

Keeping Ontario Beautiful

Trillium

Ontario Horticultural Association

Autumn 2023



Photo by Marie Van Dorp



Best Garden Tour Ever

Marie and Gary Van Dorp's garden was one of 8 featured in the 2023 Garden Tour held by Goderich and District Horticultural Society in District 8



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Editor's Message



Thank you to those who sent the great articles to share with us for this issue of the Trillium! The information and pictures are inspiring for our own gardens as well as our Garden Clubs and Horticultural Societies.

Many OHA Executives, District Directors and Club/Society members attended the OHA Convention

in Ottawa in July and you can read about some of the activities in the following pages. There were many volunteer hours put in to make the 2023 Convention and AGM possible for the first time since 2019. Thank you from everyone to everyone. Although I wasn't able to attend, the enthusiastic stories tell the tale. Those who were able to go had a wonderful time and hope to be able to visit Guelph in 2024. Me, too! In the winter issue of the Trillium, the results of the competitions from the OHA Convention will be listed.

During the pandemic, District and Club/Society AGMs were cancelled, not planned regularly or held by Zoom. It is so great to be back to the in-person version. Be sure to attend – it is always fun and I go whenever I can. Besides the interaction with other members in the area, you have a hand in the plans going forward. If there is a luncheon involved, that's a bonus. Some have flower shows and guest speakers and door prizes. You get to meet the executives and board members that you will be working and having fun with when you become (if you're not) a board member/executive. Garden Club/Horticultural Society people are the nicest folks around with two rubber arms to help out whenever there is a need, whether or not horticulturally related.

Enjoy all the articles and have a great day!

Laura Masterson
editor@gardenontario.org

The *Trillium* is the quarterly newsletter of the OHA (Ontario Horticultural Association).

This is *your* newsletter. It is for all members of all Horticultural Societies and Garden Clubs in Ontario in every district. If you want to know what is going on in gardening, it is in this newsletter. If your club/society has a special project and you would like to share the news, please send in a story and photographs.

What you need to know to send articles and photographs:

Submission dates for 2023:

December 1 – Winter issue

March 1, 2024 – Spring issue

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

Articles should be emailed in Word format, LibreOffice or plain text. Photos and other graphics 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. These requests make it easier to work with photos submitted.

Articles can be emailed to:

editor@gardenontario.org

Laura Masterson, OHA Trillium Editor

Please note that, 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.

Here is the link to waivers on the OHA site:

<https://gardenontario.org/wp-content/uploads/OHA-Release-Photo-Video-Testimonial-Form-March-2022.pdf>

When submitting articles and photos, please mention who wrote the article and who took the pictures so that a credit can be included. To avoid illegal copyright issues, please do not submit articles, artwork and photographs copied from the internet or elsewhere unless permission from the writer, artist or photographer has been given.

In this issue:

OHA Past President’s Report4
 Incoming OHA President Report5
 OHA Awards and Grants – Convention 20236
 Host District Summary 15
 St. George Garden Club 17
 District 2..... 18
 LaSalle Horticultural Society 18
 Bulb Planting Time Again 19
 Goderich District Horticultural Society 20
 Nobleton-King City Garden Club..... 21
 Schomberg Horticultural Society22
 Ennismore Garden Club..... 23
 Leaside Garden Society 24
 The Ravines of Toronto: A Unique and Fragile Heritage... 25
 Dunnville Horticultural Society30
 Northern Ontario Horticulture 31
 Wilmot Horticultural Society,..... 32
 Haldimand Horticultural Society 33
 Paris Horticultural Society34
 Explanation of Facebook Posting Regulations 37
 Ancaster Horticultural Society..... 38
 Bath Gardening Club..... 40
 Belleville Garden Club 44
 District 6..... 46
 OHA 50/50 Raffle Winners!..... 46
 Manotick Horticultural Society..... 47
 Thunder Bay Horticultural Society 48
 Insurance Queries? 50
 Stoney Creek Garden Club..... 50
 OHA Contact Information 51
 DONATION REQUEST FORM 52

Look for the competition results from the 2023 OHA Convention in the Winter issue of the Trillium.

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.



Keeping Ontario Beautiful

Trillium

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 To subscribe today, email a request to –

The Trillium Distributor, Lisa DeYoung:
ohatrillium@gmail.com

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

The printed version of the Trillium is no longer available.

OHA 50/50 DRAW

Submitted by Marian Heil, OHA Treasurer





GardenOntario®

50/50 Draw

**Next Draw Date:
Dec. 15, 2023**

50% of all proceeds go towards Keeping Ontario Beautiful!

For your chance to win, visit
<https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/ontario-ha>
 by Dec. 15, 2023



OHA Past President's Report

Greetings from the Desk of the Immediate Past President

Since the last Trillium edition came out and up until the Sunday of the OHA Convention and AGM, I continued to hold the position of OHA President. These were the last days in office and they continued to be quite busy as many different projects, initiatives and plans came to fruition or were the subject of more efforts to be properly completed in the near future.

The planning and preparation work for the OHA Convention and AGM was by far the biggest item on the radar and it took a great amount of time as the Officers were in continual communication with the Host District lead by District 2 Director Anne Harbord and the different Committees involved with the event. Not having held an in-person OHA Convention and AGM since 2019, we were all a bit out of practice but in the end, after that COVID-influenced four (4) year hiatus, the OHA Convention and AGM happened, in person; and was oh so rewarding for those who could be in attendance.



Charles Freeman

Speaking of the OHA Convention and AGM, please start planning to attend, if you are able, the weekend of July 14th, 2024, when we will be meeting in Guelph.

A number of other topics that are in progress include: the OHA Convention Survey from April, 2023, which will be brought to the OHA Board in October for evaluation after the 2023 OHA Convention and AGM attendees survey is completed. The Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats analysis of the OHA and its operations, which was started in 2022, will be coming to the October Board Meeting. Awards are always being evaluated and expanded upon. These projects are highlighted just to name a few.

The Officers worked with Shawn LaPalm, our Agent for Co-operators Insurance. We have a new initiative which was officially announced at the OHA Convention and AGM. It involves Home and Auto Insurance initiatives for members of Societies/Clubs across the province. Please have a look at the gardenontario.org site for details.

And now, The President's Report belongs to our new OHA President Sharlene Desjardins and therefore, as I said at the OHA AGM, "Madam President, the floor is yours"...!

***Take care
Stay safe***

Charles Freeman
Past President, Ontario Horticultural Association



Incoming OHA President Report August 25, 2023

Hello everyone!

As I sit here today writing this first report as the President of the Ontario Horticultural Association, I can't help but look back on the years and events that led me to this position. My horticultural adventure started very late in life but accelerated very quickly. I began by joining the Deep River Horticultural Society and then the Pembroke Horticultural Society. My second year as a member of Deep River, I took on the position of President. I was coordinator of various committees while in that position and when an interim position opened up for an Assistant District Director, I was asked to fill that role and said yes. From there, it was one step after the other. The more I learned, the more I wanted to learn. As I was moving up, I had no idea the Association was so intricate and so widespread.



Sharlene Desjardins

I work with a wonderful and like-minded group of individuals who are passionate and dedicated, both in the Officers group and the Board of Directors. We strive to bring you the best that we can; we are always looking forward and we are updating our goals on a continuous basis.

I would also like to say a special thank you to all of you, for trusting me in this position, and for all of the work you do every day in your communities to work towards Keeping Ontario Beautiful®. You are all volunteers, like us, and you all deserve to be thanked for your time and effort.

