

Keeping Ontario Beautiful

# Trillium

Ontario Horticultural Association

Autumn 2025



*Photo by Christine Payeur, Pelham Garden Club*



## *The Enchanting Dahlia*

*This sun-loving but tender perennial never fails to dazzle.*



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Ontario Horticultural Association

Keeping Ontario Beautiful

## Editor's Message



For the next issue of the OHA Trillium newsletter, a new Editor will be in place. Someone else will have the pleasure and honour of putting all of your wonderful submissions together for all to enjoy.

A special thank you to everyone for sending such interesting news and gardening trend updates from the OHA, Districts, Clubs and Societies from all over Ontario and beyond. The reports and photographs of your accomplishments are inspiring to other community-minded members and "Keeping Ontario Beautiful".

A big thank you also goes to Marjorie Tuck, a lifetime member of Pelham Garden Club, who kindly proofread the pages of every issue to help keep errors to a minimum. And always with a smile.

My journey with this newsletter began 5 years ago and along the way, I've learned a lot about all of the Clubs and Societies in Ontario, the OHA, invasives, endangered species of plants and insects. I've also made many friends. Oh, yes, my kalanchoe is still blooming...

Laura Masterson  
[editor@gardenontario.org](mailto:editor@gardenontario.org)



Photo by Laura Masterson

**The Trillium is the quarterly online newsletter of the OHA where you'll find the latest gardening news.**

This newsletter is for all members of all Horticultural Societies and Garden Clubs in Ontario in every district. If your Club/Society has a special project and you would like to share the news, please send in a story and photographs.

### Submission dates for 2025:

December 1 – Winter issue

The deadline for the next issue of the Trillium is **Dec. 1**, but submissions can be sent anytime.

**To send articles and photographs:** Articles should be emailed in Word format, LibreOffice, PDF or plain text.

**Photos and other graphics** must have signed waivers from the photographer/artist and should be sent as separate files (i.e., not as part of a Word file), with a resolution of at least 1000 by 800 pixels whenever possible. Full-sized original files are all right, too. Please mention who wrote the article and the name(s) of the photographer(s) for a credit. These requests make it easier to work with photos submitted.

Articles can be emailed to:  
[editor@gardenontario.org](mailto:editor@gardenontario.org)  
OHA Trillium Editor

For photographs that include minors, please send signed parental permission.

## WAIVERS

### FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS AND PHOTOS OF MINORS

Here is the link to waivers on the OHA site:  
<https://gardenontario.org/wp-content/uploads/Media-Release-and-Indemnity-Form-2024-01-26.pdf>

To avoid illegal copyright issues, please do not submit articles, artwork and photographs copied from the internet or elsewhere unless written, signed permission from the writer, artist or photographer has been given.



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Keeping Ontario Beautiful  
**Trillium**

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The Trillium is also available on the OHA website: <https://gardenontario.org>

## OHA 50/50 DRAW

*Submitted by Kelly Taylor, OHA Secretary*

Tickets will be on sale until Fri., Dec. 12 at midnight  
Licence # RAF1449351

For your chance to win, visit

<https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/ontario-ha>

Your ticket purchases for the OHA 50/50 Draw not only helps us keep Ontario Beautiful but it supports education for youth and adults. It also supports environmental programs, awards and grants assisting with pollinators, tree planting and community beautification.



## OHA President's Message

### Dear Gardening Friends

As the first crisp breeze of the fall season stirs our flower and vegetable gardens, we prepare for the harvest of our labour.

I am honored to represent the Ontario Horticultural Association as the President for the upcoming year. I am excited to be working with the Officers and the District Directors to ensure the Mission and Goals of the Association are fulfilled as we grow forward. Welcome to Sandra Mazur as the First Vice President, Catherine McGill as the Second Vice President, Sharlene Desjardins as the Immediate Past President, Dennis Miluck as the North-East Representative and Karen Redmond as the South-East Representative. We bid farewell to Charles Freeman, who volunteered for many years on the Board of the OHA. He will be greatly missed.

Thank you to all who volunteer to make our communities healthy and beautiful places to live. This July, at the Annual Meeting, we were amazed by the sum and value of the 2023-2024 volunteer hours that went into community horticulture across Ontario. From the 263 Horticultural Societies, their 25,965 members and the board, a total of 478,635 reported hours were spent in Ontario gardens, communities, events and planning. If all our volunteers were paid only minimum wage, this organization would have invested \$8.2 million in salaries for the work we all do to make our communities bloom.

I appreciate all those who attended our virtual Annual Meeting in July and their participation in the Association business. The Annual Meeting business will be continued at a late November virtual meeting, which we invite all to attend. Details will follow, after we've all put our gardens to bed for the season.

In anticipation of next spring, we are dreaming of the blooms of the bulbs we will plant in the ground this fall. I'm looking forward to seeing the pictures of the flowers from the 71 cases sold in the OHA Spring Bulb fundraiser. May the promise of a colourful spring bring us warmth as we approach the season of rest and rejuvenation.



*Vicky Culbert*

Regards,  
Vicky Culbert  
President



# Bronte Horticultural Society

*Paula L.M. Warwick, Past President/ Event Director  
Photography by Terry Wilson and Christopher Dias*

On July 10, 2025, Bronte Horticultural Society celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary with an event held at the beautiful Bronte Heritage Waterfront Park on the shores of Lake Ontario. The weather was sunny, warm but not overly humid – a perfect summer day for a celebration. Over 85 members and guests attended. Special guests included Oakville Mayor Rob Burton and Bronte Town Councillor Jonathan McNeice who both shared congratulations and presented us with certificates recognizing our 100 years of community involvement.

We received best wishes and certificates from MPP Stephan Crawford and the Hon. Trevor Jones, Minister OMAFA. Lianne Krane, District 6 Director OHA, presented us with certificates and wishes from President Sharlene Desjardins and the OHA Board and District 6. We also welcomed representatives from our sister Horticultural Societies in Burlington, and Oakville, and several other community organizations.

The event was planned and organized by a team of five Bronte HS volunteers – Paula Warwick, a Bronte HS Past President and current Director of Events, Linda Lang, Bronte HS Newsletter Editor, Anne Gariscsak, Ann Pallant and Lysann Kidd, current Members at Large on the Bronte HS Board. Beginning in September, 2024 and, over the following



*100<sup>th</sup> committee members: Ann Pallant, Paula Warwick, Anne Gariscsak, Linda Lang, with District 6 Director Lianne Krane*



*Some committee members with Councillor Jonathan McNeice and Yesenia Morilla representing MPP Stephen Crawford*



*Our 100<sup>th</sup> "birthday cake" with macaroons and members*



*Paula Warwick, Anne Gariscsak, Linda Lang and Ann Pallant at podium with BHS banner*





*Mayor Rob Burton speaking at July 10 event*



*A wonderful group photo of attendees with Mayor Rob Burton*

10 months, they provided almost 500 volunteer hours toward the success of the day.

The program for the event included a welcome from Paula Warwick who provided an outline of the history of Bronte HS from the inaugural meeting of April 24, 1925, to today, highlighting some major Society accomplishments. Linda Lang introduced each of our six guest speakers, followed by a memorial tree dedication led by Ann Pallant and memorial plaque unveiling ceremony by Anne Gariscsak. Three past presidents of the society, Lorne Sparrow, Barry Catley and Paula Warwick performed the plaque unveiling.

At the conclusion of the formal program, guests were invited to a "1925 Summer Garden Party" with music and a food-refreshment menu all based on what was popular in the summer of 1925. An enjoyable day all around.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our wonderful event sponsors whose enormous support made the event possible.

The Town of Oakville Parks and Open Space donated a recently-planted memorial tree, allowing us to choose from several Carolinian species – a wonderful Tulip tree. They also



*100<sup>th</sup> Committee members Anne Gariscsak and Ann Pallant at the tree dedication and plaque unveiling with the Tulip tree*



*Three BHS past presidents Lorne Sparrow, Paula Warwick and Barry Catley who performed the plaque unveiling*



*The bronze plaque at the foot of the memorial Tulip tree – donated by the Town of Oakville*



provided a bronze plaque at the base of the tree, honouring our 100 years.

Bronte BIA provided ongoing advice and financial support through a Community Development grant. The Oakville Lions Club provided a substantial donation and volunteer support on the day of the event that was truly appreciated.



The event Welcome Committee: Wanda Wong, Rose Holt, Margaret Larson, Marg Catley and Jackie Hurn-McGahey



Group of celebration certificates and plaque received

Photography by Terry Wilson and Christopher Dias



Our "gold" souvenir program

*Congratulations Bronte Horticultural Society  
on its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!*

## North York Garden Club

*Written and Submitted by Angela Walcott*

### **Silver Linings – A Summer Garden Tour**

Big grey clouds covered the sky, it was a sign that a storm was on its way. Some came prepared with raincoats and umbrellas and some didn't. Others sought shelter in their cars while a dozen or so, braved the force of Mother Nature. It was raining cats and dogs but it didn't stop devoted members of the North York Garden Club from showing up. It's a phrase that has recently gained popularity. Used widely "Showing up," represents many things for different people. It is a promise. It's about having faith. For some, despite the possible outcome, it is important to have confidence that things will turn out despite the forecast because you never know how things might turn out in your favour.

After the morning thunderstorm and showers, the day turned out to be fabulous. The sun made a brilliant and unexpected appearance, dried up the sidewalk and lush green gardens and the garden tour went on without a hitch. The garden tour was a huge success and gardeners shared their vibrant, immaculately-designed spaces. It was a treat and proof that behind every cloud is that silver lining.

Thanks to all who participated and invited club members to their homes. It was a wonderful treat.



# Cannington Horticultural Society

Submitted by Margaret Munro, President

Photos by Deb Hadfield



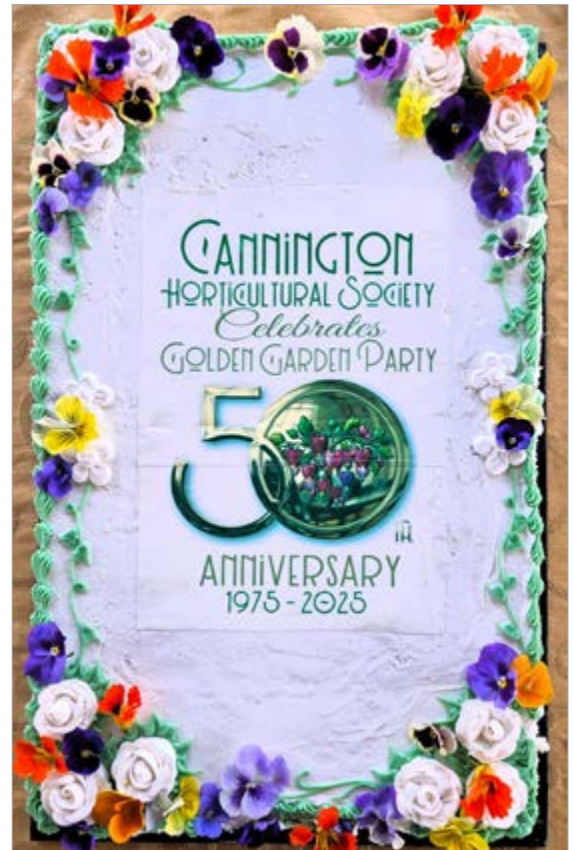
We were delighted to have members, past members and friends join us to celebrate the Cannington Horticultural Society's 50th Anniversary! The Golden Garden Party was held Saturday, July 12, 2025, at MacLeod Park in Cannington.

Our opening welcome took place around 1:00 pm, with Mike Jubb and Cria Pettingill speaking on behalf of the Township of Brock – passing along congratulations and thanks to the Club and members. Past Presidents Don Real and John Nowakowski (founding member) followed – giving insight to the history of the Club. A series of engaging demonstrations and activities followed throughout the afternoon. These include a BioBlitz Nature Trail Walk with Kelly Gibson, a discussion about Native Gardens with Catherine McNeely, a talk on the History of Pioneer Gardens with Mary Beerman and a Composting Demonstration by Mary Beerman. Three of the Club's amazing floral designers created on-the-spot arrangements using fresh garden blooms. Thank you to Ainsley Gillespie, Angela Hennessey and Angela Hubers for their creations! Each one became a prize and three lucky winners took home the floral arrangements. There was also a fun mini workshop to create floral headbands – thank you to two of our youth members for assisting with this activity.

A cake decorated for the event with butter-icing and fresh edible flowers helped celebrate the anniversary.



Past and current Presidents do an official cake cutting and serving – Left to right: John Nowakowski, Margaret Munro (current President) and Don Real.



A beautiful cake with fresh floral decoration was served to celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.





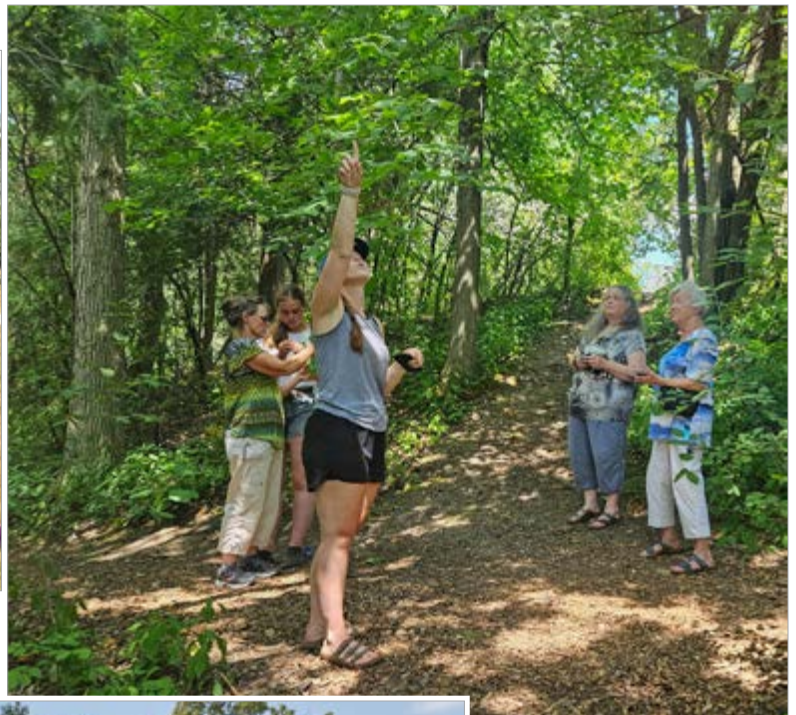
*Ainsley Gilliespie created a beautiful arrangement showcasing peonies from her own gardens. Carole Ditomaso won this lovely centerpiece in the draw.*



*Angela Hennessey (Life Time Member) with her stunning floral arrangement*



*Angela Hubers creates the third arrangement for the free draw.*



*Above: Kelly Gibson leads the first BioBlitz Hike along the Nature Trail – almost 50 species were identified!*



*Catherine McNeely takes guests on a walk to our Pollinator Garden and explains the importance of native plants*



Many thanks to **Deb Hadfield** for taking photos at both our Garden Party and the installation of the Heart Bench.

Mary Beerman holds a compost demo as another interesting activity for guests to attend and learn.



*Historical Plant Talk with Mary Beerman*

The Brouwer family took the lead on our Wildflower Headband Mini Workshop – everyone had a fun time creating colourful fresh floral headbands.



*Justine's headband*

**Thank you to all who attended  
and shared the celebration together –  
we look forward to another 50 years  
of learning and growing.**

*Congratulations  
Cannington Horticultural Society  
on its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!*



## The 'Heart Bench' 2025



*Above photo: from the left, Alex Grout, Kelly Gibson, Heiko Mantik, artist Mark Puigmarti, Marg Munro, Jim Munro and Isaac Munro*

The Cannington Horticultural Society is delighted to announce a special commemoration of our Club's 50th Anniversary: the creation and installation of a beautiful, original handmade bench by Mark Puigmarti of 'Sparks Will Fly Forge'. Mark has designed and crafted a truly one-of-a-kind bench that reflects our horticultural roots, incorporating the Club's floral emblem, Bleeding Hearts.

We invite you to visit the 'Heart Bench' at MacLeod Park in Cannington. A very special addition for all to enjoy.



*The 'Heart Bench' was installed by Mark August 1, 2025, with a little help from CHS members. It took a great volunteer crew to move the bench into place. Thank you to all who attended and assisted.*



*Attending board members thank Mark (centre), from left: Kelly Gibson, Marg Munro, Artist: Mark Puigmarti, Heiko Mantik, Cheryl Richards and Justine Polsinello*



# Huntsville Horticultural Society Celebrates 100 Years of "Keeping Huntsville Beautiful"

*Submitted by Karen Fell, Treasurer*



*Written by Karen Fell  
Photos by Julia Danks*

On April 26, 2025, we invited the public to join us for our 100th year anniversary and we were honoured to have Dan Armour, Deputy Mayor of Huntsville, Sharlene Desjardin, OHA President, Sandra Hartill, District 18 Director and Rachel Hunt, Executive Director of the local Business Improvement Association attend.

Our special guest of honour was our eldest life member, Helen Austin 97 years, who is centred in the above picture for the cake cutting. Our member Carol Alanko, a Master Gardener, made and decorated a delicious carrot cake with our floral emblem, the Iris. It was served afterwards with tea and coffee in vintage fine China teacups.

The event included a presentation by Sean James on "Incorporating Edible Plants into a Traditional Landscape", which was overwhelmingly informative and well-received.

Our first flower show that we know of was held in the Mission Room at the west end of town by the "Mothers' Union" on Aug. 17, 1907. They donated a profit of \$10 to the Sick Children's Hospital.

In the 1920's, a group of good gardeners entered flower shows in Toronto and finally organized at the home of Mrs. Cedric Hodge, a great flower lover and her home was filled with beautiful house plants.

The meetings began in the old Court House on High Street and membership cost \$1.00. Society members participated in Old Home Week in 1926 by decorating their homes. Our first Annual Flower show was held in 1930. In 1938, 200 Irises were planted in town and we received Royal Oak Seedlings from the Men of Trees in Toronto.



