

**ONTARIO HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

July 21-23, 2023
Brookstreet Hotel
Kanata, Ontario
Newbridge Ballroom

“Rock Your Garden World”

FRIDAY, JULY 21, 2023

Registration desk and vendors' area were open before the start of the convention for delegates to visit. Early bird draws were held prior to the start of today's session.

The meeting opened at 9:00 a.m. in the Newbridge Ballroom, Brookstreet Hotel.

Convention Theme: *“Rock Your Garden World”*

OPENING CEREMONIES: The Opening of the Convention included Bagpipes music while the Officers and Dignitaries entered into the convention room. The Officers of the Ontario Horticultural Association were introduced to the membership present in the Newbridge Ballroom.

Introduction of Dignitaries: Anne Harbord introduced our special guests and dignitaries to the 115th Convention. Greetings were received from Councilor Cathy Curry, Kanata North who presented a proclamation that today, July 21st, is Rock Your Garden World Day. Lisa Thompson via video, brought greetings from OMAFRA. Joe Salemi brought greetings from Landscape Ontario and invited everyone to their 50th Anniversary Open House in August 2023 in Milton. Shawn LaPalm brought greetings from the Cooperators and presented a cheque for \$2500 to be earmarked for education.

Welcome: Anne Harbord, District 2 Director, brought greetings from District 2 and welcomed everyone to the area.

Land Acknowledgement Statement: On behalf of Roberta Della Pica, Val Collins read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

Canadian National Anthem: The membership present sang the Canadian National Anthem.

Master of Ceremonies: Charles Freeman, OHA President, welcomed everyone to the convention.

OHA Annual General Meeting Opening: Charles Freeman, OHA President opened the 115th OHA Convention and thanked the District 2 Director Anne Harbord and the District volunteers who worked to put this convention together.

OHA PRESIDENT'S WELCOME: Charles Freeman welcomed the Dignitaries, Officers, District Directors, and Past Presidents of the Ontario Horticultural Association. Charles thanked everyone in District 2 for their work to put this convention together. Charles wished everyone a weekend of learning, sharing, and meeting new people.

MISSION STATEMENT: Kathy Smyth, OHA Past President, read the new Vision statement and the draft Mission statement for the OHA.

IN MEMORIAM: Kelly Taylor, OHA Secretary, was introduced and read 4 poems for those that we have lost since the last convention. The names and several pictures were highlighted on the screen by district. The Passing of the Past Presidents' Tree Dedication took place on September 24, 2022 at the OHA Oak Grove at the Guelph Arboretum to honour Past Presidents Albert Card and Pauline Richards.

ROLL CALL: Kelly Taylor called on each District Director and District to be recognized.

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MINUTES OF THE 2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: The minutes of the 2022 OHA Annual General Meeting were made available on the OHA GardenOntario website for review and posted on the doors of the convention room.

MOTION 23-69: That the OHA AGM Minutes of July 16, 2022 be approved, as presented. M/S: Kelly Taylor, District 10/Rose Odell, District 19. Carried.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Charles Freeman introduced Past President and Nominating Committee Chair, Kathy Smyth who presented the report of the Nominating Committee and introduced the candidates as follows:

President – Sharlene Desjardins, Vice President – Vicky Culbert, 2nd Vice President – Sandra Mazur.

The first call for nominations from the floor was requested and no nominations were received for any position. The elections will take place on Sunday, July 23, 2023.

CONSTITUTION, BY-LAWS AND RESOLUTIONS – CHARLES FREEMAN: There is a maximum of 383 votes on the floor including proxies through the OHA Secretary.

**RESOLUTION 23-1: Be it resolved that:
By-Law 1, 4. be repealed.**

Current wording:

4. "Annual General Meeting" (AGM) also means Annual Meeting as is found in the Corporation Act RSO 1990 c.C.38 and the Agricultural and Horticultural Organizations Act RSO 1990 c.A.9. (21-7)

0 Opposed, 3 Abstentions. Carried

**RESOLUTION 23-2: Be it resolved that:
By-Law 5, 5.5 be amended as follows:**

Current wording:

All Officers except the Secretary and the Treasurer shall serve from one Annual General Meeting of the Association until the next Annual General Meeting of the Association. 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.

