



ONTARIO HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

CONSTITUTION

Article I - NAME

The name of the Association shall be the Ontario Horticultural Association, hereinafter referred to as the *Association*.

Article II - MISSION

1. To provide broad support and guidance, training, and administrative leadership, and to advocate on behalf of affiliated Horticultural Societies/Clubs. (23-9)
2. To develop and support programs for all ages and skill levels encouraging gardening, community beautification, environmental stewardship, and conservation. (23-9)

Article III - ORGANIZATION

The Association shall be a charitable, non-profit organization incorporated pursuant to the laws of the Province of Ontario, without share capital, dedicated to carrying out its mission.

Article IV - AUTHORITY

Societies/Clubs in the Association are incorporated and their legal status and direction is governed by the *Act*, and any revisions thereof as promulgated in the Statutes of Ontario.

ARTICLE V - AFFILIATION

Affiliation in the Association shall be open to Horticultural Societies/Clubs duly incorporated under the *Act*, and related organizations that support the mission of the Association. The classes of affiliation and their terms of reference shall be as provided in the By-Laws of the Association. (19-4)

Article VI - ADMINISTRATION

The Societies/Clubs in the Association shall be organized into geographical regional Districts. The boundaries of a District and the allocation of Societies/Clubs in each shall be as provided in the By-Laws of the Association. A Board of Directors shall be elected by the delegates of the Affiliated Societies/Clubs which are in good standing in accordance with the *Act*. The terms of reference for election/appointment and the duties to be performed by Directors and Officers shall be as provided in the By-Laws of the Association. There shall be a Past Presidents' Council consisting of former Presidents of the Association. (19-5)

Article VII - AMENDMENTS

The Constitution may be amended or revoked provided that the changes are approved by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast at an Annual Meeting or Special Meeting called for that purpose. A notice of motion in writing of such proposed amendment or revocation must be submitted to the Association Secretary at least 60 days in advance of the meeting so that all Societies/Clubs may be notified within a period of 50 to 40 days prior to the meeting. Any member in good standing of an Affiliated Society/Club may submit such a notice of motion. (25-06)

*Amended July 19, 2025 - on the occasion of the Association's AM held virtually via WebEx in Ontario.
A signed and sealed copy resides in the permanent records of the Association.*

Date

Sharlene Desjardins, President
Ontario Horticultural Association





ONTARIO HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

BY-LAWS

By-Law 1 - INTERPRETATION

In the By-Laws and in the Constitution of the Association, unless the context otherwise specifies or requires: (23-1)

1. "Act" means the Agricultural and Horticultural Organizations Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter A.9, as amended from time to time and every statute that may be substituted thereafter;
2. "Affiliated Society/Club" shall be any organization that has paid their current affiliation fees as set from time to time by the delegates at an Annual Meeting and has fulfilled the duties which may be determined from time to time by the Board of Directors of the Association; (25-06)
3. "Association" means the Ontario Horticultural Association;
4. "Audit" means an examination of books and records by a qualified Auditor;
5. "Auditor" is an individual or individuals who are qualified Chartered Accountants, and who are therefore qualified to conduct an audit of the books and records of the Association in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles;
6. "Board" means the Board of Directors of the Association;
7. "District" refers to a group of Societies/Clubs designated by the Association as a geographic entity within the Province;
8. "Financial Reviews" are conducted by independent, objective and knowledgeable persons at least once a year, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. To meet the requirements of the Act, a financial review is considered a sufficient audit for Societies/Clubs and Districts;
9. "Horticultural Society/Club" or "Society/Club" means Horticultural Society, Garden Club or Garden Club and Horticultural Society incorporated under the Act; (21-6)
10. "Immediate Past" means, when referencing an identified position held by an individual, the person who most recently held and was the last person to hold the position; (25-04)
11. "Member"- an individual who pays the annual fee to an Affiliated Society/Club according to the Act; (19-9)
12. "Meeting" means any meeting that may be held at an in-person venue or may be held via telephone, electronic or other communication facilities as permits all persons participating in the meeting to communicate with each other simultaneously and instantaneously. (22-1)

By-Law 2 - HEAD OFFICE

The head office of the Association shall be located in the Province of Ontario at such place therein as the Directors may from time to time determine.