District 18 Director, Sandra Hartill congratulated our Society saying that we were the first Society in the District to reach 100 years. She said, "I have always enjoyed coming to your meetings, flower shows and plant sales".

*Photo by Julia Danks*



In 1945, we placed 45 flower boxes along the waterfront (the Muskoka River which flows through Town). The Ontario Department of Travel and Publicity used pictures of the boxes in their lectures throughout the province which helped with Huntsville's tourist advertising. In 1946, we had our highest number of members, 718 and our motto was "Community Beauty is a Civic Duty"!

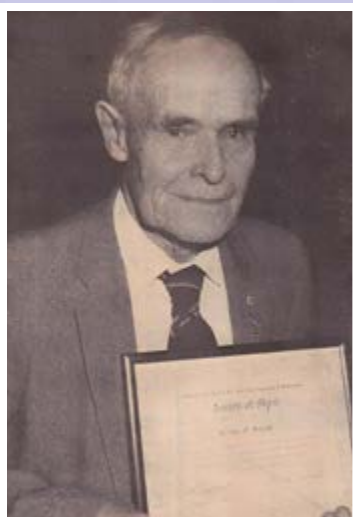
Between 1926 and 1950, 1,700 trees were planted on the streets of Huntsville and 100 hydrangeas were planted in public places. By 1951, we held two annual flower shows and added a gladioli show in August. In 1960, we gave each church 100 bulbs and hanging pots were put up on Main Street.

To celebrate Canada's Centennial in 1967, 4 Royalty Crab Trees were planted, one at the wharf garden and 3 at the high school. We purchased bulbs for the hospital garden, entered a float in the centennial parade for Old Home Week on July 10th and placed flowers in the stores along Main Street for August Civic Weekend. On April 25th, we celebrated with a birthday party with Mr. Sidney MacDonald, Department of Agriculture, attending and Dr. R.E. Ives, President of the Ontario Horticultural Association as the speaker.

We continued to plant trees and bulbs around town throughout the '70's and '80's culminating with the Town of Huntsville's 100th anniversary in 1986, when we purchased 2200 gold tulip bulbs and 200 black tulips, all given to the schools to be planted.



Picture shows the garden at the Swing Bridge in Town in 1983 (unknown photographer)



Bill Sinclair of Huntsville received the Award of Merit at the North Eastern Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement's annual meeting. He was cited for his outstanding contribution to agriculture and the community. He also received an award from our District 18. In 1978, he received the Order of Canada for outstanding service to the community. One of

his many accomplishments was the instigation of delivery of rural mail in the Huntsville area. He is one of three original contributors who have been showing at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair since 1922. In 1972, he won a prize for Christmas Trees and 15 prizes for his famous potatoes.

*From the Huntsville Forester, Wednesday May 5, 1982*



From Trillium Spring 2008, Photo by Betty Morrison, Junior Leader and District 18 Director

Betty Morrison Photo by Karen Fell

Proud members of the Huntsville Junior Horticultural Group show off ribbons won at the local fall fair. The boy with the trophy, Chris Schankula, is the 2007 recipient of the Liz Trolove trophy. This is a District 18 Award recognizing the Junior who best represents the ideals of Horticulture.



Betty Morrison received the District 18 Service Award 2006 for outstanding work and received the very prestigious OHA Youth Leader Award 2006, bringing provincial recognition to the District and to our Huntsville Horticultural Society.

In 1993, we were one of two societies in the Province granted seed money to sponsor the Master Gardener Program to work hand in hand with our society.



*"Huntsville Horticultural Society still Blooming"  
by Wendy Steere of the Forester, May 2, 1990*

In 1990, members Helen Austin, Mary Pigeon and Shirley Neil display a silver tray won at the District 18 AGM for the largest increase in membership.



In 2007, Linda Dronseika, a 12-year member of the Muskoka-Parry Sound Master Gardeners, received the Jan Glenn Memorial Award for her outstanding contribution to the recreational community. She has also sat on the Huntsville Fall Fair's board since 1977 and was a member of our Society since 1989.

*Photo by Laura MacLean-Forester*

Huntsville Horticultural Society's longest standing president of 15 years, Debora Marshall received a Community Recognition Award from the Town of Huntsville. She also received an individual award for over 20 years of volunteer work.

Mayor Nancy Alcock thanked Debora for the time she has put into making Huntsville a better place to live, work and play.



#### **DEBORA MARSHALL**

For her involvement and dedication to the Huntsville Horticultural Society. Debora has been an integral part of the Society for many years and provides a wide variety of topics in an educational and entertaining manner for many different ages.

*Picture published on Town of Huntsville website*



In recognition of Huntsville Horticultural Society's 100-year Anniversary, a Special Edition Yearbook was compiled focusing on our history and accomplishments. We're sure that our members will find the content interesting and it will become a keepsake of our 100th year.

*Artwork by Karen Fell*



Huntsville Horticultural Society's volunteers planting at the Town Hall in 2019

*Photos by Karen Fell*



Volunteers planting the rounds at RBC, Town of Huntsville in 2022

A commemorative bench was purchased in honour of Bryan MacKenzie, a very active past member who left a very generous donation to the Huntsville Horticultural Society. The bench was installed in the Veteran's Garden by the Summit Centre.



*Bryan with his dinner plate dahlia*



*Photos by Karen Fell*



To raise awareness of what we do, Huntsville Horticultural Society coordinated with the Business Improvement Association to display banners along Main Street for the month of June. We received a \$1,000 grant from the BIA.

With 60 members, our goal in our 100th year was to get 100 members and we accomplished this by the end of June.

*Left to Right: Jessie Snell, Debora Marshall, Kim Hesser, Sarah Downes – Downtown Huntsville BIA Board of Directors, Nancy Huttenlochner, Pat Boon, Tammy Bailey*

*Photo by Rachel Hunt of the BIA*



We participated in EcoFest with a booth and plant sale and we hosted a successful Garden Tour in July. *Photo taken by unknown member of public at the request of the Huntsville Horticultural Society*

**2025 was a very successful 100th year for the Huntsville Horticultural Society.**

*Congratulations Huntsville Horticultural Society  
on its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!*





# Manotick Horticultural Society

*Submitted by Jennifer Johnston, Chair/President*

## Greetings from that little island on the river known as Manotick!

The Manotick Horticultural Society (MHS) is celebrating its 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary! To mark this milestone, we are hosting fun activities and celebrations as well as recognizing members for their commitment and enthusiasm to keeping our village green.

Leading up to our 95<sup>th</sup> year, at our 2024 year end celebration, awards, honours and certificates were presented to:

- Mary Vallières, **Life Member**
- Peter Weupplemann, **Horticultural Service Certificate**
- Odette McIntyre, **President's Award**
- Plant Set-Up Team – Donald Blair, Don Edwards, Bruce Engel, Ken DeJean, Len Schmidt and Peter Weupplemann, **President's Awards**

Despite the lows and highs of springtime weather, our members were happy to venture out to attend the guest speaker meetings in April and May. OHA President Sharlene Desjardins joined us at the May, 2025 Members Meeting and Horticultural Show to recognize members' achievements:

- **D2 Service Award** and the **OHA Honor Roll** to Mary Vallières
- **Hoselton Tree** to Sheila King, the **Immediate Past District 2 Director**
- MHS honoured Pat Shapiro and Steve Shapiro as **life members**.

A note on Mary Vallières. Mary has provided 44 years of service supporting both District 2 and MHS. Mary's history with MHS includes: MHS Director and Treasurer from 1988 to 1990; MHS Director and Secretary from 2006 to 2009; frequent MHS Flower Show Convenor and Financial Reviewer throughout the years; Garden Team Lead at the Pioneer Herb Garden. Mary also served as Secretary to the late OHA board member and District 2 Director, Mary Harris. Aside from holding the above mentioned positions, Mary contributes to the MHS program on an ongoing basis. She helps with plant sales, contributing plants from her beautiful garden, assisting at the sales, and offering excellent gardening advice.



### Life Members (LM) and Award Recipients:

*Left to right: Sheila King, Brian Carson (LM), Mary Vallières (LM), Jane Anderson (LM), Steve Shapiro (LM), Sharlene Desjardins (OHA President), Pat Shapiro (LM), Jennifer Johnston (MHS Chair), Owen Munn (LM). Missing from photo – Helen Scobie (LM).*

*Photo credit: Pauline Yelle*

So far in 2025, we have held two **Horticultural and Design Shows**:

- **Spring Show – Judge's Choice** went to: Sharon Smith, Horticultural Specimen; Maxine Whelan, Horticultural Houseplant; Jennifer Johnston, Design.
- **Summer Show – Judge's Choice** went to: Deb Russell, Horticultural Specimen and Sheila King, Design.



Our robust calendar program includes guest speakers, garden and bus tours, horticultural and design shows and communication through newsletters, our website <https://manotickhorticulturalsociety.com> and social media. To celebrate our 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we launched a scholarship program that will be awarded yearly to a local Manotick high school graduate(s) attending a university, college or polytechnic institute to study horticulture, landscape architecture or environmental studies. We have a few more fun activities planned for our anniversary such as a garden gnome workshop, garden tours, the Fall Horticultural and Design Show and a Goth costume party for our October members meeting!

Our primary focus is keeping our village green. You will often see our beautification volunteers sporting green aprons in the five community gardens: A.Y. Jackson, Manotick Library, Manotick Post Office, Dickinson House, Pioneer Herb Garden, and the MILLennium Garden. When you visit Manotick, be sure to check out the gardens!

It takes a community to keep a village green.

*Congratulations Manotick Horticultural Society  
on its 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!*

## Thorold Senior of the Year Award

On Thursday, June 5, 2025, former OHA District 9 Director, Leslie Daniels received the Thorold Senior of the Year Award at the Thorold Centre 50+.

The award certificate is given to those who contribute many years of volunteer service to make Thorold a better, more senior-friendly city.

For many years, Leslie was involved in the Thorold Garden Club and the Thorold Centre 50+ and still is.

Her vast knowledge and experience assisted plans to further the protection of the environment and recycling efforts. She graciously shares the credit with the wonderful folks who also helped along the way.

*Congratulations, Leslie!*



Leslie Daniels

*Photo credit: Gavin Taylor*





## Awards and Grants 2025

*By Sharlene Desjardins, OHA Past President and Kelly Taylor, OHA Secretary*

Each year, on January 1<sup>st</sup>, the Ontario Horticultural Association opens nominations and applications for awards and grants. Individuals, Societies/Clubs and Districts belonging to the OHA are encouraged to nominate those who they feel are worthy. Applications are welcomed from Societies/Clubs who are doing great things in their communities such as planting trees, creating pollinator or community gardens or beginning a special/environmental project. Below are the 2025 recipients of the Awards and Grants program. With over 25,000 members within the Association, we have a great number of volunteers who go above and beyond to make their Societies/Clubs and communities great! Although we can't possibly acknowledge all of them, we truly value and appreciate every single one of our exceptional volunteers.

### Community Improvement Award

The Community Improvement 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.

**The 2025 recipients of the Community Improvement Award** are Streets Alive-Green Orillia-Mariposa Pollinators in District 16 for their "Pollinator Friendly Flowers." This project was a creative way to spread the word on the importance of growing native flower species which are so vital to our pollinator friends including bees, butterflies, birds, beetles and so many more. The project was introduced in April of 2024 to the Streets Alive artist group and offered 60 artists the opportunity to paint 60 different flowers to be attached to all the lamp posts in downtown Orillia for the duration of June 1<sup>st</sup> to Thanksgiving.



Given out in May, the flowers were 5 feet tall with 3 styles of flower heads to choose from, with stems and 2 leaves, to paint using 3D elements or mixed media and to reflect a native Ontario flower. Lists and descriptions of native flowers were provided to the artists by Gavy Swan Mansfield of the Mariposa Pollinators group. Gavy continued to support the artists by posting "fun facts" about native pollinator plants.

June 1<sup>st</sup>, many of the flowers had been completed, waterproofed and attached to lamp posts around the city. A tag was attached to each flower to give the public details to read on the flower variety and the artist.

A local photographer was able to photograph each flower and all photos were posted to promote the artists, the flower and details about pollinators on social media.

The pollinator project also brought about permission from the City of Orillia to create new pollinator gardens in two of the permanent downtown planter boxes. Parklane Landscape was able to donate native flowers with their grant for the Community Greening project in association with the Orillia Museum of Arts and History. Once again, the Mariposa Pollinators were instrumental in the planning of these new gardens for years of continued beauty and benefit.

Enthusiasm continued into pollinator week celebrations and the reading of the Mayor's Proclamation of National Pollinator Week, June 17<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, at the Orillia Public Library in front of the new pollinator gardens with the Orillia Horticultural Society, Mariposa Pollinators, Monarch Squad, Green Orillia and many members of the community in attendance. The flowers were removed after Thanksgiving but were an integral part of the downtown vibe every day and bloomed brightly during each festival and special event.

This project was full of beauty, both in the art and in the important messages and education it provided to the artists and community alike. The Pollinator Friendly Flower Project was a beautiful addition to the downtown core and each community event hosted there. Locals and visitors were drawn to the beautiful flowers, where they could read the tags and make the connection between the importance of native host plants, habitat loss and how the world's food supply depends on pollinators.



Educational posts on social media via Streets Alive, Orillia Matters and North Simcoe Life were shared on many different partner platforms to increase reader engagement, encourage participation and share resources to learn more about native plant gardening. Native plant seeds are harvested by Mariposa Pollinators and used for future planting and re-stocking the seed library at the Orillia Public Library. The project was a true collaboration of community partners and was able to encourage and maintain youth involvement in community gardening.

This project is an excellent example of a community coming together to spread the word about our precious pollinators. At least nine different community organizations participated in this wonderful endeavour to encourage native plantings and ensure pollinator health.

*Congratulations!*

## Environmental Award

The Environmental 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.

**The 2025 Environmental Award was presented to the Haldimand Horticultural Society** in District 6. The Society contacted the county with the vision of a pollinator garden accessible to Haldimand residents and close to schools for educational opportunities. The garden is very large and appreciated by all who visit and live nearby, with residents dropping off birdhouses, insect homes and décor. It is also near a walking/biking path for maximum visibility.

The Society researched pollinators and native plants that would work with the Haldimand clay. They then researched where the plants could be purchased in bulk, had meetings with the town, local Master Gardeners and a well-known native and environmental speaker on plant placement.

The Society offers tours and mini talks for the two local public schools, when requested, to teach the youth about the connection of bugs and birds to our gardens and the living world and what is needed for them to live in harmony with us. The beautification of this residential park has provided many homes and food sources for insects, birds and other critters.

Permission from the town as well as several grants allowed this project to come to fruition. Signage was erected for maximum exposure and to explain what the purpose of the garden is. Articles were also submitted to the local paper letting the residents of the town know what has been achieved with this garden.

*Congratulations!*

## Youth Leader Award

The Youth Leader Award is a plaque presented by the Ontario Horticultural Association. It may be presented to a person who has been a Youth Program Leader for a minimum of 5 years and is a member in Good Standing of an OHA affiliated Society/Club in Good Standing.



**The 2025 recipient of the Youth Leader Award is Carol Milroy** from the Fenelon Falls Horticultural Society in District 4. Carol has been the Youth Leader for the Society since 2017. Carol has many passions but the strongest are gardening and her love of teaching young people and she has great success in bringing these two passions together. She instills, through her teaching and as a role model, the values of being a part of a community, particularly through personal involvement and voluntary contribution and effort.

Carol was the key player in establishing a gardening program, which became known as the Green Team, at Langton Public School, the only Public School in Fenelon Falls. Each school year, students were given the opportunity to become members of the team. Carol led the team, together with the help of some teachers. The focus of their gardening efforts was vegetables of every kind. Carol taught the students the important fundamentals of growing their own food. They started from seed and went on from there. She worked with them throughout the growing season, instructing them and guiding them along the way. This included making certain the students were committed to maintaining their vegetable beds throughout the summer months. It was in the Fall that all the hard work came to fruition. Together with her team, they harvested their vegetables week by week then took their produce to the Fenelon Food Bank. Each season, hundreds of pounds of fresh produce was made available to patrons of the food bank who otherwise may have gone without.

The local museum, Maryboro Lodge, was home to the Society's Victory Garden, modeled after those of similar name grown during the years of World War Two. The public-school students volunteered at this garden as well. They were



involved in all aspects of the gardens from planting seeds and spreading manure to weeding and ultimately reaping the rewards.

Carol and her team were also involved with the St. James Community Gardens. Here, they again grew vegetables in shared raised beds. They did this alongside other community members, working together for the benefit of those in need in Fenelon Falls. The produce grown in these gardens, as well as the victory gardens, was donated to the Food Bank.

Recently, Carol organized a group of volunteer youth and worked with them in the planting of an indigenous garden surrounding a Story (Totem) Pole at the Grove Theatre. She used this opportunity to teach the young people about the significance of these plants, their value in the daily lives of the indigenous peoples and the respect they deserve.

When Carol first began involving herself with the youth at the local school, she did so simply because she wanted the young people to learn about growing things for many different reasons. She soon saw this as an opportunity for these same students to become the nucleus of Society's youth component. Carol was diligent to follow the requirements of youth membership and saw their membership grow from 20 students in 2017 to 50 in 2024.

Carol's time and effort with the youth is commendable. She has taught many of them about growing things, but more importantly, she has watched them grow as individuals, as they learned about contributing to their community through involvement.

*Congratulations!!*

## Technical Award

The Technical Award is a plaque presented by the Ontario Horticultural Association. It may be presented to a person who has been an asset as a technical advisor/coordinator/webmaster for a Society and/or District and who has assisted with virtual meetings, coordinating virtual flower shows, assisting with TPON, etc. The nominee must be a member in Good Standing of an affiliated Society/Club in Good Standing.