Proposed amendment:

All Officers except the Secretary and the Treasurer shall serve from one Annual General Meeting of the Association until the next Annual General Meeting of the Association. **The two Regional Representative 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.

0 Opposed, 3 Abstentions. Carried.

**RESOLUTION 23-3: Be it resolved that:
A) By-Law 6, 6.1 be amended as follows:**

Current wording:

6.1 The Board shall hire the Secretary and the Treasurer. The Board shall appoint from within itself two regional representatives from different identified regions of the province to serve as Officers. The President, Vice President and 2nd Vice President are elected annually by the voting delegates. The two Regional representatives shall be elected during the Post-AGM Board Meeting. The term of the regional representatives shall start at the time of election and terminate at the subsequent Post-AGM Board Meeting.

Proposed amendment:

6.1 The Board shall hire the Secretary and the Treasurer. 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 President, Vice President and 2nd Vice President are elected annually by the voting delegates **at the AGM.** The two Regional Representatives shall be elected during the Pre AGM Board Meeting. The term of the regional representatives shall start **the day following the OHA AGM.** **The regional representatives term ends the day following the subsequent OHA AGM.**

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AND.

B) This amendment, if passed by the Voting Delegates, shall come into effect the Monday following the 2023 OHA AGM.

0 Opposed, 3 Abstentions. Carried.

**RESOLUTION 23-4: Be it resolved that:
By-Law 7, 7.6 be amended as follows:**

Current wording:

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 a voice and no vote.

Proposed amendment:

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.**

0 Opposed, 4 Abstentions. Carried.

**RESOLUTION 23-5: Be it resolved that:
By-Law 7, 7.8 be created as follows:**

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 Code of Conduct and the Oath of Office and Confidentiality Agreement.

0 Opposed, 4 Abstentions. Carried

Gay MacQuarrie, District 2, asked if this would apply to sub-contractors. Charles indicated it would apply to anyone hired by the association.

**RESOLUTION 23-6: Be it resolved that:
By-Law 13, 13.3.1 be amended as follows:**

Current wording:

13.3.1 Each District shall elect a Director of the Association, and at least one Assistant Director, at a duly called Annual General Meeting. Notice of such meeting shall be given to the District's Affiliated Societies/Clubs at least thirty days in advance.

Proposed amendment:

13.3.1 Each District shall elect a Director of the Association, and at least one Assistant Director, at a duly called Annual General Meeting. Notice of such meeting shall be given to the District's Affiliated Societies/Clubs at least **sixty** days in advance.

0 Opposed, 3 Abstentions. Carried.

**RESOLUTION 23-7: Be it resolved that:
By-Law 17 be amended as follows:**

Current wording:

It is understood that where the masculine gender is used in the Constitution and By-Laws, that the feminine gender shall equally apply.

Proposed amendment:

It is understood that where the masculine gender is used in the Constitution and By-Laws, that the feminine gender **and non-binary gender** shall equally apply.

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Evelyn Power, District 1, noted that the continued practice to use gendered references be removed from the constitution and By-Laws and to replace the language with they, themselves, their, etc. Charles Freeman, Chair asked Evelyn Power if she was making a subsidiary motion to amend the resolution currently on the floor. She advised that she was and offered the wording indicated in the subsidiary motion noted as Motion 23-70.

MOTION 23-70: The By-Laws be amended throughout to reflect gender neutrality Using “they” and its other grammatical forms (“them”, “themselves” and “their”) to refer to singular indefinite nouns. M/S: Evelyne Power, Gloucester/Gay MacQuarrie, West Carleton. 13 against, 114 abstain. Carried.

Darlene Blair, District 2, asked if this is replacing the resolution and offered some suggestions for the motion. Charles indicated that the subsidiary motion currently on the floor was to amend the wording currently proposed in the main motion which is noted as Resolution 23-7. Charles asked if she was offering to change the wording in the subsidiary motion which would then become a second subsidiary motion. She was not.

Marie Decker, District 6, noted that By-Laws should have a capital.

Nancy Barnes, District 4, asked about a friendly amendment and why this wasn't being completed as a friendly amendment. Charles noted that since it has come to the floor it must be managed by a subsidiary motion.