By-Law 3 - CORPORATE SEAL

The seal, an impression of which is stamped in the margin hereto, shall be the corporate seal of the Association.

By-Law 4 - MEMBERSHIP

Affiliation in the Association shall consist of the following classes: Affiliated Society/Club, Associate, and Partner. The Board of Directors may establish other categories, provided that the category is subsequently ratified by the voting delegates at an Annual Meeting of the Association. (25-06)

- 4.1 The class known as Affiliated Society/Club shall be open to any Horticultural Society/Club incorporated under the Agricultural and Horticultural Organizations Act, hereinafter called the Act. An annual fee shall be assessed each Affiliated Society/Club on a per capita basis. The Board of Directors shall recommend the fee for ratification at the Annual Meeting or Special Meeting of the Association. The Secretary shall notify Societies/Clubs of any proposed change in fees between 50 and 40 days prior to the Annual Meeting. (25-06)
- 4.2 Associate: The class known as Associate shall be open to organizations that meet the requirements of the following:
 - a) Article 36 of the Act.
 - b) The Board of Directors must approve each Associate affiliation. Associates shall have such privileges as the Board shall determine. Associates may receive communications and attend District and Annual Meetings, but have no vote. (25-06)

The Board of Directors shall recommend the annual fee for Associates for ratification at an Annual Meeting or Special Meeting of the Association. (19-12)

- 4.3 Partners: The class known as Partners shall be open to allied horticultural organizations. Partners may receive communications and attend District and Annual Meetings, but do not have voting rights. The Board of Directors must approve partners. The Board of Directors shall recommend the annual fee for Partners, for ratification at an Annual Meeting or Special Meeting of the Association. (25-06)

By-Law 5 - ADMINISTRATION

- 5.1 The BOARD OF DIRECTORS shall consist of the Officers of the Association and the District Directors. (19-14)
- 5.2 The OFFICERS of the Association shall be the President, Immediate Past President or the designate of the Past Presidents' Council appointed under By-Law 6, 6.9, Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and two Directors one from each identified region of the province. (19-15)
- 5.3 The Officers of the Association shall transact the business of the Association between meetings of the Board.
- 5.4 Past Presidents of the Association shall form the PAST PRESIDENTS' COUNCIL. The Past Presidents' Council will be represented by the Immediate Past President or the person identified in By-Law 6, 6.9 on the board. (19-16)

- 5.5 All Officers except the Secretary and the Treasurer shall serve from one Annual Meeting of the Association until the next Annual Meeting of the Association. The two Regional Representatives shall follow By-Law 6, 6.1. They may continue to serve if re-elected. The Immediate Past President or the person identified in By-Law 6, 6.9 shall remain so long as a new President is not elected. (25-06)
- 5.6.1 Elected by the Districts, or appointed by the Officers under By-Law 5, 5.3, District Directors are members of the Association's Board of Directors. District Directors take office in the Association as of the date of election by their District or appointment by the Officers. District Directors who are elected may be re-elected for a maximum of five consecutive terms; however, an additional one term of service is acceptable under extreme circumstances. A term shall be from one Annual Meeting of the District until the next Annual Meeting of the District. District Directors are formally introduced as members of the Association's Board of Directors at the Association's Annual Meeting. (25-06)
- 5.6.2 Notwithstanding By-Law 5, 5.6.1, any person who has served as a District Director, after an absence from the position of District Director for one election period, may again run for office as a District Director. (22-5)
- 5.7 The Board of Directors may empower the Officers to act with the full authority of the Board.
- 5.8 The Board of Directors shall meet at least three times each year.
- 5.9 The Officers shall meet at the call of the President, or at the call of any three Officers. (19-18)
- 5.10 The OHA Board of Directors may establish and approve Policy and Procedure for implementation by the OHA and the Districts. (18-8)

By-Law 6 - ELECTION/APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS AND AUDITOR