**The recipient of the 2025 Technical Award is David Biensch** from the Richmond Hill Garden & Horticultural Society in District 15. David served as the Treasurer of the Richmond Hill Garden and Horticultural Society for more than 12 years and in 2023 also took on that role for District 15. When Covid hit, David jumped in very quickly to set up and manage the Society virtual meetings and protocols allowing us to have meetings online starting in April of 2020 thus missing only one meeting during Covid. In early Covid, other Clubs approached them asking how the Society was able to use this technology. David joined the group and had several email and meetings with other Societies to talk them through the system and set up requirements and answer the many questions folks had on equipment needed for both online only and hybrid meetings. In May of 2022, their Society began hybrid meetings and David reviewed and started to update our systems to allow this to be done more effectively. The hybrid meeting setup is used for all Richmond Hill Society meetings and District meetings. David brings all the equipment to our hybrid District meetings as well as other offsite efforts. From feedback received, David's efforts for our Club have allowed us to thrive and his willingness to share details on "how to" have been appreciated by other Clubs as well. His recordings of meetings allow those who are away to dial in later and hear our general meeting and AGM's. The secretary can also use the recorded meetings for her notes. These uploads are prioritized accordingly.



To make it easier to enroll in the meetings, David sets up the zoom links as needed (some are recurring) and assists with the registration details and ticket purchases for guests. Some of that work is coordinated with the webmaster allowing her to get the meetings posted as quickly as possible. For the last few years, this has allowed us to offer mid-month additional webinars with speakers thus increasing our 10 general meetings with speakers up to approximately 14 online/hybrid speaking events each year.

David is also in charge of our OMAFA, TPON and related reporting activities and has their Society reporting done and put into the systems as required. He is always available to assist those Societies who may be struggling with some of the reporting requirements.

He has been effective in setting up our online store within our website allowing us to hold multiple virtual plant sales every year since 2020. In 2023, they held 3 virtual plant sales as well as their major in-person Spring plant sale. The sales that are done online take orders and payments by MC, Visa, etc., issue invoices, pick-up details and order completion notices. He has provided hands-on guidance to their committee Chairs and leads allowing them to do online flower shows and an online photo contest.



The benefit of technical folks like David is that they can be “in business” in a new way extremely quickly and at a much lower cost while increasing attendance and being able to share their methods of implementing technology with others who want to implement it but need a little hand-holding. David was there to do both.

*Congratulations!*

## **Award of Merit**

The Award of Merit is a certificate and is given to an individual for notable contributions to the programs of the Association, District or Society/Club. There were three recipients for 2025.

**The first recipient of the 2025 Award of Merit is Elsie Eubank** from the Haldimand Horticultural Society in District 6. Elsie has been a member of the Society for 19 years and moved up quickly, becoming a board member, chairing speakers and publicity and becoming President by 2022.

She spearheaded the Burke Estate Pollinator Garden and hosts all the Society workshops at her beautiful home including hypertufa, insect hotels, holiday urns, moss art as well as the annual barbecue for all members.

Elsie's gardens have been on the garden tour multiple times. She assists with the town plantings and oversees the Haldimand Seedy Saturday event, which has grown to be one of the largest in Ontario. She is a beginner designer and has brought entries to the OHA convention.

She has hosted the District 6 AGM, President's meetings, District 6 dinners and always helps with the OHA/District 6 table at Gage Park and the CNE events.

Elsie has generously given of herself serving on committees and is selfless in her commitment to the Haldimand Horticultural Society, District 6 and to the OHA.

*Congratulations!*

**The second recipient of the 2025 Award of Merit is Julie Mills** from the Wheatley Horticultural Society in District 11. Julie has served as either a Director or Vice-President of the Society since its reformation in 2017. She is also CEO of DeGoey's Nursery and Flowers and uses the expertise and connections she has professionally to benefit the Society as well as other local Societies. This is done in a selfless way – knowledge of what grows well together, expertise on product availability for municipal-wide planting programs (Grow Together CK) and information on what local nurseries may have product-wise is provided. She also shares the resources of DeGoey's by hosting a Christmas centerpiece Society fundraising workshop, providing donations for plant sales and prizes, helping with professional-looking signage and tagging, sending employees to help with Society projects, volunteer recruitment and more. In the break room at the greenhouse, a sign on the wall states “To Whom much is given, much will be expected.” Julie embodies this with her service to the Wheatley Horticultural Society.

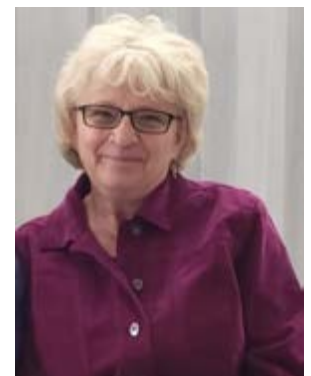
Julie has clear communication skills and is steadfast in making sure she keeps her commitments to the Society. She has great original ideas about how the Society can operate, often rooted in her experience as a businesswoman and mother. Running a greenhouse, she can't always be present for events that are taking place, but she always follows up with the Society and will take on a task that has yet to be completed. As a volunteer, she has amazing follow-through, and the Society is very lucky to have her as a part of their team.

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*Congratulations!*

**The third recipient of the Award of Merit is Tracy Bosley** from the Parry Sound and District Horticultural Society and the Alliston Horticultural Society in District 18. Tracy was a member of the Parry Sound Society for 7 years and a member of the Alliston Society for 25 years. She contributed considerable effort to both Societies' endeavours to better their ability to serve their members well. She served on the boards of both Societies for many years and served as an Assistant Director of District 18 since 2017.

In Parry Sound, Tracy led the beautification of one of the four gardens kept up by the Society and assisted with other gardens around the town as well. She shared her love of gardening to recruit occasional help from other members, generously sharing her knowledge while they worked and generously donated plants from her garden for the town gardens.



The town garden Tracy led is designed as a xeriscape garden, primarily using native plants so that water use is kept to a minimum at the sloped rocky site.

In Alliston, Tracy took the lead on a garden being established at the Banting Homestead (the birthplace of Sir Frederick Banting, co-discoverer of insulin). She designed the entire garden and maintained it for the pleasure of its many public visitors. Plants were donated by Tracy as well as many members of the Alliston Horticultural Society.

Tracy has served as an excellent judge for various flower shows within District 18. She has been Show Convenor for over 12 years in Alliston and was Show Convenor for the last four years in Parry Sound. For District 18, Tracy was responsible for all aspects of flower shows and photo contests including arranging for judges. Tracy would hold a workshop for a few hours prior to each flower show to answer questions and encourage participation and would donate materials and containers to participants. She gave freely of her time and expertise to novice through to experienced entrants.

Tracy has won many awards in the horticultural, photography and creative writing competitions at the Society, District and Provincial levels including many Best in Show ribbons. She was very giving of her knowledge and everyone benefited from her expertise.

For the past 4 years, Tracy led the Parry Sound Society Yearbook Committee, taking on the primary responsibilities to produce an Ontario Gardener's award-winning yearbook for the past 2 years. Through this work, Tracy identified content, produced the publication, coordinated the efforts for advertising and followed through with publishing arrangements. As the lead in this regard, Tracy worked with the committee/executive to identify speakers for each of their meetings.

For the last 12 years or so, Tracy led the Alliston Society's Yearbook Committee and had been solely responsible for producing the yearbook and arranging the publication. This yearbook has won awards at the OHA annual meeting for many years, including second best in Ontario.

Tracy identified possible content for the Parry Sound newsletters that come out prior to monthly meetings and helped to identify speakers, including being a speaker herself. She was also the technical person for the District 18 zoom meetings.

Routinely, Tracy would volunteer to help run any booth that the Parry Sound Society set up at various initiatives of other organizations, usually at least 3 per year. She welcomed members and others to her own diverse garden to help them learn about specific plants that would do well in the area and often donated plants to help her visitors get started on a new endeavour in their own garden.

In both Alliston and Parry Sound, Tracy administered Facebook pages contributing photos, information and education clips.

Tracy worked hard to get a Judging Update in District 18 and is a valuable member of the Board. Throughout the District, Tracy routinely shared her knowledge as a Master Gardener so that others could learn about horticulture in their area. She did this by generously answering questions at meetings and through Facebook. When the Parry Sound Garden Tour focused on the McDougall portion of the Society, Tracy was a willing host sharing her extensive knowledge and showing examples of native plants, sun gardens, shade gardens, vegetable gardens and vertical gardening throughout her property. Each year, Tracy would contribute a considerable number of plants to the Parry Sound Annual Plant Sale and was able to knowledgeably answer the questions of sale attendees. Last September, when Tracy was dividing her plants, she hosted a mini plant sale with all receipts going to the Society. She also helped at least one elderly person in their garden every year.

Tracy was a joy to work with for all of us. She was not only a Master Gardener, but a master of cultivating a love for the art and science of horticulture.

Sadly, Tracy passed away in January of 2025. Her loss will be felt throughout the Parry Sound and Alliston Horticultural Societies as well as District 18 and the Association. She touched many lives, and those individuals will be forever grateful for having known her.

*Congratulations!*

### **OHA Honour Roll**

The Honour Roll Award is presented to an individual that has made a contribution of horticultural service, given outstanding service or assisted in the development of horticultural practices at the Society/Club, District and/or Association level. Each recipient will be given a pin and certificate to commemorate the occasion.

**The first recipient of the 2025 Honour Roll Award is Mary Vallières de St. Réal** from the Manotick Horticultural Society (MHS) in District 2. Mary has been a member of the Society since the early 1980's. For the past 43 years to current, Mary is always very involved and willing to help in any capacity within their Society.





Mary's history with the MHS includes Director and Treasurer from 1988 to 1990; Director and Secretary from 2006 to 2009; frequent Flower Show Convenor and Financial Reviewer throughout the years and she also served as Secretary to the late OHA board member and District 2 Director, Mary Harris.

Aside from holding the above-mentioned positions, Mary contributes to the MHS program on an ongoing basis. She helps with the annual plant sales, contributing plants from her beautiful garden, assisting at the sales and offering excellent gardening advice.

She demonstrates a keen interest in all things horticultural, the sharing of information and the preservation of that information. Mary was the editor of the yearbook for many years, winning a District 2 award for the Year Book along with one other member. She has kept a library of past MHS yearbooks, providing us with valuable historical information.

Mary has been a volunteer with the MHS beautification program for over 20 years. She is the Garden Team Lead for the Pioneer Herb Garden and the Dickinson House Garden (Manotick) and coordinates the many volunteers and work parties to keep these gardens in the Village core looking beautiful. These gardens are part of the Historical Dickinson House, and Mary ensures the plantings in the heritage Pioneer Herb Garden are representative of what the early settlers would have brought and grown for their needs. Mary and her team ensure each plant is labeled and have created a brochure with the layout of the garden, describing the plants and how settlers would have used them for household and medicinal purposes. This brochure (English and French) is available at the Dickinson House Museum for visitors to the museum and pioneer herb garden. In 2023, Mary received the MHS President's Award for Beautification Team Leader and, in 2025, received the District 2 Service Award.

*Congratulations!*

**The second recipient of the 2025 Honour Roll Award is Dorothy Caskenette** from the Brantford Garden Club in District 6. Dorothy joined the Club in 1991 and is one of the longest-serving members.

As an enthusiastic gardener herself, Dorothy was soon involved with the public planting that the Club used to do in the city every Spring. When the Club was approached by the city to create an educational waterwise garden in 2006, Dorothy was involved with the planting and maintenance, enlightening visitors to the garden and encouraging them to have a xeriscape garden. Dorothy remained a loyal and dependable volunteer until it was closed in 2021 when the city announced plans to sell the property. She also planted a rose at their local Myrtleville House for the Queen's Jubilee and was involved in a special tree-planting at their local Prince Charles School in September of 2006.

Having a good head for finance, Dorothy is always on hand at their annual plant sale to oversee the money and at the summer flower show where she kept tally of points awarded to the members. Over the years, she exhibited many beautiful specimens from her own garden.

For many years, she was their event planner. During this time, she organized their popular annual bus tour of private gardens in Southern Ontario. Dorothy researched, selected and visited all the private gardens in advance. This included negotiating a discount for our members at all the garden centres that were visited. She was always their ticket seller, organizing and selling tickets for the tour, along with our Christmas dinner and any other events, including cashier at their Summer Show. With her generous nature and capability, she is always on hand to help the Club. She was also on the committee that organized the District 6 breakfast in October, 2012.

Dorothy served on the Board of Directors for many years until she retired in 2021. While on the Board, one of her duties was publicity where she looked after all the Club's publicity for regular meetings and special shows. Even now, in her retirement, she continues to serve the Club every month at the welcome table, signing in members and welcoming guests. Dorothy also introduces the evening's speaker to the Club at every meeting.

As well as being a valued and well-loved member of the Club, Dorothy has contributed many hours to other causes, such as the SPCA, Brant Animal Aid and the Brantford Symphony Orchestra. She has also worked with the local Master Gardeners to organize a few of their local garden tours.

Dorothy was a recipient of the President's Award in 2008, Provincial Volunteer Award for 15 years in 2009, Provincial Volunteer Award for 25 years in 2016 and a 30-year OHA pin in 2022. In 2017, the Club honoured Dorothy as she retired from her position on the Board and, in 2023, honoured her again as she retired from chairing the annual bus trip.

*Congratulations!*



## Trillium/Silver Fir Award

The Trillium/Silver Fir Award is presented to an individual for outstanding service to Horticultural Societies/Clubs and/or to the Ontario Horticultural Association for an extended period. The Trillium Award is a silver brooch in the shape of a Trillium. The Silver Fir Award is a silver lapel pin. Both awards are accompanied by a certificate.

**The first recipient of the Trillium/Silver Fir Award is Linda Wallis** from the Brighton Garden Club in District 4. Linda has been a valuable member of the Club for many years and joined the Board in 2002. She is a constant inspiration to all who have had a chance to spend time with her, not only as a leader, but as a role model, ambassador, advocate, educator and adjudicator.

In addition to her extensive and constant involvement in, and contributions to the Brighton Garden Club, she has been an active member of the Codrington Women's Institute for the past 25 years. Over that time, she has held various administrative positions including President and Secretary. She is currently, and has been for several years, the Program Coordinator for that organization. She has been a fundraiser for Helping Ukrainians Get Settled (HUGS/Brighton), a regular participant in the Mayor's Keep the County Clean Challenge, a member of the Brighton Dragon Boat Club for over 5 years and, in 2023, she was the recipient of the District 4 Hazel Wilson Award for meritorious service to horticulture.

Respected and admired not only for her skills and knowledge, but also for her warmth, patience and readiness to help, Linda inspires interest and initiative. She also recognizes and encourages expertise in others.

As a Club administrator, promoting horticulture in their community, supporting Club goals and providing direction to the organization and its members, Linda has been a member of the Board of Directors in 2002, 2014 and 2015; Vice President in 2006, 2009 and from 2016 to 2020; President in 2007, 2008, 2010 and from 2022 to 2025; Past President in 2011.

Though this record of service alone is incredibly impressive, it does not adequately describe just how instrumental Linda has been, and continues to be, in the success of the Brighton Garden Club and the Club's influence on the community. Over these past years, she has continued to extend her own knowledge and skills and has won first prize 5 years in a row in the District during the Brighton Garden Awards. She requested that her gardens not be included in the awards after that to allow others a greater chance. Her gardens, in addition to enhancing the neighbourhood, are an inspiration to all.

In 2016, Linda completed her Judging certification and regularly shares that knowledge in many ways. She regularly judges various events, provides Club members with many opportunities for learning and sharing through monthly mini clinics on design, plant identification/care and initiated and supports a monthly photo share. She also actively promotes a member-created seed library (housed at the Brighton Public Library) which was designed to enable sharing among members and with the community.

In 2003 to 2006 and 2013 to 2025, Linda has dedicated tremendous time, energy, enthusiasm and knowledge as their Flower and Vegetable Show Convenor. She also works to organize, promote and contribute to their annual plant sale and auction events. These events provide excellent outreach to the Brighton community.

In 2007 to 2010, she was the Brighton Garden Club Program Committee Convenor and continues to actively support that committee, contributing to the sourcing of excellent speakers on a variety of subjects and initiatives, and the organization of day trips and tours to outstanding gardens.

From 2011 to 2018 inclusive, Linda was the Club Yearbook Editor, making sure members and Club activities were acknowledged and appreciated. From 2014 to 2019, Linda served as the Club Webpage Manager on the GardenOntario website. In 2023, she created the Brighton Garden Club website, which she continues to manage and update, using it to acknowledge and appreciate Club members while promoting the Club to a larger community audience.

In the Brighton community, Linda, as a volunteer, spearheaded the initial design, layout and building of the gardens in Rose Ellery Park which opened in 2013. She continues to promote and help in the maintenance of the park with several new additions including trees, arbors and even more flowers. She is also a member of the Brighton Garden Club "Buzz Team" who maintain the pollinator haven in Proctor Park.

Linda was instrumental in the ceremony and planting of a Katsura tree commemorating the life of longtime BGC auctioneer Jim Nelson in 2018. Under her presidency, several other trees were planted, notably a tree planting at historic





Proctor House in memory of Brighton Horticultural Society's life member, Basil McMaster in 2008. In 2022 and 2023, Linda worked with the Municipality of Brighton and the Indigenous community to choose Brighton's official flower, the Wild Columbine, which was incorporated into the Brighton Garden Club's new logo.

Through the use of social media, a new website and member recruitment at events, membership almost doubled while Linda was President of the Club resulting in the Club being awarded the District 4 membership increase trophy for 2022 and 2023.

*Congratulations!*

**The second recipient of the Trillium/Silver Fir Award is Jane McDonald** from the Guelph Township Horticultural Society in District 7. Jane has been a longstanding active member of the Society for over 30 years and has held many different positions during that time.

At the Society level, Jane was the Assistant Youth Leader from 1996 to 2000 and Youth Leader from 2000 to 2016. She was Vice President from 2003 to 2006; President from 2007 to 2009 and again in 2012; Secretary from 2017 to 2022 and Secretary/Treasurer from 2023 to present.

At the District level, she was the District 7 Assistant District Director from 2008 to 2013, District 7 Director from 2013 to 2018 and Past Director from 2018 to 2024.

At the OHA level, she sat on the Youth Committee for many years. She was the OHA 2024 Convention Flower Show Co-Convenor and completed her OHA Judging Certification in 2008.