Susan MacMillan, District 6, noted that too many their, them and themselves corrupts the English language.

Candace Dressler, District 1, noted that this is the year of the woman. We shouldn't have to assume that “his” includes us. Using the indefinite nouns is more inclusive to everyone including women.

Dennis Miluck, District 4, asked if this subsidiary motion on the floor meant that those holding a proxy could not vote as the wording for the main motion was being amended. It was clarified that as per a motion in 2021, those carrying the proxy votes may cast the proxy vote(s) as per their conscience.

Resolution 23-7 Revised: The bylaws be amended throughout to reflect gender neutrality Using “they” and its other grammatical forms (“them”, “themselves” and “their”) to refer to singular indefinite nouns. 11 against, 4 abstain, Carried.

ADJOURNMENT OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: The AGM was adjourned to July 22, 2023.

SPEAKER: Akosua Asare, spoke on "The Future of Urban Farming".

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Anne noted that the flower show and competition rooms will be open for viewing from 12:00 – 5:00 p.m., various bus trips will be departing promptly at 1 p.m. and seminars would be available in the afternoon from 1:30 – 2:30 and 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Delegates were reminded of the evening festivities and to join in on the fun of the silent auction.

BANQUET HIGHLIGHTS: Highlights for tonight's buffet dinner include live entertainment with an Ottawa Valley Ceilidh Presentation and Silent Auction.

SATURDAY, JULY 22, 2023

Registration desk, vendors' area and competition rooms were open before the start of the convention for delegates to visit. Early bird draws were held prior to the start of today's session.

Charles welcomed all delegates back to the OHA Annual General Meeting.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Charles Freeman presented a year in review summary for 2022. Charles reported that Regulation 16 was passed indicating that the number of members required to allow a Society/Club to receive grant funding were reduced from 50 to 30 and from 25 to 15 in a Territorial District. The OHA has written the Minister with a proposal for a \$750 grant for a Society/Club which is celebrating its 100th Anniversary and is installing a commemorative garden. This has not been declined by the Minister at this time. As well, the OHA has put in a request to the Minister to reinstate the grant money for the OHA. This funding was implemented in 1924 and abolished by the government of the day in 1994. Again, the Minister has not moved on this request; however, the Minister has not said no.

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MOTION 23-71: That the 2023 President's Report be accepted, as presented. M/S: Lianne Krane, District 6/Marie Decker, District 6. 0 Opposed, 0 Abstentions. Carried.

TREASURER'S 2022 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 our auditor was changed to Durward Jones Barkwell & Company LLP and indicated that there were no issues when our books were audited.

Revenues from 2022: It was noted that total revenues in 2022 was \$219,506 with the largest amounts coming from Affiliation Fees \$94,216, Recovery of Insurance costs \$51,526, and Fundraising \$17,881. The 50/50 Raffle was also a new fundraiser in 2022 and it accounted for revenue of \$22,100.

Donations: Total donations in 2022 were \$15,978. This included a bequest from the Estate of Albert Card in the amount of \$10,000; In Memoriam donations of \$2,310, and other supporters of \$3,668.

Expenses: Total expenses for 2022 amounted to \$223,705. A total of \$15,186 was given out as awards and grants; meetings and director expenses amounted to \$58,378; insurance costs were \$50,995 and salaries were \$37,937.

The Raffle winner payouts and cost of holding the raffle amounted to \$14,301.

For 2022, the OHA realized a loss of \$4,199. It was noted that the OHA was successful in fundraising through the sale of the 18 month calendars as well as the 50/50 raffle, sale of supplies and investment interest which each helped to reduce the potential loss.

On the Balance Sheet, the OHA has a total of \$205,922 in investments. Under the Not for Profit rules, this amount is acceptable as it would basically cover one year of expenses.

MOTION 23-72: That the 2022 Treasurer's Report be approved, as presented. M/S: Marian Heil, District 6/Sharon Nivins, District 8, 0 Opposed, 0 Abstention. Carried.

MOTION 23-73: That Durward Jones Barkwell & Company LPP, be retained as the Auditors for the 2023 year. M/S: Marian Heil, District 6/Lisa DeYoung, District 9. 0 Opposed, 0 Abstention, CARRIED.