In the last month since becoming President, I have completed an interview with Landscape Ontario and I have compiled the convention survey results so they can be evaluated for future conventions. I have answered emails and made phone calls on various items and we, as a Board, are now preparing for our Fall meeting at the end of September.

I would like to let each of you know that you can contact me anytime, about anything, and I will do my best to respond as quickly as possible. I am here, along with the rest of the board, working for all of you.

Sincerely,
Sharlene Desjardins
OHA President



OHA Awards and Grants – Convention 2023

By Sharlene Desjardins and Kelly Taylor

Photographs by Brian Bellevue

Each year, the Ontario Horticultural Association opens nominations and applications for awards and grants on January 1st. Societies/Clubs, Districts and individuals belonging to the OHA are encouraged to nominate those who they feel are worthy. Applications are welcomed from Societies/Clubs who are doing great things in their communities such as planting trees, creating pollinator or community gardens, or beginning a special project. Below are the 2023 recipients of the Awards and Grants program. With over 24,000 members within the Association, we have a great number of volunteers who go above and beyond to make their Societies/Clubs and communities great! Although we can't possibly acknowledge all of them, we truly value and appreciate each and every one of our exceptional volunteers.

Community Improvement Award

The Community Improvement Award is a plaque provided by the Ontario Horticultural Association. It may be given to an individual, organization or company that, in the estimation of the Awards Committee, has enhanced the beauty of the landscape and/or added to the quality of life of a community with a horticultural project.



The 2023 winner of the Community Improvement Award is the Schomberg Horticultural Society. In 1967, the Centennial Garden was established in the town of Schomberg to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Canadian Confederation. Thirty years later, in 1997, a spectacular stone, called the "Gateway Stone" was unveiled. This massive stone was engraved with the society logo and the words "Welcome to Schomberg." Many important people and organizations from the community attended the ceremony.

The garden was intended to be a teaching garden for members of the community as well as the children from the adjoining elementary school. Society members take care of the garden on an ongoing basis and volunteer countless hours to tending, weeding, pruning and planting.

In recent years and especially during the Covid pandemic, seasonal displays were added to the garden to uplift the spirits of the Community and delight the residents during trying times. It also provided the Society/Club members the opportunity to gather outside under strict Covid restrictions and engage in socialization that would not have been possible otherwise. Seasonal displays include Halloween, Christmas, Valentine's, St. Patrick's Day and Easter. Children from the adjacent public school are encouraged and invited to help decorate the Christmas and Valentine's displays. Recently, a pollinator garden and a bug hotel were added to the area.

Once the threat of frost has passed, the garden is planted with annuals for the Summer display. In 2022, the garden was planted in the colour red to participate in the "Year of the Garden" initiative. Support was also shown in 2021 for the loss of indigenous children's lives of residential schools, by placing orange flags in the gardens. Also in 2021, the society participated in the "Grow Hope" campaign by planting yellow petunias.

This impressive garden has been an ongoing project for over 56 years and the Board of Directors is grateful to the community but especially to the gardening committee for their support and tireless efforts towards the maintenance of it, as it is a landmark in the Community of Schomberg in the Township of King. Congratulations!

Youth Leader Award

The Youth Leader Award is a plaque which may be presented to a person who has been a Youth Program Leader for a minimum of 5 years and is a member in good standing of an OHA Affiliated Society/Club in good standing.

The Youth Leader Award was presented to Heather Newman from the Ripley and District Horticultural Society (RDHS) in District 8. Heather has been an active member of her Society for the last nine years. During this time, she has provided leadership to the Club by planning activities, organizing meetings, attending youth meetings and hosting Club meetings at her home. As a person with “green fingers”, she has contributed and executed many ideas that have made the Club successful and fun for the members.

As a graduate of the University of Waterloo with a BA in science and biology, Heather’s heart lies in understanding the world around us and how all living things are connected and dependent on each other. She has a natural rapport with children and readily shares information in a fun and learnable way, making her an excellent teacher.

Heather engages the kids in fun ways such as having them plant Mimosa pudica seeds (sensitive plant), watching them grow and observing how the leaves fold up when touched. Another fun project she introduced was a bean maze where she had the children plant a bean seed in a cereal box, observe the bean grow and find its way via obstacles toward the light, teaching words like photosynthesis and phototropism.

She has opened up her home and gardens for Club meetings and has often provided starter plants from her own potting shed. Club members have enjoyed such activities as picking fresh herbs, cooking up an herb feast in her kitchen and hunting for bugs in her gardens.

Heather is keen to involve Club members in many activities that the community of Ripley offers including the RDHS-sponsored March Break program where children from the community are invited to learn about horticulture: the Ripley Horticultural Flower Show; the Ripley Fall Fair; the Pine River Watershed’s McLarty Outdoor Educational Property and the Bruce Botanical Food Gardens. All of these activities provide many opportunities for exploring all living things that surround us. Heather is a natural leader, fun to work with and a fantastic resource for Ripley’s Horticultural Youth Club, “For Our Youth”. Congratulations!



Environmental Award

The Environmental Award is a plaque provided by the Ontario Horticultural Association. It may be presented to an individual, organization, municipality, company, school or other educational establishment that, in the estimation of the Awards Committee, has made a significant contribution to environmental preservation including habitat, restoration and/or improvement.



The winner of the 2023 Environmental Award is the Nepean Horticultural Society in District 2.

The society wanted to be involved with pollinators. They attended monthly webinars hosted by the Butterfly Rangers Program which was run by the David Suzuki Foundation. They had a guest speaker at one of their monthly society meetings who provided information specific to pollinator gardens in the Ottawa area and they did their research, reading up on native pollinators and plants for their area.

They raised awareness of the importance of pollinators and the need for more native gardens. Twelve gardens were established in North Nepean/West Ottawa as well as three outside the District in Carp, Lanark and Lakeside Ontario. In establishing the gardens, they provided

seeds, plants and/or advice free of charge. Due to their involvement and work in establishing or expanding the native pollinator plant gardens in the North Nepean/West Ottawa area in conjunction with the David Suzuki Foundation, they were recognized by the Foundation as having established the "North Nepean Pathway."

The Society also had involvement from two local churches, City View United and Carleton Memorial United. In the case of the Carleton Memorial United Church, it was part of a grant submission to the Church to help establish eight raised garden beds. Out of the eight beds, one was for pollinator plants, one was to provide fresh herbs for a day care and six were for community vegetable gardens. In addition, they established a pollinator garden on the grounds of the Nepean Museum whose gardens the society maintains. Congratulations!

Award of Merit

The Award of Merit is a framed certificate and is given to an individual for notable contributions to the programs of the Association, District or Society/Club. This year we have two deserving recipients.

The first recipient is Sandra Rammelaere from the Tilbury & District Horticultural Society in District 11. Sandra was raised on the family farm just outside of Tilbury where she graduated and became a public health nurse. She later married a farmer and raised her own family not far from her parents' farm.

Agriculture has always been a huge part of her life. When she found herself with some spare time, the Tilbury Horticultural Society caught her attention and she joined them in 2008. Just one year later, in 2009, she found herself becoming the President of the Society, a position she held until 2021. She then became the District Director for District 11, a position that she currently holds. Sandra has been a member of Tilbury for 15 years.

Within her society, Sandra has been extremely active. She was instrumental in arranging the 25th Anniversary Tea, Flower and Vegetable Show. She created brochures, arranged a binder of the history of the society and invited special guests. It was a great success. She has hosted many workshops at her farm including Christmas tabletop and outside flowerpot arranging. Her driveway was also used for a hypertufa workshop. Sandra's gardens are spectacular and are often part of the annual garden tour. She generously donates hundreds of diverse perennial flowers, shrubs, bulbs and garden items to the society spring and fall plant sales.