Jane's initial major contribution to the Society began in 1996 when she was the Assistant to the Youth Leader. She became the leader in 2000 and carried on for 16 years. It was a highly successful program which included teaching youth to grow gardens, show their produce and crafts at their local shows and enter at the District and OHA level. Countless young community members gained gardening experience and show skills under her tutelage.

Jane has actively served on many committees within the Society over the past 30 years. These include Plant Sales, Adopt-A-Road, Social, Yearbook and more. She also assists at Civic Planting Committee events.

Jane taught members show skills, demonstrated designs and led a variety of craft and plant-related workshops such as how to make cement stepping stones with leaf imprints, create a unique planter and Christmas décor.

For social and special events such as potluck dinners, she has contributed greatly to obtaining supplies, helping with set-up and serving at various functions. On the yearbook committee, she has been an integral part of planning programs, arranging for speakers, doing the layout for their booklet/leaflet and looking after the printing of it. Jane was actively involved in the Society plant sales, encouraging participation, digging plants, organizing the set-up, selling the plants and dealing with the leftover plants. She was a long-time member of the Adopt-A-Road committee, helping with roadside clean-up in their community as well as taking on the lead role for a time.

Jane has run annual workshops at the Wellington County Library's Marden branch for both youth and adults in the community. She has acted as press reporter and advertiser for their Society events and over the years has served on the membership committee, encouraging support of the Society from the community, and has actively led the drive for active Society participation.

Jane has given to her Society and community throughout many years, while raising a family, holding a demanding full-time job and assisting with both parent care and grandparent care. Her natural leadership skills have made her a tireless promoter of their Society, she always encourages their members to take part in District 7 meetings and the OHA convention. Jane has attended many conventions and brought Society youth entries for the OHA competitions. Their community has greatly benefited from Jane's boundless energy and keen interest in horticulture.

*Congratulations!*



## **Silver Medal Award**

The Ontario Horticultural Association Silver Medal Award is the highest award of the Association. It is given for outstanding work in the advancement of horticulture in accordance with the Mission and Goals of the Association. It consists of a silver medal and accompanying certificate.

**The 2025 recipient of the Silver Medal Award is Lise Bois** from the Prince Edward County Garden Club in District 3. Lise's ability to encourage members to move beyond their comfort zones is evident in the Club. She brought very green ideas into the Club and transformed it into an active working group to put those ideas into action. The Club became quite involved in the preparation and planting of several naturalized public gardens and in the planting of trees. These efforts were always fun for the participants and beneficial to the public as parks need gardens and trees. Lise always insisted on native varieties.

She worked with other members to rebrand the Club and update websites and media to improve membership and each new project that comes along is carefully orchestrated, researched and executed with the results always being beneficial to the public and the Garden Club's members.

Lise volunteered her time to meet with the students at Sonrise Christian Academy, an elementary school in Prince Edward County, to teach students the importance of native and naturalized plants. She led field trips to the County's planting sites where she delivered programming to students that gave them hands-on experience with naturalizing a space. She coordinated interesting activities during this event and taught a class of 24 or more students how to care for native plants.

At the District level, Lise took part in the District 3 organization team for the OHA Convention held in 2018 and held one of the key volunteer team lead positions for this event. Under her detailed and well-organized watch, the team of volunteers was provided with guidance and support. This ensured that all those in attendance were well cared for and provided with all the instructions and information to make the convention experience positive and memorable.

Lise formally joined the District 3 Board in 2019 as an Assistance Director and served for 5 years. She was actively involved in the Board during her tenure providing input into District Board activities such as budget preparation and policy and procedure development. Lise quickly and without hesitation took on roles such as the liaison for the planning of annual District meetings.

As an Assistant Director, she helped guide local Societies and Boards with the operational aspects of being a Society under the OHA. She attended the Annual General Meetings of various Societies on behalf of the District Director and ensured that the elections of Society boards were conducted properly. She delivered the OHA President's message and was available to answer questions that might arise on a variety of topics. She encouraged Societies to participate in the OHA Grant Program to continue greening Prince Edward County. She is a valuable example to all that protecting the earth and making it a better place can be done by working with others toward a common goal. She has shown that as individuals and groups, we can all make a difference one garden and one tree at a time.

Lise is filled with determination and dedication to the cause of naturalization and improving the natural environment. She seems to have an over-abundance of energy when it comes to environmental advocacy. She never says no and has limitless capacity for taking on environmental initiatives. She has taken on numerous projects with and without municipal involvement and has focused on increasing the number of native plants and naturalized areas in and around Prince Edward County.

As Chair of the Natural Cover Working Group, Lise played an important role in shaping several of the County's by-laws and initiatives including updates to the County's grass and weeds by-law through the review and comment process. Her feedback as a member of the County Garden Club and the Natural Cover Working Group was instrumental in helping draft the by-law that supported lawn alternatives and naturalizing yards. She contributed greatly to the educational component of this task and participated in several garden tours after the fact to showcase the work the County and the Garden Club are doing to promote naturalization.

Lise is a true collaborator and is always able to help opposing parties see opposite perspectives through her extremely tolerant and welcoming nature. Coupled with her focus on improving the community and natural environment, she is a driving force behind many environmental initiatives.

As a Volunteer and Project Coordinator, she has worked closely with County staff to design, coordinate, plant and maintain over 12 green spaces on County property. These gardens were created to showcase native plants in a natural setting and were designed by Lise to take advantage of the site-specific conditions, be low maintenance, meet specific-use criteria and positively contribute to the local biodiversity. Her extensive knowledge of native plants was crucial in making these gardens happen. Throughout each of these projects, Lise played various roles including planter, planner, coordinator, educator and maintainer. She continues to spend much of her free time returning to each of the gardens to weed and water these plants.





Lise has been a committed member of the Ontario Horticultural Association for many years and has volunteered her time coordinating and supporting events at both the Society and District level. She leads by example and always tackles projects with positivity and a collaborative approach which is very infectious.  
*Congratulations!*

## 2025 GRANTS

### Tree Grants

Martintown & District HS – D-1  
Petawawa HS – D-2  
Bancroft HS – D-3  
Brighton HS – D-4  
Cramahe HS – D-4  
Mount Hamilton HS – D-6  
Oakville HS – D-6

Thorold GC & HS – D-9  
Ridgetown & District HS – D-11  
LaSalle Ambassador HS – D-11  
Greater Windsor HS – D-11  
Leamington HS – D-11  
French River HS – D-13  
Penetanguishene HS – D-16

### Community Garden Grants

Lennox & Addington HS – D-3  
Ayr HS – D-19

LaSalle Ambassador HS – D-11

### Pollinator Garden Grants

Petawawa HS – D-2  
Bancroft HS – D-3  
Waterford & District HS – D-6

LaSalle Ambassador HS – D-11  
Orillia HS – D-16

### Special Project Grants

Cornwall & District HS – D-1  
Bancroft HS – D-3

Waterford & District HS – D-6  
Elora & Salem HS – D-7

### Youth Help Grants to Date

Petawawa HS – D-2  
Glen Morris HS – D-6  
Ripley & District HS – D-8

Pickering GC & HS – D-17  
Wilmot HS – D-19

### Seedy Saturday/Sunday Grants

Belleville GC & HS – D-3  
LaSalle Ambassador HS – D-11

Ridgetown & District HS – D-11  
Georgina-Brock GC & HS – D-17

### Technical Advancement Grants

Seaway & District HS – D-1  
Riverdale HS – D-5  
Thorold HS – D-9

Brampton HS – D-15  
Beeton HS – D-16  
Pickering HS – D-17

### Youth Project Grant Recipients

Tweed & District HS – D-3  
Glen Morris HS – D-6  
Niagara-on-the-Lake HS – D-9

LaSalle Ambassador HS – D-11  
Wilmot HS – D-19

*Thank you to all those who submitted applications/nominations and congratulations to all our 2025 recipients. The contributions you make to your Societies/Clubs and communities is invaluable. Together we are Keeping Ontario Beautiful®!*

# Lindsay Garden Club

*Written and Submitted by Nancy Mountford, Membership Coordinator*

## Fall Flower Show Entries



*Our Fall Flower Show dazzled with an incredible array of entries, each one bursting with creativity and colour.*

*Photos by Nancy Mountford*



## Lindsay Garden Club Fall Flower Show Entries



*From classic blooms to bold floral innovations, the quality, creativity and imagination on display were truly inspiring.*

*Photos by Nancy Mountford*

## Lindsay Garden Club Fall Flower Show Entries



*The volume, variety and artistry of the exhibits made this fall's Flower Show a blooming success.*

*Photos by Nancy Mountford*



# Port Dover and Woodhouse Horticultural Society

*Submitted by Laurene Via*

*Photos by Laurene Via*

At our annual July pot-luck picnic, member Larry Dickie shared his thoughts on this year's gardening season. "It was too hot, too cold, too wet... too dry!"

Yet, despite those conditions, the core of our Native Plant Healing Garden persevered, as the above-mentioned conditions (which I suspect were not unique to our little corner in SW Ontario) created an almost perfect setup for benign neglect.



*Native Plant Healing Garden*

Why would a Horticultural Society admit to such a gardening faux pas? Largely because this is just one more piece of evidence to support gardening with native plants. Now that it's established, the core of our turtle-shaped Native Plant Healing Garden has been successfully growing for three years. And that's the beauty of native plants: in the wild, they need only the water that Mother Nature provides and, simply, the natural fertilizer that results from decomposing leaf litter and decaying plant debris. Those are two conditions that home gardeners can re-create (keep in mind the plants need to be established so give them plenty of water for the first few weeks/months). Also, while the initial investment in native plants may be larger than the

cost of plants from traditional nurseries, certainly, if nothing else, native plants save gardeners money in the long run in terms of ever-increasing municipal water delivery services, coupled with the challenging growing conditions caused by climate change.

In the meantime, once the rains stopped and the temperatures soared, our volunteer gardeners got to work filling the outermost shell of this turtle-shaped garden with native ground cover like wild strawberries and native geranium. Luckily, even though the newly planted plants have only been in the ground for a few weeks, they've managed to survive the most recent drought thanks to occasional watering by our members and the Port Dover Lion's Club volunteer lawn maintenance team. Once these new plants get established, we expect they will also thrive since, as native plants, they are adapted to the ever-changing local meteorological conditions.

Within the next year or two, we will complete the turtle shape. It's our hope to continue sharing with you the progress of our beautiful healing garden as we edit our garden to reflect on the old adage: right plant – right place.

And now, just like any other proud plant parent, here are some photos of our collection of healing native plants. (We of course cannot guarantee that these samples are 100% native to Norfolk County, but we have sourced them from local native plant nurseries.)



*Goldenrod*





*Solomon's seal*



*Oxeyes*



*Bee balm*



*White aster*



*Milkweed*



*Notice the pollinator*



*Late season aster*



*Native geranium*



*Wild strawberry in the outer shell*





*The garden early in the season*



*Late August garden with outer shell expanding*

Port Dover and Woodhouse Horticultural Society's *Native Plant Healing Garden* is not (necessarily) a medicinal healing garden, but rather a contemplative and restorative garden consisting of native plants, many of them used historically for medicinal purposes by First Nations People.

*Credits for this article go to Larry Dickie, multi-award winner of our spring and summer flower shows and Janet Lala, one of our directors and lead gardener of this garden.*



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## OHA 50/50 Draw Winners

*Submitted by Sandra Mazur, OHA Vice President*

The happy winner of the OHA 50/50 Draw on July 19, 2025 is Margaret Walker of Alliston Garden Club in District 16. She won \$4942.50. (pictured)

The lucky winner of the October 4th OHA 50/50 Draw is Annie Loyer. Ticket #C-19530 winning \$2685, a group ticket from Porcupine Horticultural Society in District 12.

## Next 50/50 Draw: Dec. 13, 2025

*For your chance to win, tickets will be on sale until Friday, December 12 at midnight*

<https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/ontario-ha>

Licence # RAF1449351

Ticket Prices: D – 700 for \$75, C – 200 for \$50, B – 40 for \$20, A – 10 for \$10



*OHA 50/50 Draw Winner  
Margaret Walker of Alliston Garden Club*



# Paris Horticultural Society

*Submitted by Margaret Collins*



*Fair Main Gate Garden*

*Photo by Dave Collins*

## **Fair Main Gate New Garden 2025**

Thanks to Dave Collins and Doug Hanna for the garden design. The goal was to keep it simple and easier to maneuver lawn cutting equipment around. Thanks to Jake Dupon for getting the garden installed quickly. It is a welcomed upgrade to the grounds.

The Paris Agricultural Society thanks the Paris Horticultural Society for donating the funds that made this possible.

## **PHS Summer Excursion 2025**

On a very warm June evening, 25 members made their way to the Slamon Greenhouses in Burford. Stephanie Slamon guided us through the greenhouses and gave us a very informative talk. The Slamon family have been growing flowers since 1969, three generations and Stephanie's delightful, 2-year old daughter Addie joined the tour. It looks like Addie will be the fourth generation. They now

mainly grow Chrysanthemums and Lisianthus flowers, each having their own requirements and growing cycle. The main greenhouse is huge, covers 7 acres and houses about a million plants. The light, temperature and water are all controlled. The heat came from a very large and hot pipe that went down the pathway we were using. Stephanie was quite nervous of us getting anywhere near it. From a meter away you could feel the heat. The Lisianthus came in a

variety of colours. The row of cut flowers in the green pails were already to be shipped out the next day.

Once they are cut, they last at least 10 days and are mainly sold to florists. We had the opportunity to test this as Stephanie offered us each 2 stems to take home. Mine indeed lasted over 10 days. Nothing like a summer evening spent with like-minded friends while enjoying this colourful display of flowers.



*Summer Excursion*



*Photos by Margaret Collins*





*Summer Excursion*



*Photos by Margaret Collins*

### **PHS Mystery Tour 2025 Petit Flower Farm**

About thirty members and guests followed Edith Stone south on 24, to our mystery destination. The Petit Flower Farm in Vanessa, established in 2020, is run by Chantelle Edwards with father Rick doing the weeding and watering.

Chantelle was a most enthusiastic and knowledgeable guide. Proudly showing us her 1.5 acres of non-traditional flowers. Her emphasis is on locally grown product, avoiding hours of travels on airplanes. All her flowers are grown without the use of pesticides or chemicals keeping soil health in mind. She sells mainly to florists. It was a very pleasant way to spend a warm summer evening. We finished the evening with snacks at Edith and Joe's back garden. Thank you to Edith for organizing the event and for supplying the snacks, along with Nancy Burkholder.



*Photos by  
Margaret Collins*





## Community Gardens

Dave Collins, pictured here with one of the new Scarlet (Red) Oak trees planted at the cemetery. The Scarlet Oak is native to southern Ontario, grows best in dryer conditions and the acorns have a large cap that covers almost half of the acorn itself. The Scarlet Oak is known for its brilliant red foliage in the fall.

## Adopt A Road

Our Adopt a Road volunteers were out on Keg Lane on a very hot Saturday in June. They picked up garbage on both sides of Keg Lane from the fairgrounds over to Trussler Road. This is very much appreciated by the neighbours in the area.



*Pictured are: Edith Stone, Serryn Stephenson, Brenda Simpson (back), Liz Geffros, Deb Vickers, Pat Moore, Marlene Harrison, Nancy Chipman and Tricia Cressman.*

*Photo by Margaret Collins*

***Thank you for keeping it clean***



*Dave Collins with one of the new Scarlet (Red) Oak trees*

*Photo by Doug Hanna*

## OHA Scholarship Winner

*Submitted by Sandra Mazur, OHA Vice President*

*Photo courtesy of Vicky Culbert*

The Awards Committee reviewed three highly qualified applications for our very first Scholarship. Unfortunately, one applicant missed a part of her submission and lost 25 points because of that omission. It was unfortunate, as all three applicants were very close in skills.

We were pleased to announce that **Christina Adelaide Romano Bilobrk** was the winner of the \$1,000.00 OHA scholarship.

Our President, Vicky Culbert, presented Christina with her cheque at the Mount Hamilton Horticultural Society Meeting in District 6 in September.

***Applications are due on June 30th each year.***

For more information, visit:

<https://gardenontario.org/resources/awards-and-grants/>



*Vicky Culbert, OHA President (right) presenting cheque to 2025 Scholarship winner Christina Adelaide Romano Bilobrk (left) at the D6 Mount Hamilton H.S. Meeting.*



# Dunnville Horticultural Society

*Submitted by Melanie Ruigrok*

*Photos by Melanie Ruigrok*

## Stunning Summer Garden Tour

On a Saturday in July, Dunnville Horticultural Society (D.H.S.) held an orchid planter workshop in conjunction with the local Home Hardware Garden Centre. Participants selected 3 succulent plants and a mini orchid which were planted in terracotta pots.

Later that morning, members were inspired with a garden tour of properties situated on Lake Erie and the Grand River.

Guests were welcomed to 2 acres of mixed perennial and vegetable gardens situated on the shore of Lake Erie by host Peter Mowat. Trees, bushes and vegetable gardens gave a sense of separate rooms to explore along the twisting and turning paths. The perennial gardens presented a strong backbone of rocks, shrubs and mature trees as well as interesting sculptures and garden decor items. Giant hydrangeas, ferns, hostas and boxwoods added to the grandeur of this property.

The second property was connected by a hidden bridge to the first stop on the tour. Host Elaine Boucher shared that living next door to Peter's Botanical Gardens is a huge motivator to keep her gardening into her 80's. Plants had been selected with colour, texture and low maintenance in mind. Countless hostas, daylilies, sedums and coral bells are featured along the paths. Mature trees tower over the gardens in front of the house while behind the house boasts an unobstructed view of the Lake Erie waterfront framed with perennial blooms.

The next address was on River Road, Dunnville and a stop at Richardson's Farm and Market. James Richardson is the seventh generation

in his family to live and farm on River Road in Dunn Township. This agricultural adventure began in 1997 when James and his father purchased a neighbouring farm with 0.25 acres of strawberries planted on it. Now along with his wife Kirsten, James grows 10 acres of strawberries, approximately 30 acres of sweet corn, 25 acres of pumpkins and squash, 2 acres of apples, 1.5 acres of tomatoes, 1 acre of cucumbers, 1 acre of cantaloupe and 0.5 acres of fall-bearing raspberries.



