

Keeping Ontario Beautiful

Trillium

Ontario Horticultural Association

Summer 2024



Photo by Sue Healey, Tillsonburg Horticultural Society



Port Sunlight

David Austin Rose



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Editor's Message



Thank you to the contributors who have exceeded expectations to make this a great issue from the first page to the last page. How to choose which article to look at first? Fortunately, I didn't have to decide because I read them in the order that they were emailed to me.

Everyone's gardens are growing, the trees have shade and the need for those warm clothes, mittens, hats and boots seem far in the future.

The Plant Sales were wonderful and some clubs/societies are enjoying organized tours of local gardens. Members of the Pelham Garden Club enjoyed a June excursion to few local places and the day was excellent. Here are a couple of photos that I took at the Val Fleming Pollinator Garden in Beamsville.

Laura Masterson
editor@gardenontario.org



The *Trillium* is the quarterly newsletter of the OHA

This newsletter is for all members of all Horticultural Societies and Garden Clubs in Ontario in every district. Here is where you'll find the latest gardening news. 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 2024:

September 1 – Autumn issue
December 1 – Winter issue

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

To send articles and photographs: Articles should be emailed in Word format, LibreOffice 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 will be happily accepted. 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
Laura Masterson, OHA *Trillium* Editor

For photographs that include minors, signed parental permission must be given. You don't need to send the signed papers, but we do need to know that they exist.

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.

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>

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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 as well as post secondary scholarships.



Trillium

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OHA 50/50 DRAW

Submitted by Marian Heil, OHA Treasurer



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50/50 Draw

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Next Draw: July 14, 2024

For your chance to win, visit
<https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/ontario-ha>
 Before July 14, 2024
Draw will take place at the convention on the Sunday morning



Nominations Report 2024

To: All Affiliated Societies/Clubs
From: The Nominating Committee
Date: May 15, 2024
RE: NOMINATIONS RECEIVED

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Please be advised of the following:

As per OHA By-Law 6, 6.4,

Nominees for Office should be a past or present director, having served on the Board for at least two years, or a past or present holder of an executive position on the Board.

As per OHA By-Law 6, 6.5,

A nomination must include the following information:

- Name of the Office and the nominee
- A signed statement of the nominee's acceptance
- A brief outline of the experience and qualifications of the nominee
- A nomination must be proposed and seconded by current executive of an Affiliated Society/Club.

Elections will be held on Sunday July 14th, 2024

As of this date, I offer the following information regarding nominations that have been received:

For the Position of OHA President:

- Sharlene Desjardins has been properly nominated to run for this position at the 2024 AGM. All documentation as noted in By-Law 6, 6.5 has been received by OHA Secretary, Kelly Taylor.

For the Position of OHA Vice-President:

- Vicky Culbert has been properly nominated to run for this position at the 2024 AGM. All documentation as noted in By-Law 6, 6.5 has been received by OHA Secretary, Kelly Taylor.

For the Position of OHA Second Vice-President:

- Sandra Mazur has been properly nominated to run for this position at the 2024 AGM. All documentation as noted in By-Law 6, 6.5 has been received by OHA Secretary, Kelly Taylor.
- Kathleen Lang has been properly nominated to run for this position at the 2024 AGM. All documentation as noted in By-Law 6, 6.5 has been received by OHA Secretary, Kelly Taylor.

Nominations, properly proposed, may be made from the floor during the election process at the 2024 AGM.

Thank you

Charles Freeman
Immediate Past President
Ontario Horticultural Association
Chair, Nominating Committee

Sharlene Desjardins for a Second Term as OHA President



Sharlene Desjardins

Greetings!

I have been nominated and have accepted the nomination put forward by the Pembroke Horticultural Society for the position of President of the Ontario Horticultural Association for a second term. I have been within the umbrella of the OHA since I joined the Deep River Horticultural Society in 2012. Within the society I held many positions including President, Past President, Membership Chair, Yearbook Designer and Editor, Photo Competition Chair and Spring Flower Show Chair. In 2017, I also joined the Pembroke Horticultural Society.

I am married and have three children, two sons and a daughter. During their formative years, throughout winter and summer, we travelled extensively for hockey and figure skating and therefore, my introduction to gardening happened later in life. I worked full time for Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (now Canadian Nuclear Laboratories) for twenty-six years and I am currently retired and loving it.

Although I have been a member of the Skate Canada Eastern Ontario Board of Directors and an executive member of several other clubs and organizations, I would like to speak to you about my journey with the OHA.

Aside from being a member of the Deep River Horticultural Society, in 2015, I was asked to take over the position of interim Assistant District Director for District 2. I was elected to that position in 2016 and in the spring of 2017, the same year I joined the Pembroke Society, I was elected to the position of District Director. I found the position to be very rewarding and fulfilling and decided that I wanted to learn more about the organization.

In April of 2019, I resigned from the position of District Director to pursue the position of 2nd Vice President which I was filling on an interim basis. At the July 2019 convention, I was elected to that position and held it until the 2021 convention when I was elected to the position of 1st Vice President. On July 23rd, 2023, I was elected to the position of President of the OHA.

I also hold the position of OHA Awards Coordinator which I find very rewarding. I appreciate all the work and research that societies/clubs and individuals include when applying for grants and awards. The time and effort that everyone across the province puts into beautifying their communities and educating their members and residents is amazing and makes for some very interesting reading and potential vacation destinations.

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

During my time in the organization, I have learned a great deal and have become a better public speaker. I was a part of the Code of Conduct Committee for a term and spent a brief period of time on the Judging Committee. I Chair and fully participate in the monthly Officer and Finance Meetings where I continue to learn new things. I have prepared a power point presentation on awards and I participate in our educational and earth day events. I regularly participate in the creation of new guidelines and in creating standards for the Association as well as guides for the Districts, Societies and Clubs. For example, I have written the OHA Website Guidelines with input from the Officers and a society member and have completed revisions to the Awards and Grants booklet with input and feedback from the committee.

Although my gardening life began late, I find it to be calming and relaxing and all the people I have met have been helpful and friendly. We are an amazing group of people right across Ontario doing wonderful things for the environment and our own communities.

I am very excited to continue our work in moving the Association in new and exciting directions including a new endeavour that will bring fundraising opportunities to all Societies/Clubs and the Association. I have invested significant time and energy to the Association, its Districts and to the Societies and Clubs and have committed fully to this position. My time as President so far has been extremely rewarding and has come with its challenges. I am enjoying my time as an Officer of the Association and would like to continue this wonderful path I have embarked on. I am always interested in hearing comments or suggestions that any member has and I am always available for a chat, email or text. I hope you will consider me for reappointment to the position of President of the Association for a second term.

“To plant a garden is to dream of tomorrow” Audrey Hepburn

Respectfully submitted,
Sharlene Desjardins
OHA President

Vicky Culbert for OHA Vice President

Passionate, caring and involved are all words that describe Vicky's personality. She lives in Goderich, a rural town in Ontario where she was born and raised. She is married to Doug; they have six grown children and are blessed with sixteen grandchildren that reside in many communities across Ontario and one in Newfoundland. Vicky's constant companions are Charles and Dickens, her doodle dogs. She enjoys gardening, flower arranging, hiking, travelling, fibre arts, reading, painting, genealogy, history and, most of all, her family.

Vicky's primary and secondary education was completed in Goderich. She attended the University of Waterloo and completed the Early Childhood Education Course and at Conestoga College where she was later employed. More recently, she attended a horticultural course in London, England. Vicky continues to be a life-long learner and has attended numerous workshops, seminars, and short courses.

Currently, Vicky is employed by D. Culbert Surveying Ltd in the position of Public Relations and Marketing Manager for the company. This has provided for a wide spectrum of unique opportunities in southwestern Ontario and provincially. Vicky is a Board member of the Goderich BIA, on the Advertising, Events and Programming Committee and the Chair of the Market Committee and is the BIA representative on the Town of Goderich Downtown Revitalization Committee. She is also the Chairperson for the Municipal and Marine Heritage Committee. Provincially, Vicky is a member of the Archival and Historical Committee of the Association of the Ontario Land Surveyors and a Coordinator of the Marshville Heritage Festival Surveying display and maintains a Surveyor's Monument Garden.

She has been an active member of the Goderich and District Horticultural Society for over nineteen years and is a member of three other local Societies. Vicky has filled the position of President for the Goderich Horticultural Society for seven years and Secretary for two. Vicky also provides workshops and presentations to other Societies with topics including: "What the OHA Can Do For You", "The Principals and Elements of Design", "Humour in the Garden" and "Gardening in Different Environments of the World". She served as the District 8, District Director and filled the position as the Ontario Horticultural Association, South West Representative for two years, the 2nd Vice President for two years and is currently serving her first year as Vice President. Vicky has served as a member of the OHA Executive Board, Finance Committee, Awards Committee, Conservation and Environment Committee, and is the Chair of the Competitions, and Donation, Fundraising and Sponsorship Committees. She is an OHA Judge for Horticulture and Flower Design.

Vicky is very active with the Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies as the Past President of the Bayfield Agricultural Society. She is an OAAS Judge for Horticulture, Flower Design, Maple Syrup, Honey and Photography. She also offers training sessions for these subject areas.

She is an active member of the Garden Club of Kitchener Waterloo and is looking forward to achieving her accreditation as a Garden Clubs of Ontario Judge over the next three years.

The skills Vicky has gained have provided her with the ability to think and act as a leader in organizations. She can motivate by guiding and working with others towards a goal. Vicky has and continues to provide leadership and activities for children, youth, public and seniors that has made a significant benefit to the quality of life and economic well-being of individuals and families.

Respectfully submitted,
Vicky Culbert
OHA 1st Vice-President



Vicky Culbert

Sandra Mazur, Nominated for 2nd Vice President

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

This August marks 50 years of my volunteering within my community. I began volunteering as a Teen-Aid at McKellar Hospital in Thunder Bay. It was the start of a long volunteering career where I met so many wonderful individuals from all over the world. My volunteering continued over the years, even when I worked full time and had children at home to transport to their many activities. Volunteering becomes a way of life when you enjoy meeting people and always answer the call for "help needed" from within your community, your children's school or with organizations that you have a passion for. In many instances, my family joined in on volunteering opportunities over the years.

I joined the Thunder Bay Horticultural Society in 2004 after attending as a guest, hearing speakers and attending plant auctions. I began volunteering as a cashier at plant auctions and my volunteering increased from then on. I have held a position on the Executive of the Thunder Bay Board for many years helping to organize and plan events. I sat as the Outreach Chair and loved attending events in the public to promote the society. For 6 years, I held the District 14 Director's Position.

Like everything else in the world, it was a difficult path to navigate through the Covid-19 pandemic but we made it. As with many societies and aging members, the challenging task has been to get the younger generation interested in joining. That is one thing that Covid-19 gave us a boost with, as so many of the younger generation began to garden due to food shortages, empty shelves and price increases. We are now working on targeting those new gardeners to join our organization. All societies need to be reaching out to these younger gardeners. They are the future for ensuring our societies continue to thrive.

After living in Rural Thunder Bay most of my life, I moved from Kakabeka Falls to Dryden a few years ago. There, I joined the Dryden Horticultural Society where I enjoyed my time visiting gorgeous gardens and listening to fascinating new speakers. I continue to be a member of Dryden Horticultural Society but have now made a move to the small town of Atikokan, Ontario. Atikokan is known as the Canoeing Capital of Canada. It is the gateway to outdoor adventures in Quetico Provincial Park and the White Otter Wilderness Area. I am surrounded by beautiful lakes no matter what direction you travel. In 2.5 hours, I can travel to Dryden or to Thunder Bay or even to Fort Frances for a Horticultural Society meeting. Thunder Bay just started a brand-new Gardening Group called Superior Gardening Club. With it being located on the beautiful shores of Lake Superior, the name is very appropriate. I plan to attend a meeting and join this group as well.

I am the Past District 14 Director and I have held a variety of committee positions on the Provincial Board. For 7 years, I sat on the Competitions Committee and held the Chair of Creative Writing. I enjoy reading everyone's submissions before I pass them on to be judged. I also sit on the Corporate Sponsorship and Fundraising Committee and, in the past, I chaired the Conservation and Environment Committee and sat as the North-East Representative on the Officers and Finance Committee. This past year as the 2nd Vice-President, I have participated in Officer and Finance Committee meetings and the Awards Committee Meetings. Life has been extremely busy this spring as Officers meet regularly with the Convention Committee in preparing for a great Convention within their budget. With many other committee meetings, it can sometimes be a week of 3 or 4 conference calls. Even though I sat as a member of the Officers, I did not envision how much work takes place behind the scenes when I took on the position of 2nd Vice President. Members of societies/clubs should truly be grateful to those that keep the everyday running of the OHA continuing as it provides so much to societies/clubs, that many of us take for granted.



Sandra Mazur

I have been married for 45 years to my husband Fred and we have a daughter and two sons. We have three biological grandchildren but our grandchildren number "is many" as we gained quite a few in over 18 years of fostering. I advocated for every child in my care to receive proper medical attention and fair treatment and assisted many of these families in transitioning their children home successfully. We still have wonderful relationships with many children and their families today. During the years our children were growing up, I supported and advocated for them and their interests as well. I sat on Parent-Teacher Committees at school along with the Parent Fundraising Committee for school play structures, class trips and other ventures. I also assisted with Hockey Tournament Committees along with other various groups throughout the years. Additionally, I spent 23 years with Girl Guides of Canada as a leader in Sparks, Brownies, Guides and travelling and partnering with our Path Finder Unit. I also held positions at all levels and finished a term as the Guides Canada Public Relations Chairwoman for Ontario. I met many girls and leaders across Canada who I have remained friends with over the many years.