- 6.1 The Board shall hire the Secretary and the Treasurer. (25-01)
- 6.2 The President, Vice President and 2nd Vice President are elected annually by the voting delegates and those persons holding proxy vote(s) at the AM. (25-01,25-06)
- 6.3 Nominees for Office shall have been a past or present director, having served on the Board for at least two years, or a past or present holder of an executive position on the Board. (25-01)
- 6.4 A nomination must include the following information:
 - 1. Name of the Office and the nominee.
 - 2. A signed statement of the nominee's acceptance.
 - 3. A brief outline of the experience and qualifications of the nominee.
 - 4. A nomination must be proposed and seconded by the current executive of an Affiliated Society/Club.
 - 5. A nomination from the floor at the Annual Meeting shall comply with By-Law 6.3 and By-Law 6.4.1 and By-Law 6.4.2 to be considered to be complete. (25-01, 25-06)
- 6.5 Should the need for a vote arise, the candidate receiving a simple majority of votes cast by the voting delegates and including all proxy votes in a secret ballot shall be declared the winner. The election shall be carried out according to the Association's By-Laws. (25-01)

- 6.6 A serving Director, other than the two Directors identified in By-Law 5, 5.2, who is elected to provincial office of the OHA shall resign the directorship, and the District affected shall rely upon the process set out in By-Law 13, 13.5.1. (25-01)
- 6.7 A Nominating Committee, chaired by the Immediate Past President or the person identified in By-Law 6, 6.9, shall be appointed by the Board to ensure that candidates are available for each Office as noted in By-Law 6, 6.2. All nominations must be forwarded to the Association Secretary, who shall forward them to the Committee Chair. All nominations shall be received no later than 60 days prior to the Annual Meeting. A Report of the Nominating Committee shall be submitted to Affiliated Societies/Clubs 50 to 40 days prior to the Annual Meeting. The Chair of the Nominating Committee shall call for any further nominations from the floor at the Annual Meeting and complete the nomination process. (25-01, 25-06)
- 6.8 For an Officer of OHA, except for the Secretary and the Treasurer and the Immediate Past President or the person identified in By-Law 6, 6.9, who is unwilling or unable to carry out the responsibilities of office, the Board shall appoint, for the balance of their term, a replacement from among themselves, subject to succession by the next ranking Officer. (25-01)
- 6.9 Should the Immediate Past President or the person identified in By-Law 6, 6.9 be unwilling or unable to carry out the responsibility of the office, the Board will approach the Chair of the Past Presidents' Council for guidance to fill the position for the remainder of the term. The Board must review and by vote approve any person identified by the Chair of the Past Presidents' Council to fill the position under this process. (25-01)
- 6.10 The Board shall elect from within itself two Regional Representatives, one from each of the two identified regions of the province; to serve as Officers. The provisions in By-Law 6, 6.3, By-Law 6, 6.4 shall not apply for this process. (25-01)
- The two Regional Representatives shall be elected during the Pre-AM Board Meeting. The term of the Regional Representatives shall start the day following the OHA AM. The Regional Representatives' term ends the day following the subsequent OHA AM. (25-01, 25-06)
- 6.11 Should there be no proper nomination for any Officer position, the OHA Board shall appoint, for the term, an individual to hold the position. (25-01)
- 6.12 An Auditor(s) shall be recommended by the Board and elected by the voting delegates at the Annual Meeting, to carry out the audit of the ensuing year. (25-01, 25-06)

By-Law 7 - DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

- 7.1 President. The President, as Chief Executive Officer, shall be responsible for the general management and direction of the business and affairs of the Association, and perform duties incident to the office and those prescribed from time to time by the Officers and the Board of Directors. The President shall be a member of all Committees. The President or designate shall preside at all meetings of the Officers, Board of Directors and any Special Meeting(s) and the Annual Meeting of the Association. (21-11)
- 7.2 Past President. The immediate Past President or the person identified in By-Law 6, 6.9 shall advise and assist the President where needed. (19-17)
- 7.3 Vice President and 2nd Vice President. It shall be the duty of the Vice President and 2nd Vice President to assist the President where needed. (18-16)
- 7.4 Secretary. The Secretary shall attend all meetings of the Association and keep correct minutes, conduct the correspondence of the Association, and perform such other duties as may from time to time be prescribed by the Board. The Secretary has a voice but no vote.

