Not-For-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA) impacts Societies/Clubs, the Districts and the association. When there is definitive information/guidance it will be sent out to all Societies/Clubs.

The OHA will be hosting a WebEx session on November 4th at 7 pm where Societies/Clubs and Districts can attend to learn how to use the OHA Annual Information Report. The President's Report presentation will be added to the GardenOntario.org website.

MOTION 22-67: That the 2021 President's Report be approved, as presented. Kathy Smyth, District 11/Sharlene Desjardins, District 2. 355 For, 0 Opposed, 2 Abstention. CARRIED.

SECRETARY'S YEAR 2021 ACTIVITY REPORT

Volunteer Hours: For 2021, Societies/Clubs reported 272,383 volunteer hours, plus OHA Officers reported 5,403 hours, District Directors and District Executives reported 21,892 for a total of 299,678 volunteer hours.

Membership Numbers: The OHA membership numbers reported for 2021 are 268 Societies/Clubs with 23,494 members. The membership number has increased by 1443 members from 2020. This is a 6.54% increase over the previous year.

The 2021 Virtual Convention was the first of its kind for the OHA. This was an enormous undertaking by District 10 and the OHA Officers to put a virtual AGM and Convention together. The preparations included a complete change over from an in-person convention including the acquisition of a competition showcase website and the use of Pheedloop, online registrations and Zoom as well as the creation of electronic voting forms for each resolution and motion. District 10 did an amazing job in changing over every bus trip and speaker to a virtual offering.

The Awards and Grants recipients for 2021 were shown on the screen. The Awards and Grants recipients for 2022 were announced as noted below. Write-ups on each Award will be available in the Fall *Trillium* and will be added to the GardenOntario website.

Community Improvement Award – 2 awarded: presented to Town of Petawawa, Parks & Recreation Department, District 2 and to the Wheatley Horticultural Society in District 11. This award is a plaque provided by the Ontario Horticultural Association. It may be given to an individual, organization or company that, in the estimation of the Awards Committee, has enhanced the beauty of the landscape and/or added to the quality of life of a community with a horticultural project.

Youth Leader Award: presented to Helen Stephenson, Oakville Horticultural Society, District 6. This plaque is presented to a person who has been a Youth Club leader for a minimum of 5-years.

Environmental Award – 1 awarded: presented to Tilbury & District Horticultural Society, District 11. This plaque is provided to an individual, organization, municipality, company, school or other educational establishment that, in the estimation of the Awards Committee, has made a significant contribution to environmental preservation including habitat, restoration, and/or improvement.

Honour Roll – 3 awarded: presented to Elaine Metzger, Pembroke Horticultural Society, District 2, Marie Decker, Oakville Horticultural Society, District 6 and Joyce Schlegel, Strathroy-Caradoc Horticultural Society, District 10. Nominations should be for members of a horticultural Society/Club with at least five years of service to one or more Society/Club who should have made a contribution of horticultural service to the community, District or Association and should have given outstanding service at the Society/Club and District level.

Technical Advancement Recognition – 8 awarded: presented to Manotick Horticultural Society, District 2, Kingston Horticultural Society, District 3, Peterborough Horticultural Society, District 4, East Gwillimbury Garden Club and Horticultural Society, District 5, Markham Garden Club and Horticultural Society, District 5, Pelham Horticultural Society, District 9, Thorold Horticultural Society, District 9 and Galt Horticultural Society, District 19. This recognition is a framed special achievement certificate and is given to an affiliated Society/Club or District in recognition of their demonstrated drive and determination to fulfil their mandate by using a virtual platform to remain engaged with their Society/Club or District members.

Award of Merit – 2 awarded: presented to Cindy Zorgel, Almonte & District Horticultural Society, District 2 and Elizabeth Schleicher, Burlington Horticultural Society, District 6. The certificate is given to an individual(s) for notable contributions to the programs of the Association or a Society/Club in special beautification, outstanding work in the science or art of horticulture or supporting individuals or organizations in the area of communication or any other worthy efforts such as contribution towards advancement of sound horticultural practices, ecological and conservation practices.

Trillium/Silver Fir Award – 2 awarded: presented to Kathryn Lindsay, Ottawa Horticultural Society, District 2 and Catherine Kavassalis, Oakville Horticultural Society, District 6. This award as designated in 2009 is given to the two worthiest candidates who have given outstanding service to horticultural Societies/Clubs and to the Ontario Horticultural Association.