My volunteering also extended to the Hymers Agricultural Society where I held many positions but was so proud to accomplish the "restructuring" of a Volunteer Lounge for our workers to take their breaks out of the hot sunshine. I became President for 3 years, chairing the board and organizing their fall fair until a health issue forced me to give it up. During all those years I managed the fair PR with the media and attended schools to promote the fair with our seed handouts encouraging children to enter contests at the fair.

I have been a member of The Royal Canadian Legion Branch #225 for over 20 years and spent many years volunteering in various positions within the legion and on the board. I continue to sit as a Director with the Legion Seniors Apartment Complex in Kakabeka Falls, assisting in running a smooth operation as well as ensuring that someone hears their voice and brings it forward at a meeting.

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

I'm excited about the "New" Family scholarship we are introducing for members and/or their family members beginning in 2025 and I also look forward to positive results from the work we have done to create the opportunity for our members, the societies/clubs, and the OHA to benefit from the agreement we have made with Dubois Agrinovation. I look forward to assisting the OHA in rebranding as GardenOntario and moving our organization into the future with a stronger, more youthful membership. It is going to take work and assistance from all our members, but I know we CAN DO IT! So, let us create a goal to *grab those new gardeners and welcome them* into our GardenOntario Societies/Clubs.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Mazur
OHA 2nd Vice-President



OHA Awards and Grants

The OHA believes that members who show strong leadership and active participation within a society should be recognized. For the latest copy of the **Awards + Grants Booklet**, and a list of those available visit:

<https://gardenontario.org/resources/#awards-toggle>

Click each award or grant name for the application form. Each pdf form has been created as a "fillable form" so all you need to do is click in the space and type to fill it in. Please download, fill in, and email the appropriate forms, in pdf format, to nominate someone for an award or apply for a grant (there are also links for reporting and submitting receipts afterwards).



Bio for Kathleen Lang for 2nd Vice President

- Been a member of the OHA (on and off) since my teens (1969 to present day)
- I have held lots of different society board positions over the years (president, vice president, program chair, yearbook chair, youth chair, beautification chair).
- Been a member of the D2 board for many years. Assistant District Director from 2003 to 2019; Convention 2006 committee; Convention 2023 committee
- D2 Secretary 2019-2020
- Accredited Floral Design and Horticultural Judge with the Garden Clubs of Ontario (Horticulture 2011 and Design 2016)
- Horticultural and Floral Design Judge with the OHA (1993)
- Degrees in Business (Accounting/Finance major) (1979)
- Diploma in Horticulture and Landscaping
- (1993) Master Gardener for 20 years
- Horticultural Writer and Speaker for over 30 years
- Will be graduating as an accredited Rose Judge in October 2024 under the auspices of the Canadian Rose Society



Kathleen Lang

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Lang

OHA 2024 Conference and Annual General Meeting



Have a great time with new and old gardening friends

Delta Hotels Conference Centre
in Guelph

Convention Resources:

Convention Announcement
Convention Program Overview
Convention Speakers
Convention Bus Tours
Convention Bus Waiver of Liability Form
Competitions and Vendors Hours
Convention Menu Options

and more...

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

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North York Garden Club

Submitted by Gloria Broks



*President, Janine Dyck was congratulated by Ursula Eley, District 5 Director, on the 100th anniversary of the North York Garden Club.
Photo by Myint Gillespie*



*Mary McLean and her daughter created the logo for our event, "A Century of Gardening."
Photo by Tom Cloutier*

We are celebrating our 100th Anniversary this year and kicked off the celebrations by hosting the OHA District 5 Annual General Meeting for 14 societies on Sat., April 20th. Our Theme was "A Century of Gardening" and a member's daughter created a logo for the event. A committee was formed to plan the day and we met regularly over 2 years to ensure its success. Subcommittees were created to look after advertising, registration, decorations, speakers, food and the Flower Show. We booked two large rooms at the Toronto Botanical Garden on Leslie Street in Toronto and organized the parking facilities.

The result was a huge success with 180 society members attending and each paying \$45 that included lunch. The Floral Hall was decorated in green and yellow with each table of 8 having a centrepiece of our North York's flower, the pansy. Each donated ceramic pot filled with yellow and purple pansies was given out to a person at the table at the end of the day. A slide show covering the past 100 years of our society was shown before the program and a display table of photos and past year books was set up for everyone to see. The Garden Hall was the site for the Flower Show. Over 115 entries with 36 Floral Designs were shown. The theme was reflected in the 10 design classes, one for each decade



*Tom Cloutier created a display board of our club's 100-year history.
Photo by Tom Cloutier*

of the Century. The Best in Show was a design in red and black in the 1940's class, "War". The Judge's Choice was a curvilinear design in the 1980's class "An Elegant Decade."

The business session of the AGM was chaired by District 5 Director, Ursula Eley. It was the first in-person AGM held in four years due to the Pandemic. Each society had designated voters to pass resolutions and the board of directors kept the membership up-to-date on the District's grants and upcoming events.

We had two speakers for the day also reflecting our theme. Colin Cassen covered the past with his topic, "A Century of Invasive Plants", how they came to us over the years and what we can do about them now. Sean James looked at the future and how we can cope with climate change with his topic "Fusion Gardening."

Snacks and coffee were provided from 8:00 a.m. and at breaks. A box lunch was provided by the recommended caterer, En Ville and proved to be delicious with a choice of chicken, salmon or vegetarian sandwich, salad and fruit.

Adding to the excitement, there were gift basket draws throughout the day, donated by the societies and members. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to get together with District Societies and fellow gardening members.

Future activities to celebrate our 100th include a July garden tour of members' gardens with lunch at one garden, a group tour to a public garden, a plant sale in September and a celebration pot luck supper with entertainment in November.

A great year to honour the first 100 years of the North York Garden Club



*Floral Design Best in Show was won by Lorainne Luski of the North York Garden Club
Photo by Gail Bebee*



*Horticultural Best in Show went to Nina Leggatt of the East York Garden Club.
Photo by Tom Cloutier*



*Judge's Choice award went to Mary Ann Vercammen of the Newmarket Garden Club.
Photo by Tom Cloutier*

Port Burwell-Bayham Horticultural Society

Submitted by Jude McHugh

Photos by Jude McHugh



Greetings from The Port Burwell-Bayham Horticultural Society. Thanks again to Woodstock for hosting such an amazing AGM event.

Summer is coming and we are all busy getting our gardens back in order.

In November, our new Board was installed and we have been working hard to grow our Society. We prepared and resoiled our 45 large planters throughout the municipality, and volunteers planted on Saturday May 25, in between the rain and thunder.

This is the 30th Anniversary of our Society and we planted canna lilies and dragon-wing begonias to beautify Bayham.

We had our annual plant sale on May 18 and raised a whopping \$700 and signed 16 membership cards.

We have EdisonFest on June 1st in Vienna and we will be selling plants, memberships and hosting an information table. On July 1st we will be marching in the Port Burwell Canada Day Parade, handing out flower seeds to kids and hosting an information table. We don't hold monthly meetings in summer, instead visiting local gardens for a tour. Check our facebook page for information and events.

Feel free to join us, we meet at The Periscope Playhouse in Port Burwell, the third Monday of the month @7:00 pm.

We wish you all a wonderful summer full of flowers, family, friends and fun. Remember to take time to smell the flowers.

Best Regards, Jude, Tina, Susan, Polly, Marg, Stan, Cheryl, Rita

*Congratulations Port Burwell-Bayham Horticultural Society
on its 30th Anniversary!*



Resolutions To Be Voted Upon At The 2024 OHA Annual General Meeting

Submitted by Kelly Taylor, OHA Secretary

RESOLUTION 24-1:

Be it resolved that:

By-Law 7, 7.7 be amended as follows:

Current wording:

In the event that an Officer is unable to cast a vote at an Association Board Meeting, the proxy voting rights of the Officer shall be assigned to the Association Secretary.

Proposed amendment:

In the event that **a District Director or** an Officer is unable to cast a vote at an Association Board Meeting, the proxy voting rights of **the District Director or of** the Officer shall be assigned to the Association Secretary.

Rationale:

1. Under the previous legislation governing Corporations, a Director was not entitled to issue a proxy vote.
2. Under the current legislation, Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA), section 64, 64 (1), any person entitled to vote may issue a proxy.
3. This provision means that in the event a District Director is unable to comply with By-Law 7, 7.6 and have a competent individual from the District Executive attend when possible, the District Director and thus the District does not lose its vote.

RESOLUTION 24-2:

Be it resolved that:

By-Law 7, 7.8 be amended as follows:

Current wording:

Upon being elected to office or being appointed to office or being hired to an office position or signing a contract, each member of the OHA Board, any person identified in By-Law 7, 7.6 and all persons hired or under contract must sign the Code of Conduct and the Oath of Office and Confidentiality Agreement.

Amended wording:

Upon being elected to office or being appointed to office or being hired to an office position or signing a contract, each member of the OHA Board, any person identified in By-Law 7, 7.6 and all persons hired or under contract must sign the **most recently approved** Code of Conduct and the **most recently approved** Oath of Office and Confidentiality Agreement.

Rationale:

1. This ensures that should either or both documents be amended and any amendments be approved that all parties sign the most recent document(s).
2. This would include and not be limited to a situation where a person required to sign these documents does so and then during their current contract period either or both of the documents were to be amended and the amendments so approved.

RESOLUTION 24-3:

Be it resolved that:

- a) By-Law 10, 10.1 be amended as follows:

Current wording:

A quorum for meetings of the Officers shall be 50% plus one of the Officers. At all meetings of the Officers, every question shall be decided by a majority vote. In case of a tie, the Chair shall cast the deciding vote.

Proposed amendment:

A quorum for meetings of the Officers shall be 50% plus one of the Officers. At all meetings of the Officers, every question shall be decided by a majority **of the votes cast**. In case of a tie, the Chair shall cast the deciding vote.

And

b) By-Law 10, 10.2 be amended as follows:

Current wording:

A quorum for meetings of the Board of Directors shall be twelve voting members of the Board. At all meetings of the Board, every question shall be decided by a majority vote. In case of a tie, the Chair of the meeting shall cast the deciding vote.

Proposed amendment:

A quorum for meetings of the Board of Directors shall be twelve voting members of the Board. At all meetings of the Board, every question shall be decided by a majority **of the votes cast**. In case of a tie, the Chair of the meeting shall cast the deciding vote.

And

c) By-Law 13, 13.11 be amended as follows:

Current wording:

Each District shall be entitled, by a majority vote of the voting delegates present at its Annual General Meeting to set a per capita annual fee. The limit of membership for any Affiliated Society/Club for assessment purposes shall be 1,000 members. Fees must be sent to the District Treasurer or Secretary-Treasurer. Fees retained by the District must be accounted for in a financial statement that has been reviewed by two financial reviewers or an auditor. The financial statement is to be presented at the District meeting, and a copy provided to each Affiliated Society/Club within the District, and to the District Secretary.

Proposed amendment:

Each District shall be entitled, by a majority **of the votes cast by** the voting delegates present at its Annual General Meeting to set a per capita annual fee. The limit of membership for any Affiliated Society/Club for assessment purposes shall be 1,000 members. Fees must be sent to the District Treasurer or Secretary-Treasurer. Fees retained by the District must be accounted for in a financial statement that has been reviewed by two financial reviewers or an auditor. The financial statement is to be presented at the District meeting, and a copy provided to each Affiliated Society/Club within the District, and to the District Secretary.

And

d) By-Law 13, 13.12 be amended as follows:

Current wording:

Every District shall adopt a set of rules and policies or by-laws to govern the proceedings of the District; such rules, policies or by-laws shall not be in conflict with the rules, policies or by-laws of the OHA. The by-laws and any subsequent amendments shall be approved by a majority vote of the voting delegates at its Annual General Meeting.

Proposed amendment:

Every District shall adopt a set of rules and policies or by-laws to govern the proceedings of the District; such rules, policies or by-laws shall not be in conflict with the rules, policies or by-laws of the OHA. The by-laws and any subsequent amendments shall be approved by a majority **of the votes cast by** the voting delegates at its Annual General Meeting.

Rationale:

1. The use of the terminology "votes cast" follows the terminology used in Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act.
2. This wording will hopefully cause a call for all votes during the voting process and will ensure that every member present and carrying the right to vote will have their vote called by the Chair whether the person(s) are "in favour", "opposed to" or "abstain", their vote should be called. This does not always occur and as a result some members entitled to vote are not currently given that right during the voting process at a meeting.
3. The right to vote is contained in Robert's Rules of Order and is also accepted as a provision of Parliamentary Law.

RESOLUTION 24-4:

Be it resolved that:

By-Law 13, 13.7, 13.7 2 be created as follows:

District Financial Records shall be kept in a secure location for 7 years. In the following year, the records will be returned to the District Director at an in-person Board meeting.

And

Be it resolved that By-Law 13, 13 .7 be renumbered to read 13 .7 1

Rationale:

1. The reasoning behind the OHA keeping the records like this is because District and OHA Treasurers can change from time to time and by keeping all records in a secure, central location, it ensures that the records are maintained and available if required.
2. This ensures that all financial record originals will be returned to the District for proper disposition as seen fit by the District.
3. The renumbering simply keeps the sections in numerical order and as a dual Motion alleviated the need for a separate Motion to renumber.

RESOLUTION 24-5:

Be it resolved that:

By-Law 13, 13.8 2. be created as follows:

The OHA Regional Representative responsible for the District may, if invited, facilitate the resolution of disputes within the District's Leadership and may, if invited, facilitate the resolution of disputes within a Society/Clubs Leadership.

And

Current By-Law 13, 13.8 be renumbered to read 13.8.1.

Rationale:

1. Although it is an accepted practice to follow the "Chain of Command" in any organization and have matters moved "up the ladder", this now authorizes such action should the circumstances dictate.
2. This also addresses any situation where a District Director may find himself/herself in a Conflict of Interest. The Regional representative would be able to step in. Otherwise, there is no documented process to importantly address any disputes which may occur.