- 7.5 Treasurer. The Treasurer shall receive and account annually, or as often as may be required by the Board and applicable government authorities, for all monies, bonds and other securities belonging to the Association, which shall be invested in accordance with the direction of the Finance Committee. All books and records of the Association shall be audited at the end of the fiscal year. The Treasurer shall submit all invoices for payment to the Officers who shall review same for approval for payment. The Treasurer chairs the Finance Committee and on a regular basis reports all financial matters to this committee. The Treasurer has a voice but no vote. (21-12)
- 7.6 District Directors. District Directors are expected to attend all Board meetings, serve on committees, and may be appointed to represent the Association on other Boards' meetings. District Directors have a voice and vote. If a District Director is unable to attend an Association Board meeting or other Boards' meetings, they are expected to send a competent individual from their District Executive to the meeting, when possible. At Association Board meetings, this individual has both a voice and a vote. (23-4)
- 7.7 In the event that a District Director or an Officer is unable to cast a vote at an Association Board Meeting, the proxy voting rights of the District Director or of the Officer shall be assigned to the Association Secretary. (24-1)
- 7.8 Upon being elected to office or being appointed to office or being hired to an office position or signing a contract, each member of the OHA Board, any person identified in By-Law 7, 7.6 and all persons hired or under contract must sign the most recently approved Code of Conduct and the most recently approved Oath of Office and Confidentiality Agreement. (24-2)
- 7.9 In the event that either the Code of Conduct or the Oath of Office and Confidentiality Agreement or both are properly amended, those persons identified in By-Law 7, 7.8 must sign the amended document(s) as soon as is practically possible and notwithstanding, must sign within 2 weeks of the amended documents having been properly amended. (25-03)

By-Law 8 - COMMITTEES

In addition to the Nominating Committee (By-Law 6.3) other standing committees shall be named as follows:

- 8.1 Finance. The Finance Committee, chaired by the Treasurer and consisting of the Officers of the Association, shall be responsible for the preparation of the annual budget and for the monitoring of its performance. The Association's annual budget is to be presented, reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors at the fall meeting. The OHA Executive shall distribute the approved Annual Budget to the Board of Directors no later than December 1st. The Finance Committee is also responsible for reviewing investments, insurance plans, fundraising, expense reimbursement policies, financial controls and other matters related to the financial well-being of the Association. The Committee will explain the current year audited financial variances comparing the actual financial performance of that year with the previous year. The Committee shall make recommendations on these matters and provide advice to the Board of Directors. A summarized financial document may be shared with the Societies/Clubs after the OHA Annual Meeting. (25-09)
- 8.2 Awards. The Awards Committee, chaired by the Awards Coordinator, and consisting of the President, the Vice President, 2nd Vice President, the Immediate Past President or the person identified in By-Law 6, 6.9, the Secretary, the Chair of the Past Presidents' Council, and the two Directors as identified in By-Law 5, 5.2, shall select award winners in recognition of their outstanding work in the pursuance of the objectives of the Association and the budget approved by the Board. The Awards Coordinator shall attend all Awards Committee Meetings. Regulations for the presentation of awards are presented in a separate Awards document. (19-16)

- 8.3 Standing Committees. Such other Standing Committees as identified by the Board of Directors shall be named. All Standing Committees are accountable to the Board, which shall define the membership, budget and responsibilities of each committee.
- 8.4 Ad Hoc Committees. The Board may establish Ad Hoc committees from time to time in order to conduct its business more effectively. All Ad Hoc Committees are accountable to the Board, which shall define the membership, budget and responsibilities of each committee.