She regularly attends meetings at all levels to represent her Society and District and has been an inspiration to all. She has provided speakers who have educated and encouraged the members and as a result has increased membership. She is a certified OHA Judge and is taking the time to advise society members on what the judges are looking for to prepare everyone for upcoming competitions. She actively assists with the planting of perennials and annuals in the downtown core, at the Post Office, Royal Canadian Legion, Tilbury Memorial Park as well as the local schools and churches.

When Covid struck, Sandra researched and learned how to use Zoom technology to keep her members engaged and informed. Meetings were held successfully for two years under her guidance. She posts resourceful information on Facebook and sends email communications of OHA updates, workshops, webinars and newsletters to all of her members. Sandra is committed to her Society, District and the OHA and it shows in a multitude of ways. Congratulations!

The second recipient of the Award of Merit is Donna Matier from the Wheatley Horticultural Society in District 11. Donna was the founding President of the reformed Society and held that position for 5 years.

During her time as President, she organized meetings, recruited members and liaised with businesses, other community groups and the municipality to further the beautification of Wheatley.



She has spearheaded projects throughout the community including the purchase of self-watering hanging baskets and planters for downtown, the renewal of Heatherington Park with trees and pollinator gardens and the opening of the Grant Bowman Trail through the park. She was instrumental in the opening of the Wheatley Learning Trail and Arboretum which is a long term project that she leads. It was designed to provide a space for learning about food production, habitat and native species within an area for recreation and fitness.

Donna also supports other society initiatives such as garden tours, weeding bees and society and community plantings. Under her leadership, Wheatley was awarded the OHA Community Improvement Award in 2022. Congratulations!

OHA Honour Roll

The OHA Honour Roll is given to an individual who, in the estimation of the Awards Committee, has made a contribution of horticultural service and/or given outstanding service at the Community, Society/Club, District or Association level. The award consists of a pin and a framed certificate. We have two deserving individuals for 2023.



Our first recipient of the OHA Honour Roll is Amelia Dupuis from the Tilbury & District Horticultural Society in District 11. She has been a member of her Society for the last 21 years and spent 20 of those as the Tilbury & District Horticultural Society Treasurer. She maintains accurate records of income and expenses and provides up-to-date reports at each meeting. At the Society AGM, she provides a detailed Treasurer's report, the reviewers report and ensures everything is properly moved and seconded. She maintains all records for seven years.

Amelia attends her Society and District meetings as well as OHA conventions and reports back to her Society with all items of interest. She maintains the Society email account and forwards emails to the appropriate individuals as required. She also ensures membership cards are printed and distributed to all members.

Amelia and her husband have held the Society spring plant sale in their driveway for over 20 years. For one week, it is taken over by hundreds of perennials, annuals, bulbs, shrubs and more. The sales have been extremely successful each year.

Her home has been a part of the Society garden tour many times with her gardens being an inspiration to many. She has lush flowers and walkways covering a great deal of her yard, along with handmade ornaments welcoming visitors around the many seating areas.

Amelia is also an artist and trained calligrapher. She pens the names of recipients of the Society President's Award in beautiful calligraphy. She also makes and/or paints greeting cards, bookmarks, book covers, picture frames and bird houses as well as many other items.

She has dressed in clown costume and make-up at fair grounds and town parties, painting children's faces with flowers, butterflies and glitter and has attended and participated in fundraisers for many community groups to help them raise money.

Amelia is always ready with gloves and trowel in hand to help with the Spring plantings around the community, weeding during the growing season and again in the Fall for plant or bulb removal. Congratulations!



The second recipient of the OHA Honour Roll is David Archer from the Perth and District Horticultural Society in District 2. David joined the Society in 1993 and has been a member for the last 30 years. In 2001, he became a Board member and was President in 2003/2004. He is also a member of the Smiths Falls Horticultural Society. He was an Assistant District Director in 2009 to 2012 and again from 2019 to the present.

David has been the staging chair for several Society and District flower shows in his own District as well as a show in District 3. In 2022, he staged the District 2 Flower Show which was a part of the first Ottawa Garden Festival. The show was the closing event of the festival and there were over 100 classes in specimens, designs and special exhibits. In 2006, he was chair of staging for the OHA Centennial Convention held in Ottawa and made and painted many of the staging materials

which are still being used today. This year, he was again host chair of competitions staging for the OHA convention flower show. He was also part of the small team that developed the flower show schedule.

In 2008, David started production and sales of a special rose mix fertilizer to raise funds for the Perth Society. The production and bagging still takes place in his large garden and this project continues to be a significant fundraiser for the Society.

During Covid, he donated 1000 daffodil bulbs to the Perth Society. A planting blitz was held in Stewart Park with members of the Society participating. Each year, the Society and community anticipate seeing the large swath of yellow daffodils during their spring bloom time.

David coordinated his Society's plant sales for 15 years and was also a lead coordinator for the Junior Gardeners program in the Perth Public Schools with up to 175 students for at least 10 years. He was actively involved with the Perth Community Gardens from 1998 to 2002 which included the Flag Garden, the Perth Museum Garden, the Cenotaph Garden and the Inge Va, a historical house.

In 2014, he worked with a committee from the town of Perth to organize the Communities in Bloom competition for the Provincial level for which they won two awards. In 2015, they also won the National Communities in Bloom competition.

David is a certified OHA Judge of Horticulture and Floral Design who enters flower show competitions at the Society/Club, District and provincial levels. He has won many awards for his design work and amazing horticultural specimens, especially peonies and roses.

In 2021, David's service was recognized with the District 2 Service Award. The award acknowledged his years of service to two Societies, two stints as an ADD, and his willingness to share his knowledge and horticultural expertise with those interested to learn. Congratulations!

Trillium/Silver Fir Award

This award may be given to an individual for outstanding service to Horticultural Societies/Clubs and/or to the Ontario Horticultural Association for an extended period. The Trillium award is a silver brooch in the shape of a Trillium and the Silver Fir is a silver lapel pin. This year, there are two recipients of the Trillium/Silver Fir Award.

The first recipient is Linda Henderson from the Tilbury & District Horticultural Society in District 11. Linda was a founding member of the Society back in 1986 and has been a member ever since. She became a Society Director in 1999 and Secretary in 2003.

During her time as a member of the Society, she has been on various committees to host District meetings as well as special meetings of the Society, the memorial service held at Northside Park in Tilbury, the 2018 International Plowing Match Beautification committee and the Chatham-Kent Communities in Bloom committee for which they won the award.

She assists with the planting and maintenance of the flower beds at the entrances to the downtown business section and has coordinated the placement of welcome signs, shrubs and perennials to welcome visitors to Tilbury.

As a teacher, she inspired students with the planting of seeds and grew plants for the beautification of the town and the local schools. When she was teaching, she used to portray Mother Earth with flowers in her hair and engaged the children in environmental activities on Earth Day. She has since retired.

Linda carefully researches plants and species that are native to her Carolinian forest area. She is active in the planning and maintenance of the Tilbury Northside Memorial Park where there are currently seven pollinator gardens that she designed with plants. The park is dedicated to those for whom trees have been donated and there is a dedication service in the Fall each year. She communicates and coordinates with the town of Tilbury for the removal and planting of all the trees. She also mentors the summer student each year.