*Orchid Planter Workshop*



*Peter Mowat's Perennial and Vegetable Gardens*



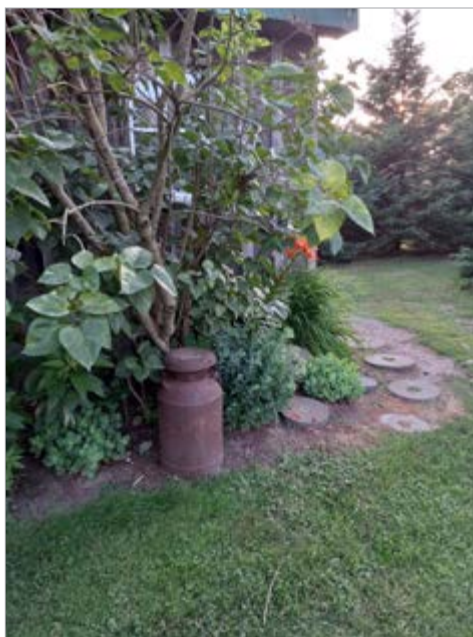
Additional vegetable crops are grown on this farm as well as producing meat chickens. The addition of a health-inspected kitchen in 2010 allowed the couple to use their produce in baking and preserves. When the harvest season is over, James and Kirsten gear up for maple syrup season with approximately 2000 taps in sugar maple trees. James attends five farmers' markets per week during the harvest season and the farm store is open year round.

Continuing on the River Road, hosts Debbie Thomas and Andy Hyma allowed guests to step back in time to visit a generational farm showcasing the hard working lifestyle of early European settlers on the banks of the Grand River. Although upgrades have been made and most of the buildings aren't used as initially intended, it was easy to imagine the original purpose of each structure: ice house, pig pen, corn crib, woodhouse, smoke house, outhouse, carriage house, utility building, garage and a stately, hip roof barn. The gardens have been kept simple and feature a variety of hardy plants as the soil here is sandy and the chickens run free!

Another stop on River Road found guests at the delightful 'Linkhaven'. A number of pathways allowed for the exploring of multiple perennial gardens. Hosts Ron and Marlene Link share that the property was once a vegetable garden and prior to that a hay field. This property featured an interesting collection of shrubs, trees and a large variety of lilac bushes. Herbaceous and Itoh peonies and hellebores are treasured by the owners. One large tree is now a gnome house and another tree features the initials of their grandchildren.

D.H.S. would like to thank these generous hosts for sharing some unique garden properties. The group meets on the third Thursday of the month at the Dunnville Optimist Hall at 101 Main Street E. at 7 p.m. On September 18th, Mel North will be speaking about 'Edible Flowers'. Admission is free. For more information, please email [dunnvillehortsociety@gmail.com](mailto:dunnvillehortsociety@gmail.com).

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*Gardens of Debbie Thomas and Andy Hyma*



*'Linkhaven' – Perennial Gardens and Gnome House of Ron and Marlene Link*

***"Anyone who thinks fallen leaves are dead has never watched them dancing on a windy day."*** – Shira Tamir



# A Day of Lavender and Laughter for The Nobleton & King City Garden Club

*Submitted by Anna Santarossa*

*Photos by Anna Santarossa, Arlene Heaps and Kelly Lavis*

Members of the King City & Nobleton Garden Club recently enjoyed a delightful day at The Giving Place Lavender Farm as part of a special member outing. Nestled in the countryside, the farm offered the perfect blend of beauty, inspiration and hands-on experiences for garden lovers.

The visit included a guided exploration of the whimsical grounds where members strolled through a grove of hazelnut trees near an idyllic pond, wandered into a thoughtfully designed ceremony space, walked a peaceful labyrinth, visited active beehives and admired the charm of the children's garden. The highlight of the day was harvesting fragrant lavender straight from the patch and crafting lavender wreaths to take home.

Lunch was served under a lovely open-air pavilion where conversation flowed and the scent of lavender lingered in the air. But what truly impressed the group was the heart and mission behind The Giving Place. The farm grows fresh produce for four local food banks and is home to a small animal rescue. Goats and sheep greeted visitors eagerly, especially since Leanne, the generous and passionate owner, had set out a bucket of feed for us to give to them. And among the many animals, it was the elegant peacocks with their iridescent plumage, that stole the show.

The charm, magic and community spirit of The Giving Place left a lasting impression on all who attended. It was a day filled with connection, inspiration and appreciation for the generosity of both nature and people.







## A Summer Tradition: Nobleton & King City Garden Club Annual BBQ

Every summer, the Nobleton & King City Garden Club brings members together for its much-anticipated Annual BBQ. This event has become a cherished tradition, offering an evening of good food, warm company and lively conversation.

The BBQ is more than just a social gathering – it's a celebration of community spirit. Members have the chance to connect outside of meetings, share gardening tips, swap stories and simply enjoy one another's company. Delicious food, a welcoming atmosphere and a touch of garden-inspired décor always make the evening a memorable experience.

Events like the Annual BBQ remind us that the Garden Club is not only about cultivating beautiful spaces, but also about nurturing friendships and building a strong sense of community. It's these shared moments that keep the Club vibrant and growing year after year.





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# Goutweed, Creeping Bellflower, Garlic Mustard: Three Common Invasive Plants

By Cynthia B. Lauer

An invasive plant is one that, after its introduction to a region, is able to develop self-sustaining populations eventually threatening the environment, the economy and the health of other organisms. Severe and often irreversible consequences include the loss of biodiversity, the degradation of terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems, and the introduction of new predators.

My article in the summer issue of *Trillium* described the general characteristics of invasive plants enabling them to dominate an environment. Plasticity – the ability to adapt to evolving conditions – is a key factor that involves a plant's capacity to change its physical form, growth rate and hardiness. Together with invasive plants' multiple reproductive strategies, their persistent seeds, lack of predators and allelopathy – their biochemical "novel weapon" – ensure their competitive advantage and, ultimately, their invasion of green spaces.

Goutweed, creeping bellflower, and garlic mustard are three species of invasives commonly found in gardens, including my own. Before we take a close look at each, bear in mind that when removing all or part of their growth, it is necessary to place all of the waste into the garbage and not into compost bins. The heating process to which municipal compost is subjected may be inadequate to destroy the seeds. Also, some gardeners may choose to use regulated herbicides such as clopyralid, triclopyr or the non-selective glyphosate ('Roundup') in jurisdictions where such chemicals are permitted for garden use. While their use may be appropriate in some situations, they are not discussed in this article.

## **Goutweed (*Aegopodium podagraria*)**

Goutweed is a species of herbaceous perennial native to Europe and northern Asia. Introduced to North America as an ornamental plant in the mid-1800s, Canadian records of it date back to 1902. According to VASCAN, it is now found in every province except Alberta, Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island.

Highly competitive and difficult to eradicate, goutweed can be identified by its broad, toothed compound leaves of three leaflets. The leaves are medium green in colour while the variegated type is blue-green in colour with creamy white margins. Stems grow from 0.4 to 1m tall. Goutweed produces flat-topped umbels of 15–25 white ray flowers typical of plants in the carrot family. In sunny sites, flowering occurs from May or June to August. The solid green variety photosynthesizes faster than the variegated type allowing it to spread more vigorously.



*Goutweed (Aegopodium petiolata)*



*Variegated goutweed*

Goutweed has many characteristics that facilitates its invasive spread. It is shade-tolerant and is able to grow in infertile soils. It has an extensive underground root system of branching rhizomes. A fragment can remain viable in the soil for more than four years. In addition to its thick storage roots, the plant also has thin feeding roots that spread up to 70 cm per year. Seeds can remain viable in the soil for up to five years. Foliage appears in early spring and remains until the first frost. Beetles, bees and small flies all act as pollinators. Widely available at garden centres, goutweed is





*Goutweed in bloom*



*A dense growth of goutweed*

popular for its low maintenance requirements especially in the damp shade. Readily escaping home gardens, it often invades forests where it inhibits native tree germination and growth and threatens native plant populations. It is also found in abandoned fields, grasslands, along forest edges and wetlands.

Since goutweed can invade environmentally sensitive areas, its control must be carefully planned. Removing outlying or “satellite” populations of goutweed prevents further spread. Once this is complete, remove the core area of growth. Concentrate on areas where the plant will cause the most problems such as sensitive parts of an ecosystem, along a creek, near species at risk, a favourite natural area or waterways.

Goutweed rhizomes break easily so care must be taken with manual removal to prevent the spread of root fragments. Aim to prevent it from photosynthesizing in the early spring by depleting it of its reserved carbohydrates. Mowing will help slow the spread but will not eradicate it. If possible, after mowing, cover the entire area with an opaque tarp, plastic sheeting or cardboard for several years to starve the plant of light. Ensure the tarp extends well beyond the boundaries of the goutweed patch and secure it with bricks or landscape staples. Manual removal can supplement this control method if the entire root system is removed to a depth of 60 cm (2 ft). Sift the soil through a screen to remove all the roots and rhizomes.

#### **Creeping Bellflower (*Campanula rapunculoides*)**

Creeping bellflower is an herbaceous perennial native to Eurasia and is found in every province except for Newfoundland and Labrador. The plant forms dense clumps with erect stems that stand 30-80 cm tall. Leaves are about 12 cm long. Twenty or more blue-purple bell-shaped flowers, each 2-4 cm long, typically grow along one side of the raceme and develop upwards throughout the summer. Native *Campanula* species like American bellflower (*C. americana*) and harebell (*C. rotundifolia*) are non-invasive.



*A path lined with invasive goutweed*



*Creeping bellflower blooms*





*Clump of creeping bellflower*

Creeping bellflower grows in sun or shade and in soil that is dry or wet, sandy or loamy. It reproduces both sexually and vegetatively. Each individual plant can produce up to 15,000 seeds that persist in the soil for many years. In the absence of insect pollinators, the plant will self-pollinate. Seeds are also dispersed by the wind. When torn, its shallow thread-like lateral roots break into fragments that easily reproduce. In addition, it has thick rhizomes that lie well below the soil surface at a depth of 15-30 cm (1-2 ft) or more.

To remove the rhizomes, first loosen the soil with a pitchfork, then dig out every tiny bit of rhizome that you find. Using a garden sieve or your fingers, carefully check the soil for root fragments to discard. Early in the spring, mulch the area deeply to prevent seed germination. If creeping bellflower is not growing among desirable plants, cover the entire area with a dark plastic tarp kept in place with stones or landscape staples. Even as the rhizomes weaken over time, a weekly survey of the area is necessary to remove young seedlings. The plant may look dead, but don't let it fool you; it's only dormant. Keep it covered for up to five growing seasons. If flowers emerge, pick them or mow them to prevent seeding.

While eradication of creeping bellflower may be impossible, gardeners should find that managing it is a reasonable goal.

#### **Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*)**

Introduced from Europe to North America in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, garlic mustard is registered as a noxious weed in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Prince Edward Island, Manitoba and Nova Scotia. It is also found in Ontario and Quebec. The Nature Conservancy of Canada estimates its rate of spread at 6,400 square km every year. Thick stands double in size every four years. Once introduced, garlic mustard can dominate a forest understory within 5-7 years.

Garlic mustard grows in a variety of soils and while it is most often found in partial shade, it can tolerate full shade and occasionally full sun. The plant is a biennial. First year plants, called basal rosettes, have scalloped margins and deep wrinkled veins. In this stage, it overwinters and since the leaves stay green under the snow, photosynthesis begins very early in the spring. By the second year, the plant grows to 1m in height and eventually produces delicate white flowers from May to early June.



*Creeping bellflower upright stem*



*Creeping bellflower root*



*Garlic mustard closeup*





*Garlic mustard on forest floor*



*Garlic mustard flower*

Flowers may be cross-pollinated or self-pollinated. Crushing the leaves releases a strong smell of garlic.

As the season progresses, seed pods dry out and eventually split open mid-summer dropping the seeds to the soil. Plants can produce up to 150 seed pods with up to 22 seeds per pod. In one study, a dense population of garlic mustard produced over 105,000 seeds per square meter. Seeds can survive in the soil for up to thirty years.

Garlic mustard is allelopathic. It produces chemicals that interfere with the mycorrhizal fungi that help trees and plants absorb nutrients and water into their roots. This inhibits the growth of most native plants and alters the forest ecosystem affecting not only plant species at risk but also wildlife. When garlic mustard decays, it alters the natural decomposition cycle of the leaf litter on the forest floor reducing habitat for ground-nesting birds, salamanders and other forest-dwelling animals.

Its ecological impact can last for years even, alarmingly, after it has been removed.

For small infestations of garlic mustard, pull the plant before it flowers or while it is in flower but before it sets seed in the spring and fall. Make sure to remove the entire S-shaped taproot. In larger infestations, pulling can stimulate the seedbank further compounding the problem. Instead, mow plants at the base of the stem just after flowering. This method – known as basal cutting – is preferable to hand pulling because it reduces the soil disturbance. A hand-held motorized trimmer can also be used. Treatment should be repeated until the end of the growing season and for several years.

New populations of garlic mustard begin as “satellites” a few meters away from the main colony then fill in the space between. When controlling this growth pattern, remove the smaller satellite populations first.

To prevent seed production after pulling, solarize all of the plant material by placing it in sealed black garbage bags and leaving it in direct sunlight for 1-3 weeks. Paper yard waste bags can also be used if they are covered with a dark-coloured tarp and left in the sun for 1-3 weeks. This allows the stems and roots to thoroughly dry out.

After pulling, plant native species over the area to encourage the growth of competing species over time. Some native plant species that have been shown to out-compete garlic mustard when planted in high densities are bloodroot, mayapple, Canada anemone, Virginia waterleaf, ostrich fern and bush honeysuckle.

## Bio

*Cynthia B. Lauer is a member of Simcoe County Master Gardeners, and a retired sociology professor (as Cynthia Levine-Rasky). She has been nurturing her passion for gardening since the 1980s.*



*Garlic mustard field*

PHOTO CAPTIONS AND CREDITS  
for Goutweed, Creeping Bellflower, Garlic Mustard

Caption: clump of creeping bellflower

Credit: Matt Lavin, Flickr, Creative Commons

Caption: creeping bellflower blooms

Credit: Hectonichus, CC BY-SA 3.0 via Wikimedia Commons

Caption: creeping bellflower root

Credit: marctasman, Flickr, Creative Commons

Caption: creeping bellflower upright stem

Credit: Department of Life Sciences, University of Trieste,  
Italy – CC BY-SA

Caption: garlic mustard field

Credit: Toronto Nature Stewards

Garlic mustard closeup

Credit: Tony Atkin, Wikimedia Commons

Garlic mustard flower

Credit: Peter O'Connor, Flickr, Creative Commons

Garlic mustard on forest floor

Credit: A. Delray, The Forest Vixen, Flickr on CC

Caption: A dense growth of goutweed

Credit: CC BY-SA 3.0

Caption: Variegated goutweed

Credit: Meneerke Bloem, CC BY-SA 3.0

Caption: Goutweed in bloom

Credit: Beko, CC BY-SA 4.0

Caption: Goutweed (*Aegopodium petiolata*)

Credit: Department of Life Sciences, University of Trieste,  
Italy – CC BY-SA

Caption: A path lined with invasive goutweed

Credit: Babij on Flickr



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## OHA Conservation and Environment Committee

*Submitted by Sandra Rammelaere*

### **From the OHA Conservation and Environment Committee:**

A plant hardiness zone map has existed in Canada since the 1960s, but a lot has changed since then – shifting climate conditions and new plant varieties, to name a few. On the Government of Canada website, Canadian Forest Service researchers Dan McKenney and John Pedlar, the plant hardiness experts, have helped update the hardiness zone map of Canada. “Thanks to efforts by scientists at Natural Resources Canada (NRCan), Canadian gardeners, farmers, growers and foresters from coast to coast to coast now have a new, more accurate source of information for making planting decisions. Compared with earlier versions, the new map shows a small but significant warming shift in many parts of the country, with many areas shifting by half a zone or more and some by as much as two full zones.”

Explore this new plant hardiness map at this link:

<https://natural-resources.canada.ca/stories/simply-science/zone-canada-s-plant-hardiness-zone-maps-website-get-update>

A further link shows 3 more in-depth sites. One section of the site is dedicated to plant hardiness zone maps. Another section presents maps and models that summarize the climatic requirements of thousands of plants from across North America. A final aspect of the site gathers data and provides summaries about plants that occur in **your** area. Find this link here:

<https://planthardiness.gc.ca/>



# Thunder Bay Horticultural Society

*Submitted by Vickie Bureau, President/ Acting Secretary*

*Photos courtesy of Susanne Bubnick, Erika North, Penny Berry and Vickie Bureau*

The Thunder Bay Horticultural Society members have been busy over the past few months, with our annual plant sale, tending our community gardens, participating in 2 flower shows and attending our booth at the 135<sup>th</sup> CLE.

## Plant Sale

The month of June started off with our annual plant sale. Many compliments were received from customers regarding the quality and variety of plants, along with the knowledge of our members on the different aspects of caring for the plants. The gently-used items and bake table were a great hit and will definitely be included in next year's sale.



## Society Meetings

Our members voted to purchase 2 cases of the OHA Holland Bulb order and are looking forward to planting and then patiently waiting for next spring's blooms.

The September meeting will be all about Flowers with the awarding of the 2 flower show winners and voting on the Flower Photo Contest, with the members voting for the colours: YELLOW and/or BLUE.

## Flower Shows

The **"Spring Flower Show"**, which was all about Bulbs, corms, rhizome tubers, spring flowering shrubs/ trees and Potted Plants. Members and guests were able to view the entries in the show after the coffee break at our June meeting. Participation was great for a spring flower show, one of which we haven't had in a long time, with 6 entrants and a total of 31 exhibits. Thank you Pat Izsak for judging, clerks, Cheryl Prokosh, Susanne Bubnick and all the other volunteers.