By-Law 9 - FISCAL YEAR AND AFFILIATION YEAR (19-21)

- 9.1 The fiscal year of the Association shall be from January 1st to December 31st.
- 9.2 Affiliation with the Association shall be from January 1st to December 31st. (19-22)

By-Law 10 - QUORUMS AND VOTING

- 10.1 A quorum for meetings of the Officers shall be 50% plus one of the Officers. At all meetings of the Officers, every question shall be decided by a majority of the votes cast. In case of a tie, the Chair shall cast the deciding vote. (24-3)
- 10.2 A quorum for meetings of the Board of Directors shall be twelve voting members of the Board. At all meetings of the Board, every question shall be decided by a majority of the votes cast. In case of a tie, the Chair of the meeting shall cast the deciding vote. (24-3)
- 10.3 At the Annual Meeting or any Special Meeting of the Association, 100 voting delegates representing at least 50 Affiliated Societies/Clubs in good standing shall constitute a quorum. (25-06)
- 10.4 All meetings may be held at an in-person venue or may be held via electronic means provided such means allows all in attendance the ability to hear and also the opportunity and ability to have voice and to vote as provided by the by-laws. (21-01)

By-Law 11 - ANNUAL MEETING

- 11.1 The Annual Meeting shall be held at such time and place as the Board of Directors may decide for the purpose of allowing delegates to review the work of the year, prepare policy, approve the audited financial report, elect officers and auditor, and conduct such other business deemed necessary. All Affiliated Societies/Clubs shall be notified by February 15th of the Annual Meeting and invited to send delegates. (25-06)
- 11.2 Each Affiliated Society/Club shall be entitled to two voting delegates; any Affiliated Society/Club having membership exceeding one hundred, shall be entitled to an additional delegate for each fifty Affiliated Society/Club or fraction thereof up to a maximum of 20 delegates. (21-14)
- 11.3 In the event that a Society/Club does not have a full number of voting delegates attending the Annual Meeting, then the proxy voting rights of the non-attending voting delegates may be assigned to any other voting delegate or to the Association Secretary. (25-06)
- 11.4.1 Any Director, any person appointed under By-Law 5, 5.3 or By-Law 13, 13.5.1, all Past Presidents and any Officer except the Secretary and the Treasurer shall have voting rights at Annual Meetings or any Special Meeting of the Association. (25-06)

- 11.4.2 In the event that any Director, the Immediate Past President, any person holding a position under By-Law 6, 6.9, any person holding a position under By-Law 13, 13.5.1 or any Officer is unable to cast a vote, the proxy voting rights of such person(s) shall only be assigned to the Association Secretary. (17-21)
- 11.4.3 In the event that any Past President not holding a position under By-Law 6, 6.9 is unable to cast a vote, the proxy voting rights of such person(s) shall be assigned to a member of the Past Presidents' Council. (17-22)
- 11.5 The Board of Directors may call Special Meetings of the Association whenever it deems advisable. Notice of all Special Meetings, with a statement of the subjects to be discussed, shall be sent to Affiliated Society/Clubs between 50 and 40 days prior to said meeting. (19-26)
- 11.6 The President and Association Secretary shall prepare an agenda and order of business prior to calling the Annual Meeting, and a copy of such agenda shall be sent to each Society/Club together with notice of such meeting. (25-06)
- 11.7 The Treasurer shall present to the general membership, at the Annual Meeting, audited financial statements of assets and liabilities as well as income and expenditures for the prior fiscal year, with copies available for distribution to each Society/Club (25-06).
- 11.8 The Board of Directors shall provide leadership and assist in the promotion of education and interest in all areas of horticulture and related environmental issues in Ontario, through an expanding network of Association Horticultural Societies/Clubs dedicated to the beautification of their communities between general meetings, and report its activities at the Annual Meeting (25-06).
- 11.9 The Secretary shall make available to all Affiliated Societies/Clubs the Minutes of the Annual Meeting and/or Special Meeting no later than 60 days after the Annual Meeting or Special Meeting. (25-06)

By-Law 12 - EXECUTION OF DOCUMENTS

- 12.1 The President or the Vice President together with the Secretary or the Treasurer shall sign all cheques, drafts or orders for the payment of money, and all notes and acceptances and bills of exchange.
- 12.2 The President or the Vice President together with the Secretary or Treasurer may sign contracts, documents or any instructions in writing requiring the signature of the Association. The Officers have power from time to time by motion and approval by the Board to appoint any Officer or Officers to sign contracts, documents or instruments in writing relating to special projects. (13-1)
- 12.3 The Board may appoint a District Director or Officer to sign a contract related to the hosting of the Convention and Annual Meeting subject to prior approval of the contract by the Officers. (25-06)