SECRETARY'S YEAR 2022 ACTIVITY REPORT

Membership Numbers: The OHA membership numbers reported for 2022 were 264 Societies/Clubs with 24,851 members. The membership number has increased by 1,513 members from 2021. This increase represents a 6.48% increase over the previous year. New members represent 18.24%, Youth Membership represent 1.27% and Life members represent 4.78% of our total membership of 24,851 members.

Volunteer Hours: In 2022, Societies/Clubs started to resume activities within their Society/Club and community. Societies/Clubs reported 378,207 volunteer hours, plus OHA Officers reported 11,046 hours, District Directors and District Executives reported 17,244 for a total of 406,497 volunteer hours. This is an increase of 106,819 volunteer hours or a 35.64% increase over 2021. If the government had to pay minimum wage for all the beautification and betterment of the communities that was received by way of the OHA affiliated Societies/Clubs and Districts volunteering, it would cost \$6.3 million dollars. The OHA, Districts and Societies/Clubs are truly Keeping Ontario Beautiful®.

MOTION 23-74: That the 2022 Secretary's Report be approved, as presented. M/S: Kelly Taylor, District 10/Elizabeth Schleicher, District 10. 0 Opposed, 0 Abstentions. Carried.

Sharlene Desjardins shared the new Honour Roll pin and noted that it will be given out for the first time tonight and then made available to previous Honour Roll winners. Cost per pin is available from the Awards Coordinator. Sharlene noted that Societies need to recognize deserving individuals with a Horticultural Service Certificate and/or a Judging/Exhibiting certificate as we are only giving out a fraction of what is available.

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Kathy Smyth recognized all of the first time attendees at the convention. Kathy thanked everyone for their photos and work on the OHA Calendar.

NOMINATIONS: Kathy Smyth presented the report of the Nominating Committee and introduced the candidates as follows:

President – Sharlene Desjardins, Vice President – Vicky Culbert, 2nd Vice President – Sandra Mazur

The second call for nominations from the floor was requested and no nominations were received from the floor at this time for any position. The elections will take place on Sunday, July 23, 2023.

CONSTITUTION, BY-LAWS AND RESOLUTIONS – CHARLES FREEMAN:

There is a maximum of 383 votes on the floor including the OHA Secretary votes.

RESOLUTION 23-8: Be it resolved that:

By-Law 13 be amended by adding the following sections:

13.12. 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 or by-laws of the OHA. The by-laws and any subsequent amendments shall be approved by a majority vote of the voting delegates at its Annual General Meeting.

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.

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.

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.

13.16. There shall be at least two, preferably three signing officers, for such accounts and at least two shall sign all cheques or transfers from District accounts.

13.17. All funds, be they cash, cheque, E-transfer or otherwise, collected through Societies' dues, fund raising, grants, donations, subsidies or sponsorships shall be deposited into the District's accounts.

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.

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 within the District.

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 within the District and any such net funds shall be distributed to the Societies on a per capita basis.

13.19.2. Should any District boundary be changed that removes or adds a Society 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.

2 Opposed, 0 Abstentions. Carried.

Lucia Rostirolla, District 15, brought forward a request to change bylaw 13.12,

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By changing “by the general membership” to “by a majority vote of the voting delegates at its annual general meeting”. M/S: Lucia Rostirolla, District 15/Kathleen Gorsline, District 15.

MOTION 23-75: That the proposed By-Law 13.12 be amended to read: **13.12. 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 or by-laws of the OHA. The by-laws and any subsequent amendments shall be approved by a majority vote of the voting delegates at its Annual General Meeting. M/S: Lucia Rostirolla, District 15/Kathleen Gorsline, District 15. Carried.**

Jack Wilson, District 2, inquired if it is a 2/3 vote or if it is a majority vote. Charles clarified that the voting is according to bylaw 16, which is a majority vote not a 2/3 vote.

Debi Foster, District 17, inquired about the OHA and Societies losing the delegate system through revised ONCA. There is a possibility that the delegate vote system will be saved, but that is undetermined at this time. ONCA will come into effect on October 19, 2024.