*Susanne Bubnick was our June volunteer of the month.*



*Some of the amazing entries in the Thunder Bay Horticultural Society Spring Flower Show*





*More of the entries in the Thunder Bay Horticultural Society Spring Flower Show*

Our **"Garden Celebrations, Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Show"** took place on August 23<sup>rd</sup> with 11 members participating and 133 entries. Thank you Theresa Love (Horticulture) and Marie Hynna (Design) for judging, clerks, Cheryl Prokosh, Susanne Bubnick, Christine Paul and Yvonne Faid, along with all the other volunteers who helped put this flower show together. The Flower Show winners will be announced at our September General Meeting.



*A special thank you to all the participants, without you we would not have all these beautiful entries for everyone to see.*





## Community Gardens

July found our members tending to the Community Gardens, with a great job done, despite the crazy weather in the city and area. Thank you Cheryl P. and Nadia B. for sprucing up the Art Gallery's new garden. Cheryl finished the garden by placing the rock edging, donating some plants from her garden, harvesting native roadside plants, purchasing some from Creekside Nurseries, getting a generous donation of plants from Canadian Tire, Intercity and then planting all the treasures, with all of this being done 2 weeks prior to the Annual Art Gallery Garden Tour on July 27<sup>th</sup>.

Maintenance of our 6 community gardens is still ongoing with members tending on the following schedule. Mondays alternating between the TBHS Dedication Garden at Oliver Road Community Centre and the TBay Community Auditorium, Tuesdays the Conservatory Pollinator garden, Wednesdays at Magnus Theatre and rounding out the week on Thursdays either at Cambrian Players or the TBay Art Gallery.

While attending these gardens, members were complimented on the great job being done by our Society for beautifying the city and our lime green T-shirts are worn with pride and the gardens are looking as beautiful as ever.



OHA Trillium - Autumn 2025





A new sign has been donated and placed in our Dedication Garden by Ian Robson in memory of his late wife, Shirley and all other members who have passed.

Thank you to those members who have been able to come out during the summer as we have 6 community gardens that we can be very proud of, great job everyone.

### Outreach

We started off August through one of our outreach events at the Canadian Lakehead Exhibition (CLE) Fair which ran from August 6<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup>. Our information/membership booth was decorated with 2 large planters from Magnus Theatre (one of our community gardens) and smaller containers from our members' gardens. The booth was well-attended with new and returning memberships sold, lots of questions and information passed on both to the public and our attending members. Thanks to those members who were able to assist at the booth. We are looking forward to next year, as we have been invited back and would like to thank the CLE for being one of our yearbook sponsors.



Society members attended the virtual OHA AGM July 19<sup>th</sup> via Webex with one member able to attend from Europe (Sweden), while on holidays.

Society members, Erika North, Cheryl Prokosh and Penny Berry created a beautiful floral arrangement which is proudly on display in the Thunder Bay Art Gallery's front lobby. Thanks go out to the Art Gallery for allowing us to exhibit the floral talent of our members, those who donated flowers from their gardens and Vanderwees Greenhouse for allowing these ladies to pick flowers from their wild garden.

*Article courtesy of Vickie Bureau, President, Thunder Bay Horticultural Society with pictures provided by Susanne Bubnick, Erika North, Penny Berry and Vickie Bureau.*





# LaSalle Horticultural Society

*Submitted by Jan Dugdale*

*Photos by Jan Dugdale*

Boy, where did the summer go? It's gone by so fast, but not fast enough for those that didn't like the heat. Our plants sure did take a beating this summer and some have constant watering jobs that didn't get the rain. LaSalle was hit and miss with a few good storms.

This summer, we participated again at the LaSalle Night Market where we met a lot of plant lovers. We sold plants and handed out nine membership forms. We also assisted at one of our local grade schools to help them re-vamp their courtyard. It sure wasn't easy in the heat but the kids assisted and it all came together. Twenty-six of the junior grade children from this school came for a field trip to our community garden where they planted their seedlings, worked on a bee hotel and netting for our climbing beans. It sure was fun.

We put in a great pollinator garden at the local library with children that joined up for our Pollinator Pathways seminar. The garden is doing great thanks to all those who participated.

Our bus trip to the Sarnia area was a sold-out event, full of laughs and games on the bus and lots of plants ended up under the bus. A great success in beautiful weather.

The Pot Luck Dinner night was a blast with members decorating garden hats in another great contest with prizes of course.

Bulbs from the OHA will be in soon and we are excited to have shared a case with Greater Windsor. Members are all looking forward to their plans of where to plant them for a spring show.

Trillium awards will be given out at our September meeting. Ten lucky homes that go all out get white metal trillium signs for their front gardens. This is our 14<sup>th</sup> year doing this.

Seedy Saturday, it will be our first in October. We will share the results in the winter edition.



*Night Market 2025*



*Kids in Courtyard*



*Plant Sale*



*Hat Contest*



# Haldimand Horticultural Society

*Submitted by Barbara Wilson, President*

*Photos by Barbara Wilson*

*“We can smell autumn dancing in the breeze.  
The sweet chill of pumpkin and crisp sunburnt leaves.”*

*Unknown*

Greetings from the Haldimand Horticultural Society – our members are looking forward to the season ahead. The summer was a busy one for our volunteers. The 6 community gardens and large pots situated in Caledonia, Hagersville and Cayuga were maintained all summer by our dedicated volunteers. Residents and visitors to our communities are appreciative of the colourful displays created.

The “Maintenance Monday” volunteers once again met each Monday this summer to weed and trim our community gardens. A great time to get our exercise and socialize too.

In June, we held an “Open Garden Tour”. Five beautiful gardens were open to the members to view. Each one was unique and visitors enjoyed walking through each property.

The HHS participated in the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Hagersville in June. We had a booth on the Market Square at which we handed out our information, gave away seed packages and visitors played our “Blinko Game.” A fun day for the community.

Our “Garden of the Month” program for June, July and August saw 6 gardens nominated from the communities of Caledonia and Hagersville. Congratulations to all our monthly winners as their gardens were spectacular.

Yearly bursaries are presented to graduating students at the three area secondary schools. A bursary has been presented to a student from McKinnon Park Secondary in Caledonia. Cayuga and Hagersville Secondary Schools ceremonies are in the Fall when students selected will receive theirs.

Our annual Picnic this year, held in August under sunny skies, was enjoyed by many members. The menu of Synder’s corn along with hamburgers, sausages, salads, desserts and a special HHS cake were delicious. Thank you to Elsie Eubank for hosting this special event.



*Large pot at the Hagersville Park*



*Member Marilyn Sutor’s garden from the June Open Garden Tour*



*HHS booth at the Hagersville 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*



## Haldimand Horticultural Society Upcoming Events:

- The HHS has entered the Group Display section, "Fireplace Mantle" at the Caledonia Fair in September – hoping to bring home a ribbon!
- Design Workshops (4) will be held in September, lead by Catherine McGill.
- We will be creating a new poppy banner for the Jarvis Cenotaph for November 11<sup>th</sup>. We thank those members who continue to crochet and knit poppies for this ongoing project. So far, we have created poppy displays at the cenotaphs in Caledonia, Hagersville and Cayuga.
- October General Meeting – our volunteer recognition evening. Meal is provided along with a guest speaker for a fun evening.
- Our annual Christmas urn and wreath workshops will be coming up in November.

We thank all our members for their continued support. Our membership has grown to 136 members.

*Happy Fall everyone!*

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# Leaside Garden Society

*Submitted by Carolyn Beange, Chair of the Leaside Garden Society Scholarship Committee*

The Leaside Garden Society (LGS) is pleased to announce the 2025 winner of its Founders' Scholarship, funded by our annual 'Magical Garden of Leaside' garden tour.

Bridget Leonard, a resident of Leaside, is a student in the University of Guelph's Bachelor of Science in Environmental Sciences Co-op program. She is also a previous winner of the 2024 *Leaside Garden Society's Founders' Scholarship*. This year's Scholarship committee agreed that, of a small pool of challenging candidates, Bridget was the most well-deserving once again.

Bridget has been awarded the Dean's Honour List for each of her four undergraduate years since 2021, and she has been recognized with the University's 2024 Co-op Student of the Year Award. She has worked on multiple ecological and horticultural projects in the past year to determine the feasibility of companion planting in hydroponic systems and has done a literature review on using plants to rehabilitate copper mine sites.

Most notably, she worked on Wellington County's Indigenous Gathering Circle, a land-based space for education, healing and community events. Due to the previous agricultural land use, there were concerns with residual pesticides, nutrient deficiencies, stunted growth and ponding issues. She used her understanding of how soils can impact plant growth success, nutrient uptake, plant-soil microbial interactions and how to use plants to manage air pollution, and for bioremediation, and the importance of creating pollinator-friendly gardens. She supported the development of two ecological monitoring plans, one for staff and one for the public, to monitor the site and its ecosystem health over time. Wellington County intends to implement the monitoring plans this year.

Throughout her life, Bridget has made volunteering a priority, both as a Peer Mentor with the School of Environmental Sciences and as an outdoor educator in her co-op term with the Island Natural Science School. The scholarship award will enable her to further invest in volunteering while she continues her studies to support her passion: the advancement of horticulture and plants, such as medicinal plants and agroforestry.

Bridget's commitment to community service and horticultural education and ecological activities is directly aligned with the LGS mission. In her application, she stated:

*"After attending two Leaside Garden Tours, I am amazed to see the passion for horticulture in Leaside and the generosity of community members to support the advancement of their neighbour's horticultural knowledge. The values of growing up in Leaside have positively influenced the person I am today... someone who loves the environment, is passionate about accessible green spaces and connecting communities together."*

We wish Bridget all the best as she enters the final year of her undergraduate studies.

# East York Garden Club Annual Flower Show 2025

*Submitted by Ursula Eley*

*Photos by Ursula Eley*

On August 16, 2025, I had the great pleasure of attending the East York Garden Club's flower show. It was really an all-day celebration of gardening, flowers and gardening friends.

Visitors were welcomed in the afternoon to feast their eyes on the many horticultural and decorative entries on display and to feast on yummy baked treats in the pretty café area. There were shopping opportunities to pick up new containers for floral design. Another crowd-pleaser was the opportunity to win beautiful bouquets handcrafted by members.

The skill and talents of the growers and designers were very evident. Even the junior members showed off their amazing design muscles. The young at heart, including Dorothy Cooke, 98, were there to cheer on the exhibitors and to check out all the wonderful garden specimens and arrangements. I was particularly impressed with the class for a collection of Native flowers and/or grasses. There were seven superb entries showing the beauty of our Native plants. Of course, the designs were also favourites of mine, like the class titled "Loon" asking for a pavé design. One included a very creative use of black licorice as an accessory.

Congratulations to all the winners and to everyone who participated in any way! What a wonderful show!



*Smiling faces of Christina and President Kim welcomed visitors to the show.*



*Brothers Hugh and Emmett with their prize-winning designs*



*Joyce Crook, 98, long time member and supporter of the shows really enjoyed seeing the wonderful entries.*





## East York Garden Club Annual Flower Show 2025



Vera Stoyanoff won several 'Best in Show' awards. Just a small selection of her entries in design and in horticulture classes.



A 'Best in Show' entry of garden flowers  
by Alan Barber



Entries in a class for Native flowers  
Photos by Ursula Eley



Entries in Pavé\* class  
titled 'Loon'



\*"Pavé – In floral design, pavé is a technique of placing groups of plant material that have been cut short, close together to form undulating mounds of colours, textures, shapes and sizes. Any plant material, e.g., flowers, foliage, cut stems, fruits, vegetables, moss, etc., may be used. In jewelry making, pavé is a term that refers to setting stones so close together that no metal shows." (Ontario Judging and Exhibiting Standards, page 147)



# Bath Gardening Club

## What's Happening in Bath

*Written by: Pat Chown, Kim Bonner, Carol Cartier, Laurie Minorgan and Sue Nilsson*

*Photography by: Sue Nilsson and Don Taylor*

### **We are 35 years and still growing!**

This is the time of year when our Gardening Club celebrates its year end and welcomes a new season with the installation of a slate of officers at the Annual General Meeting. The Club recognizes the incredible work completed by so many of our volunteers over the past year. Our Club, like our Bath community, is vibrant and excited about new opportunities to help create a more beautiful Bath, a place where we can learn and work together as a community.

#### **Our thanks go the 2024-2025 Executive:**

President: Sylvia Whalen

Secretary: Diane Nolting

Membership Secretary: Joanna Sperinck

Publicity Secretary: Jeri Love

Treasurer: Joanne Pearce and Marjory Brunsdon

Past President: Janice Firth

#### **Executive at Large:** Val Behm, Linda Cohen, Kim Bonner, Sandra Lowman

*In addition to the Executive, the Club recognizes the volunteers who took the lead for many of our activities and on-going projects.*

Village Gardens: Val Behm and Elaine Nicholson

Pollinator Garden: Kim Bonner and Carol Cartier

Sunday Market in Bath: Linda Cohen

Programme and Special Events: Janice Firth

Hospitality: Dawn Ford

Website: Sandra Lowman

Newsletter: Pat Chown and Laurie Minorgan

Photographer: Don Taylor

Gazebo Christmas Carol Singing:

Pat Chown, Don Taylor and Paul Jepson

Earth Day Bath Clean-up: Pat Chown

Fertilizer Mixing and Sales: Diane Nolting

In addition, our thanks to Laurie Minorgan for her assistance with grant writing and leading the village Christmas Decorations Team.

Kudos to the Bath residents for taking the time during their walks to provide positive comments to our village planters and weeders. This year has been particularly challenging as we try to keep the flowers in the village planters, barrels and gardens alive in what can be described as "drought conditions".

#### **Summer Garden Tours in Maitland**

In July, a number of Club members participated in two garden tours in the Maitland area. The Maitland Garden of Hope owned by Colleen O'Connell and David Cybulski is a private 1.5-acre garden. Colleen and David have organized their garden into a variety of themes: "a wildflower garden, orchid walk, woodland garden, numerous perennial gardens (approximately 5,000 perennials) with native species and a rhododendron and azalea garden". New plants and themes are being added as their gardens evolve. Their mission is "to provide a garden habitat that will aid in the conservation and enjoyment of our native butterflies, birds and honeybees." In addition to being a gardener, Colleen is a mixed media artist and sculptor. Her sculptures can be found throughout the gardens.

Van Berlo Gardens, owned by Mary Ann Van Berlo, a retired Master Gardener, is an impressive 2.4-acre garden

overlooking the St. Lawrence River. Mary Ann's front yard is all plants, all thriving in the sun! The backyard is a magnificent property overlooking the water and provides a home for many varieties of shade plants. Mary Ann installed a vegetable garden a few years ago and has been adding trees and shrubs throughout her property. When asked about this year's growing conditions, Mary Ann used the words "in drought". That being said, she does not water her plants. She feels that they will need to adapt to whatever environmental conditions we experience.

Thank you to Janice Firth for organizing these tours and for choosing a great place in Brockville for us to enjoy lunch.



*Photo by Don Taylor*

OHA Trillium - Autumn 2025





*Photos by Don Taylor*

## **Canada Day! Bath Gardening Club is in the parade!**

*Written by Laurie Minorgan*

After missing out on last year's parade, Club members were determined to be part of the 2025 Bath Canada Day celebration. Diane Nolting and Laurie Minorgan were joined by a talented, enthusiastic team: Roxanna Beddington, Kim Bonner, Heather Campbell, Carol Cartier, Heather Douglas, Sue Nilsson and Diana Wilkinson. The theme "Thirty-Five and Still Growing" honoured the Club's 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary and was highlighted with participation of eleven children and their parents pulling decorated wagons behind the float. Special thanks go to Diana Wilkinson and Jeremy Howarth for offering their driveway to decorate the float, Dave and Adam Bryant for pulling the float, Keith McIlwaine for providing the hay and Sun

Harvest Greenhouse for lending us the evergreens. Everyone involved agrees this was one of the best parades yet. We were proud to represent the Bath Gardening Club... so much so that plans for next year's float are already underway!

## **Village Gardens: A summer of rain followed by drought-like conditions! Our weeders never flinched!**

A huge thank you to Val Behm and Elaine Nicholson, our Village Garden Co-ordinators, for leading us through a tumultuous growing season. Bravo to our team of weeders who did their best to keep our village barrels, planters and gardens thriving during our difficult summer: Valerie Behm, Marnie Brough, Marje Brundson, Pat Chown, Ted and Cyndie Eedson, Betty Elliot, Janice Firth, Ann Johnston, Jeri Love, Sandra Lowman, Marilyn Martin, Lynne McDonald, Donna Mills, Elaine Nicholson, Wendy O'Neill, Monica Parry, Michelle Smythe, Joanna Spornick, Sheri Wenzl and Diana Wilkinson.



*Photos by Don Taylor*





Photos by Don Taylor

### Bath Gardening Club Sunday Market:

Kudos to Linda Cohen, Market Co-ordinator and Tarra Williamson, Market Manager for an amazing Sunday Market season. On average, 25 vendors participated, an increase from previous years. Music and activities for the children and families added to the wonderful Market experience. The Market is due to close for the season in late October. Check out one of the sites below for details. Don't miss out on the fresh vegetables that will soon be harvested.

Thanks to Tarra for creating the following three sites to keep us up-to-date with Market news.

Website: <https://sundaymarketinbath.com>

Instagram: [https://www.instagram.com/sunday\\_market\\_bath](https://www.instagram.com/sunday_market_bath)

Facebook: Sunday Market in Bath <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61558249633305>

### Pollinator Partnership's Bioblitz: June 16<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 *Written by Kim Bonner and Carol Cartier*

When we read about the Pollinator Partnership Organization's Bioblitz – a community-based science event where people work together across North America to find and identify as many species of pollinators as possible – we decided we wanted to get involved!

Our observations, once uploaded to the software called iNaturalist, would not only contribute valuable data for scientific research and conservation efforts\*, but would also tell us what kinds of pollinators and minibeasts were checking into our very own Bugtel.