As Secretary of the Society, she maintains clear and concise minutes, applies for grants, orders all of the flowers for the 40 downtown planters and all hanging baskets and requests suggestions for new projects for the community. In 2022, the Tilbury & District Horticultural Society was awarded the OHA Environmental Award for the conservation area and forest at Northside Park. Sixty-five trees were planted in Tilbury in 2022.



She would contact interesting speakers for Society meetings to entertain and engage the members on various topics. She and her late husband were also guest speakers at the Society meetings on more than one occasion, telling tales and showing slide presentations of flowers from their trips all over the world.

Linda is a lover of trees, flowers and plants of all kinds. The Tilbury Memorial Park has exceeded capacity of trees and the park now has paved walkways, fixed exercise equipment, lighting along the walkways, a gazebo, benches and now hosts "Art in the Park" each year because of how beautiful it is. Congratulations!

Our second recipient of the Trillium/Silver Fir Award is Bev Silk from the Grafton Horticultural Society in District 4. Bev was a member of the Scarborough Horticultural Society from 1993 to 1996 and a member of the Grafton Horticultural Society from 1996 to present. She has kept the Society going when volunteers were thin and even served as both President and Secretary in the same year. She has served as an Assistant District Director and as District Secretary and has been awarded a Life Membership.

At the Society level, Bev has conducted workshops for members, other Societies/Clubs and the community. She set up a Zoom account and organized meetings for the executive as well as for the general monthly meetings for members. She has organized flower shows, garden tours, plant sales, workshops, memorial plantings and potlucks. She also maintains the Society postings on both the township and OHA websites.

She is a youth leader and runs the Junior Gardeners' Program at the local public school. At the convention in 2009, she coordinated the youth camp, was one of the leaders and solicited for funding and supplies. She has worked with youth for many years both within the Society and the community.

Bev was instrumental in the creation of the Grafton Heritage Garden, a prominent landmark in the Village of Grafton. She has been the administrator of the garden for a number of years and has been responsible for its upkeep, maintenance and financial management.

No one is a better emissary for horticulture. She has encouraged and demonstrated ecologically sound gardening practices such as lasagna and no-till gardening and is a loud proponent of "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle." She was also a committee member of "Growing Together", an outreach group associated with the Society.

Bev has participated in or been convenor for constitution updates, tree planting, youth activities, gardening tips, yearbook, A/V coordinator, speakers, plant auction, community planting, newsletter, youth awards and so much more.

She is extremely involved in the community, volunteering much of her time to St. Andrew's United Church in activities such as yard and rummage sales, luncheons, meeting prep, refugee sponsorship and choir.

Bev has received several awards for her efforts including service certificates in 2003 and 2005, the OHA Award of Merit and the OHA Youth Leader Award in 2012 and the Garden Hero Award for the Year of the Garden in 2022. Congratulations!



Silver Medal Award

The Ontario Horticultural Association Silver Medal is the highest award of the Association. The award is given for outstanding work in the advancement of horticulture in accordance with the Mission and Goals of the Association. This year there were two deserving individuals of this award.

The first recipient of the Silver Medal Award is Miriam Ivison from the Tilbury & District Horticultural Society in District 11. Miriam is a 25-year member of the Society and has been a guest speaker many times. Her topics and presentations include slide shows to introduce the annuals, perennials and vegetables currently in the greenhouse.

Miriam grew up on the family farm in Tilbury East helping her father and grandfather by driving the tractor at the age of 10 during the hay and straw season. After she graduated from High School, she attended the University of Western Ontario where she graduated with a Bachelor of Administration degree. She returned to assist on the family farm, working in the fields cultivating, planting and combining crops of wheat, beans and corn.

In 1984, Miriam purchased a 50-acre farm and in 1995 she purchased a 100-acre farm with a creek running through it. She has kept the majority of the creek banks natural for wildlife. In the early 1990's she attended Ridgeway Agricultural College, graduated with a diploma in horticulture and became interested in plants and trees. In 1993 she participated in



a research study of "Processing Tomato Cultivars" with the College.

She built her first greenhouse at her parents' farm growing vegetables, annuals and perennials. Her love of farming and horticulture led her to be environmentally conscious, growing plants that are native to the area while attracting pollinators.

In 2001, the emerald ash borer destroyed many of the ash trees in Southern Ontario. Miriam was a source of knowledge on the subject and she, along with her relatives were approached about the tree loss and how to replenish the lost trees. They began a tree nursery called IVCO at the old family farm to help the community with refurbishment. Years later, she sold her portion of the business and began Old Oaks Perennials with her friend, cousin and sister. She built two greenhouses and to this day grows shrubs, small trees and many perennials, annuals, succulents, herbs and vegetables from seed.

Miriam was hired as the grounds manager at the Tilbury Golf and Curling Club where many of her trees from IVCO were planted. She has also planted many of her trees all across Chatham-Kent and Essex counties

including the Rochester Golf Course, Stewart Cemetery, the Valetta Church, Tilbury Memorial Park, Tilbury Northside Park and around the community. She also donated one of her spruce trees to downtown Tilbury where the BIA hold a tree lighting ceremony each Christmas.

She, along with her sister and cousin, were volunteers for the International Plowing Match held in her area in 2018. As a landscaping committee member, she assisted the beautification committee in preparing the grounds entrances with mulch, fences, straw bales and decorations.

Aside from the trial beds at Old Oaks Perennials where she likes to test new flower varieties, her personal gardens are full of many types of vegetables and flowers and her canning shelves overflow with the help of her sister and cousin. Springtime will find them in the greenhouses planting, watering, labeling, dividing seedlings, nurturing, transplanting and fertilizing the plants until sold. She has made it a goal to plant 1000 trees in her lifetime.

Miriam has taken a recent interest in bee keeping and the making of honey. She has had two hives for several years now and enjoys the goodness and unique taste of a product from her own local pollinators in nature. In the Spring, she taps maple trees for the production of maple syrup for her family. She has also taken an interest in the bagpipes and plays with the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 28 pipe band. Congratulations!



The second recipient of the Silver Medal Award is Anne Harbord from the Manotick Horticultural Society in District 2. Anne is a multi-award-winning floral designer, demonstrator, judge and speaker. Her life-long passion for gardening was nurtured by her parents from an early age.

Anne is currently serving as District 2 Director, working tirelessly to promote the OHA. She has been active in promoting horticulture through floral and garden design for almost 30 years.

She was a strong supporter of the 2022 Year of the Garden program, working behind the scenes to try and ensure that each society in District 2 nominated a Garden Hero so that many volunteers were recognized for their contributions to horticulture. As a result, District 2 members nominated Anne as the District Garden Hero. She strongly believes in the importance of pollinators, and under her guidance, District 2 has since produced a web-based pollinator garden map.

She is an active member of many horticultural organizations, as a speaker on horticultural topics, on flower show committees, as a docent at plant sales and as a teacher of floral design and horticultural topics. She

is actively involved in both the Garden Clubs of Ontario and the Ontario Horticultural Association.

Anne was presented with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2013 for her outstanding work in obtaining heritage designation for the west village of Port Credit in 2003. She is also a triple Paul Harris Fellow through her fundraising projects for the Rotary Club of Mississauga-City Centre and a Benefactor to the Rotary International Foundation. In 2014,

Anne was placed on the OHA Honour Roll. In 2022, Anne was instrumental in having two Burr Oak trees planted as part of the Queen's Jubilee at the newly established Canadensis Botanical Garden in Ottawa.