RESOLUTION 24-6:

Be it resolved that:

By-Law 13, 13.8.3. be created as follows:

The Officers of the OHA may, if invited, facilitate the resolution of disputes within a Society/Clubs Leadership, disputes within a District' Leadership and disputes where the Regional representative may be involved.

Rationale:

1. Although it is an accepted practice to follow the "Chain of Command" in any organization and have matters moved "up the ladder", this now authorizes such action should the circumstances dictate.
2. This also addresses any situation where a District Director or a Regional representative may find himself/herself in a Conflict of Interest. The OHA Officers would be able to step in. Otherwise, there is no documented process to importantly address any disputes which may occur.

RESOLUTION 24-7:

Be it resolved that:

The OHA Affiliation fee referenced in By-Law 4, 4.1 for the membership of Horticultural Societies/Garden Clubs be increased each year by twenty-five (25) cents for each of the Affiliation years 2025, 2026, 2027 and 2028.

Rationale:

1. Everyone has experienced the impact of inflation over the last few years. The OHA is no exception. The OHA has experienced significant increases in the cost of printing, room rentals and board meeting expenses, website costs, audit and legal fees and wages over the past 3 years (to name a few).

2. The OHA is attempting to control costs and increase revenues by the following:
 - Lowered the mileage rate to 60 cents/km when the new CRA rate is 70 cents/km.
 - Restricting District Directors' travel to only 2 meetings per Society/Club and encouraging Assistant District Directors who live closer to the Society/Club to attend meetings on behalf of the District Director.
 - Holding one board meeting per year virtually.
 - Holding conventions only on alternate years.
 - Planning fundraisers such as selling the Garden Journal; the agreement with Dubois Agrinovation and others.
 - Limiting free meal to award winner only at convention banquet.
 - Planning a profit on the 2024 Convention through careful planning, innovative ideas and controlling costs while also controlling registration fees.
 - Continuing the 50/50 Raffle to help cover costs of grants and education.
3. We have seen an increase in providing grants, awards and scholarships from \$7K in 2019 to \$17K in 2023. The OHA is committed to being able to provide these things to Societies/Clubs across Ontario as long as it is able.
4. The OHA wants to continue to offer all services to the membership without adding costs for the services. (one example is the free pollinator brochures and postcards)
5. By increasing affiliation fees only \$.25 per year, the Association is helping to cover inflation for itself and also letting the Societies/Clubs budget for their own fee increases for the next 4 years.

RESOLUTION 24-8:

Be it resolved that:

By-Law 6, 6.3 be amended as follows:

Current:

A Nominating Committee, chaired by the Immediate Past President or the person identified in By-Law 6, 6.9, shall be appointed by the Board to ensure that candidates are available for each Office. All nominations must be forwarded to the Association Secretary, who shall forward them to the Committee Chair. A Report of the Nominating Committee shall be submitted to Affiliated Societies/Clubs 50 to 40 days prior to the Annual General Meeting. The Chair of the Nominating Committee shall call for any further nominations from the floor at the Annual General Meeting, and complete the nomination process.

Proposed:

A Nominating Committee, chaired by the Immediate Past President or the person identified in By-Law 6, 6.9, shall be appointed by the Board to ensure that candidates are available for each Office. All nominations **which comply with By-Law 6, 6.5** must be **forwarded by the Society/Club Secretary directly** to the Association Secretary **with a copy to the nominee. The Association Secretary** shall forward **all nominations** to the **Nominating** Committee Chair. A Report of the Nominating Committee shall be submitted to Affiliated Societies/Clubs 50 to 40 days prior to the Annual General Meeting. The Chair of the Nominating Committee shall call for any further nominations from the floor at the Annual General Meeting, and complete the nomination process.

Rationale:

1. This amendment would allow for the streamlining of the process in order for the Association Secretary and the Nominations Chair to better prepare for timely distribution of information.
2. In past years, nominations have been sent to people not involved in the process such as Past Presidents – this would assist in ensuring no loss of information.
3. This amendment would allow for the Association Secretary and the Nominations Chair to better address ensuring that anyone nominated would understand the requirements of By-Law 6, 6.5 and ensure that those nominated are contacted to ensure compliance with the required document submission(s)
4. This year, a nomination was erroneously sent to someone who is no longer an OHA Officer and could have easily been lost.
5. By adding in the reference to By-law 6, 6.5, this gives guidance to nominators with respect to what is required for a nomination to be complete.

RESOLUTION 24-9:

Be it resolved that:

By-Law 6, 6.4 be amended as follows:

Current wording:

Nominees for Office should be a past or present director, having served on the Board for at least two years, or a past or present holder of an executive position on the Board.

Proposed amendment:

Nominees for Office shall have been a past or present director, having served on the Board for at least two years, or a past or present holder of an executive position on the Board.

And

This amendment shall come into force July 15th, 2024.

Rationale:

1. Although any nominee may have the best of intentions in serving as an Officer of the OHA, to come to the position with no experience related to the internal operations of the Association places any candidate at a severe knowledge disadvantage.
2. Experience has shown that anyone who has been elected to an OHA Officer position has found the experience of being on the OHA Board for a period of time prior to being elected to be totally invaluable.
3. Currently there are nominations in the process and to amend this section prior to the 2024 AGM elections would/could place candidates at a disadvantage.

RESOLUTION 24-10:

Be it resolved that:

By-Law 19 be created as follows:

By-Law 19 – District Governance

A District shall comply with the Constitution and By-Laws when forming a District Executive body however, when a District is unable to effectively form an Executive body as noted in the Constitution and By-Laws, a District may choose to use a Governance by Committee model should significant circumstances dictate. Governance by Committee shall be performed by "the Committee".

19.1 The Committee:

1. There shall be one person elected or appointed as District Treasurer. The term of office shall be from one District AGM until the next District AGM.
2. There shall be one person elected or appointed as the primary contact person for communications with, to and from the Association and OMAFRA. The term of office shall be from one District AGM until the next District AGM.
3. Directors shall be elected to perform Governance by Committee and shall form the Committee to govern the District. The term of office shall be from one District AGM until the next District AGM.
4. The Committee shall appoint an individual(s) to perform the duties of a District Director as noted in the Constitution and By-Laws, sections 1 through 18 inclusive, and shall advise the Association Secretary.

- 19.2 In the Constitution and By-Laws, all inferences or references to a "District" related position or duty or task or otherwise shall also mean a related position or duty or task or otherwise of the Committee membership or the individual(s) appointed or both.

Rationale:

1. This Resolution is put forward as per By-Law 16, 16.2
2. The current processes throughout the current Constitution and By-Laws are based upon there being sufficient numbers of individuals to fill most of if not all of the identified "Executive" positions in a District Governance body. This is seen as the optimally successful and proper process.
3. For a District to choose to go to a Governance by Committee format, there are approximately twenty-seven (27) sections of the current Constitution and By-Laws that need to be amended to support such a governance structure.
4. This proposed amendment only addresses concerns related to the OHA Constitution and By-Laws and does not relate to the required amendments needed at the District Constitution and By-Laws level.

New D2 Director Dies Suddenly

Prepared by Anne Harbord, Past Director, District 2



Debra Bellevue

We were all shocked to hear of the very sudden and unexpected death of our new District 2 Director, Debra Bellevue, on Thursday, June 6th. She had been elected on May 6th, which I later discovered was her 60th birthday. Despite being in the role for only one month, she was already making an impact – letting her light shine.

On June 1st, we spent the day in Forester Falls at the Whitewater Gardeners AGM. We were there to assist with keeping the Club in operation. The current Executive decided to hold the AGM at the same facility as a local plant sale in the hope of attracting new members.

We all “worked the room” encouraging the local attendees to join the Club and stay for the AGM. Debra typically introduced herself “Hi, I’m Debra” and proceeded to charm everyone. By the time the AGM was over, we had four of the five new members elected to the Board. Another woman from the Whitewater Council had signed up earlier and agreed to stand as Secretary-Treasurer. Debra was already working issues with a few other Clubs and was starting to put her essence on the Director role.

Many OHA members met Debra at the 2023 Convention where she was co-Chair of Volunteers. She handled any queries promptly, with kindness and intelligence. That was her first Convention and she was looking forward to going to Guelph in July.

After the Convention, despite having just lost her husband Brian, she took on the role of District 2 Secretary and, as such, was efficient and always helpful with a bright, optimistic attitude. That light continued to shine as she became our District Director.

Those of us who met her will miss her laughter and kindness, but we can only imagine the loss to her children, family and close friends. Our condolences go out to them.

For those of you on Facebook, Lori Ray posted a beautiful tribute to Debra on the District 2 Gardeners Group.

Rest in Peace dear Debra. You will be missed.



“Fall Splendour” Judges’ Update

Submitted by Debi Foster, District 17 Director

District 4 and District 17 Invite OHA Judges to a “Fall Splendour” Judges’ Update

SUNDAY, September 15, 2024 ~ 9:15 am – 3:15 pm

Nestleton Community Hall
3971 Ontario Highway 7A
Nestleton Station, ON

Topics to be Covered: Dahlias
Roses
Design Presentation

A Standard Show featuring Dahlias and Roses

Cost \$30 Registration required by September 5, 2024

For more information please contact:

Patty Carlson patty.carlson123@gmail.com or Debi Foster debifoster.1956@gmail.com

Pembroke Horticultural Society

Submitted and written by Pamela Duplessis, Secretary

Photos by Ellen Vandersleen

The Pembroke Horticultural Society is celebrating its 100th Anniversary in 2024! We are recognizing this memorable milestone with several events and a special project to plant 100 trees.

On July 21, we are inviting the public to join us for a 1920's-Era Picnic at the Pembroke Waterfront Park. Games for all ages and lots of treats are planned – folks are invited to dress in the fun fashion of the 1920's! We also have a Centennial Dinner Gala and Flower Show planned for November 14, 2024.

The Pembroke Horticultural Society Legacy Fund was created this year with a mission to provide funds for installation of perpetual horticultural capital projects and their maintenance in the City of Pembroke. Past projects have included the Pembroke Waterfront Park, Pembroke Waterfront Arboretum and Waterfall and Pansy Patch Park. The current Project is *Planting 100 trees in Pembroke to celebrate our 100 years*. April 26th was a successful tree planting day! 80 seedlings/trees were planted – 77 at Pansy Patch Park which included 20 white cedar, 20 white pine, 7 red pine, 10 tamarack, 5 weeping willow, 5 yellow birch, 5 eastern hemlock and 5 oaks as well as 3 red pines planted at the Arboretum. A further group of 50 larger trees were planted on May 22 and 23 in Riverside Park, the Pembroke Waterfront and the Foresters Parkette. These amazing accomplishments were made possible by many generous donations and a hard-working group of Society members and other volunteers.





The current Project: *Planting 100 trees in Pembroke to celebrate our 100 years of gardening!*



On April 16th, our Co-Presidents, Cathy Hugli and Ellen Vandersleen, gave a wonderful presentation to City Council promoting the great work our society does towards beautification of Pembroke. The highlight of the evening for us was the very prestigious Mayor's Award which was bestowed upon our own Elaine Metzger! Elaine has been an active member of our Society for 35 years including many years on the Executive as well as serving as President. There is no one who deserves this more!

Another centennial project was our joint partnership with the Pembroke Kiwanis Club (est. 1922) at the Pembroke Waterfront. Over the past 2 years, an Arboretum was created with the planting of over 130 trees and shrubs, installing 2 gazebos, a book tree, a bird habitat and a waterfall. Generous donations from other community partners and many hours of work have made this a beautiful greenspace for everyone to enjoy.



*Congratulations Pembroke Horticultural Society
on its 100th Anniversary!*



Schomberg Horticultural Society

Submitted and written by Susan Zweep



March Horticultural Meeting

The March meeting of the Schomberg Horticultural Society drew a full house as a number of new members signed up. There was a great atmosphere with so much camaraderie, renewing of friendships and forging new ones. We knew we had excellent gardeners in our membership but who knew we had such fabulous bakers as well! We opted for a baking contest with winners receiving the Silver Spoon award, Smoothest Rolling Pin award and the Knox Gelatin award. These tasty treats were later served with refreshments.

Our Society won 1st Prize in the Schomberg Annual Scarecrow Competition in 2023, a \$50 gift card from Leonardo's Pizza which was enjoyed by our members.



Photo credit Eleonora Schmied

April Horticultural Meeting

Our Guest Speaker, Ken Brown shared his knowledge in his presentation "Annuals From Seed." We learned

lots of tips and tricks using annuals for a long colourful show including new varieties. Ken's talk was a perfect fit for the season when we're all anxious just to get outside and plant.

We have an exceptional board of directors which is so supportive of everyone's new ideas while honouring the huge amount of work that has been contributed by the previous leadership. We are so proud to be recognized with this award.



Volunteer Week Award

We were also very happy to receive an award from the District 15 AGM for 2nd place in the Publications Competition for last year's Garden Tour Poster.



Garden Tour Poster design credit: Donna Parrish

Our Yearbook Committee put a huge effort into designing our 2024 yearbook, showcasing the creative talents of the photographers among us.

**Winner of the 2023 Photography contest:
Susan Zweep**

April Horticultural Meeting

Our April speaker, Ashley Gatto, Master Gardener, began rearing Monarch butterflies in her backyard after studying Entomology and getting a permit from

the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. Ashley is passionate about conservation of native pollinators and believes that every home gardener has the ability to help support the Monarch species simply by growing a garden. In her presentation, Ashley discussed what plants to grow in order to attract and sustain Monarch butterflies and how to grow the ultimate Monarch-friendly garden. We also heard a presentation from King's Environmental Action Committee. Members each were given milkweed seeds. Bright spring flowers were on display for the flower show. Zander's Sod kindly gifted us a yellow bag with soil for the Centennial Garden.