ONCA is the Ontario Not for Profit Corporation Act. This was passed in 2009 but did not proclaim a date for its enforcement. It was brought into force on October 19, 2021.

**RESOLUTION 23-9: Be it resolved that:
Article II of the OHA Constitution be amended as follows:**

Current wording:

The Ontario Horticultural Association is a volunteer charitable organization that provides leadership, education and promotes interest in gardening and related environmental issues with affiliated Horticultural Societies/Garden Clubs and like-minded organizations.

Proposed amendment:

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

0 Opposed, 4 Abstentions. Carried.

**RESOLUTION 23-10: Be it resolved that:
By-Law 13, 13.1, 13.1 1. be amended as follows:**

Current wording:

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.

Proposed amendment:

Dundas, Glengarry, Prescott, Russell, Stormont, the eastern portion of the city of Ottawa composed of the former municipalities of Gloucester and Cumberland, the municipality of North Grenville, **the Township of Edwardsburg Cardinal and the Town of Prescott.**

AND

By-Law 13, 13.1, 13.1 3. be amended as follows:

Current wording:

Frontenac, Hastings, Leeds and Grenville except the municipality of North Grenville, Lennox and Addington, Prince Edward.

Proposed amendment:

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.

2 Opposed, 7 Abstentions. Carried.

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Gay McQuarrie, District 2, inquired about the area that was being removed, i.e. municipality of North Grenville. It was clarified the comma indicates the distinction of what is to be exempted. It is consistent with what is written in the by-laws currently.

MOTION 23-76: That all ballots cast during the course of conducting the business of the OHA at the 2023 AGM be destroyed ninety-three (93) days after the adjournment of the OHA 2023 AGM and that all proxy records held by the Association be destroyed ninety-three (93) days after the adjournment of the OHA 2023 AGM. M/S: Susan Zalepa, District 15/Barbara Collinson, District 16. 98 Abstain. Carried.

ADJOURNMENT OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: The AGM was adjourned to July 23, 2023.

SPEAKER: Marianne Gee presented on “The Future of Bees”.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Anne Harbord noted that the various bus trips will be departing promptly at 1 p.m. and various seminars would be available in the afternoon from 1:30 – 2:30 and 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

GALA DINNER & AWARDS HIGHLIGHTS: Highlights for tonight’s gala dinner included Sharlene Desjardins, Master of Ceremonies and Keynote Speaker Michael Runtz speaking on “The Devious World of Wildflowers”. OHA 2nd Vice President, Vicky Culbert, announced the following awards to honour OHA members for their contributions to their Society/Club and OHA.

Community Improvement Award – 1 awarded: presented to the Schomberg Horticultural Society, District 15, 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 – 1 awarded: presented to Heather Newman, Ripley & District Horticultural Society, District 8. 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 Nepean Horticultural Society, District 2. This award is a plaque provided by the Ontario Horticultural Association. It may be presented 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.

Award of Merit – 2 awarded: presented to Donna Matier, Wheatley Horticultural Society, District 11 and Sandra Rammelaere, Tilbury & District Horticultural Society, District 11. The award is a framed certificate given to an individual(s) for notable contributions to the programs of the Association, District or a Society with notable contributions 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.

Honour Roll – 2 awarded: presented to David Archer, Perth & District Horticultural Society, District 2 and Amelia Dupuis, Tilbury & District Horticultural Society, District 11. Each recipient will be given a framed certificate and pin to commemorate the occasion. Nomination(s) can be made by an individual or a Society/Club and should be forwarded to the Awards Coordinator. The Awards Committee will select a maximum of two candidates from those nominated. The criteria to be followed are a member of an Affiliated Horticultural Society/Club with at least five years of service to one or more Societies/Clubs, has made a contribution of horticultural service to the community, District or Association or in the development of horticultural practices and has given outstanding service at the Society/Club, District or Association level.

Trillium/Silver Fir Award – 2 awarded: presented to Beverley Silk, Grafton Horticultural Society, District 4 and Linda Henderson, Tilbury & District Horticultural Society, District 11. This award as designated in 2009 is given to the 2 worthiest candidates who have given outstanding service to horticultural societies and to the Ontario Horticultural Association.