Silver Medal Award – 1 awarded: presented to Brian Carson, Manotick Horticultural Society, District 2. The Ontario Horticultural Association Silver Medal is the highest award of the Association. The award is given for outstanding work in the advancement of horticulture in accordance with the aims of the Association.

OHA Tree Grants: The following Societies/Clubs received tree grants, up to \$300, in 2022.

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

OHA Special Project Grants: To assist Societies/Clubs in meeting the objectives of the Ontario Horticultural Association, the board will provide a Special Project Grant to a maximum of \$500 for each project.

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

Community Garden Grants: The Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA) encourages its member Societies/Clubs to create or contribute to community gardens whether urban or rural. OHA will award a grant of \$500 to assist in the funding of a new community garden or the upgrading of an existing community garden.

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

Seedy Saturday/Sunday Grants: The Ontario Horticultural Association will provide a grant of \$250 annually to a member Society/Club to organize a first-time Seedy Saturday/Sunday event in their community.

- Goderich HS, District 8

Pollinator Project Grants: The Ontario Horticultural Association will provide a grant of \$200 to affiliated Societies/Clubs to create habitat in the form of pollinator friendly gardens or nesting sites on public land.

- Eganville HS, District 2
- Petawawa HS, District 2
- Stoney Creek GC & HS, District 6
- Ambassador LaSalle HS, District 11
- Schomberg HS, District 15
- Collingwood GC & HS, District 16
- Ayr HS, District 19
- Galt HS, District 19

Youth Help Grant: This program is to provide Youth Clubs/Groups with financial support. Any active Youth Club/Group in Good Standing with the Ontario Horticultural Association may apply for the grant.

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

Technical Advancement Grants: To assist Societies/Clubs in meeting the objectives of the Ontario Horticultural Association, the board will provide a Technical Advancement Grant to a maximum of \$250.00 to up to four Societies/Clubs.

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

Youth Project Grant: To assist Youth Programs for their work on a public beautification/native/pollinator project.

- Ambassador LaSalle HS, District 11

The Secretary's Report presentation will be added to the GardenOntario.org website.

MOTION 22-68: That the 2021 Secretary's Report be approved, as presented. M/S: Kelly Taylor, District 10/Rose Odell, District 19. 362 For, 0 Opposed, 0 Abstentions. CARRIED.

MINUTES OF THE 2021 AGM/CONVENTION: The minutes of the 2021 OHA Convention were made available on the OHA GardenOntario website for review by each Society/Club. OHA Secretary, Kelly Taylor noted that the minutes will not be read out loud.

MOTION 22-69: That the OHA AGM and Convention Minutes of July 16-18, 2021 be approved as presented. M/S: Kelly Taylor, District 10/Vicky Culbert, District 8. 343 For, 0 Opposed, 3 Abstentions, CARRIED.

OHA 50/50 RAFFLE WINNER: Sandra Mazur, District 14 Director and Marian Heil, OHA Treasurer provided a summary on the draw sharing that it was Licence # RAF1241013, and that we had 194 ticket orders with a total of \$5275 in sales. The winning ticket was #D-6764 and was awarded to Rose Odell. Rose will receive \$2637.50.

TREASURER'S 2021 FINANCIAL REPORT: Marian Heil, OHA Treasurer, presented the audited financial statements to the delegates, reviewed the Statement of Operations and Fund Balances. Marian noted that the detailed, audited financial statements with all notes are available on the GardenOntario website. Marian noted that we now take payments via e-transfer to treasurer4oha@gmail.com or via cheque. Payments may also be made via PayPal or for donations via Canada Helps, however, a fee is charged to the OHA for payments received by these two means.

Revenues from 2021: Convention - \$33,535, Membership - \$67,311, Insurance - \$46,413, Donations - \$6,093, Supplies - \$3,594, Interest - \$1,634, Fundraisers - \$457, Other Income - \$2,217 for a Total Revenue in 2021 of \$161,254.

Expenses from 2021: Convention - \$28,891, Insurance - \$46,212, Board & Committees - \$21,960, Awards, Grants and Trees - \$9,910, Operating and Website - \$17,288, Employee Wages - \$30,750, District & Officers - \$5,668, Promotion and Supplies - \$8,479, Professional Fees - \$7,250 for a Total Expenses in 2021 of \$176,408.

For 2021, the OHA realized a loss of \$15,154. Marian reminded the membership that for 2020, the OHA realized a profit of \$33,880; however, it was noted that 2020 was an anomaly as we had no convention, very few expenses for Districts, no in-person meetings and OHA grants being postponed.