Plant Sale

Our May Plant Sale was a great success with sincere thanks to Kathleen Gorsline, her committee and all the volunteers who donated plants, helped set up and sell them.

May Horticultural Meeting

Don Scallen's talk in May "Anything But Grass" promises to help us kick the grass habit of seed, rake, mow, repeat. Don gained a beautiful yard as well as many hours he can now spend on more pleasurable activities.

Our Society was approached on their Facebook Page (the power of social media!) by Bawir from Strong Base Group and offered help with the maintenance for the gardens that our Society takes care of. His partner Amanda 'went to town' and over two days edged, weeded and mulched all of our beds, a very generous gift indeed, much appreciated by all of our volunteers.

Annual Garden Tour

In partnership with Art Society King, our Garden Tour of private estates and in-town magical gardens will also feature unique displays, artists and pop-up shops.

Our Board of Directors has already started working on a special event to celebrate our Society's 90th Anniversary on April 15, 2025.



OHA Youth Program Standards

Children are the future of our garden clubs and horticultural societies. If your members are interested in engaging the youth in your area in garden-related activities, it's a lot of fun for all. Ideas, suggestions, guidelines and rules are available on the OHA website: <https://gardenontario.org/wp-content/uploads/OHA-YouthStandards-2022-03-04.pdf>

Port Dover and Woodhouse Horticultural Society

Submitted by Laurene Via
 Photo credits: Lauren Nightingale,
 Long Point Biosphere Region Chair, Tom Via

Port Dover, home of the Port Dover and Woodhouse Horticultural Society, is well known for its resort-like beach on Lake Erie, delicious local perch dinners and “Friday, the 13th.” But more than that, Port Dover is part of the Long Point Biosphere Region. According to the Long Point Biosphere Region website (<https://longpointbiosphere.com>), Biospheres must include a core protected area, in our case the Long Point National Wildlife Area and Backus Woods, a buffer zone – including the Big Creek National Wildlife Area, Long Point Inner Bay and a zone of cooperation – all of Norfolk County, where people live and play and promote sustainable living. The Long Point Biosphere Region (LPBR), designated by UNESCO in 1986, is one of 19 Biosphere Regions in Canada and an example of a Great Lakes coastal ecosystem with a unique blend of habitats. The LPBR hosts the best example of old growth Carolinian Forest in our county.

At the western side of the reserve lies Long Point and a causeway that traverses the marsh, connecting the “mainland” to the peninsula. Long Point, the largest freshwater sand spit in the world, juts into Lake Erie and serves as staging areas for waterfowl, hosts migrating birds and houses small pockets of amphibians and reptiles iconic to the area.

At the March meeting of the Port Dover and Woodhouse Horticultural Society, Lauren Nightingale, Road Ecology Technician for Eco-Care International, (contracted under the Long Point Biosphere Region) presented an informative account of the work she is doing to decrease road mortality for reptiles in the Long Point area. Her work centres around protecting at-risk reptiles on roads,



WHY so much focus on turtles in road ecology?

Unlike snakes and amphibians....



Turtles like to nest on roadsides

Turtles in Norfolk County



HIGH Road Mortality



particularly on the causeway. Currently, she is involved in running the first-ever turtle egg incubation program in this area. Lauren performs road monitoring work and builds and maintains exclusive fencing as well as doing nest excavation. These efforts help turtles navigate roads especially during nesting season and help to safeguard nests, to give the eggs the best chance of hatching. As more misplaced turtles are observed in the area, Lauren recommends taking turtles and juveniles across the road in the direction they're heading and take hatchlings as close as possible to the marsh. The need for volunteers to monitor the causeway is great as well as support to push for more sustainable and effective mitigation projects.

OHA District 2 Service Award winner for 2024

Submitted by Anne Harbord, Past OHA Director, District 2

Photo by Jack Wilson

The D2 Service Award Winner for 2024 was Judy Fine of Nepean Horticultural Society (NHS). The Award was presented to Judy at the May Nepean Society meeting by ADD-at-Large Sheila King, as Judy was unable to attend the D2 AGM held in Perth on Saturday, May 4, 2024.

Judy Fine first joined the Nepean Horticultural Society in 1986. She chaired the Juniors Committee of the NHS for three years (1988-91), served as Second Vice President for two years (1991-92), First Vice President and Program Coordinator for two years (1993-94), President for two years (1995-96) and Past President for two years (1997-98). She was also the Yearbook editor for three years (1995-97). In 1997, she received the OHA Horticultural Service Certificate. She encouraged her children and grandchildren to be involved in NHS programs and D2 Flower Shows. Judy has been an active participant in NHS and District 2 flower shows, winning countless awards, particularly in the design categories. Most recently, she was a workshop leader at the OHA 2023 Convention in Kanata where she demonstrated several special exhibits as a Judging Update. She has also been a generous donor of plants to NHS plant sales.

Judy has also been a long-time member of the Ottawa Horticultural Society (OHS). For over 20 years, she has organized members of the OHS and the Ottawa Region Floral Art Group to prepare the table centrepieces for the OHS AGM in December each year.

Since the late 1990's, Judy has been an active member of the executive of the Ottawa Region Floral Arts Group which met regularly until the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020. She organized the programs and brought in key designers in the area to lead workshops. She was also involved with the Lanark Floral Arts Group by conducting workshops. On several occasions, Judy was the design demonstrator at the D2 Judging Updates. In 2022, she was a Demonstrator at the D2 Summer Floral and Edibles Show at Ottawa City Hall. She also encouraged her grandchildren to enter the youth classes in the show. In 2023, her demonstration on Special Exhibits counted as a Judging Update for certified OHA judges.

As an accredited Floral Design Judge with the Garden Clubs of Ontario (GCO), Judy often participates in leading a session in the GCO Design Judging Schools when they are held at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Burlington. Judy has also been a demonstrator and entrant at Canada Blooms in Toronto.

Judy's extensive involvement in her Society and others in the District exemplifies her dedication to horticulture and design for nearly 40 years.

It was her family who donated the trophy to the OHA for the largest annual increase in new members for a District.

Congratulations Judy. Well deserved!

Prepared by Jack Wilson, President, Nepean Horticultural Society and Anne Harbord, Past OHA Director, District 2



Judy Fine (on right) receiving the Award from Sheila King (on left)

Eganville and Area Horticultural Society

Submitted by Anne Harbord, Past OHA Director, District 2 and Val Collins



Anne Harbord UE
OHA Director, District 2

March 18, 2024

Dear Dr. Goodall,

First of all, I wish to congratulate you on your upcoming 90th birthday on behalf of District 2 of the Ontario Horticultural Association and our member Societies.

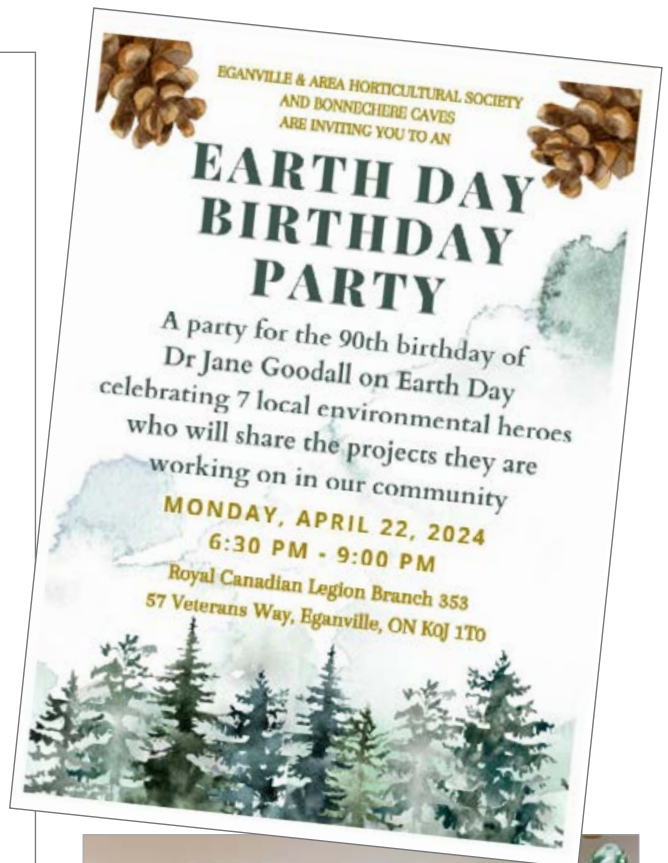
Your seven decades of work to save the environment has been an inspiration to many of us working on environmental, conservation and horticultural projects in this large District. We encompass Renfrew County to the north, which has a history of lumbering but contains one of the largest tree coverages in Canada; Lanark County in the central portion, which is the Maple Syrup Capital of Ontario due to the vast coverage of Maple forests; and the City of Ottawa, the Capital of Canada. We have 19 Societies with over 2300 members.

One of our more northerly Societies, Eganville and Area Horticultural Society, will be celebrating you, your work and your birthday as part of their Earth Day celebrations on April 22, 2024. I have enclosed a copy of the event's poster, that is also an invitation to local organizations and politicians. It is their "Earth Day Birthday Party"!

Aside from celebrating the work of seven local environmentalists, we will utilize the beautiful video you so graciously made for us last year. We will celebrate you and your special birthday. We are delighted to inform you that we will proclaim you as a Life Member of our District, present a District Achievement Award and announce your appointment as the District's first Honourary Patron for the Environment. Your support of our efforts will encourage existing members and attract other like-minded individuals to join our mutual efforts.

We will miss having you with us in person, but we know you will be with us in your heart and in your spirit.

Yours truly,
Anne Harbord,
OHA Director, District 2



Earth Day Planning Committee
Left to right: Judy Sauvé, Val Hinsperger,
Laura Hinrichsen and Val Collins
Photo by Lynn Risto

Eganville Horticultural Society

Earth Day Birthday

The Speakers Committee of the Eganville and Area Horticultural Society plans an exciting roster of speakers every year for their members' program.

But this year was a little different because it included a very special celebration on Earth Day. The Committee consists of four Board members and Val Collins kicked things off by contacting the Jane Goodall Institute of Canada and received a special welcome address from Dr. Jane Goodall which became a highlight of their Earth Day celebrations. This event was doubly exciting because Dame Goodall was celebrating her 90th birthday on April 3, 2024. "It all worked out really well", said Laura Hinrichsen, an EAHS Board member who was on the planning committee and also one of the featured local environmental champions. The Earth Day celebration became a birthday party with decorations and fancy cupcakes followed by a showcase of local environmental work being done.

"During planning for the event, we looked at the seven decades of environmental work accomplished by Dr. Goodall, and realized we could invite seven of our local environmental champions to tell us about the amazing work they are doing in our region," recounted Judy Sauvé, Committee Program Chair. They were first available to chat with attendees in a trade show format and later provided brief details from the podium about the work they are doing.



Dr. Jane Goodall

Photo provided by the Jane Goodall Institute of Canada

As attendees arrived, they were able to enjoy refreshments and chat with the champions. Then John Epps, a long-standing environmental steward, introduced the formal part of the evening, followed by District 2 Director Anne Harbord who presented a certificate to President Connie Matthews-Cull citing Jane Goodall as the first-ever Patron of the Environment for D2. Dame Jane was also made a Life Member of District 2. Val Collins then led the group in a round of "Happy Birthday" followed by the video address from Dr. Goodall. The room was absolutely silent during her inspirational address. Val Hinsperger then took over to introduce the speakers and direct the flow of the rest of the evening.

The seven champions were a mix of volunteers and entrepreneurs with a variety of interesting projects.

- Some deal directly with the climate change crisis.
- Others are contributing to educating people on environmental issues.
- They address issues like food insecurity by establishing orchards, community gardens, and various types of edible gardens.
- Several have projects engaging youth.
- They are from various areas throughout Renfrew County and represented just a portion of the meaningful work being done.

This event set a new record for the society with approximately 150 attendees. It was free of charge and open to the community so it was widely advertised and they came! A local business and tourism attraction, Bonnechere Caves, co-sponsored the event.

"As gardeners, we understand that the environment affects us all. We were impressed with the community's interest as they talked to each of the champions prior to their presentations," said Val Collins. "Horticultural societies everywhere can start these very important conversations about environmental impacts and we, as gardeners, can provide 'on the ground' solutions."

When asked if they would do this again, the committee replied in unison, "Well, it's David Suzuki's 90th birthday in 2026!"

Prepared by the Earth Day Birthday Committee

Bath Gardening Club

What's Happening in Bath

*Submitted and written by Pat Chown
Photography by Sue Nilsson and Don Taylor*

Welcome to Summer! Enjoy your gardens and watch the village come alive!

Membership Update from Diane Nolting, Membership Secretary

As a club of approximately 100 members, we extend a warm welcome to the following new and returning members Mary Lynne Alderdice, Lynn Buchanan, Aline and Hubert Denelzen, Betty Elliot, Joyce Friesen, Avery Harvey, Linda Jameson, Althea Jones, Angela Kurc, Elizabeth Marlin, Marjorie Meban, Lori and Herb Petras, Michelle Smythe, Sheri and Berno Wenzl and Nancy Wilkie.

The Market is OPEN!

The Club is pleased to announce that the Sunday Market operating in Centennial Park is up and running. Opening on May 12, the Market thus far consists of 15 vendors with more to come as the season evolves. Our new Market Manager is Erin McClure of McClure Eats. Erin, a resident of Bath, brings a wealth of knowledge to her position as she is involved in the market garden food industry in her own business. We welcome Erin's enthusiasm and her ideas that will help support our vendors in what we know will be a stellar year for our Market. Our own Linda Cohen has also agreed to expand her role with the market by being the liaison with the Market Manager. Linda has also planned some great entertainment this summer so be sure to check our Market Facebook page: **Sunday Market in Bath**.