By-Law 13 - DISTRICT ORGANIZATION

- 13.1 The Province shall be divided into Districts as follows (18-17):
1. Dundas, Glengarry, Prescott, Russell, Stormont, the eastern portion of the city of Ottawa composed of the former municipalities of Gloucester and Cumberland and the municipality of North Grenville, the Township of Edwardsburg Cardinal and the Town of Prescott. (23-10)
 2. Lanark, Renfrew and the portion of the city of Ottawa excluding the former municipalities of Gloucester and Cumberland.

3. Frontenac, Hastings, Leeds and Grenville except the municipality of North Grenville, the Township of Edwardsburg Cardinal and the Town of Prescott, Lennox and Addington, Prince Edward. (23-10)
 4. Haliburton, Kawartha Lakes, Northumberland, Peterborough.
 5. Toronto East of Yonge Street, and York East of York Road No. 1 except Georgina East of Park Road
 6. Brant, Halton, Hamilton, Norfolk and that portion of Haldimand known as Ward 1, Ward 2, Ward 3 and Ward 4. (19-36)
 7. Dufferin, Wellington
 8. Bruce, Grey, Huron
 9. Haldimand except Wards #1 & #2 & #3 & #4, Niagara (19-37)
 10. Elgin, Middlesex, Oxford, Perth and that portion of Lambton that is Lambton Shores
 11. Chatham-Kent, Essex, Lambton, except for Lambton Shores
 12. Territorial District of Cochrane, Territorial District of Timiskaming
 13. Territorial District of Algoma, Territorial District of Manitoulin, Territorial District of Sudbury except the former Municipality of French River.
 14. Territorial District of Kenora, Territorial District of Rainy River, Territorial District of Thunder Bay
 15. Peel, York west of Road No.1, Toronto west of Yonge Street (19-39)
 16. Simcoe
 17. Durham and the portion of York that includes Georgina east of Park Road (19-40)
 18. Territorial District of Parry Sound, Territorial District of Muskoka, Territorial District of Nipissing and the former Municipality of French River (25-08)
 19. Waterloo
- 13.2 The Board of Directors may recommend a revision of District boundaries to add new districts or adjust existing boundaries to accommodate population, county and regional changes, subject to consultation with the affected Districts and Societies/Clubs.
- 13.3.1 Each District shall elect a Director of the Association, and at least one Assistant Director, at a duly called Annual Meeting. Notice of such meeting shall be given to the District's Affiliated Societies/Clubs at least sixty days in advance. (25-06)
- 13.3.2 In the event that no person is elected as a Director, the Officers of the Association shall rely upon By-Law 5, 5.3 and appoint a person or persons in sequence, should the need arise to fill the position until such time as a person can be elected by the delegates of the Affiliated Societies/Clubs of the District. (25-02)

