



## Sharlene Desjardins for OHA President

### Greetings!

I have been nominated and have accepted the nomination put forward by the Deep River Horticultural Society for the position of President for the Ontario Horticultural Association. I have been within the umbrella of the OHA since I joined the Deep River Society in 2012.

Within the Society, I held the position of President for two years and Past President for 8 years. I was also the membership chair for one year, yearbook designer and editor for one year, photo competition chair for two years and Spring Flower Show Chair for several years.

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 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 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President in July of 2021 at the OHA virtual convention. Sitting in these positions and participating as an Officer over the last 3 years has provided me an opportunity to learn and become prepared to take over the president's position. We have a strong and cohesive Officer's team and Board of Directors and I know we will be able to achieve great things over the next year.

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 grants and awards. The time and effort that individuals and societies across the province put into beautifying their communities and educating 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, 1 apple tree and 1 pear tree. I have installed a pergola 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, the Societies and all the wonderful people that make up this remarkable organization.

Sharlene Desjardins  
OHA 1st Vice President