Bath Market

Photo by Don Taylor

Come and join us on a Sunday from **10:00 am-3:00 pm**. Meet our vendors and check out their amazing products.

Fertilizer Mixing and Sale

Kudos to Diane Nolting and Laurie Minorgan for organizing this year's great mix and sale of Fritz fertilizer. 673 bags of fertilizer were mixed and ready for pick-up in just under 2.5 hours. After expenses, the sale realized a profit of \$1277.26. Expenses were higher this year especially the cost of bags used to hold the finished product. Diane and her team will be looking at options for a more cost-effective way to deliver our prized fertilizer in the future. Meanwhile, the successes of this fundraiser were abundant: the fertilizer was sold out, volunteers enjoyed renewing their acquaintances as they mixed and, our flowers have been nourished. Thank you, Diane and Laurie for taking the lead and a huge thank you to all of our mixing volunteers: Wendy O'Neill, Sandra Lowman, Joanne Pearce, Holly Adam, Linda Jameson, Dawn Ford, Gail Gault, Mary Lynn Alderdice, Cyndie and Ted Eedson, Mary Willing, Judi Gould, Jeri Love, Diana Wilkinson, Esther Quirt, Sue Nilsson, Keith McIlwaine, Roxanna Beddington, Susan O'Connor, Linda Cohen, Kathy ffollriott, Don Taylor, Adam and Dave Bryant. Many thanks to Martha at St John's Hall for waiving the rental fee.



Fertilizer Making

Photos by Don Taylor



Bath Clean-Up

Photo by Sue Nilsson



Bath Clean-Up

Photo by Sue Nilsson

Bath Clean-Up Day was a roaring success

On June 20, 40 Club volunteers took part in the Bath Earth Day Clean-Up. They were spirited on by Sue Nilsson who worked with Roberta Young of Fast Freddy's Petroleum, host of the event. 15 area residents also joined in on the Clean-Up. We were delighted that our Township representative, Councillor Carol Parks also participated.

Thanks to the Township for providing garbage bags and safety vests. And a huge shout out to Roberta for supplying water and lunch to the volunteers.

The number of volunteers, in total of 55, exceeded our expectations. But this participation is a tribute to those living in our community. Bath is growing and we need to continue to work together to create the best Bath possible. Thank you, Sue for taking the lead on this project for our Club. Your enthusiasm encouraged many members to participate. In addition to cleaning up the community, people got to know more about Bath and to meet the great people who reside here.

Kim Bonner: The Pollinator Garden and the Bugtel get a Face-lift!

"The hum of bees is the voice of the garden"

– Elizabeth Lawrence, American Horticulturist

It was a pleasure to interview Kim and to find out a little bit more about the lady who recently moved to Bath and why the Bugtel and Pollinator Garden area caught her eye.

Kim and her husband moved to Bath almost two years ago. They chose Bath as the area to retire because "Bath is a beautiful and quaint village, equidistant between friends and family in Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa". She also was drawn to the opportunity to cycle, kayak and to sing with the Kingston Cantabile Choir. And, upon researching Bath, she discovered a vibrant Gardening Club!

Gardening is in Kim's blood. Her Mum studied horticulture at the University of Vienna and, at 89, living in Vancouver, she is actively involved in gardening and extremely interested in our Pollinator Garden!

Letter writing is part of the Bonner family culture so letters, rich in the discussion of plants, make their way between Vancouver and Bath on a regular basis.

Becoming involved in the Pollinator Garden was of interest to Kim because, after a year as part of the watering crew, she saw it as an opportunity to work on a project with a team and to base any suggestions or action on research. Under Kim's direction; the Garden has been weeded, plants have been replaced back to its full complement of 25 varieties when it was first established in 2017, and the project won the OHA Pollinator Haven Award. In addition, all plants have been identified with their watering needs described. She has placed a 'binder of plant profiles' in the east end of the



Kim at Bugtel

Photo by Don Taylor

Bugtel structure that is available to all volunteers who work in the area. Blue labels have also been placed near each plant indicating by one, two or three raindrops, the plant's watering requirements. And, because insects also need water to drink, bee cups and butterfly puddlers have been strategically placed in the Pollinator Garden surrounding the Bugtel.

The work at the Pollinator Garden is on-going and provides a huge opportunity for all gardeners to learn about the difference between weeds, invasive plants and those plants we like to nourish. An interesting discovery during the garden restoration was the disappearance of 10 varieties of plants. Kim said that because the soil in the Pollinator Garden is more fertile than the native plants' usual habitat, 'enthusiastic growers' like false sunflower and anise hyssop can crowd out the more delicate plants like Old Man's Whiskers and Pasqueflower. Keeping plants in check will require maintenance on a regular basis.

Now that the Pollinator Garden has been refurbished, Kim and her colleague, Carol Cartier, who is in charge of maintenance scheduling, are now turning their attention to renovating the Bug-Hotel structure. Stay tuned!

A huge shout out to the volunteers who are also helping with the Pollinator Garden and Bugtel project. Special thanks to Dave and Adam Bryant for keeping the water supply viable and for their constant attention to the saplings in the Memorial Grove, which is adjacent to the Pollinator Garden.

Planting Day

On May 22, we awoke to a glorious day, equipped ourselves with our gardening tools, gloves, hats and water to plant the village! Huge thanks to so many people: our supplier, SunHarvest Nursery located in Glenburnie who delivered over 400 plants, Loyalist Township who not only provided a safe haven for our early arriving plants but also provided water support on planting day along with Henry of Schell's Market. Kudos to our volunteers without whom planting would be difficult and, a shout out to our Planting Committee Leads: Elaine Nicholson and Val Behm who were everywhere, planting and supporting all of our efforts. As a result, the village planting was completed by noon and everyone had a great time. We thank Linda Jameson of Frog Pond Farms for recycling all of our pots! Waste not want not!

A special thanks to residents who stopped by to thank the volunteers for their efforts in beautifying Bath. Now, with regular watering by Tristan Nagler of Flourish Garden Care and Design, the weeding teams take over to pamper and nourish as the plants begin thriving in their new locations.

As residents enjoy the village, they may discover that the 8 new round and one oval iron planters have been installed around the village. Thanks to donations from the Township and LafargeHolcim for helping us realize this initiative. In addition to the funding provided by the Township and LafargeHolcim, the Club receives support from the Ontario Power Generation (OPG) and the Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA).

Bravo to our 2024 planting volunteers: Michelle Smythe, Marjory Brunson, Sylvia Whalen, Roxanna Beddington, Elaine Nicholson, Louise Sweet, Holly Adam, Joyce Leblanc, Val Behm, Mary Willing, Lynn McDonald, Susan O'Connor, Sue Nilsson, Mary Drinkwater, Esther Quirt, Sheri Wenzl, Jeri Love, Dawn Ford, Ted Eedson, Cyndie Eedson, Pat Chown and Marnie Brough. Thanks to Mike Nicholson for distributing the flowers to their planting locations and for Don Taylor for his amazing photography.



Bath Planting



Photos by Don Taylor



Bath Planting

Photo by Don Taylor

Planting Committee Leads: Val Behm and Elaine Nicholson

These great ladies have lived in Bath 2-3 years and have stepped up to the plate in a big way to move the Gardening Club forward. It was a pleasure to chat with them about where they came from and what attracted them to Bath and to the Gardening Club.

Val has lived in the Bath community for almost three years. She and her husband moved from Guelph to be closer to family, to be part of an active community and, to golf! Elaine has lived in Bath just over 2 years. She and her husband hail from Ajax. They wanted to retire away from the hubbub of the city, to be closer to family and also be part of an active community.

Val and Elaine both bring huge gardening experience to the Club, growing both plants and vegetables at their respective homes. Val also worked in the nurseries of Home Depot when she lived in Guelph. They both joined the Gardening Club shortly after settling in Bath. They love gardening! They love learning and they love creating beauty in their gardens. They each described the strong emotional attachment they have to a garden area as they work to improve the look of the finished product. The finished product may take time to achieve however, gardens are most often a work in progress! So far, their experience as part of the Planting Committee has been joyful. I asked, from their own perspectives, if they had ideas or issues that might need to be addressed in order for the Club to move forward. One thought was how we, as a Club, might better communicate with one another. At times we may “over communicate”; other times we may forget to communicate. So, streamlining our communication efforts would be helpful. The other issue was attracting younger people to our “aging” Club.

Elaine and Val both recognize the huge amount of gardening knowledge members in our Club have and think having more opportunities to share local knowledge, personal gardening successes and “failures” would be extremely helpful. Perhaps plant swapping would also be a fun activity to explore.

The Club is fortunate to have Val and Elaine “on-board”. Stay tuned! These ladies are energetic, creative, they do their homework and they already have a great love of Bath. Both of them will be seen wandering through the village during the summer, checking out the health and success of the plants and, no doubt, creating new visions for our gardens.

For more information on the Gardening Club, we are pleased to direct you to:

Our Facebook Page: Bath Gardening Club and Horticultural Society

Our Market's Facebook Page: Sunday Market in Bath

Our Website: bathgardeningclub.ca

Come and help us create a more beautiful Bath!



Bath Planting

Photo by Don Taylor



Elaine and Val

Photo by Don Taylor

LaSalle Horticultural Society

Submitted by Jan Dugdale, President and Public Relations Officer

Photos by Jan Dugdale

The heat is on and so is the rain and the growing weeds, bugs and annoying mosquitoes. Boy, this summer has come fast and it's not even summer yet for us. Lol.

We sure did feel the heat running everywhere at our successful plant sale. It was the best that we have ever had with so many people arriving before we opened at 9:00 a.m. It was a major profitable annual fundraiser for us like a lot of other societies this year. We must thank all those who helped to make it a success. Let us not forget our volunteers, for they make us who we are. Without the army of volunteers for just this HUGE event, it would never be as successful as it is.

We are also hosting an egg to butterfly workshop for our third time in Amherstburg, June 16th, where we will teach attendees how to raise monarchs from egg to release.

A five-stop bus tour complete with games and prizes is happening on Saturday, June 29th. It should be a lot of fun.

May brought two interesting speakers on bonsai planting which intrigued our members so much we may be having a Bonsai workshop come August. All will be welcome.

The LaSalle night market was fun on Sunday the 26th of May, where we sold memberships and the last of our perennials from our plant sale. Any other perennials we had went to the Allie Sunshine Project. Read about it online. The story behind it is so interesting. They are speaking to our group come June.

Lastly, like a few other societies, we went on a peony tour at Fleur De Roy. We had the most fun that day and we finished it with an education on peonies, a beautiful bouquet and a great dinner out in Mitchells Bay with six society members.



*Enjoy your summer and projects.
See you come fall.*

Lasalle Horticultural Society
Presents **Egg to Butterfly**
June 16th 2024
10:00 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Location: **Amherstburg Community Services**
320 Richmond St. Amherstburg
\$20 Registration fee- \$15 for Hort. Members
for details email: horticulturalsociety@mdirect.net
Learn how to raise a Monarch Butterfly



Welcoming Beneficial Insects to the Garden

By Cynthia B. Lauer

Where there are insect pests, there are insect predators. Encourage them to make a permanent home in your garden and they'll ease your battle against problem species.

Bad bugs are notorious in their diversity and in the damage they do. Aphids swarm zinnias, roses and dozens of other prized plants, and spider mites suck the life from fruit trees. Thrips destroy rhododendrons and strawberries while leafhoppers damage vegetables and flowers. Beetles transported from their native regions overseas have wreaked havoc with North American tree species. To take one example, the hemlock woolly adelgid has devastated trees throughout North America and are established in Ontario and Quebec. The newest initiative to save the tree? Good bugs. 3,600 predatory beetles of the species, *Laricobius nigrinus*, have been released into Nova Scotia's hemlock forests with the hope that they will prey on their exclusive diet of woolly adelgids.

The technique of using one insect species as a biocontrol over another began in 1888 when a small ladybug was imported from Australia to California. Organized by state and federal agencies, the effort saved the citrus industry from the cottony cushion scale and was successfully repeated dozens of times worldwide.

Gardeners seeking a natural method to control pest insects can use a modified form of biocontrol. Designing an insect-friendly garden satisfies the needs of beneficial insects and of gardeners who rely on them to protect their favourite garden plants.

ABOUT BENEFICIAL INSECTS

Insect species are so numerous that most have yet to be named. Of the one million known species, only one percent are harmful. These are the insects that eat our prized plants, that bite or sting us and that carry diseases. The remaining 99 percent are either benign or beneficial. Thousands of species of beneficial insects live in the average garden. Their diet of other insects is a function that can, and should, be encouraged.

Entomophagous insects – the kind that eat other insects – can be divided into two groups: predators such as the lady bug that capture and consume other insects, and parasitoids that spend part of their life cycle inside of, or attached to, another insect, eventually leading to the host's death. Despite their common name, parasitic wasps are an example of this behaviour. True parasitic insects, such as ticks and mosquitos, feed from a host but will not kill it.

Beneficial insects find their prey by detecting chemical signals emitted by plants into the air. When infested with an insect, a plant emits a substance known as herbivore-

induced plant volatiles, or HIPV, to lure in the pest's natural enemy. Testifying to the profoundly complex workings of plants, threatened species emit different HIPVs specific to the pest species. This ensures that the appropriate predator or parasitoid will respond to its call for help.



Ambush bug eating prey on Rudbeckia
Credit: Nushi De Fry

WHO ARE THE BENEFICIAL INSECTS?

Beneficial insects are extraordinarily diverse. In some species, only larva depend on a diet of insects and in other species, both the larva and adult do. Insects may comprise their exclusive diet or may be supplemented with plant material. Some beneficials are generalists and eat many kinds of prey while others are specialists and rely on a single species of insect for their diet. Some beneficial species need nectar and pollen while others have no need for them. Some need a source of water and some do not. Learning about the life cycles and diets of beneficials helps gardeners allocate green spaces to support them. Their contribution to natural garden maintenance is significant.