In 2005, Anne laid out the garden bed at the first International Cancer Survivors' Park at the Credit Valley Hospital in Mississauga. From 2007 to 2011, she returned to Ottawa and was involved in all aspects of horticultural activities in the area. In 2009, she organized a five-city tour for Graham Rankin, the Director of Aberglasney Gardens in Wales. From 2016 until 2021, Anne was the horticultural expert on the Manotick Remembrance Park Planning Committee. She laid out the garden beds to represent each of the military forces and the home front and was very active on a weekly basis from April to October with Park maintenance.

Anne is an accredited Floral Design Judge, Horticultural Judge, Lily Judge, Rose Judge and certified as an OHA Design and Horticultural Judge. In 2009, she co-chaired an OHA judging school which resulted in seventeen new judges.

In her role as District 2 Director, Anne is a keen communicator. She established a District 2 newsletter to keep all members up to date on activities not only in the District, but also at the Provincial level. She has provided information to Societies/Clubs on ways to promote themselves and to increase membership.

She is a strong supporter of the Junior Garden Clubs in District 2, acknowledging that these children are the future gardeners of tomorrow.

During the pandemic, she worked with the District webmaster and Board members to arrange virtual flower shows to keep members involved in floral design.

As chairperson of the 2023 OHA Convention, Anne and her team planned for years to make it the best it could be. Regular meetings were held virtually and in person and she worked tirelessly with her team to ensure a well-attended, informative and enjoyable weekend, the first in-person convention in 4 years.

Anne and her husband Roger live in the hamlet of Prospect. They are revitalizing their property into a showcase for over fifty varieties of roses, many raised beds of perennials, vegetables and berries, a large pond, two mini orchards as well as a walking trail through their deciduous woods flanked by newly installed shade garden beds. They have also recently become beekeepers to promote bees as pollinators and to learn more about producing their own honey. Congratulations!

Technical Advancement Recognition

The Technical Advancement Recognition certificate is presented to a Society/Club or District in recognition of their demonstrated drive and determination to fulfill their mandate by using a virtual platform to remain engaged with their Society/Club or District members. The certificates are mailed to the District Directors for presentation at a mutually agreed upon time and place.

The 2023 recipients of the Technical Advancement Recognition Certificate are:

- Cornwall and District Horticultural Society from District 1
- Tilbury and District Horticultural Society from District 11
- Schomberg Horticultural Society from District 15

OHA Membership Challenge Trophy

The OHA Membership Trophy, originally donated by Fines Flowers of Ottawa, is a trophy to be awarded to a District with the highest percentage membership increase overall for the year.

District 13 saw an increase of 26.19% and had 1118 members in 2022. Congratulations to District 13!



L-R: OHA President Charles Freeman presenting District 13 Director Denise Berg with the OHA Membership Trophy

OHA GRANTS

The OHA is pleased to provide grants to our Societies/Clubs in Ontario to facilitate the beautification of their communities. Grants are available in the category of Trees, Pollinator, Community Garden, Seedy Saturday/Sunday, Special Project/Environmental, Youth, Technical Advancement and Youth Project.

Grants were awarded to the following Societies/Clubs:

Tree Grants

Martintown & District HS – District 1
Glencoe HS – District 10
Maxville & District HS – District 1
Belle River & District HS – District 11
Ottawa HS – District 2
Tilbury & District – District 11

Lennox & Addington HS – District 3
Thunder Bay HS – District 14
Tweed & District HS – District 3
Collingwood HS – District 16
Ennismore & District HS – District 4
Creemore HS – District 16

Burlington HS – District 6
Elmira & District HS – District 19
Oakville HS – District 6
Galt HS – District 19
Grand Valley & District HS – District 7
Kitchener HS – District 19

Special Project Grants

Martintown & District HS – District 1

Peterborough HS – District 4

Ennismore & District HS – District 4

Community Garden Grants

Kemptville HS – District 1

Sault Ste. Marie HS – District 13

Technical Advancement Grants

Maxville & District HS – District 1
Thunder Bay HS – District 14
Manotick HS – District 2
Beaverton HS – District 17

Eganville & Area HS – District 2
Orono HS – District 17
Stoney Creek GC & HS – District 6
Magnetawan HS – District 18

Ambassador Lasalle HS – District 11
North Bay HS – District 18
Chatham HS – District 11
Ayr HS – District 19

Pollinator Project Grants

Ottawa HS – District 2
Ambassador Lasalle HS – District 11
Tweed & District HS – District 3

Magnetawan HS – District 18
Ennismore & District HS – District 4
Galt HS – District 19

Paris HS – District 6
Hespeler HS – District 19
Ripley & District HS – District 8

Seedy Saturday/Sunday Grants

West Carleton GC & HS – District 2
Markdale & District HS – District 8
Peterborough HS – District 4

Essex & District HS – District 11
Haldimand HS – District 6

Beaverton HS – District 17
Elora & Salem HS – District 7

Youth Grants

Petawawa HS – District 2
Caledon HS – District 15
East Gwillimbury HS – District 5

Etobicoke HS – District 15
Haldimand HS – District 6

Hespeler HS – District 19
Clifford & District HS – District 7

Youth Project Grants

Tweed & District HS – District 3

Caledon HS – District 15

Haldimand HS – District 6

Congratulations to all of our grant recipients and all of our award winners for 2023! The OHA takes pride in being able to offer these programs to recognize those individuals who go above and beyond as well as being able to offer financial assistance to our Societies/Clubs who wish to beautify their communities.

Please consider applying for a grant or nominating someone for an award that you think is deserving. We are all volunteers working together for our main goal of ***Keeping Ontario Beautiful***®!

OHA 115th Convention and AGM

Host District Summary

Written by Anne Harbord UE MBA, Host Chair, 2023 OHA Convention and AGM, OHA Director, District 2

Photography by Gay MacQuarrie

The 115th OHA Convention and AGM was the first in-person Convention since 2019. Many years of starting and regrouping culminated in a magnificent event that had people talking about the great venue, the wide assortment of vendors, the amazing speakers and bus tours, and the fantastic entertainment.

Ottawa Mayor Sutcliffe dedicated July 21, 2023 as "Rock Your Garden World Day" in honour of holding the Convention in Ottawa. Kanata North Councillor Cathy Curry presented the framed certificate and letter at the Opening Ceremony on Friday morning. Thanks to Host District Convention Secretary Bonnie Gray for making this happen.

The Hon. Lisa Thompson, Minister of OMAFRA, sent a brief video welcoming attendees to the Convention. The Minister was introduced by Councillor Curry. Attendees were pleased to see photos of OHA events around the province in the background video.

Joe Salemi, Executive Director, Landscape Ontario, welcomed attendees. He mentioned how pleased he was to have been at the Convention Tree Planting the prior day and how he was looking forward to partaking in the Friday events at Convention.

Also providing an opening address was Shawn LaPalm of Co-operators Insurance. He announced a new insurance package of Home and Auto Insurance now available to OHA members. In addition, Shawn presented a cheque for \$2,500 to the OHA in support of their education programs.

Many thanks to Val Collins for the great line-up of speakers. Attendees said they were spoiled for choice. When a speaker was ill or delayed, we went to Plan B. Many thanks to the back-up speaker Phil Reilly for his wonderful presentation "Tiptoe through the Gardens of England".

Roger Harbord, Host Treasurer, did an outstanding job on both the Bus Tours and the Silent Auction. The people who did the tour to Eganville and the Bonnechere Caves said it was the best tour they had ever been on, and that Val Collins and Val Hinsberger were exceptional tour guides. The Schnitzel Lunch at The Granary Restaurant was delicious and the added feature of the museum staff talking about the geological significance of the Bonnechere Valley was icing on the Black Forest Cake.



