



Sandra Mazur, Nominated for 2nd Vice President

I have been nominated by the Dryden Horticultural Society and accepted the nomination for the position of 2nd Vice President of the Ontario Horticultural Association.

I joined the Thunder Bay Horticultural Society in 2004 after attending as a guest hearing speakers and attending plant auctions. I began volunteering as a cashier at the plant auctions and my volunteering increased from then on. I have held a position on the Executive of the Thunder Bay Board for many years helping to organize and plan events. I sat as the Outreach Chair and loved attending events in the public to promote the society. For the past 6 years I have held the District 14 Directors Position. Like everything else in the world, it was a difficult path to navigate through the Covid pandemic but we made it



through and I have spent the past two years assisting my societies in recovering from the shutdown. As with many societies and aging members, the difficult task has been to get the younger generation interested in joining. That is one thing that Covid gave us a boost with, as so many of the younger generation began to garden due to food shortages, empty shelves and price increases. We are now working on targeting those new gardeners to join our organization.

Two years ago, I moved from Kakabeka Falls to Dryden, ON where I joined their society. I have enjoyed my time visiting new gardens and listening to new speakers.

As a District Director I have held a variety of committee positions on the Provincial Board. For 6 years I have sat on the Competitions Committee and held the Chair of Creative Writing. I also sit on the Code of Conduct Committee and until last October I chaired the Conservation and Environment Committee. Additionally, I sit as the North East Representative as an Officer of the association and participate in Officer and Finance Committee meetings. This has allowed me an insight into exactly what kind of time commitment the position of 2nd VP will require and has duly prepared me for the role.

I have been married for 45 years to my husband Fred and we have 1 daughter and 2 sons. We have 3 biological grandchildren but our grandchildren number "is many" as we gained quite a few in over 18 years of fostering children. I advocated for every child in my care to receive proper medical attention and treatment and assisted many of their families in transitioning their children home successfully. We still have some wonderful relationships with many of the children and their families today. During the year's our children were growing up, I supported and advocated for them and their interests as well. I sat on Parent-Teacher Committees at the school along with the Parent Fundraising Committee for school play structures, class trips and other ventures. I also assisted with many Hockey Tournament Committees along with other various groups throughout the years. Additionally, I spent 23 years with Girl Guides of Canada as a leader in Sparks,

Brownies, Guides and travelling and partnering with our Path Finder Unit. I also held positions at all levels and finished a term as the Guides Canada Public Relations Chairwoman for Ontario. I met many girls and leaders across Canada who I have remained friends with over the many years. My volunteering also extended to the Hymers Agricultural Society where I held many positions but was so proud to accomplish the "restructuring of a Volunteer Lounge for our workers to relax in and take their breaks out of the hot sunshine. I became the President for 3 years chairing the board and organizing their fall fair until a health issue forced me to give it up. During all those years I handled the PR with the media and attended many schools to promote the fair with our seed handouts encouraging children to enter the contests at the fair. I currently sit as a Director on a Seniors Apartment Complex in Kakabeka Falls, assisting in running a smooth operation as well as ensuring that someone hears their voice and brings it to the Board of Directors.

Since I was just a child, I have had a passion for gardening but only recently have I found more time to really be out in my garden as long as I desire. In addition to my many flower beds, I grow and preserve our vegetables and berries and soon I hope to have fruit on my newly planted fruit trees. I have a small pond but seldom find time to sit to enjoy all of my surroundings as summer goes by so quickly. I have shared my love of camping, fishing and being out in nature with my own children and those I cared for over the years.

I look forward to assisting the OHA into rebranding as GardenOntario and moving our organization into the future with a stronger, more youthful membership. It's going to take a lot of work and assistance from all of our members but I know we CAN DO IT!

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Mazur
OHA District 14 Director and NE Rep