Some examples will illustrate their fascinating range. Taxonomic families of true bugs include assassin bugs, a generalist predator that consumes hornworms, potato beetles, aphids, leafhoppers and many kinds of

caterpillars. For both adults and nymphs, insects are its only source of nutrition. Big-eyed bugs are generalist feeders, feasting on dozens of different varieties of pests every day. When prey is scarce, they turn to nectar, sap, and small seeds. Predatory stink bugs, including the large spined soldier bug, eat Japanese beetles, Mexican bean beetles, Colorado potato beetles and others.



Lady beetle adult and larva consuming aphids
 Credit: t-mizo, CC BY 2.0



Spined soldier bug
 (attacking a caterpillar on a green leaf)
 CREDIT: Russ Ottens, University of Georgia,
 Bugwood.org. CC BY 3.0

There are over 890 species of syrphid flies and hoverflies in North America. Their predaceous larvae eat soft-bodied insects like aphids, thrips, leafhoppers, scales, caterpillars and more. As adults, however, they are completely dependent on pollen and nectar for survival. With their striped abdomens, they may be confused for bees, but they are distinguished by their single pair of wings. Tachinids are among the most common and important beneficial insect in the garden. Adults feed on pollen, nectar and honeydew and are important pollinators. As

parasitoids, they often use various caterpillars as larval hosts. Some species of tachinid flies specialize in a single host species for their young.



Thrips and Syrphid fly on daisy
 Gilles Gonthier. CC BY 2.0

Despite their common name, ladybugs belong to the beetle family. With over 480 species in North America, they are diverse in colour, spot number and pattern; some North American species have no spots at all. Predaceous as both adults and larvae, most are generalists that feed on aphids, scale, mites, mealybugs, small caterpillars, insect eggs and pupae and whiteflies. Each hatched ladybug larva will eat about 400 aphids before entering its pupal stage. Adults will eat as many as 50 aphids per day or about 5,000 before their life cycle is over. In addition to their preferred diet of aphids, they also eat tomato hornworms, mealybugs, cabbage moths, whiteflies, and scales. Another valuable predator is the rove beetle that helps control bark beetles, slugs, snails, ants, termites, and many other creatures found in plant debris and compost piles. Gardeners may spot other beneficial beetles such as fireflies, ground beetles, and leatherwings.

Parasitic wasps are a critically important group of beneficial insects that is tremendously diverse in their appearance and life cycle. Ranging in size from minuscule to 7.5 centimeters, nearly all of them use other insects as hosts for their young, laying eggs singly or in groups on, or inside of, the host. After hatching, the larvae develop by consuming the organs of its host, eventually killing it. The larvae then emerge and pupate into adults. Many insect species are vulnerable to attack by parasitic wasps: aphids, beetles, flies, scales, true bugs, leafhoppers and many species of caterpillars. Some parasitic wasps will also attack spiders and ticks. Parasitic wasps cannot sting and pose no threat to humans; what looks like a stinger protruding from the abdomen of some females is actually an ovipositor.

Parasitic wasps break down into many taxonomic families. Chalcid wasps includes the genus, *Trichogramma* whose specialization in insect eggs make these minute insects the most widely released biocontrol agents in North America. The size of a fleck of pepper, these minute wasps lay up to 300 eggs inside moth or butterfly eggs. Ichneumon and braconid wasps parasitize dozens of different caterpillars like cabbage looper, fall webworm, tent caterpillars, tomato fruitworm, cabbageworm, and corn earworm. Their reproductive behaviour makes parasitic wasps the single most important beneficial insect group that gardeners may have.



Egg mass of a Tortoise beetle
being parasitized by Chalcid wasps

Credit: G. Bohne. Licenced under Creative Commons
BY-SA 2.0



Braconid wasp parasitizing Spongy Moth
(*Lymantria dispar*)

CREDIT: György Csóka (Forest Research Institute Hungary),
CC BY 2.0

Of the thousands of lacewing insect species in North America, the most likely a gardener will see are the brown and green varieties. Green lacewing eggs are laid individually or in groups on long slender stalks. Larvae

predate small caterpillars, aphids, mealybugs, beetles, lace bugs, whiteflies and assorted insect larvae. They are often called aphid lions because of their voracious appetite for this favourite prey. Many species of adult green lacewings feed on pollen, nectar, and honeydew. Brown lacewings are smaller, predaceous at both the larvae and adult stage, and lay their eggs without stalks.



Brown Lacewing and aphid

Credit: patrickkavanagh, CC BY 2.0

USING BENEFICIAL INSECTS IN THE GARDEN

The first step to using beneficial insects in your garden is identifying the insects that are eating your plants. Once you know your pests, you can learn the proper control insect. There may be more than one appropriate choice. To increase effectiveness and provide a backup in case one doesn't take, use multiple controls to combat the same pest problem. Don't expect absolute elimination of all pests; predators and parasitoids will not exterminate their natural food source. With experimentation and observation, you should discover the right combination that encourages the most appropriate beneficial insects for your garden. As conditions for pest insects fluctuate with climate change, a rough balance between pests and beneficials may take a few years.

Patience is mandatory for gardeners using beneficials. Their presence always lags behind the proliferation of pest insects. They will remain as long as their food source is present. If you want them to make your garden a permanent home, it is necessary to provide for their ongoing needs of pollen, nectar, water, concealment from their enemies and safe spots for reproducing and overwintering. This also means a continuous source for their insect diet. Pesticides and herbicides must be strictly avoided. Research has shown that beneficials eat and parasitize more insects when they can enjoy a pesticide-free environment rich in diverse plants.

Beneficial insects are commercially available by mail order. Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs lists seventeen suppliers of beneficial insects

and mites. Most are applied as biocontrol in agriculture, especially in greenhouses. However, commercial sourcing is unnecessary for most gardeners. To boost populations of beneficials, focus on supporting those that already live in your garden by offering them an ecosystem sufficiently endowed with food sources, shelter and overwintering habitat.

A GARDEN FOR BENEFICIAL INSECTS

Nearly all beneficials require not only the proteins found in their prey but also the protein in pollen and, at some point in their life cycle, the carbohydrates found in nectar. What plants are best at supporting beneficials? Since most of these insects do not have the specialized mouthparts needed for accessing nectar from tubular flowers, they need to feed from tiny flowers with shallow, exposed nectaries. Tailor your plant selections to suit their needs. Examples of inflorescences that support beneficial insects are the umbels of dill and angelica, the corymbs of yarrow and boneset and the composite flowers of coreopsis and rudbeckia.

To welcome beneficial insects into your garden, choose a diverse mixture of plants with differing inflorescence types, bloom times and growth habits. Interplanting of flowers, herbs and vegetables ensures that sources of nectar and prey will be in close proximity. Another option is to install a dedicated insectary border with six to eight hours of full sun daily and away from direct wind. Building a hedgerow of early-flowering woody shrubs, perennials and grasses provides year-round shelter for insects. As long as there are pest insects to consume, beneficials will stay in your garden.

Bio

Cynthia B. Lauer is a member of Simcoe County Master Gardeners, a retired sociology professor, and proprietor of Plum Publishing Development Services for academic and nonfiction writers. She can be contacted at clrdomain@gmail.com.

Average garden soil is best, with the occasional amendment of manure and compost. Many of the best plants for beneficials prefer leaner soils, so there is generally no need to add supplemental granular fertilizers. Water and weed as you would your typical flower bed. Deadheading, weeding, mulching and spring cleanup are all optional and can follow your preferred schedule. Stems, fallen leaves and plant debris should be left in the fall and winter to provide habitat for insects.

Perennial North American native plants recommended for beneficial insects are common yarrow, tickseed, shrubby cinquefoil, boneset, spotted bee balm, mountain mint, black-eyed Susan, cup plant, goldenrod, meadowsweet, asters, vervain, culver's root, golden zizia and the annual native sunflower. Other perennials preferred by beneficials are angelica, basket of gold, feverfew, and calendula. Annuals that support beneficials include cosmos, sweet alyssum, zinnia, marigold and tansy. When you've finished harvesting dill, parsley, coriander, lovage and oregano, leave the plants to flower. Do the same for a small patch of carrots.

Next time you see an insect on your beloved ornamental flowers, relax. It's very likely to be benign or beneficial. That beetle, wasp or other tiny flying thing is just doing its job, eating and reproducing, and keeping the unwanted insects under control. You may never see evidence of their work. But if you do the right things, they will be there. Support for insects is essential in maintaining a beautiful garden. Their numbers dominate the planet. They should be welcome in your garden.



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Cannington, Beaverton and Georgina-Brock Garden Clubs

Article and photos by Kathie Braid



It takes a village to host a Seedy Saturday event! The Cannington, Beaverton and Georgina-Brock Garden Clubs from District 17 cross-pollinated our time and resources on Saturday, March 23 at the Pefferlaw Lions Community Centre.

Despite the snow storm the evening before, we had a record 800 enthusiastic attendees at this free event. 33 vendors offered a wide variety of seeds, native plants, seedlings, metal art, garden items, honey, jam, lavender products... something for everyone.

Our speaker presentations about seed starting and composting were well-attended followed by a Q&A panel discussion. The children's story time presented by the Georgina Public Library, delighted the youngsters along with the children's activity bags with seed starting kits, colouring pages, crayons and other fun items. The seed swap table was always busy with great conversations and seeds being exchanged and taken. Gardening questions were fielded by Durham Master Gardeners.

Thanks to the OHA and the Town of Georgina for their financial support. A special thanks to the 44 volunteers from our 3 garden clubs who helped set up, greet, run the show and tear down – we couldn't have done it without you!

This was the 6th year our 3 local garden clubs have co-hosted Seedy Saturday and plans are underway for our March 2025 event.



Brantford Garden Club

Submitted by Max Byerlay

Photographers are: Carol Sterkenburg, Cathy Clarkson, Robin Brennan and Max Byerlay

The Brantford Garden Club has had another busy year. This is our 172nd year and we have been officially declared the oldest Horticulture/Garden club in Ontario. Shown below are just a few of this year's events. Beyond these programs, we offer 3 scholarships, have started a youth program and have become a very active club of 250 members. You will see more of us in future issues of the Trillium.

Award Presentation

At our May meeting, Alison Huhtala was presented with the **Ontario Horticulture Association Judging and Exhibiting Certificate**. This award is given for many years of leadership, guidance and excellence of Judging and Exhibiting in floral competitions. Our club appreciates all Alison does and has done over the years.



Alison Huhtala

2024 Ontario Volunteer Service Awards

Each year the Province honours volunteers from local organizations. This year they recognized 6 members of the Brantford Garden Club at an awards ceremony held on Wednesday, May 29. These members were recognized for continuous service and dedication as a volunteer to our club and were presented with a lapel pin and a certificate.

Bev Hutton	50 years
Dorothy Caskenette	30 years
Wendy Bowman	25 years
Alison Huhtala	25 years
Max Byerlay	20 years
Pat Veale	15 years



(l to r) Max Byerlay, Pat Veale, Dorothy Caskenette and Alison Huhtala. Absent: Bev Hutton and Wendy Bowman

Hospice Garden

This garden is part of the beautiful Stedman Community Hospice Garden. Half of our garden grows cut flowers for the residents' tables, rooms, hallway, etc. and the other half provides vegetables for use in the hospice kitchen for the residents' meals.

John Anderson and his team were busy this spring. First, our growers were watching over their seedlings while John (with help from Ed Hewitson) was busy building a fence and gate around one quadrant to protect the smaller veggies from critters. As John says "Peter Cottontail will have to hop down a different bunny trail this year if he wants some nice greens for dinner." This portion of the garden is small, only 7' X 7' but once the fencing was completed, a small team then weeded, prepared and planted lettuce, chives and beans, etc. John then assembled a group of volunteers to weed and prepare the other 3 quadrants in preparation for the planting of the annual seedlings for the cut flower garden and also the tomatoes and other veggies for the vegetable section.



After a couple of sessions of weeding and planting, the garden was ready for the growing season. Now we watch it grow and continue weeding and watering. The hospice kitchen is already enjoying the lettuce.



Lions Park Garden

For many years, the garden club maintained a Waterwise garden at Tranquility Hall. The city eventually closed the garden because the building was to be demolished and the property repurposed. This past November, the city advised that, if we wanted any remaining plants, we should take them, so a small work group dug as many plants as we could handle and then stored them under a blanket of leaves for the winter. There was also a granite bench donated by a recently passed club member (Phyllis

Kitchen) and an obelisk. A few weeks ago, we dug up the remaining daffodils.

Some time ago, we approached the city to seek permission to start a much smaller garden at our meeting home, Lions Park, using these items. We received permission and the garden was started. The bench and obelisk were repositioned here by the city.

The garden was prepared and a group of volunteers inserted plants that we removed from the original Waterwise garden. More recently cedar mulch was added. Considering it has only been a couple of weeks, the plants are all looking great.

Here is a pic of our new garden and the volunteers who helped with the startup: Sherry Mercer, Lori Barkans, Linda Cox, Max Byerlay, Herman Sterkenburg and taking the picture, Carol Sterkenburg.



Volunteer Recognition Awards

At our February meeting we were privileged to present a number of volunteer pins and membership pins. Membership pins are awarded to any member with continual membership for 20 years or more in 5-year increments.



This year, OHA pins were presented to (from right to left): Keith Lazenby 25 years, Terry Newstead 25 years and Bev Hutton 50 years. Absent Rita Crow 25 years.

We also presented volunteer pins to members who have made volunteer contributions to our club. These are not membership awards but instead they recognize volunteer work and are also in 5-year increments.