The Silent Auction ended up with 160 items and brought in approximately \$8,000. Buyers were very happy with their purchases. There was only one item left unsold, but someone bought that at the end of the evening. Many thanks to Roger, Bonnie Gray, Ian and Ruth Anderson and the other Silent Auction volunteers for your support.

Entertainment was another highlight of the Convention. Our line-up of Ottawa Valley talent started at 7:00 p.m. with our MC, Daniel Richer, the Ottawa Town Crier, and our four sets of musicians:

- The Fiddleaires from Chapeau Quebec, Lucie (10) and Wilson (12) who had everyone hand-clapping and foot-stomping to their wonderful mix of Scottish, Irish and Ottawa Valley medleys. Their excellent fiddling and step-dancing skills amazed the audience.
- Marc Audet, a folk singer and troubadour from the Upper Ottawa Valley entertained with his stories and songs of life along the Ottawa River during the lumbering days up the Valley.
- Jess Wedden from Sharbot Lake and Chris Brophy from Kingston provided a wide-range of music, much of which they had composed. Jess is an award-winning fiddler who has opened for Ashley MacIsaac and has toured the USA and Canada. Chris plays with Turpin's Trail and is also a songwriter and music teacher plus multi-instrument player. His amazing voice is very reminiscent of the late Stan Rogers.

- Fiddles on the Rideau is a group of musicians from Manotick who wander down the Rideau River near Manotick every summer and play great fiddle music while raising funds for local charities. Group leader is Sherryl Fitzpatrick, an educator, musician, award-winning recording artist and composer who also accompanied the Fiddleaires. Chad Wolfe and Mark Allen are accomplished musicians who play fiddle and piano and who also compose music. As well, Chad is a Canadian Champion step-dancer and teacher. Three of his proteges are The Lyons Sisters, who amazed us with several sets of indigenous dances. Chad also accompanied the Fiddleaires. Gail Gavan, who was raised in a musical family in Quyon, Quebec, was the feature singer, who had the ladies from Grand Valley Horticultural Society up on stage acting out the Log Driver's Song. An absolutely jam-packed evening of music, dance, songs and FUN! Thanks to Lori Ray, Sheila King, Anne Harbord and the late Marion Thompson who pulled this great program together and to Lori for organizing the sound checks and ensuring that the entertainers were well looked-after for their Audio Visual needs.

The vendors and exhibitors were pleased with the overall results, with several vendors making their highest sales ever. Promoting the vendors, exhibitors and competitions brought more people onto the second floor and exposed them to the OHA and our Competitions. Thanks to Brenda Baird of West Carleton Garden Club for her effort in finding great vendors with something for everyone.

The Registration Desk was manned by our OHA Registrar, Donna Hussey, and Lois O'Brien and members from Petawawa Horticultural Society. The Information Desk was organized by Beate Hertzog and her team of volunteers from Kanata-March Horticultural Society. They did an excellent job of providing information on local amenities, restaurants, shopping and other things to see and do. Our attendees were very complimentary of the efforts of this group.

Maxine Whelan of Manotick Horticultural Society did an amazing job collecting the very useful items for the attendee gift bags. She put in a lot of time getting these items as many previous donors are no longer giving freebies for this type of event. Maxine also managed to get money donated to Convention through her contacts, which was very appreciated. Also, she worked with Ritchie's Feed and Seed nursery which did a special order of the goodie bag itself. Previous large sponsors like Lee Valley, Loblaws and the banks are no longer providing items, so there was a lot more research needed to make this all happen.

Cindy Zorgel and her team from Almonte Horticultural Society did an amazing job with the decorations in the Newbridge Ballroom. Cindy also requested support from many of the florists, nurseries and garden centres in the Almonte area. Almonte Horticultural Society provided most of the funding for the table decorations which were very much appreciated by the winners. The tables were also adorned with the painted rocks from all D2 Societies and Youth of Manotick Association. The kindness rocks made great party favours for the attendees.

Floral bouquets from our first speaker, Akous Asare, and rose bouquets provided by Almonte Horticultural Society and Cindy Zorgel were presented by Anne Harbord, D2 Director, to the following people for their outstanding volunteer efforts:

Lori Ray (Entertainment and A/V), Darlene Bourne (Program),
 Laura Hunter and Debra Bellevue (Volunteers), Brenda Baird (Vendors),
 Daphne Lopez (Brookstreet Event Manager), Donna Hussey (OHA Registrar),
 Kelly Taylor (OHA Secretary), Marian Heil (OHA Treasurer),
 Marilyn Cox (In Memoriam), Louise Freeman (wife of Charles Freeman) and
 Britta Runtz (wife of Gala Speaker Michael Runtz).

And, our largest donor, Brian Carson, was presented with a Convention Golf Shirt and a box of six homemade jams, in recognition of his donation of a Double Bloodroot and other choice plants to all attendees on Sunday morning as they left to go home. This was a labour of love for Brian who started all the plants in his garden and ensured everyone had a special memory of the 2023 Convention. Thank you, Brian.

The Competitions Room was a beehive of activity on the Friday morning with last minute entries being placed in the various groups. The staging



Above: Sogetsu Ikebana design by Leislle Alvarenga of West Carleton Garden Club and Horticultural Society

was magnificent, thanks to the efforts of David Archer for the Flower Show and the suggestions of Sheila King to use display grids for the Photography and the Arts sections. Vicky Culbert, OHA Competitions Chair and Kathryn Lindsay, D2 Competitions Chair are to be congratulated on a wonderful show. A special thank you to all entrants as well, because without you, there would be no flower show.

We accommodated the needs of everyone who stayed at the beautiful Brookstreet Hotel. The food was great and line-ups minimal.

Thank you to members of the Sogetsu Ottawa Branch whose seven arrangements graced the registration area and Foyer for the Convention.

More details on the Convention are in other articles including the OHA Awards and Grants for 2023.

Looking forward to the 2024 Convention in Guelph.

St. George Garden Club

Written by Jackie Riddle, Submitted by Amy Jones Bradley, President

IN MEMORIAM: Peggy Tolhurst

Peggy Tolhurst, a 70-year-plus member of the St. George Garden Club, passed away Sunday June 11th, 2023.

Peggy arrived in the village in the early 30's from the Toronto area at the age of seven; her parents took over the running of the local hotel in downtown St. George.

Peggy, by default, became a member of the Garden Club in 1949-1950. Newly married, her mother-in-law (who was one of the executive members of the Club at the time) said we needed another director and suggested that Peggy fill in. Not to rock the boat, Peggy, who was working in Brantford at the time, said she would. This was the start of her 70-plus years with the Garden Club. Over the years, Peggy helped out in many roles, always capable and well organized no matter the task. She did this while serving on other committees in the village, the Old School, the theatre group, the local church and Meals on Wheels to name a few. Personally, I enjoyed many trips with her to O.H.A. conventions, District 6 dinners and meetings.

The Flower Show and Plant sale were two of the major annual events she became involved with. During a term as President of the Club in the 80's, she was also on the committee for the Brantford Garden Show. Many of the members in St. George volunteered for this weekend long event and Peggy had us well organized for our roles. It was a great success.

Peggy stepped up to the plate at the end of the 90's to once more take on the role of the President when Marie Lyons had to step down. This term lasted for three years. During this time Peggy took over as the chair of the Brant County Garden show at the Paris Fairgrounds to celebrate the year 2000. This involved two years of meetings before the event. It was another successful weekend event.