- 13.4 Each District at its Annual Meeting shall create a District Executive consisting of the Director, Assistant Director(s) and shall elect or appoint a Secretary and a Treasurer, or a Secretary-Treasurer, and two financial reviewers or an auditor. This may be expanded to include other executive members. In the event that no District Director is elected, the District Executive, without a Director shall be created until the provisions of By-Law 13, 13.3.2 can be acted upon. (25-06)
- 13.5.1 For a Director who has resigned, or is unwilling or unable to carry out the responsibilities of the office, the District Executive shall appoint a replacement for the balance of their term. (23-7)
- 13.5.2 For an Assistant Director who has resigned, or is unwilling or unable to carry out the responsibilities of the office, the District Executive shall appoint a replacement to serve until the next (District) AM. (25-06)
- 13.6 The Director or the person appointed under By-Law 13, 13.3.2 and District Secretary shall prepare an agenda and order of business for all District Meetings. A copy of the agenda of all District Meetings to which Affiliated Societies/Clubs are invited shall be distributed to all Affiliated Societies/Clubs in the District prior to the meetings. The Secretary shall maintain the minutes of such meetings, and the other written records of the District. The minutes of all District Meetings to which Affiliated Societies/Clubs are invited shall be made available to all Affiliated Societies/Clubs in the District within two months of the meetings. This may be done by e-mail, posting to a web site, etc. (21-16)
- 13.7.1 The District Treasurer shall present to the Affiliated Societies/Clubs of the District at the District AM the reviewed financial statements of assets and liabilities as well as income and expenditures for the prior fiscal year, with copies for each Society/Club. The District Treasurer, having made copies, shall transmit the original documents, statements, bills, and receipts, along with the reviewers' comments, to the Association Treasurer no later than 2 weeks after their AM but no later than 30 days prior to the Association's AM. The District financial year shall be from the 1st of January to the 31st of December. (25-06)
- 13.7.2 District Financial Records shall be kept in a secure location for 7 years. In the following year, the records will be returned to the District Director at an in-person Board meeting (24-4).
- 13.8.1 The District Director or the person appointed under By-Law 13, 13.3.2 may, if invited, facilitate the resolution of disputes within a Society/Club's leadership. (24-5)
- 13.8.2 The OHA Regional Representative responsible for the District may, if invited, facilitate the resolution of disputes within the District's Leadership and may, if invited, facilitate the resolution of disputes within a Society/Clubs Leadership. (24-5)
- 13.8.3 The Officers of the OHA may, if invited, facilitate the resolution of disputes within a Society/Clubs Leadership, disputes within a District' Leadership and disputes where the Regional representative may be involved. (24-6)
- 13.8.4. The OHA will provide an In Good Standing Document for Districts. (25-14)
- 13.8.5. The OHA will provide an In Good Standing Document for Societies/Clubs. (25-14)
- 13.8.6. The OHA will provide guidance and information for Societies/Clubs and Districts to come back into Good Standing on a case-by-case basis dependent on the issue. (25-14)
- 13.9 A District Advisory Council may be formed representative of all Affiliated Societies/Clubs in the District. (19-30)
- 13.10 Each Affiliated Society/Club shall be entitled to send two voting delegates to a District meeting. Any Affiliated Society/Club having a membership count exceeding 100 shall be entitled to one additional voting delegate for each 50 members or fraction thereof up to a maximum of 20 voting

delegates. Affiliated Society/Club membership counts shall be based upon the annual information reports filed for the previous year with the Ontario Horticultural Association. (19-31)

- 13.11 Each District shall be entitled, by a majority of the votes cast by the voting delegates present at its Annual Meeting to set a per capita annual fee. The limit of membership for any Affiliated Society/Club for assessment purposes shall be 1,000 members. Fees must be sent to the District Treasurer or Secretary-Treasurer. Fees retained by the District must be accounted for in a financial statement that has been reviewed by two financial reviewers or an auditor. The financial statement is to be presented at the District meeting, and a copy provided to each Affiliated Society/Club within the District, and to the District Secretary. (25-06)
- 13.12.1 Every District shall adopt a set of rules and policies or by-laws to govern the proceedings of the District; such rules, policies, or by-laws shall not be in conflict with the rules, policies Constitution or by-laws of the OHA. The by-laws and any subsequent amendments shall be approved by a majority of the votes cast by the voting delegates at its Annual Meeting. (25-05, 25-06)
- 13.12.2 Every District shall forward a copy of the most recent Constitution and By-Laws of the District to the OHA Secretary. Should any amendments to the documents be properly approved, the District Secretary shall within one (1) month of any amendments to the documents being approved forward a copy of the amended documents to the OHA Secretary.
- 13.13. Every District shall hold an annual meeting of its membership to conduct District business including passing by-laws, consider and approve Financial Reports and hold election of officers for the District. (25-06)
- 13.14. Each District is hereby authorized and shall open one or more savings or chequing accounts in a recognized Canadian licensed financial institution (bank, credit union, trust company) for the purpose of depositing all revenues and grants received by the District and to pay reasonable District expenses there from. (23-8)
- 13.15. Each District shall adopt a set of financial policies to govern the District's finances which may differ from those policies of the OHA but within generally accepted accounting principles and practices for Not-for Profit entities. (23-8)
- 13.16. There shall be at least two, preferably three signing officers, for such accounts and at least two shall sign all cheque or transfers from District accounts. (23-8)
- 13.17. All funds, be they cash, cheque, E-transfer or otherwise, collected through Societies/Clubs' dues, fund raising, grants, donations, subsidies, or sponsorships shall be deposited into the District's accounts. (23-8)
- 13.18. All Financial records shall be surrendered to District appointed Financial Examiners as soon as possible after the Dec 31 year-end but no later than March 1 of the next fiscal year for examination following guidelines as recommended by the Treasurer of the OHA, and for the required report of the District Treasurer as prescribed in section 13.7 hereof. (23-8)
- 13.19. For the purpose of subsection "13.19.1" and "13.19.2" hereof, "net funds" shall mean the residual value of all funds after the payment of all expenses the day prior to an alteration of District boundaries, and "per capita" shall mean the net funds divided by the total prior year's reported membership of all the Societies/Clubs within the District. (23-8)
- 13.19.1. On the termination or dissolution of any District, all funds held by the District are considered to be the property of the Societies/Clubs within the District and any such net funds shall be distributed to the Societies/Clubs on a per capita basis. (23-8)