This year's recipients of OHA pins are (from right to left): Wendy Schmidt 5 years, Marlene Graham 5 years, Anne Marie Brown 10 years and Mark Meloun 10 years.



A 15-year pin was presented later to Pat Veale.

Another Successful Plant Sale – Despite the Rain!

We are always overwhelmed by the support and generosity of our club members and the plant sale on Saturday, May 25th was no exception! The executive couldn't organize this sale every year without the help and support of our membership.

There were over 20 volunteers who assisted on the Friday, taking plant donations, sorting and pricing. There was another group of more than 20 volunteers who came bright and early on Saturday morning – some who had also been there Friday for set-up and some volunteers who were new to help out with sales, etc. Of course there was SO much food... generously donated by club members to feed all the volunteers (sandwiches, squares, cookies)... so many delicious goodies to keep the volunteers fuelled!

We also appreciated the loan of wagons and carts, boxes and trays to help people carry their treasures to their cars. Despite a good turnout, we had plants left over and Lin Matheson generously offered to have a follow-up sale in her driveway. Many people helped transport plants over to her house as well and she had a successful sale on the Sunday!





OHA Trillium - Summer 2024



Volunteer Appreciation Celebration

At our new event, the April Volunteer Celebration, members were asked to stand if he/she had done any volunteer work for the club this past year. Opportunities to volunteer are numerous including Baking for our social time, Greeter, Welcome table, Kitchen helper, Hospice garden, Plant Sale, Library, Plant Table, Facebook, IT, Judging, Bus Trip, Members' garden tours, Raffle, Waterwise garden, to name just a few! Over 3/4 of members attending the meeting rose to their feet, (approx 75 out of the 100 members in attendance). It is incredible to see how generous members are with their time and talent. Each and every one of them make the club a success!

The event was fantastic with a beautiful, delicious cake prepared by Board of Directors member Carrie Anne Delane.



There are 14 members who are not on the Board and volunteer every single month. These hardworking members were recognized with a certificate and plant. Thank you to member Brody Sharland who donated the beautiful anthurium plants for this event!



Members who volunteer every month include:

- Welcome table – Dorothy Caskenette, Toni Whibbs
- Plant table – Mary Thorne, Bruce Thorne
- Library – Sherry Mercer
- Raffle – Ruth Lowe, Janet Bernard
- IT/Facebook – Pete Byerlay
- Audio system asst – Herman Sterkenburg
- Newsletter – Wanda Pheiffer
- Hospice Garden Coordinator – John Anderson
- Horticulture and Design Competition Judges – Wendy Bowman, Alison Huhtala
- Snack time - Karen Proulx

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Haldimand Horticultural Society

Submitted by Barbara Wilson

Photos by Barbara Wilson

Summer greetings from the Haldimand Horticultural Society – “40 years of growing.” Our members are looking forward to the season ahead.



Anniversary cake at the AGM in April

We’ve had a busy Spring organizing our annual Seedy Sunday event held in April, the D6 AGM hosted by us in

April, May Plant and Bake Sale and our Mini Spring Flower Show held at our May General Meeting.

Upcoming summer events will be:

“Garden of the Month” – properties in Haldimand County can be nominated all summer long. Each month, one garden will be chosen to receive a special plaque. Garden Tour – June 29th-30th – 9 properties in the Selkirk area and along Lake Erie will be showcased.

40th Anniversary Tree Planting: on June 23rd, we will be planting a Native Tulip Tree on the grounds of the Caledonia Agricultural Society to commemorate this occasion.

The Cayuga Museum/Library manager has created a display showcasing 40 years of Haldimand Horticultural Society. A reception will be held June 26th to view.

July will feature our annual bus trip – a Niagara area tour.

HHS “Green Guardians” Youth Group continues to be busy with special projects each month. They also maintain a garden along the banks of the Grand River at the Old Mill. Many thanks to the leaders for mentoring the youth members with interesting projects.

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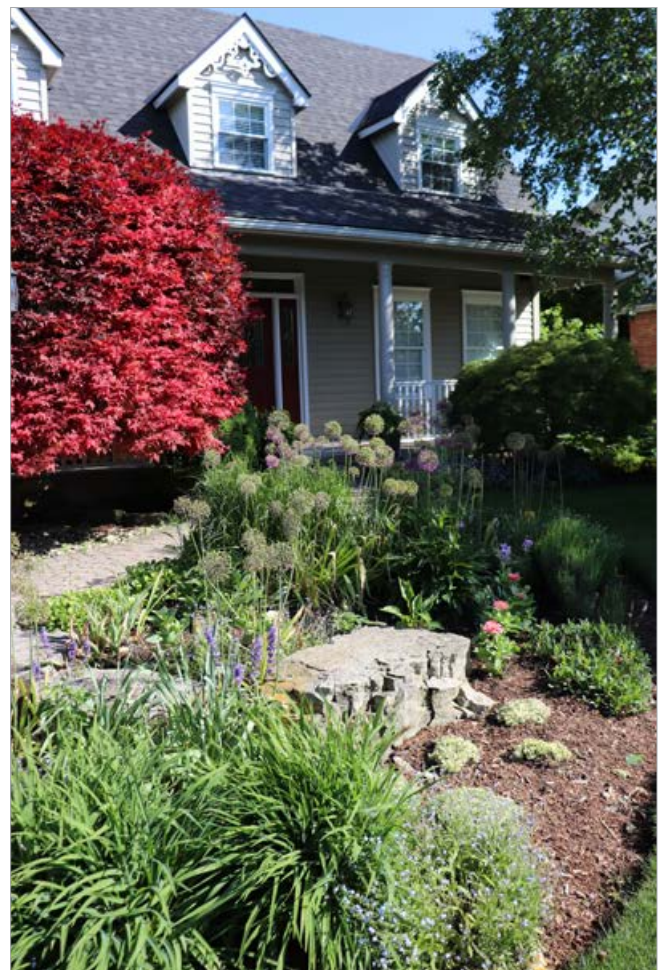
Garden Tour 2024
June 29 & 30
9-4 daily
Celebrating Selkirk

\$10 adult, 12 under free
NO DOGS ALLOWED
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Haldimandhorticulture.com

Pickup day of- W.J Heaslip,
1030 Haldimand Rd 20, Hagersville
9 Amazing gardens, water views, all close proximity
Multi lot gardens, tiny cottage
gardens, cut flower garden

Poster created with Canva by Catherine McGill



A 'Garden of the Month' nomination

Our ongoing "Poppy Project" will continue to collect knitted or crocheted poppies to complete a banner for the cenotaph in Cayuga this November. So far we have collected 500 for this project. 2300 poppies were donated in 2022 for the Caledonia Cenotaph and 2000 poppies in 2023 for the Hagersville cenotaph. We are very grateful to our community volunteers who donate their time to knit or crochet these poppies to create

beautiful, moving displays.

Thank you to member volunteers who care for our 9 community gardens and planters each spring and summer. Thank you also to Haldimand County for the grant received each year to maintain these projects.

We appreciate all our members for their support of our society – our membership has grown to 110 members.

*"The glory of gardening: hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature.
To nurture a garden is to feed not just the body, but the soul." – Alfred Austin*

Enjoy your summer!



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OHA Conservation and Environment Committee

Submitted by Sandra Rammelaere

A green poster with white text. The top line reads "BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES". Below it, in large white font, is "Plant Sales & Invasive Species". Underneath, in smaller white text, is "As good stewards of our local environment, please watch for invasive plants that might appear at your plant sale and refrain from selling them." On the right side of the poster is a circular image showing a plant sale table with various potted plants. A small version of the Ontario Horticultural Association logo is overlaid on the top right of the circular image.

OHA Conservation and Environment Committee would like to share the link to the OHA Earth Day Celebration video which took place on April 19, 2024: <https://youtu.be/u4il3pApvHM>

Guest speaker Claudette Sims discussed "**A Gardening Conundrum: Why are invasive plants sold in nurseries?**" Invasive plants are a threat to biodiversity, human health and our economy. They threaten native plants, insects, animals and our forests. So why are they still sold in nurseries? This talk answered that question and suggested actions that we can all take to safeguard biodiversity. The Grow Me Instead resources were recommended:

- [Grow Me Instead Booklet](#) (Southern Ontario)
- [Grow Me Instead Booklet](#) (Northern Ontario)

Our Committee also shared "What's New for Societies/Clubs" documents and an informative presentation "**Harmful Foreign Species Have Invaded Ontario – Learn how you can help stop the spread**" with resources from the Ontario Invasive Plant Council.

Please take the time to review this important information.

Thunder Bay Horticultural Society

Summer Trillium Report

Submitted and written by Vickie Bureau, President

Photos by Vickie Bureau

With the weather turning warmer, the Thunder Bay Horticultural Society has been busy with both our outreach events and community public planting areas.

March saw the society participate in the Roots to Harvest Seedy Saturday event, the Thunder Bay Country Market, both Wednesdays and Saturdays. Our General meeting presenters for the month were Josh Szura, Sun Bowl Farms, with a very informative and energetic presentation on vegetable planting and Erika North, Flower Show Chair, demonstrating re-potting foliage houseplants and how they could be entered into the flower show.

While attending the OHA convention last year and mingling with the other societies members, I was informed about one society in which they award a small prize for the member(s) with the greatest number of volunteer hours for the month. Our society has adopted this practice with members submitting their hours on a monthly basis, which is an excellent way to keep an up-to-date running total of our yearly volunteer hours for the year end report to the OHA and District Director. Our volunteers for the month were Yvonne Faid and Christine Paul, who received an Air Plant in a champagne glass filled with small green rocks.

April was a very busy month with the Thunder Bay Country Market, both Wednesdays and Saturdays and was closed for the year on April 13th, with an invitation to come back next year. We participated in 3 separate venues on the weekend of April 6th, the information and membership drive booths at the Country Market, CLE Spring Home & Garden Show,



*Seedy Saturday – Roots to Harvest,
Lorna, Shirley and Vickie*



*Seedy Saturday – Nolalu, ON,
Donna, Shirley and Pat*



Spring Home and Garden Show



Ibekana Design - Erika North



Magnus Theatre



Dedication Garden



Cambrian Players (New Garden)



Pollinator Garden - Centennial Conservatory grounds

April 5th-7th, and the Seedy Saturday at the Nolalu Community Centre, April 6th, in which the vendors raised \$340.00 for the Rural Cupboards Food Bank. The General meeting presenters for the month were Tina Quinn, Three Seeds Corp. – Aeroponics, with an informative and alternative way to garden all year long, Erika North, Flower Show Chair, with reminders of the flower show rules, quality not quantity of entries and a demonstration on Division 2 – Design, Class 192 – “Light and Airy” – Ikebana design and Pat Izsak, Flower Show – A Judges view with what a judge looks at for show entries.

Our volunteer of the month was Christine Paul, who received a “Tahiti Dahlia”.

The public planting locations for the society have started up for the year, with Magnus Theatre being the first with the main entrance attended to. The rose bushes trimmed, Karl Forester Grass cut back and the hostas cleaned up.

The Society’s Annual Educational awards were presented to a Lakehead University student along with 2 awards to the Northwestern Ontario Science Fair. Both recipients will be going on to the National Science Fair, being held in Ottawa, ON.

The month of May was also a busy month for us. Our general society meeting presentations were by Carol Ann Madore – society member – Vermiculture, who enlightened us with her expertise on the subject through practicing this composting method for many years and Erika North, Flower Show Chair, demonstrating on another Division 2 – Design, Class 197 – “Summer Sun” – Hogarth Curve.

Our volunteer of the month was Yvonne Faid, who received an “Orange Crush Dahlia” which would be an excellent entry into our Flower Photo contest which features this year's flower colour of the year.

The community public plantings are in full swing for clean-up and irrigation setups. Magnus Theatre saw the return of the rain barrels being placed, Thunder Bay Community Auditorium, Dedication garden – May 22nd, Cambrian Players – May 25th, a new community garden for us and the Conservatory Pollinator garden – May 29th. Thank you to the city of Thunder Bay and Magnus Theatre for paying for the purchase and application of the mulch on the Magnus Theatre grounds, this will go a long way in helping with the retention of water and suppression of weeds this year.

Coming up in June, our society members are looking forward to our Plant Sale on June 1st and a Tour of DeBruin's Greenhouse on June 6th.

A **BIG** thank you to all our society members for volunteering their time, knowledge and especially their camaraderie at the numerous society outreach events, public plantings and meetings. Without you, we would not be able to partake in the many venues and society activities.



Leaside Garden Society

Submitted by Nora Campbell

Photo by Nora Campbell

Our Provincial Volunteer Honorees!



On April 15, three of our members were awarded Provincial Volunteer Service Awards in recognition of their dedication to the Leaside Garden Society. The ceremony was held in the grand hall of the ROM with five MPPs in attendance to thank each of them for their extraordinary, long-time service to our Society.

Congratulations to Eileen Fitzpatrick,Carolynn Beange, and Sheila Brazys! We're very proud of you! Your efforts have helped to keep the Leaside Garden Society thriving!

Ancaster Horticultural Society Keeping Ancaster Beautiful for 63 years

Submitted by Rhu Sherrard, Publicity Director AHS 2024-2025

Like many societies, the Ancaster Horticultural Society has been active and back to keeping our municipal gardens cleaned up and ready for their summer "show".

The Plant Sale was held on Saturday, May 18th during the May long weekend. The weather was a slight improvement from last year and did not deter the support of the local community gardeners who were lined up at 8:00 am to support our sale. We had numerous volunteers who put in much time and effort to get the plant sale to run seamlessly. Our special thanks to Sue Freshwater and Jeanne Robertson.



The Ontario Volunteer Service Awards were awarded on May 6, 2024. Our member recipients are: Laurel Gallea, Don Grant, Betty Howitt, Wendy Spangenberg, Pearl Wade and Cathy Wood. Congratulations to all of them for their commitment and dedication to our society.