During her time on the executive, Peggy has been honoured with the District 6 service award (2006) given annually at the AGM and an OHA Service award (2016). These awards recognize Peggy's years of service and dedication to our Garden Club.

Peggy had resigned from the board about ten years ago but had continued to keep up with what was going on in the Club. She loved her garden and plants and took a lot of satisfaction in viewing the changing seasons in her garden.

We thank Peggy for all the work she did over the last seventy years for the Garden club and the village. I will miss all her advice, stories and knowledge that I have had to privilege to listen to. A true community minded village resident and great lady.



In 2017, District 6 Director Catherine McGill (left) presented Peggy Tolhurst, a member of the St. George Garden Club, an OHA Honour Roll certificate recognizing her outstanding contribution of horticultural service to the community.

Photograph from 2017 Autumn issue of OHA Trillium

Previously Published in St. George Garden Club Newsletter June 2023, Issue 64

District 2

Silver Award Thank You from Anne Harbord

Submitted by D2 Director Anne Harbord, Photo by Gay MacQuarrie

What a surprise when I opened the mail from the OHA last April to discover I had been awarded the OHA Silver Medal Award.

I later discovered that my District 2 Board and Executive Committee had collaborated to submit a nomination for me to be considered for the Silver Award. I thank all of them for their confidence in me and the OHA Executive Committee for selecting me.

For nearly 30 years, I have been involved with three Districts and six societies where I have always been involved with society and District events and Board positions. It was truly an honour to have some of my family present at the Convention when I won this Award. My husband Roger has always supported me, most recently as D2 Treasurer and as Host Treasurer for the 2023 Convention. Others who were able to attend were my son Kurt Weckwerth and his wife Lynn, and my sister, Christine Martell.



Second from left: Anne Harbord, recipient of OHA Silver Medal Award

LaSalle Horticultural Society

Jan Dugdale, President and Public Relations Officer, Photo by Jan Dugdale

The summer has gone by so quickly, we almost forgot to water. Wait a minute, the heavens did that for us a bunch of times, so we had no worries. It was a great summer for rain with a bumper crop for corn and tomatoes and we hope other gardens got their bounty with the upside-down weather conditions.

Our summer was busy with the annual "Egg to Butterfly" workshop that we hold that teaches attendees how to raise monarchs. We do this to increase their numbers. It's not that hard and is quite fun and we had a group of all ages and some return members from last year. Thank you to Leo Silvestri, Jan Dugdale and Theresa Harding for speaking at the event again on your expertise with this butterfly.

We are continuing to add pollinator gardens to the town and add new perennials to the ones we already have, caring for them during spring to fall before we put them to bed.

This year with a grant, we put up our two bat houses and hope to add more in years to come.

We had to make a move to a new location because our last hall got a bit small for our "growing" membership. The St. Andrews Anglican Church in LaSalle has invited us in and we are re-doing and taking care of their gardens outside for the favour. It's been a great relationship so far.

LaSalle Community Fund (LCF) is a group organized to work in collaboration with residents



Our Celebration Garden

of LaSalle and businesses to proudly invest in our community to make it 'the best place to live, work, play and visit now and in the future'. This fund allows donors to direct funds through charitable causes within the community. One of the charitable causes is the new "entrance garden" on Front Road in LaSalle. This garden will enhance the "LaSalle Landing" park on Front Road. Our Society is aiding in this project and hope other societies can assist us in raising \$15,000 towards it. If you feel you can assist us in this endeavor, you will receive a tax receipt for an amount over \$25. Just go to: www.lasallecommunityfund.ca and click on donate today. Do not forget to make a note that your donation will go towards the Entrance Garden Fund. Thanks so much. See you in the fall.

Bulb Planting Time Again

By Jan Dugdale, LaSalle Horticultural Society, Photo by Jan Dugdale

Well, to all our gardening friends that love to see seasonal colour added to our gardens, bulbs are the way to go. Now is the time to purchase tulips, daffodils and other spring and early summer bulb flowers as our weather temperatures are going to soon drop. Most nurseries and building stores have them for sale this time of year.

Planting bulbs for flowers next year isn't that difficult to accomplish if you follow a few hints that I will give you, like how deep to dig in well-drained soil, what to plant, when to plant and deterrents for squirrels from digging them up.

Since it is awful to watch the squirrels unearth your purchases and make a good meal of them, let's try to ensure not to leave behind any signs of our planting, like freshly disturbed soil or some of the outer skins from the bulbs left on the ground or in the grass. They constantly search for loose soil as it is an indicator that something is buried underneath by another squirrel, or you, that could be yummy, and they won't give up a free meal! So, after you are done, give your soil a good drenching, almost to the muddy point, ensuring no tracks are left behind that you were there. You can also add crushed red pepper flakes, granulated garlic, crushed Irish Spring soap or deer repellent to make them less appealing.

A rule of thumb to remember is to dig your bulbs in to a depth three times the bulbs height, measuring it from the bottom of the bulb, not the top, with the pointy side up. So six inches (15 cm) is the average as it ensures they are insulated from the cold frost of our winters here in LaSalle. The most popular flowers chosen are tulip, daffodil, crocus, fritillaria, allium, hyacinth, anemone, lilies and grape hyacinth. For smaller bulbs like crocus about three inches (8 cm) depth is fine.

Speaking of smaller bulbs, great choices are crocus and snowdrops. Plant them by the end of October. For larger bulbs, tulips and daffodils, keep them in a cool dark garage till late autumn. You don't want to plant too early for if we get warmer days in the first weeks of October, it will stimulate the bulbs to sprout and take some of their energy from a nice bloom in the spring. Just note that the soil temps should be below 15°C and that usually happens when our nights are consistently about 6°C.

Finish off the garden after planting and watering with a layer of 4 or 5 inches of leaves. This usually will help insulate them but remember to gently rake them off in early spring to allow the sun to warm the soil. Remember to leave a few to protect the new growth from munching wildlife.



Barrie Hoare and Jan Dugdale

Goderich District Horticultural Society
District 8

Best Garden Tour Ever

Submitted by Betty Hendriks, President

Photographs by Marie Van Dorp

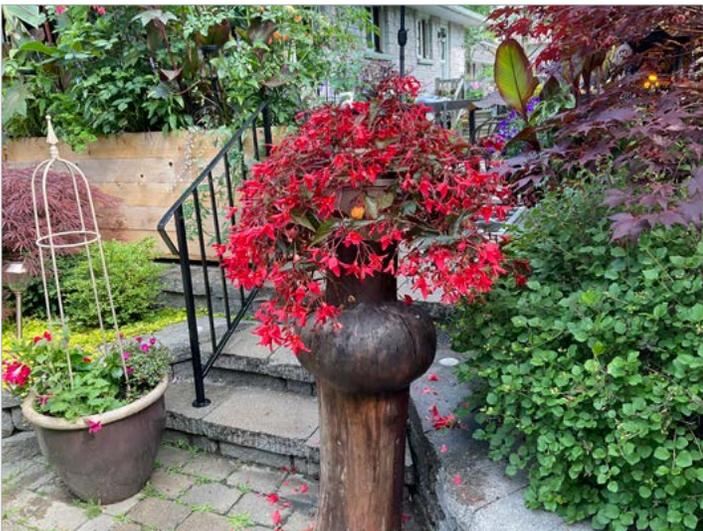
Despite the forecast of rain on July 15 of this year, the annual GDHS Garden Tour took place. Gardeners are a hardy lot and, if anything, look forward to a good rain.