Since we had never taken an inventory before, we had no idea which pollinators would come to visit, if any! Would they be attracted to the 25+ native plant varieties in the Pollinator Garden (PG) and leave with their bellies full of nectar and their furry bodies laden with pollen? Would they inspect the logs we drilled for them to see if they were the right size for their offspring and then fill them up with larvae and food?

Please read on to find out more about the pollinators and minibeasts who came to visit. We'll continue to find and identify more over the summer months as various flowers come into bloom at our Pollinator Garden.

To see our pictures and observations, please go to this link on iNaturalist:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/bath-pollinator-garden-and-bugtel-2025>

If you'd like to take and contribute pictures from the PG, please send a message along with your iNaturalist ID to [info@bathgardeningclub.ca](mailto:info@bathgardeningclub.ca) and we'll add you to the project.



To see pictures taken across North America during the Bioblitz, go here:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/pollinator-week-2025-pollinator-bioblitz>

\*More than 6,500 observations in iNaturalist have been used in scientific papers.



## **Beneath the Blooms:** *Written by Kim Bonner and Carol Cartier*

Can you figure out what these beautiful bees have in common, apart from dining on nectar and pollen at our Club's Pollinator Garden? They're all bees that use their jaws or front legs to tunnel deep into soft patches of ground where they live in secret homes, beneath the blooms.



1 Bi-coloured Sweat Bee  
on Catmint  
(Photo by Don Taylor)



2 Augochlorine Sweat Bee  
on Virginia Spiderwort  
(Photo by Don Taylor)



3 Hairy-banded Miner Bee  
on Ohio Goldenrod  
(Photo by Kim Bonner)

When most people think of bees, they picture honeybees buzzing away in their hives, visiting flowers and busily making honey. But did you know that here in Ontario, 90% of our native bees are solitary in nature, and 70% of those are living secluded lives in tiny burrows beneath our feet?

Yes, we are buried beneath your feet, please be careful where you step.

We are solitary and gentle because we don't have a hive to protect. We dig our tunnels and chambers where we lay our eggs. If you see small holes in patches of soil, sometimes with a tiny mound of earth around them, that's a clue that one of us is living there.

We are hardworking pollinators. We move from blossom to blossom, collecting pollen and nectar. We support Ontario's ecosystems, farms, and your backyard gardens.

How can you help us? Please leave some areas of soil bare and undisturbed in your garden. Do not use pesticides and choose a variety of native plants that bloom throughout the growing season.

We may be small and overlooked, but we play a massive role in keeping your landscapes vibrant. Please help protect us and celebrate our existence!

We'll leave you with a poem we created with a little help from ChatGPT. Help spread the word about us to a child, grandchild or anyone who's young at heart!

*"Feeding bees, butterflies and the future"*

## **Look! It's a Monarch in Striped Pyjamas** *Written by Sue Nilsson*

In early July, I had the opportunity to participate in "Exploration Days" sponsored by Loyalist Township and held at the Bath Museum. Several members of the Bath Gardening Club – Laurie Minorgan, Kim Bonner, Carol Cartier and I were available with presentations on pollinators and displays related to food, shelter and nesting habitat.

We had fun activities for the young ones attending including rock painting, butterfly puddlers and Monarch life cycle sensory pasta.

Of particular interest, near and dear to my heart, is the Monarch Butterfly! I was lucky enough to have found three eggs on my milkweed at home and was able to show newly hatched Monarch caterpillars as well as an egg to our captive audience. Folks in attendance as well as our Club members were mesmerized. I volunteered to

In sandy soil they make their home,  
Each tiny bee digs all alone.  
With pollen baskets on their knees,  
They feed the flowers, busy bees.  
They do not swarm, they rarely sting,  
But hum a gentle song of spring.  
Ontario blooms, both far and near,  
Because these miners work each year.



*Photo by Sue Nilsson*

send out progress pictures of the “Monarch in Striped Pyjamas” to the participants as the monarchs progressed on their 30-day journey toward maturity.

For those of you who have not had the experience or viewed my previous presentation, here are some pictures of their growth and subsequent evolution.



*Photos by Sue Nilsson*

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Loyalist Recreation Kick-off Event** *Written by Sue Nilsson*

On Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025, the Bath Gardening Club, for the second year in a row, was asked to participate in the Loyalist Recreation Kick-off Event. This Event provided an opportunity for community groups to highlight the variety of activities available to residents within Loyalist Township.

The Gardening Club chose to highlight Club activities at our Bugtel and Memorial Garden location behind Bath Public School.

Carol Cartier set up a pollinator display with a scavenger hunt available for those who wished to find various pollinator flowers and other items such as a butterfly puddler, toad abode and slug snug, etc.

Sue Nilsson provided an informative presentation of the life cycle of Monarch Butterflies and the need to plant milkweed in order for this species to survive. Information was also available on Swallowtail butterflies.

In addition, Sylvia Whalen helped young enthusiasts prepare and make seed bombs filled with milkweed seeds and also dill weed, a favourite of the Black Eastern Swallowtail. Participants were even encouraged to sing along with Sylvia as the balls were being formed.

New this year, was the installation of a Photo Poster Board, a fun opportunity for people young and old to have their picture taken with bee pollinators and flowers. Thank you to Brian Nilsson who put his carpentry expertise to work to create the poster board and to Sue Hewko who completed the board with her design and painting skills.

Our participation in the Kick-off Event proved to be very successful with approximately 75 people, adults and children of all ages, “checking out” what we had to offer.

### **We welcome you to connect with us!**

Bath Gardening Club welcomes all newcomers and visitors to our village. If you have recently taken up residence in Bath, we invite you to check us out on Facebook, Instagram and on our website. We are not expert gardeners; we learn from each other, we make friendships and we laugh a lot. We would love to connect with you.

Our next Gardening Club meeting will take place on September 18 at St John's Hall. We are changing our meeting day and time this year to Thursdays at 1:30. The following month, in October, the Club will hold its Annual General Meeting (AGM). The time, date and location will be confirmed on our Facebook Page, Instagram and website.

Our website: [bathgardeningclub.ca](http://bathgardeningclub.ca)

Our Facebook Page: Bath Gardening Club and Horticultural Society

Instagram site: [bathgardeningclub](https://www.instagram.com/bathgardeningclub)



# Garden Brockville

## Visits the Thousand Islands Watershed Land Trust (TIWLT)

*Written and submitted by Danielle Laurier, Co-President      Photos by Sandra Villeneuve*

We were graciously greeted by TIWLT volunteers at the Glen Elbe Learning Centre near Athens, Ontario on a fine evening in August.

TIWLT is a non-profit organization with a stated mission to “permanently protect land in the Thousand Islands Watershed region through acquisition or conservation agreements, and to achieve good land management through stewardship agreements and education.”

TIWLT is part of the UNESCO Frontenac Arch Biosphere which is an important land bridge linking the habitats of the Algonquin and Adirondack Park regions for migrating species and plays a crucial role in preserving biodiversity. Only 5% of this biosphere is protected in provincial and national parks, therefore land trusts play an additional important role in preserving the area for the continued migration of species.

This 111-acre property has had a storied past and has been renovated in the spirit of its unique history. This site was formerly home to an important mill. The waterfalls at the north end of the property provided water-wheel power for grinding grain and sawing the pine trees into building planks. Remains of the original stone and brick foundations are still visible as you walk the trails. The wooden barn at Glen Elbe was a stagecoach stop on the main Brockville to Westport plank road. The 200-year-old farmhouse has been restored and maintained. The house had a porch and sitting room to serve stagecoach guests refreshments.

Glen Elbe is a place for their experiential learning programs. The Centre also hosts school children of all grades for real-world learning classes.





We toured the pollinator and heritage vegetable gardens, the climate-change arboretum, greenhouses, and tree-planting area. The evening was capped off with refreshments and an interesting presentation about TIWLT-led projects and the hard work they have done to protect and conserve the natural beauty of this area.

***This is a place that's worth visiting and an absolute must-see if you are ever in the area.***





# Climate Legacy: Five Ways to Protect Yourself (and your garden) from Ticks

*Submitted by Sandra Rammelaere*

*Written by Eric Murphy for our OHA Climate action committee.*

They're smaller than a dime, have eight legs and, suddenly, they're everywhere. Ticks used to be little more than an occasional nuisance for most Ontarians, something to check for after a hike in the woods or straying through tall grasses. Today, as a warming climate allows them to survive farther and farther north, in the warm months, ticks and Lyme disease feel like a nearly-ubiquitous threat. It's gotten so bad that many of us have gotten used to putting on long pants and sleeves any time we garden and then doing a full tick check or even showering once we've finished outside.

So what's a dedicated gardener – or any outdoorsy person – to do? For this edition of the Trillium Newsletter, OHA and Climate Legacy are partnering to share some important tips to protect yourself (and your garden) from ticks.

## **1. Wear the Right Clothes and Wear them Correctly**

Chances are you've heard contradictory advice about what to wear outdoors. Some recommend light clothing to make ticks stand out and others swear by dark clothing because ticks are less attracted to it overall. While light clothes do indeed make skittering ticks easier to spot, a 2005 study that had participants wade through tick-infested woods, found that test subjects dressed in light clothes came away with roughly 20 more ticks on them per person. So when it comes to overall tick prevention, dark clothes appear to be best.

Regardless of the colour of your clothes, when you're walking through an area with active tick populations, you should cover as much of your skin as possible, and tuck your shirt into your pants and pantlegs into your socks to make it harder for ticks to reach your skin. As an added layer of protection, you can wrap double-sided tape around your ankles to catch ticks migrating up from your shoes.



Tick

*Photo Credit: Erik Karits*



Grass

*Photo Credit: Gosiak 1980*

## **2. Skip the Pesticides**

Some gardeners take a shock and awe approach to tick management, dousing their gardens and yards in pesticides. This can be effective in the short term, though it's not guaranteed to get every tick. You also risk endangering other creatures, from more benign insects that bring life to your garden, to beloved pets. Additionally, heavy rainfall can wash the pesticides straight from your garden and into local water sources where it can cause even more harm.

To lighten pesticide use, some advocate for a more targeted approach, spraying at the border between your more garden/lawn and any forest or tall grasses beyond, to create an inhospitable barrier ticks can't cross. A greener alternative to that approach is creating a 'mulch moat', a three-foot stretch ideally containing woodchips, which create a hot, dry environment ticks can't survive in. That division can also be helpful to show guests where not to cross in order to avoid ticks.

## **3. Short Grass Helps in a Pinch, but Rewilding is Better Long-Term**

As mentioned above, most ticks – including Lyme disease-carrying deer ticks – can't thrive in a hot and dry environment. That means they love long luscious grass that provides shade and moisture. To make your lawn less hospitable to them, most recommend shearing grass down to three inches. This length makes it harder for ticks to thrive, but won't kill your lawn like a shorter cut might.

To quickly make life harder for ticks, short grass is a good solution, however, there's a major drawback longterm, which is that short grass is the perfect environment for white-footed mice. These mice carry ticks and play a major role in spreading Lyme disease amongst them. These mice love short lawns, and many of their predators avoid turf grass for more wild, wooded areas. So in the long term, one of the best ways to reduce ticks and the vectors for Lyme is actually to rewild your yard, letting native grasses, shrubs and trees thrive. This expands the territory of predators like foxes and possums, who not only hunt the mice but also dine on ticks, reducing the overall population dramatically over time and over a larger area, in a way that a few lots of uninhabitable turfgrass simply won't.

## **4. Watch out for Japanese Barberry – Instead, Cultivate Plants that Ticks Hate**

Many gardeners plant Japanese Barberry for its vibrant leaves and berries. Many of us know that it's invasive, but you might be surprised just how much ticks love it. Barberry provides an ideal humid environment for sheltering ticks and in particular deer ticks. One Connecticut study found that woods with uncontrolled Barberry had 120 Lyme-infected ticks per acre, whereas areas without any Barberry at all had only 10 infected ticks per acre.

In place of Barberry, which may be turning your garden into a ticks' paradise, consider plants that repel ticks and their host mammals. East Coast biologists at a recent tick-proofing conference recommend cultivating "rosemary, chrysanthemum, mint, lemongrass, sage, lavender, garlic, onions, marigold, petunias, brown-eyed susan and juniper."

## **5. Finally, Focus on the Root of our Tick Problem; Climate Change!**

For many Ontarians, local ticks weren't a significant problem even a few years ago, but climate change is allowing them to quickly spread to once-inhospitable areas. The warmer our province gets, the more widespread they'll become and the longer they'll last each season. The tips we outlined above will help you reduce local ticks and better protect yourself, but they won't matter if our province becomes more and more tick-friendly year-round.

To stop climate change in its tracks, we need to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and the many products made with them, including unnecessary single-use plastics. Turning to renewables instead and cultivating a healthy, vibrant garden are two important steps you can take to make a difference, but there's so much more you can do! To get started, keep an eye out for future climate-focused stories in the Trillium Newsletter, or sign up for the seniors-focused Climate Legacy newsletter, we share new stories and climate-focused events every month. Have any questions about this article, or climate action in general? Feel free to email us at [climatelegacycanada@gmail.com](mailto:climatelegacycanada@gmail.com).



# Schomberg Horticultural Society

Submitted by Susan Zweep

Photo credits Eleonora Schmied and Susan Zweep



## Hello from the Schomberg Horticultural Society!

*"The dragonfly's journey is a reminder that life is a beautiful and ever-changing adventure." (Author unknown)*

We hope that this hot summer has been delightful for your gardens and restorative for your spirits. The heat waves are more tolerable when we remind ourselves of the past cold winter!

Our May meeting certainly did live up to its topic "Naturalistic Landscapes that go beyond the Visual"! What a fantastic presentation! Randy Tumber showed us stunning before and after photos as he narrated the journey of garden transformations, while encouraging the use of natural elements, vantage points and the "fourth dimension" of design – scent and sound – in garden design. He reminded us that "nature is always in style"! Eleonora's introductory speech was



Mary Bachlow's Garden



a heartfelt voice of appreciation for the many volunteers who made the 90th Anniversary celebration so special.

The topic of June's meeting, presented by farmer and master arborist Owen Goltz, was "Plant Health, Biology beats Chemistry" where we learned how biochar can be used to improve water and soil quality.

Despite oppressive heat and personal injuries, Mary Bachlow warmly welcomed our members into her garden where we were impressed with her white lilies, hollyhocks, hosta collection and vegetable garden. A tasty lunch featuring Mary's famous carrot cake and banana bread completed this delightful garden visit.

Eleonora Schmied generously hosted our August Board meeting at her home followed by a delicious appreciation luncheon. Even on a rainy day, her garden looked lush and lovely.

Several of our members enjoyed the picturesque outdoor venue at Pine Farms Orchard where they attended the theatrical performance "Tuesdays With Morrie", presented by the King Theatre Company.

Our members were welcomed into another member's garden in August. Mary Tzarik treated us to an incredible spread and a leisurely afternoon in her tranquil garden. The love of gardening, the enjoyment of fine hospitality and the company of like-minded people was evident. We truly appreciate all that our members contribute to the success of our Society.

In September, we are looking forward to learning about "Garden Myths" from our guest speaker, Robert Pavlis, gardening expert and author. He will dispel several gardening myths in his presentation filled with pictures of gardens and flowers.

As our garden clean-up finishes for the year our attention often turns to house plants. Darryl Cheng is joining us at our October meeting to present "House Plants – Most Important, Least Understood". He will reveal the secrets to understanding light with a particular focus on how it applies to houseplants – comparing natural light and grow lights.

November brings our much-anticipated Banquet and Annual General Meeting. Elaborate charcuterie boards with homemade jellies together with decadent desserts from our members are wonderful complements to a catered meal. Winners of the Flower Shows and the Annual Photography Contest will be announced. This will be a great opportunity to welcome our new Board Members.

*Susan Zweep and Margaret Rudnitski, on behalf of the Schomberg Horticultural Society*



*Mary Tzarik's Garden*



# Stoney Creek Garden Club

*Submitted by Marian Heil*



## The Gardens at Erland Lee Museum

In keeping with our Club's mission to encourage the planting of trees, shrubs and flowers in our community, gardens have been created and cared for on the grounds of the Erland Lee Museum. Members of the Stoney Creek Garden Club have put in many hours to make the gardens flourish. Kudos go out to Rose Marie Mueller and Martha Novoselac who have been especially active in looking after them this year. Special thanks also to Elisabeth Damiani and Rhonda Clarke for lending a hand and to Gwen Allan for generously donating plants.



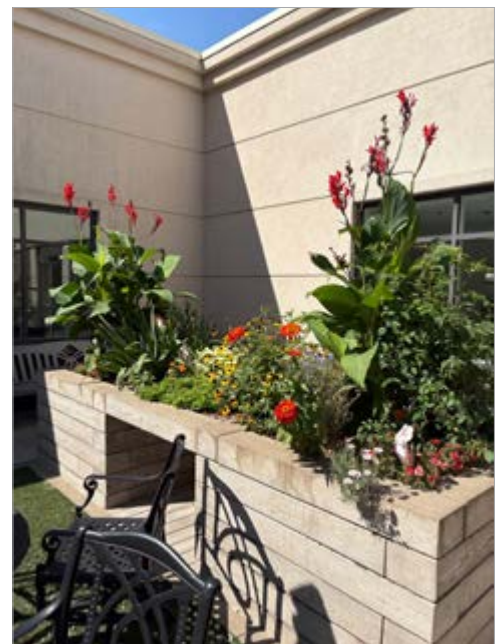
*Photos of the gardens at Erland Lee Museum by Rose Marie Mueller*





## The Gardens at Seasons Retirement Community in Stoney Creek

The residents and staff at the Seasons Memory Section are also thrilled with the gardens planted and maintained this year at that location. Marian has received many kind compliments from people at the home and the residents have especially enjoyed the Tom Thumb tomatoes, which the staff have been using in fresh salads! Gratitude goes out to Marian and Bob Heil, Nancy and Rob Jessup, Diane Bloomfield, Brian Wright and Larry Agge for all their hard work in creating and tending these gardens. Your efforts have truly brightened our community.



