



Greetings!

I have been nominated, and have accepted the nomination, put forward by the Deep River Horticultural Society for the position of 1st Vice President for the Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA). I have been within the umbrella of the OHA since I joined the Deep River Society in 2012. Within the Society, I have held the position of President for two years and I am the current Past President. I was also the membership chair for one year, yearbook designer and editor for one year, photo competition chair for two years and I am the current Spring Flower Show Chair. I joined the Pembroke Horticultural Society as well in 2017 and have been active at the meetings as well as helping with the plant sale and flower shows.

I took over the position as interim Assistant District Director for the Upper Ottawa Basin of District 2 in the Fall of 2015 and was elected to the position in the Spring of 2016. I held that position until the Spring of 2017 when I was elected to the position of District 2 Director. In April of 2019 I resigned from the position of District Director to pursue the OHA 2nd Vice President position which I was filling in on an interim basis. I was elected to that position at the 2019 OHA Convention in July. I spent two years as the 2nd Vice President before being elected to the position of 1st Vice President in July of 2021 at the OHA virtual convention.

I also hold the position of OHA Awards Coordinator which I find very rewarding. I appreciate all the work and research the societies and individuals include when applying for grant and awards. The time and effort that individuals and societies across the province put in to beautify their communities and educate their members and residents is amazing and makes for some very interesting reading and potential vacation destinations.

I completed the OHA Judging School in November of 2020 and I am now a Certified Judge. I also completed the Master Gardener Course at Dalhousie University to further my gardening knowledge.

I am married and have three children, two boys and a girl. During their formative years, we travelled extensively for hockey and figure skating. During this time, I sat on the Skate Canada Eastern Ontario Board of Directors as the Regional Representative for Region 6 and was also the Test Chair and Secretary of two different skating clubs. Prior to having my children, I was the Secretary of both the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 436 Executive and the Ladies' Auxiliary. I worked at Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (now Canadian Nuclear Laboratories) for 26 years and I am currently retired and loving it.

I began gardening late in life and have since fallen in love with it. I continue to expand my garden beds and love experimenting with plants that push the boundary for my area. I am in zone 3B. I grow vegetables, flowers and herbs and have several shrubs and 4 cherry trees. I plan to add a pear and apple tree this year. I have installed a pergola with a "zen" feel to it and have four raised garden beds. Last year we installed a small pond. With over 1100 square feet of total gardening space, there is always more that can be squeezed in.



I look forward to having the opportunity to continue to work with the OHA, the Districts and the Societies/Clubs and all the wonderful people that make up this remarkable organization. Remember the following:

“Gardening adds years to your life and life to your years” Unknown

Sincerely,

Sharlene Desjardins, 1st Vice President
Ontario Horticultural Association