13.19.2. Should any District boundary be changed that removes or adds a Society/Club in whole or in part from one District to another, the per capita value of the net funds shall be paid to the receiving District equivalent to the number of members migrating out of the original District. (23-8)

By-Law 14 - INDEMNIFICATION OF DISTRICT DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS (19-33)

Every District Director or the person/persons appointed under By-Law 13, 13.3.2 and the Officers of the Association and their heirs, executors and administrators respectively shall from time to time, and at all times, be indemnified and saved harmless out of the funds of the Association only from and against: (19-34)

- a) all costs, charges and expenses whatsoever such Director or person appointed under By-Law 13, 13.3.2 or Officer sustains or incurs in or about any action, suit or proceeding that is brought, commences or prosecuted against them for or in respect of any deed, act, matter or thing whatsoever made, done or committed by them, in or about the execution of the duties of their office; (23-7)
- b) all other costs, charges and expenses they sustain or incur in or about or in relation to the affairs of the Association; except such costs, charges and expenses as are occasioned by their own negligence or default, or failure to act honestly and in good faith with a view to the best interests of the Association. The Association may provide insurance to cover this liability of the Association. (23-7)

By-Law 15 - RULES OF ORDER

RULES OF ORDER: The latest Edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern proceedings at all meetings of the Association. If the rules of order are in conflict with the By-Laws, the latter shall prevail. (17-23)

By-Law 16 - AMENDMENTS

The by-laws may be amended, or revoked, provided that the changes are approved by a majority of the votes cast at an Annual Meeting or Special Meeting called for that purpose. (25-06)

The following provisions apply:

1. A notice of motion in writing of the proposed amendment, or revocation, has been submitted to the Secretary 60 days before the meeting.
2. Any member of an Affiliated Society/Club which is in good standing may submit such notice of motion in addition to the Officers and District Directors. (19-35)
3. The Secretary shall cause all Affiliated Societies/Clubs to be notified of proposed amendments 50 to 40 days prior to the meeting. (19-19)

By-Law 17 - GENDER NEUTRAL

It is understood that to reflect gender neutrality in the Constitution and By-Laws, the use of "they" and its other grammatical forms "them", "themselves" and "their" will be used to refer to singular indefinite nouns. (23-7)

By-Law 18 - AGE

No person under the age of 18 years shall take any action nor hold any position as described in the Constitution and By-Laws of the Ontario Horticultural Association. (18-11)

Amended July 19, 2025, and November 22, 2025 - on the occasion of the Association's AM held virtually via WebEx in Ontario. A signed and sealed copy resides in the permanent records of the Association.

Date

Sharlene Desjardins, President
Ontario Horticultural Association

Date

Vicky Culbert, President
Ontario Horticultural Association

Updated, January 18, 2026