*The gardens at Seasons Retirement Community in Stoney Creek Photos by Marian Heil*



# Tillsonburg Horticultural Society

*Submitted by Sue Healey*

*Photos by Pat Zeyen*

The Tillsonburg Horticultural Society has been busy for the first half of 2025. We've offered excellent, monthly speakers, guided tours and buying trips all while tending to the many gardens around our ever-growing community.

The Society has expanded our membership to well over 200 and increased the size of the Board of Directors with two new "Directors at Large" positions to facilitate our continued legacy planning. Our expanded presence at local wellness fairs, festivals and other events has given us a chance to introduce our many new residents to our Society and share some of the many benefits of membership.

In February, our members enjoyed two of those benefits on a cold, raw evening. Our annual Seed Exchange coincided with speaker Robert Butts' topic on how to manage urban soils. The seed exchange was a great success and, as always, full of surprises. This year, we ended up with a whole table of native plant species, bare root plants and dried bulbs, all of which were quickly snapped up.

Spring brought our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Panel of Knowledge and once again Matt Fenn, Cheryl Losch and Jim Mabee gave our members custom advice to their gardening questions. This has become one of our most anticipated events of the year. Our speakers ranged from Hemp and all of its applications to a behind-the-scenes tour of the Chelsea Flower Show. It was all in preparation for our spring buying tour through Wyoming, Sarnia, Petrolia and Strathroy. This year's trip was punctuated by two private garden tours: a country property with mature trees and restored buildings and, just down the road, an elegant farmhouse garden. Both were filled with enough plants to whet our appetites for the amazing and varied nurseries visited throughout the day. Lunch and our dauntless driver, Stan sent us on our way home, satisfied and stuffed to the rafters with treasure.

The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Plant Auction and Sale was once again a feat of organization, teamwork and support. Our volunteers worked their magic to turn a bare auditorium into a fully stocked auction with baked goods, containers, vegetables, herbs, home décor and so much more, all within hours. And once again, our local businesses contributed to our auction with generosity and ingenuity. As always, the auction was open to the public and well attended by many new faces.

Just before our summer break, speaker Kevin Kavanaugh gave an important and excellent presentation on invasive species. Giving us all much to think of over the summer about the challenges we face from these plants and the steps we can take to avoid purchasing and planting them. This and so much more were topics to be heard on the members-only garden tour held in mid July. Four of our members, each with unique gardens, invited us to tour their private spaces. An evening filled with flowers and plants and people who want to talk about them – not an unpleasant way to spend a few hours. Afterwards, our local garden centre, The Tillsonburg Garden Gate, hosted us for refreshments and special discounts in their newly-renovated greenhouses.

So we didn't lose sight of our gardening friends over the busy summer, the Society's midsummer social was held in August. This year, at a lovely property aptly named "The Garden of Eden", we came together with our loved ones. Food and drink, games and laughter were shared in the shade of the graceful trees and surrounded by beautiful garden beds.

We'll be back to regular duties come September. We'll be ready for talk of elevated parks and orchids and all that is yet to come in the garden.



*Buying tour 2025 goodies*



*Plant Auction 2025 volunteers*



*Tillsonburg Horticultural Society's Summer Social 2025*

## It's still just dirt...

*Sue Healey, Tillsonburg Horticultural Society*

*Photos by Sue Healey*

It is the song of a little brown bird that tells me summer has come. On a summer morning, it's a Northern House Wren that I hear in the trees surrounding my home. Its clear repeating trill is a sure sign that long, warm days are here to stay. Growing up, it was the lonely cry of Killdeer, echoing out over the sandy fields of Norfolk county that told me summer was here. Later, it was Bluebirds liltling through an old orchard that gave me the news. Always, it's been the birds to herald the seasons and supply a soundtrack to them throughout the year. As my garden has matured, my appreciation for what the birds add to it has only grown. Birdlife brings so many elements to a garden: sight, sound and drama. They are a key element to a healthy ecosystem, providing pest control, seed disbursement and soil enhancement. My garden welcomes both common and rare species and I value each one. All worthy of attention and once noticed are hard to ignore.

Long before we see them, a bird's song lets us know they've arrived. The call of the Red-Winged Blackbird to herald the spring, the hooting of owls deep in the night, the soft cooing of a covey of doves, camouflaged in the rock garden. This year, a pair of sleek and shadowy Catbirds conducted their courtship under our witch hazel. Each evening, the male serenaded his mate with a song, long and complicated. Sometimes a melody, sometimes a wail and other times, a meow just as its common name implies. There are other songs to be heard with morning and evening being peak times. There is the siren alarm of Cardinals, the chattering of Sparrows, Chickadees and Juncos, Woodpeckers, Nuthatches and ones I haven't yet named. Blackbirds signal the morning with a mechanical clockwork whir and the dusk sung into being by the Robins. Once you've begun listening, new and unfamiliar calls are quickly discerned. They can be just as quickly identified using widely available technology.



*Hummingbird in Crocosmia*

The melodies of birds would be enough reason to admire them, but they come in so many shapes and sizes, in a range of colours and patterns that it dizzies the imagination. It is no surprise that bird-watching is a passion unto itself. In all parts of the world, there are birds to be seen and heard. Our own area is filled with a variety of songbirds,



raptors, owls and much more. From dusky to rainbow, bird plumage adds colour to rival the blooms in the garden. Jewel-toned hummingbirds and glowing orange Orioles are easily lured to the garden with nectar-producing trees and plants. There are others as colourful, finches both purple and gold, their schoolyard chatter as cheerful as their plumage. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, glossy, blue-black Grackles and barred Blue Jays are some of the most striking to visit my yard. But they need not be boldly hued to be beautiful. Stripes and streaks or patches of exciting red or orange are common among woodpeckers, plovers and sparrows. Downy Woodpeckers are easily spotted in bold black and white, topped off with a rakish tuft of eye-catching red. The Catbird is grey velvet with a rusty orange rump and the Golden-crowned Kinglet sports black brows and flashy crest. Even the much-maligned Starling exhibits spectacular plumage; iridescent blues and greens overlaid with delicate speckles of white. What you might spy depends on your area and tree cover and what you're offering. While migration adds variety in spring and fall, birds can be enjoyed here year-round.

Best of all, birds add a touch of wildness. Their untamed nature brings drama and interest to the garden. There are courtships, turf wars, losses and victories and most of it done on the wing. Hummingbirds are small and lovely but incredibly territorial. The sword fights between these winged jewels rival the Shakespearean duel. We have cheered for the one-legged Robin who persevered through one long summer. We are seized with excitement by the speed and skill of the Red-tailed Hawk as it dives to snatch a reckless rabbit. Crows mate for life, as do Swans and Canadian Geese. I have stood in awe as a flock of swans flew overhead, listening to their air move over their wings. It's all there if you just pay attention.

Drawing birds to your garden or backyard is as simple as adding a bit of habitat. Habitat is broadly a place for birds to live and more precisely, a place to find clean water, shelter from weather and predators, a place to find food and raise their young. While we may not be able to provide every aspect of a bird's habitat, it's easy to add one or two elements to most gardens.

Water is one of the easiest features to add and happens to be one of the most important. My garden holds various pools of water; birdbaths and saucers that I replenish daily and they use them all.

Shelter is next in line of importance and again, easy to incorporate into most yards. Trees and shrubs, both evergreen and deciduous provide shelter in heat and cold, food and nesting sights. Native trees and shrubs offer the best solutions to both birds and gardeners but even hybrid varieties, chosen for height or fruit production, can benefit wildlife. Cedar, Sumac, Oak and Spicebush are good examples and readily available.

Perennials and annuals offer nectar to hummingbirds and seed to finches, chickadees and other small birds. Rudbeckia and echinacea are favourites of goldfinches and sparrows, Monarda and Crocosmia bring hummingbirds until the frost. If plants are not an option, there are a myriad of feeder and food choices.

As always, good research is advised to achieve success. The entertainment provided by the birds that come to visit the feeders is well worth the expense of maintaining them.

Summer is a fine time to listen and watch the birds in the garden. The Tillsonburg Horticultural Society is on summer break to give our members a chance to do just that. If you happen to be a fortunate member, the August Social is the highlight of the year. The birds will be singing a welcome at 'The Garden of Eden' on August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Regular meetings resume in the fall.



*Echinacea*



*Oak*



*Sumac*

*Photos by Sue Healey*

# Ancaster Horticultural Society

Established in 1961

*Rhu Sherrard, AHS Publicity Director 2025-2026*

*Photos by Betty Howitt and Rhu Sherrard*

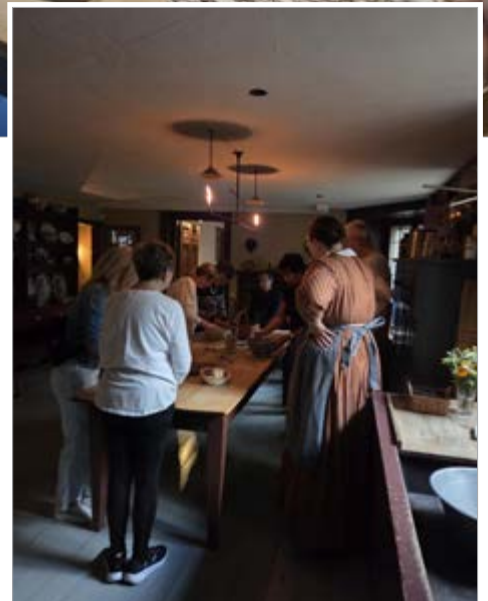
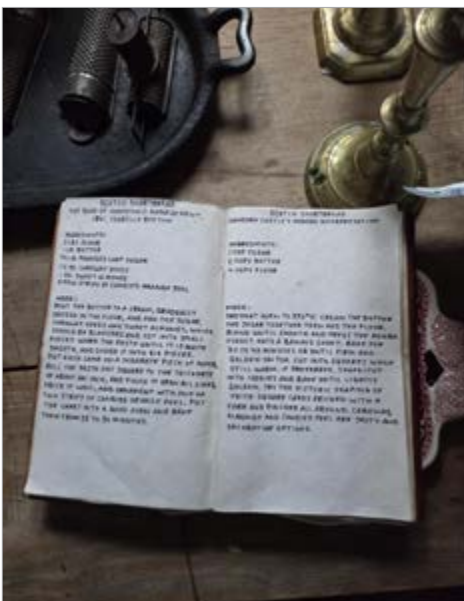
We had a lovely, busy, hot, dry summer, enjoying the various projects in our village and our volunteers are making a difference regardless.

The Ancaster Horticultural Society's 'Strawberry Social' was held in June, 2025 and was a delicious success. Everyone who attended enjoyed fresh strawberries, shortcake and real whipped cream. It was also a 'Members' Share' night, where folks showcased their talents, crafts or hobbies. We are very fortunate to have a group of very talented members and they did not disappoint!

Tables were set up around the Old Town Hall to showcase each participant's hobby, including knitting, quilting, photography, cross-stitch and a collection of egg cups.

Remembrance Day poppies from St. John's Church, artistry, miniature dollhouse with accessories and dot mandala artwork. At the end of the evening, 9 strawberry plants were raffled off.

The Historic Dundurn Castle outing which took place on Thursday, August 21, was a lot of fun. There were 22 people in attendance. The visit began with an introduction by our host, Cameron, who was in costume, at the Coach House – an L-shaped building located between the parking lot and the castle. During the 19th century, many servants were employed in large homes like Dundurn to perform various tasks including cleaning, polishing and cooking. Assisted by Dundurn's Cook Demonstrator, Fiona, we worked together to make a traditional recipe in the historic MacNab's castle kitchen using ingredients from the kitchen garden. Participants had the opportunity to explore, with Cameron, over 40 rooms and discover the history of the MacNab family and the servants who lived and worked there. The conclusion of the visit was exploring the lovingly restored Historic Kitchen Garden, where Jamie, who was also in costume, and other staff grow over 200 heirloom varieties of fruits, vegetables, herbs and flowers for use in the historic kitchen. Thank you, Betty Howitt, for the article contribution.



*Photos of Dundurn Castle by Betty Howitt*

OHA Trillium - Autumn 2025





*Photos of Dundurn Castle by Betty Howitt*

**Trillium Awards:** The annual Ancaster Trillium Awards were presented on August 19, 2025, at the Ancaster Town Hall. The event was a celebration of the beautiful gardens found in the village of Ancaster. There were 225 gardens judged this year, with 110 Trillium Awards presented. There were 3 Diamond winners (15 years), 7 Ruby winners (10 years), 10 Gold winners (5 years), and 90 White Trilliums. There were 39 volunteer AHS judges. Thank you to the AHS Trillium committee members for hosting the event.

**Our upcoming events include the following:**

- September 16, 2025, Nick Winkelmoen, will present on The Past, Present and Future of Trees.
- October 21, 2025, Drew Goddard will present on Breeding and Growing Orchids: A Hobbyist's Journey

Our events are held at the Ancaster Town Hall, Ancaster, Ontario. If you are in the area or planning a visit. Please visit <https://ancasterhort.org/>. We can also be found on Facebook and Instagram.

September 2025 Field Trip to Generations Marketplace and Learning Centre, located at 200 Concession 13, Townsend, Simcoe, Norfolk County, Ontario and Heidi Mungal, who hosted our February meeting on Modern Day Homesteading.

<https://www.generationsmarketplace.ca/>



*AHS Trillium Awards Photos by Rhu Sherrard*

***"Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower."** Albert Camus*





*Fieldcote Memorial Park & Museum Photos by Rhu Sherrard*

# In Loving Memory of Peter Vallentin

## Anthony Peter Vallentin Obituary

Early Saturday, August 2, 2025, Anthony Vallentin died peacefully surrounded by the love of his life of 51 years, Jan Vallentin, and family at the Juravinski Hospital in Hamilton, Ontario. Anthony revelled in being part of the Copetown Chippers. He enhanced the Ancaster community as a dedicated volunteer at the Ancaster Horticultural Society, the Fieldcote Memorial Park & Museum, St. John's Anglican Church, the Rockton Agricultural Society, the Willowgrove Long Term Care Home and Ancaster Community Services.



*Autumn Vibes Photos by Rhu Sherrard*





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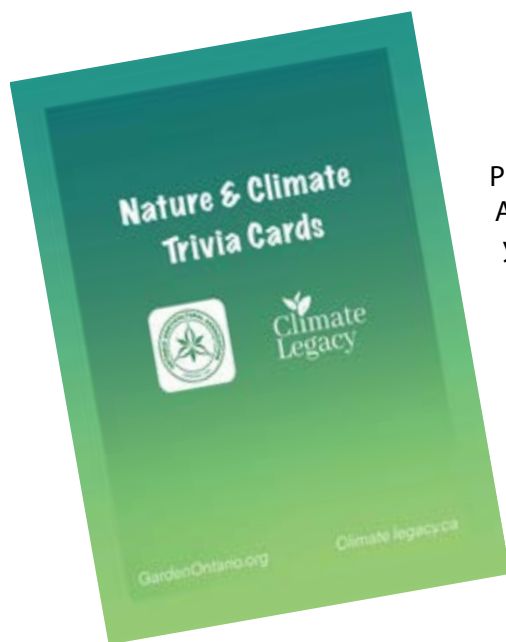


## Ontario Judging and Exhibiting Standards

FOR FLORAL DESIGN AND HORTICULTURE

Are you and Exhibitor at Flower and Vegetable Shows?  
Or would you like to be? This book is what the judges use when choosing the best! If you are a volunteer to set up the shows, choose categories or just an observer, the information in this publication is invaluable.  
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2019 Ontario Judging and Exhibiting Standards  
FOR FLORAL DESIGN AND HORTICULTURE (OJES 2019). \$12  
<https://gardenontario.org/gardenshop/>



## OHA Trivia Questions and Cards

Please enjoy these climate change trivia cards produced by the Climate Action sub-committee to use at meetings as ice-breakers, fillers while your speaker is getting ready (or is late showing up!), or for friendly team competition. There is a printed paper version that can be read off by a "moderator", or there is a colour version that can be printed double-sided and played game style. These cards can be found on the GardenOntario website at:

<https://gardenontario.org/oha-conservation-and-environment-committee-trivia/>

If you'd like to download the files via a Zip File, please use the link:

<https://gardenontario.org/wp-content/uploads/Trivia.zip>



## Legacy Giving

*Submitted by Sandra Mazur*

*Photo by Kelly Taylor*

Remembering the Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA) in your will is an admirable way to perpetuate eco-friendly horticultural practices and continue promoting "Keeping Ontario Beautiful".

The Planned Legacy Giving Program streamlines the charitable giving process by managing administrative tasks such as issuing cheques, record-keeping and providing tax receipts for each account.

The OHA recommends consulting with your family and professional advisors to understand the advantages of a Charitable Giving Program or Legacy Giving. Should you choose to designate the OHA as your charitable organization, we would be honoured to support your passion for gardening in any manner you prefer.

Additionally, we ask that you have a conversation with your family members in advance so that when they are asked what charity they might like to have memorial donations directed towards, they consider your passion for gardening and your connection with the Ontario Horticultural Association. All donations made to the Ontario Horticultural Association in memory of a loved one can be receipted for tax purposes. You can request that the OHA Treasurer notify the family of a memorial donation by including the family's contact information with the donation.

If you wish, you can designate a charitable donation to be directed towards our *NEW Scholarship Fund*. All donations directed towards the scholarship fund will help us achieve our goal of continuing our scholarship fund and, with the future in mind, possibly increasing the number of scholarships we can offer to our members each year.

<https://gardenontario.org/donate/>





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## Insurance Questions?

**Contact: Dean Ribey**  
**Non-Profit and Charity Insurance**

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[dean\\_ribey@cooperators.ca](mailto:dean_ribey@cooperators.ca)

Additional information regarding the OHA insurance plan can be found at:

<https://gardenontario.org/resources/#insurance>





Complete our online donor form: <https://gardenontario.org/donation-form/> or complete this form and mail to: Ontario Horticultural Association, 1812 Haiku Street, Ottawa, ON K2C 3H2

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Name of deceased person:      Year of death:

District No. *(if applicable)*:      This information will be added to the OHA In Memoriam Book  
Do you wish to have the deceased person's name acknowledged at the OHA convention?      Yes      No

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