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Silver Medal Award – 2 awarded: presented to Anne Harbord, Manotick Horticultural Society, District 2 and Miriam Ivison, Tilbury & District Horticultural Society, District 11. The Ontario Horticultural Association Silver Medal is the highest award of the Association. The award is given out for outstanding work in the advancement of horticulture in accordance with the Mission and Goals of the Association. Outstanding work may include meritorious service to beautification, conservation or ecological work on a District or Provincial basis, establishment and maintenance of trial plots, botanical gardens and arboreta and/or intensive horticulture such as originating and producing outstanding varieties of plants and outstanding leadership in the promotion of Horticultural Societies/Clubs including their programs, membership and related activities or other worthy efforts.

Technical Advancement Recognition – 3 awarded: presented to Cornwall & District Horticultural Society, District 1, Tilbury & District Horticultural Society, District 11 and Schomberg Horticultural Society, District 15. This award is a framed special achievement certificate and is given to a Society/Club or District in recognition of their demonstrated drive and determination to fulfill their mandate by using a virtual platform (web conferencing) to remain engaged with their Society/Club or District members.

OHA Membership Challenge Trophy: The OHA Membership Trophy, originally donated by Fines Flowers of Ottawa, is a trophy to be awarded to a District with the highest percentage membership increase overall for the year. This year it was awarded to District 13 as they saw a 26.19% increase in membership for the District. Denise Berg, District 13 Director accepted the award on behalf of the District.

OHA Tree Grants – 18 awarded: The following societies received tree grants, up to \$300, in 2023.

- Martintown & District HS – District 1
- Maxville & District HS – District 1
- Ottawa HS – District 2
- Lennox & Addington HS – District 3
- Tweed & District HS – District 3
- Ennismore & District HS – District 4
- Burlington HS – District 6
- Oakville HS – District 6
- Grand Valley & District HS – District 7
- Glencoe HS – District 10
- Belle River & District HS – District 11
- Tilbury & District HS – District 11
- Thunder Bay HS - District 14
- Collingwood HS – District 16
- Creemore HS – District 16
- Elmira & District HS – District 19
- Galt HS – District 19
- Kitchener HS – District 19

OHA Special Project/Environmental Grants – 3 awarded: To assist Societies in meeting the objectives of the Ontario Horticultural Association, the board will provide a Special Project Grant to a maximum of \$1000 for each project.

- Martintown & District HS – District 1
- Peterborough HS – District 4
- Ennismore & District HS – District 4

Community Garden Grants – 2 awarded: The Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA) encourages its member Societies/Clubs to create or contribute to community gardens whether urban or rural. The OHA will award a grant of up to \$500 to assist in the funding of a new community garden or the upgrading of an existing community garden.

- Kemptville HS – District 1
- Sault Ste. Marie HS – District 13

Technical Advancement Grants – 12 awarded: 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 to up to 6 Societies/Clubs. An additional 6 were provided as grant funds were available.

- Maxville & District HS – District 1
- Manotick HS – District 2
- Eganville & Area HS – District 2
- Stoney Creek GC & HS – District 6
- Ambassador LaSalle HS – District 11
- Chatham HS – District 11
- Thunder Bay HS – District 14
- Beaverton HS – District 17
- Orono HS – District 17
- Magnetawan HS – District 18
- North Bay HS – District 18
- Ayr HS – District 19

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Pollinator Project Grants – 9 awarded: The Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA) is committed to collaborating on a province-wide strategy to improve pollinator health. The OHA will provide up to 10 grants of \$200 each annually to eligible member societies to create habitat in the form of pollinator friendly gardens or nesting sites on public land.

- Ottawa HS – District 2
- Tweed & District HS – District 3
- Ennismore & District HS – District 4
- Paris HS - District 6
- Ripley & District HS – District 8
- Ambassador Lasalle HS – District 11
- Magnetawan HS – District 18
- Galt HS – District 19
- Hespeler HS – District 19

Seedy Saturday/Sunday Grant – 7 awarded: The Ontario Horticultural Association will provide a grant of up to \$250 annually to a member Society/Club to organize a Seedy Saturday/Sunday event in their community.

It is hoped that such support will promote seed saving and the exchange of regionally adapted, bio-diverse seed in Ontario for the purposes of promoting seed saving and seed exchange in Ontario.