The Trillium Awards will be proceeding again this year, nominations are open until June 9th, 2024, and member volunteers will be judging various gardens in Ancaster from July 9th to the 14th.

On March 19, 2024, Adrian Hodgson of Regenerative Landscape Design presented "Let's Talk Permaculture." Adrian Hodgson provided information on holistic design mentorship and guidance for people who are developing their own places and gardens in our local area.

On April 16, 2024, Paul Faure, McMaster University Bat Lab presented on "The Natural History of Bats". He provided an informative discussion on bats and their habitats. He spoke extensively on research and why bats are beneficial to humans (including to human gardens) and to ecosystems in general. We were also fortunate enough to have a few students and bats attend our event.



On May 21, 2024, Helen Stailos from Pure Life Soil presented on "Soil Health, Worm Wealth: Cultivating a Greener World". We were introduced to the benefits of worms and the company's process on how they ensure the best soil formula for their clients and gardeners.

We hope to have a few members attend the OHA conference which is going to be held in Guelph, Ontario July 12-14, 2024.

Ancaster Horticultural Society Calender of Upcoming Events:

June 18, 2024, Paul O'Hara, Field Botanist

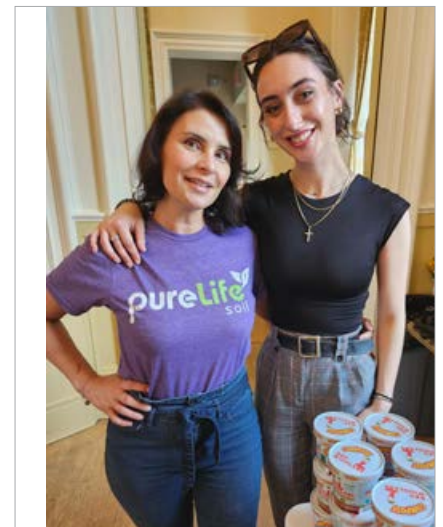
"Walking tour starting behind Lower Lions Club Road Pool"

September 17, 2024, Jen Howe

Onsite tour of Summit Station Dairy

October 15, 2024, Mike Parrish, President of the HDCDS

"Demonstration and Learning about Dahlias" [Hamilton & District Chrysanthemum & Dahlia Society](#)



"I know I am but summer to your heart, and not the full four seasons of the year." Edna St. Vincent Millay

District 11 Peony Farm Tour

Submitted by Sandra Rammelaere, District 11 Director

Photos by Sandra Rammelaere



Peonies growing in the field



Refrigerated trucks to hold the cut blooms



At our AGM, the Societies in District 11 were invited to tour a local working peony farm during the harvest time in May by owners Valerie and Charles Andre. It was a wonderful and fragrant experience enjoyed by all! The peonies are cut at the “soft marshmallow” stage and kept in cold storage on the farm and also along the way to the Ontario Flower Growers Co-operative and other local florists shops. With the hot days and nights we had experienced in the area, some of the varieties went into bloom faster than could be cut so we were able to see full blooms instead of just buds on the tour. We learned how to properly grow strong healthy peonies and how to care for the flowers once cut and inside the home. Please check out the Fleur de Roy Facebook page and Instagram to see some lovely photos. We hope to be invited back again next year!



In the shade after harvest waiting to go to the refrigerated trucks



Some beautiful peony blooms

Dunnville Horticultural Society

Submitted by Melanie Ruigrok, Vice President and Recording Secretary, Photos by Melanie Ruigrok

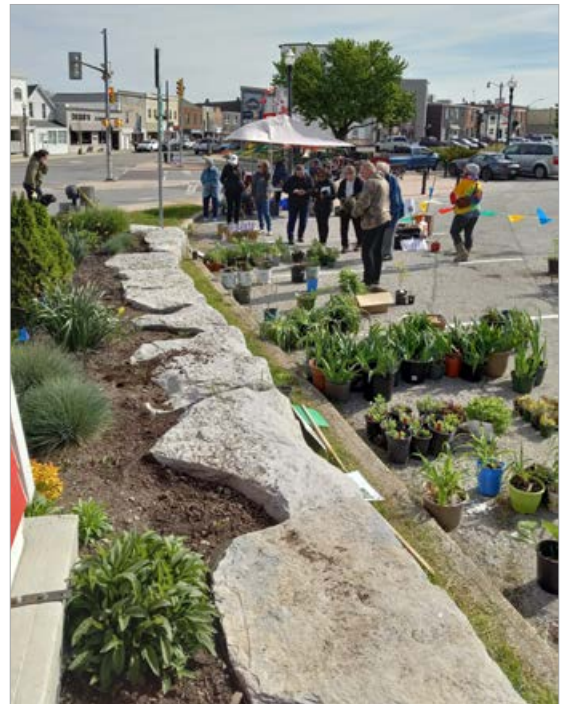
Spring is busy on the banks of the Grand River for Dunnville Horticultural Society. In addition to preparing and planting the flower beds, there were many other activities completed in recent months.



Dunnville Horticultural Society at the Dunnville Lions Home and Garden Show



In April, D.H.S. charmed visitors at the Dunnville Lions Home and Garden Show. The 'Peter Rabbit in Mr. McGregor's Garden' theme included a rustic stepladder and barn board display and a garden market stand. There was a photo spot complete with props such as oversized vegetables. Approximately 140 youngsters planted pansies with the help of our volunteers. During the two-day event, 52 new members joined the society!



Kindergarten students of St. Michael's School enjoyed learning about plants and environmental science with D.H.S. volunteers. The focus of the lessons was to help students learn about the functions of each part of a plant and the basic needs of living things. Students participated in germinating seeds, studying wood slices to determine the age of trees and observing the upkeep of a pollinator garden. Other highlights included nature walks, tadpole and insect study and observing bird species in their natural habitats. D.H.S. is looking forward to a productive summer season as a number of flower bed refurbishments are being completed and excitement builds for the upcoming Member Garden Tour.

Our annual plant sale did not disappoint in mid-May. Many in the community came out for plants, garden decor treasures and friendly chit chat. We are grateful for the donations of plants and the continued support of the community.

Tillsonburg Horticultural Society

Submitted and written by Sue Healey

Photos by Sue Healey



At our Annual General meeting, our 2023 board was dissolved and the new 2024 board of directors voted in.

We saw new faces, new portfolios and a succession plan established. Frank Van Heck, whose expertise has seen us through our annual audit, will be our 2024 Treasurer, Linda Fenn of Tillsonburg Garden Gate will be our Beautification and Industry Advisor, Kathy Kovas will lead the team for Bert Newman Park, one of our most beloved community gardens. Patty Picard is 1st Vice President and Barb Quantrell, 2nd Vice, establishing a succession plan for the Society that will ensure its continued growth and focus on education through beautification. Our Board of Directors numbers in the teens now, each one an important and vital member of the society. We are all herded expertly by the ever-ready, ever-forgiving Christine Nagy. Her knowledge is vast, her dedication to the Society larger still.

In February, we held our second annual Seed Exchange with much success. The seeds were varied and plentiful with Paw-Paw seed (already cold-stratified!) being one of the star additions. Angela Lasam, Jean Martin and Sue Healey organized the event to occur before the general meeting, giving everyone a chance to socialize while they picked up or dropped off new varieties of seed. Our speaker for the evening was Denise Hodgins whose topic "Starting seeds and cuttings" was as timely as you could ask for.



Digging in at the auction



Bonds made by THS

And back by popular demand, in March, we hosted the 2024 March Madness and Panel of Knowledge. Our three panelists from 2023 returned to answer our members' most burning questions. Cheryl Losch, Mat Fenn and Jim Mabee fielded questions that ranged from *Euconomis* (Pineapple Lily) bulb division to which pots your local nursery wants returned. Our members are also taking to the society's new "Lug a Mug" program by showing up to the meetings with their own receptacle for beverages, reducing waste and giving them a chance to win a special treat!

May brought the 16th Annual Live Auction Plant and Sale, our largest fundraiser of the year. Our members pulled together as a team to accept, sort, divvy and divide donations from all over the town. Our local and surrounding businesses were once again varied, surprising and generous in their prize donations. Outdoor barbecues, leaf blowers, jewellery and stunning trees were just some of the items up for auction. Contributions to the bake table which fed another type of hunger, included homemade cream horns, butter tarts and bread sticks. Our members came together to once again pull off a huge event that was well-attended and may have been our most successful auction to date.

To close out the spring, we embarked on our annual spring buying tour. This year's trip began with a private garden tour in the Kitchener/Waterloo area. The deceptively large, shaded garden was devoted to hostas intertwined with a fantasy theme. The superb garden was well-maintained and labelled and whetted our appetite for the nurseries to come. A few nurseries that we had visited in past years were worth a return visit and did not disappoint. An excellent lunch of schnitzel or chicken at Kennedy's Restaurant in St. Agatha gave us the energy to finish off the tour and fill the remaining spaces on our bus. Our ride to and from was smooth and easy and driver Stan has become our new favourite. He helped us in and out with a smile but far more importantly, packed our new acquisitions with the same care we would. We arrived back in town in time for supper, weary but satisfied and all without a single pot toppled.

It's still just dirt...

Submitted and written by Sue Healey

Photos by Sue Healey

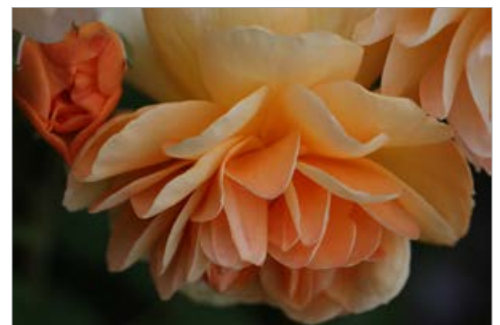
Orange?

When The Ontario Horticultural Association announced that the 2024 colour of the year was orange, you may have asked the question – *Orange?* It's the question I'm usually asked when revealing that my favourite colour is and always has been, orange. So, I would like to congratulate the OHA on an excellent choice and use this occasion to sing the praises of a highly underrated and underused colour.

I have loved orange for decades, beginning in my teens when the glorious harvest sunrises would light my way to the fields and sometimes, when frost was close, sunsets to light my way home. Those big skies gave me an appreciation for how changeable and broad this colour was; it was warm, cool, bold, and soft. In the garden, I have used and loved this wonderful colour from the very beginning. Orange punctuates a planting, instilling a sense of movement and vigor. It pairs with a broad range of colours, warm and cool both. Throughout the seasons, good examples can be found in annuals, perennials, trees and shrubs. Whether it floods the petals, or outlines an edge, orange is exciting, enticing and worthy of the title, colour of the year.

Spring brings the warmth of orange to our gardens with Crown Imperials (*fritillaria imperialis*) and species tulips. Both add a bold and clear colour element to the end of daffodil season. The perennial tulip, Darwin "Apeldoorn" is a glowing orange – just what we need to jolt us awake after a winter's greyness. The Geum family, a large and varied group of low-mounding plants boasts a fine assortment of bright to pale orange blooms. Bloom time bridges the gap between tulips and peonies. Late blooming wood hyacinths or early irises make pleasing companions to any of the spring oranges.

Summer belongs to the romance of roses, and none are as good for shades of orange as David Austin roses. This group boasts colour, repeat bloom, excellent fragrance and hardiness. "Port Sunlight" is a soft yellow double with a warm, apricot centre and enchanting lemon scent. I partner it with sky blue perennial flax (*Linum perrene*) for a two week show that has me visiting daily. The next wave of orange is in July with the sumptuous display of Daylilies (*Hemerocallis*). Offering a wide range of luscious fruit colours; mango, apricot,



*Port Sunlight - David Austin rose
(featured on front cover)*



Daylily with Miscanthus Morning Light



Red hot Poker - kniphofia

peach and melon, some have streaks, some have frills, all are wonderful in their way. My favourite daylily pairing is one of a mango-coloured daylily set in front of a matte purple smoke bush – a combination to stop you in your tracks. For a cooler, more sedate picture, orange and green are an easy and elegant combination. Add a little silver and you have created the herbal version of a creamsicle. Miscanthus “Morning Light,” a well-behaved grass plays a backup roll to a clear orange daylily and Russian sage (*pervoskia*) in one of my favourite and enduring groupings. And even with pink, orange can sing (although I’ve heard it said otherwise); think of a stand of mixed zinnias at the height of summer, all ablaze with colour and butterflies – who would walk away from such a happy riot?

As autumn moves in, combinations of orange and yellow bring warmth and comfort to the garden. Marigolds and sunflowers, helenium and crocosmia all add touches of flame. Mexican sunflower (*tithonia*) is a vibrant orange-red annual, tall and bold enough to mix with late season grasses. Add red and the garden becomes fiery; easy to do when leaves are changing. Asters in shades of blues are especially lovely as a counterpoint to all that rich colour.

Winter gives us a chance to use different plants, or even parts of plants, as highlights in the garden during an otherwise dormant time of year. Bark and stem colour becomes more prominent against snow or dark earth. Sedums such as “Angelina” show exceptional winter colouring, the normally apple green stems tipped in neon orange are a glowing winter delight. Paperbark Maple (*acer griseum*) shows off vibrant fall foliage and peeling, metallic orange bark and is small enough in stature to be included in most suburban yards. I hope you take this opportunity to explore this dynamic colour, try some new combinations and break a few old rules.

If you need inspiration or are looking for more orange options, the 16th Annual Tillsonburg Horticultural Society Plant Auction and Sale will be held on May 21, 2024, at the Lion’s auditorium. There will be plant, veggie, bake and prize tables along with live auction of great garden merchandise. Open to all, the doors open at 5:00 p.m.



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Do you wish a family member to be notified? Yes No
If yes, complete the following: Relationship to the deceased:

Name: *First* *Last*

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