MOTION 22-70: That the 2021 Treasurer's Report be approved, as presented. M/S: Marian Heil, District 6/Lianne Krane, District 6. 363 For, 0 Opposed, 0 Abstentions. **CARRIED.**

The Treasurer's Report presentation will be added to the GardenOntario.org website.

New OHA Auditor: Marian noted that the OHA has had the same auditor for over 20 years. We have not been dissatisfied with our current auditor; however, normal practice is to change auditors every 5 to 10 years as new auditors provide a fresh perspective. A Request for Proposal (RFP) was developed and sent to 6 firms. Out of those 6 firms, 2 replied. The Board of Directors reviewed the options and proposed fee structures and have recommended Durward Jones Barkwell & Company to be the new OHA Auditors for 2022.

MOTION 22-71: That we retain Durward Jones Barkwell & Company, as our auditors for 2022. M/S: Marian Heil, District 6/ Sandra Remedios, District 6. 357 For, 0 Opposed, 3 Abstention. **CARRIED.**

CONSTITUTION, BY-LAWS AND RESOLUTIONS – CHARLES FREEMAN:

MOTION 22-72: That the following resolutions be and the same are hereby approved: Resolution 22 -1 ("meeting" defined and added to By-law 1); Resolution 22 - 2 (clarify that delegates must be "voting" delegates (By-law 4)); Resolution 22 - 3 (change "one-year term" to "from one AGM to the next" (By-law 5)); Resolution 22 – 4 (clarification that term of office for Directors (elected or otherwise) to five consecutive terms and Resolution 22 – 3 would also apply (By-law 5)); Resolution 22 – 5 (after 1 year hiatus, a former District Director may seek election again (By-law 5)); Resolution 22 – 6 (clarify that delegates must be "voting" delegates (By-law 11)); Resolution 22 – 7 (includes provision to give certain appointed officers voting rights (By-law 11)); Resolution 22 – 8 (requires "voting" delegates to only cast votes (By-law 13)); Resolution 22 – 9 (addition of definition of "Annual General Meeting" (By-law 1)). M/S: Bob Heil, District 6/Marian Heil, District 6. 362 For, 0 Opposed. 2 Abstentions. **CARRIED.**

MOTION 22-73: That we destroy the ballots in 93 days from the completion of the AGM. M/S: Kelly Taylor, District 10, Charles Freeman, District 1. 334 For, 1 Opposed, 2 Abstentions. **CARRIED.**

NOMINATIONS: Charles Freeman introduced Past President and Nominating Committee Chair Katharine Smyth who presented the report of the Nominating Committee and introduced the candidates. Kathy read section 6, 6.4 and 6.5 of the Nomination Section of the Bylaws.

President – Charles Freeman, Vice President – Sharlene Desjardins, 2nd Vice President – Vicky Culbert.

Kathy called for nominations from the floor three times for each position. No further nominations were brought forward from the floor for the positions of President, Vice President and 2nd Vice President.

PRESENTATION OF ASSOCIATION OFFICERS – Katharine Smyth:

Charles Freeman was declared, by acclamation, the President for 2022-2023.

Sharlene Desjardins was declared, by acclamation, the Vice President for 2022-2023.

Vicky Culbert was declared, by acclamation, the 2nd Vice President for 2022-2023.

The Nomination Report presentation will be added to the GardenOntario.org website.

YEAR OF THE GARDEN SPECIAL PRESENTATION: Past President, Katharine Smyth read the many names of the chosen Garden Heroes from the Societies/Clubs and Districts of the OHA. Katharine noted that Catherine McGill, Past District 6 Director, has been named the OHA's Garden Hero for 2022. The deadline to submit names has been extended to allow more individuals to be awarded. The Year of the Garden Report presentation will be added to the GardenOntario.org website.

Invitation to 2023 OHA Convention: Anne Harbord, District 2 Director and 2023 Convention District Host presented a video inviting everyone to the next Convention. In 2023, the OHA Convention and AGM will be held at the Brookstreet Hotel in Ottawa from July 21-23, 2023.

Adjournment: Charles Freeman, OHA President, thanked the delegates for attending.

MOTION 22-74: That we adjourn the OHA AGM. M/S: Bob Heil, District 6/Sandra Mazur, District 14. 318 For, 1 Opposed, 0 Abstentions. Carried.

The 2022 AGM was declared closed at 12:16 pm.

Signature of President