- West Carlton GC & HS – District 2
- Peterborough HS – District 4
- Haldimand HS – District 6
- Elora & Salem HS - District 7
- Markdale & District HS – District 8
- Essex & District HS – District 11
- Beaverton HS – District 17

Youth Help Grant – 7 awarded: This program was developed to provide financial support to Societies/Clubs who are working with youth. Any OHA Affiliated Society/Club, in good standing, which is working with youth may apply for the grant.

- Petawawa HS – District 2
- East Gwillimbury G & HS – District 5
- Haldimand HS – District 6
- Clifford & District HS – District 7
- Caledon HS – District 15
- Etobicoke HS – District 15
- Hespeler HS – District 19

Youth Project Grant – 3 awarded: The OHA developed this grant to assist Youth Programs for their work on a public beautification/native/pollinator project. OHA outdoor signage and a grant of up to \$150 may be awarded annually to up to three (3) Youth Programs/Clubs.

- Tweed & District HS – District 3
- Haldimand HS – District 6
- Caledon HS – District 15

SUNDAY, JULY 23, 2023

Early bird draws were held prior to the start of today's session.

Charles Freeman, OHA President welcomed everyone back to the Annual General Meeting. Charles thanked his wife Louise for her support through his presidency.

CONSTITUTION, BY-LAWS AND RESOLUTIONS – CHARLES FREEMAN:

There is a maximum of 383 votes on the floor including the OHA Secretary proxies.

FINAL NOMINATIONS:

The slate of Officers, as received by the Nominating Committee, was presented on the first and second day of the Convention. Final calls were made for further nominations from the floor. No further nominations were brought forward from the floor for the positions of President, Vice President and 2nd Vice President.

ELECTION OF ASSOCIATION OFFICERS – Kathy Smyth:

Sharlene Desjardins was declared, by acclamation, the President for 2023-2024.

Vicky Culbert was declared, by acclamation, the Vice President for 2023-2024.

Sandra Mazur, was declared, by acclamation, the 2nd Vice President for 2023-2024.

THANK YOU TO RETIRING BOARD MEMBERS: Charles Freeman thanked the retired Board Members for their years of service and dedication to the OHA. Thanks went out to Brad King, District 3, Patty Carlson, District 4, Catherine McGill, District 6, Dian Chute, District 10, Sandra Mazur, District 14, Barb O'Malley, District 15, Kathy Pearson, District 19 and Katharine Smyth, OHA Past President.

DRAFT

PRESIDENT'S SPEECH: Charles Freeman noted that there have been many challenges, but this board is ready for the year ahead and will continue to work hard on the many projects currently underway. Charles thanked everyone for their support over the last 2 years and noted how rewarding this position has been for him and was excited to continue on as OHA Past President.

CHANGE OF OFFICE: Charles Freeman presented Sharlene Desjardins with the customary pair of rubber boots and placed the Chain of Office on Sharlene. She expressed appreciation to Anne Harbord, and the many volunteers for making this convention a memorable event. Sharlene also thanked Kelly, Charles and the Board.

ADJOURNMENT OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: Sharlene Desjardins announced that the OHA AGM was closed.

SPEAKER: Alide Burke, CFO The Growcers presented on "The Future Looks Green".

CLOSING CEREMONIES:

Invitation to 2024 OHA Convention – Kathy Bouma/Karen Redmond: Kathy Bouma and Karen Redmond announced the 116th Annual Convention which will be held in District 7, July 12-14, 2024 at the Delta Marriott Hotel in Guelph with the theme "*The Heartland of Gardens Growing and Rivers Flowing*".

Passing of OHA Flags: Anne Harbord passed the association flag on to District 7 and 8 Directors, Kathy Bouma and Karen Redmond.

Adjournment: Sharlene Desjardins, OHA President, thanked the delegates for attending and acknowledged our donors and sponsors of the OHA, the Convention and towards our 50/50 raffle. The 2023 Convention was declared closed.

Thank You from Anne Harbord and District 2: Anne Harbord thanked everyone for attending the convention and thanked all of her amazing volunteers, the 115th Scouts Troop of Ottawa, the donors and sponsors.

Signature of President