This event was successful because of the teamwork of the 8 homeowners who allowed 179 visitors into their back yards and the 30 volunteers who welcomed and provided information to the visitors.

The visitors came from far and wide. We had visitors from all over Ontario as well as Alberta, Manitoba, England and Australia. The visitors were energized from their visits to the gardens, many expressed how amazed they were by the beauty of the gardens. Some found the gardens inspirational and others enjoyed the opportunity to speak to the homeowners. People felt thankful to the gardeners for sharing their backyard gardens which are typically a private space.

In addition to the garden tour, visitors were invited to go to the MacKay Centre to enjoy barbecued hotdogs, tea and baked goods.

This event was also successful because it was an opportunity for people to come together to share their knowledge and to socialize and enjoy the day.



*Marie and Gary Van Dorp's garden, one of 8 featured in the 2023 Goderich District Horticultural Society's Garden Tour
Top left photo is also featured on the front cover of this issue of the Trillium*



Jane and Bruce Holme's garden, one of 8 featured in the 2023 Goderich District Horticultural Society's Garden Tour

Nobleton-King City Garden Club

Submitted by Sarah O'Neill

Upcoming Events: The Nobleton-King City Garden Club's next meeting is on September 25th at 7:30 p.m. at Laskay Hall in King City. The topic of this meeting is *'Succulent Gardening for Beginners'* with Molly Shannon, owner of Canadian Succulents. Molly will share her expertise with the group, including an introduction to succulent care and design!

For those interested in attending, the non-member fee for this meeting is \$5.00 or the club membership fee for this meeting and the remaining others for 2023 is \$20.00. Payment can be e-transferred to nobletonkingcitygardenclub@gmail.com or paid in cash at the meeting.

The 2023 Dates and Speakers: The remaining 2023 meeting dates and speakers are:

- Monday, October 23rd: *'Indigenous Foods and Medicine'* with Jordan Jamieson
- Monday, November 27th: Annual General Meeting, including a workshop on *'Creating Beautiful Evergreen Arrangements'* with Barbara Downey

Schomberg Horticultural Society

Authored by Susan Zweep and Eleonora Schmied, Photo credits to Suzanne Andrew



Garden Tour Enthusiasts



Lucknow Garden Visit



Garden Tour Group Picture

The weather gods were smiling on this year's Garden Tour as nearly 200 visitors toured the fabulous gardens and large estates in and around Schomberg in brilliant sunshine on June 25th, 2023.

There were tucked-away gardens along Main Street including one fabulously manicured property. The Schomberg Community Farm, three outstanding estate gardens in the Lloydtown area, a hobby tree farm and Pioneer Honey Brand in Nobleton completed the tour. The common thread among our numerous visitors was: "You guys are so lucky to be living in King, such breathtaking scenery, what beautiful gardens, generous owners to let us come in and see them, warm hospitality everywhere and your volunteers are awesome!" "WE LOVE YOUR HATS."

Members of Arts Society King added extra flair to the gardens as well. The successful tour culminated in a celebratory Appreciation BBQ at a picturesque property where the local Councilor brought greetings from the Mayor.

Barb Niemeyer and Eleonora Schmied, the Garden Tour directors, thanked the property owners, the artists and the numerous volunteers for their immense contributions to the success of the tour. "Our volunteers are the backbone of our Society, we could not have done this without them," said Eleonora. The organizers sincerely thank the sponsors and supporters of the Garden Tour: King Township, Nature's Shade Tree Care, Hermanns Limited, Green Tractors of Nobleton, Tim Hortons, Schomberg Village Pharmacy, PDR Investments Ltd., Anna Talenti (member), Historia Cantina, Arts Society King, Heirloom Photography (Shirley Miller) and the Sentinel (Mark Pavilon).

Our Society also hosted a bus tour with the Lucknow Horticultural Society on July 24. They visited Connon Nursery as well as two lovely estate gardens. They stopped for lunch at the Pottageville Pavilion. A big thank you to our volunteers, Susan Zweep, Ruby and Michael Stoffregen and to Barb Niemeyer for representing the Garden Tour committee.



October 24th, 2023 General Meeting, 7:30pm
Schomberg Community Hall
Presenter: Karen Hollingshead
Topic: "Preserving your Harvest"

Although she is renowned for her spring maple syrup production, Karen Hollingshead claims her first passion is growing, harvesting and preserving the abundant produce from her gardens. Whether you have your own produce or you want to take advantage of the fall harvest in stores, she will demonstrate all of the ways that she preserves her harvest: dehydrating, steam juicing, vacuum sealing, freezing, water bath canning (eg. pickles, jams, jellies, condiments, fruit and tomatoes) and pressure canning (eg. vegetables, soup, broth and meat). You don't want to miss learning tips from the master when she presents the timely topic "PRESERVING YOUR HARVEST".



At the OHA Convention in Ottawa, hosted by District 2, Co-Presidents Kathleen Gorsline and Eleonora Schmied accepted the OHA Community Improvement Award on behalf of the Society (only one was given out from over 200 Societies) and the OHA Technical Advancement Certificate (one of 3 which were awarded). This will be handed out at the Fall AGM.

Prizes for Publication Entries:

First Place:

Special Event Poster (garden tour)

Second Place:

Promotional Partnership (garden tour poster in partnership with the Community farm, King Township and Arts Society King)

Third Place:

Special Event/Brochure, Pamphlet, Flyer (mini posters with garden tour on one side and membership poster on the other side)



Ennismore Garden Club

Submitted by Gail Murray, Photos from Susan Newton and Helen Young

The Ennismore Garden Club received a grant for a pollinator garden from the OHA. So, we had a planting bee to get it all going.

Native pollinator friendly plants, soil, mulch, muffins and coffee made for a lovely couple of hours. Also, we received funding for a "Plant a Plant, Get a Plant" project at our Secret Garden from United Way Peterborough and District Neighbourhood Fund. The event was very successful, introducing community members to native plants, children to gardening and people to our garden and their neighbours. Bonus, everyone got to take home a native plant for their own garden.

Our club is hosting the District 4 Fall Convention and we are busy planning for that. Charlie Dobbin is our guest speaker, Jesse's are catering delicious food, Garden Style is helping us decorate and we might just have a giant pumpkin for photos. We will all greet you with a great big Ennismore welcome in October.



Ennismore "Plant a Plant, Get a Plant" Project

Leaside Garden Society

Written by Margaret Rousseau, Tour Director

Garden Tour Photos by Sheila Brazys

The 2023 edition of the Leaside Garden Society's Annual Garden Tour took place on June 24th. With thunderstorms in the forecast, we were expecting the worst but somehow they missed us and we were blessed with a lovely day.

An array of nine unique local gardens were on display, each one reflecting the owner's personal taste and ideas. Visitors were treated to native plants, beautifully planted boulevards, raised beds of vegetables and a sense of escape found in some of the gardens. The garden hosts took the time to engage with the visitors and answer the many questions they had. The event was made possible thanks to the willing volunteers from the Leaside Garden Society who participated both behind the scenes and on the day of the tour.

We would like to thank the 9 garden owners for sharing their lovely gardens with us, especially our own members Ray Greene and Kathy Martin, as well as the local vendors who sold tickets for us. Special thanks also go to our member Kathy McLachlan who once again supported us by purchasing a large number of tickets to share with her clients and contributed to the success of the tour.

In all, around 340 tickets were sold with proceeds going towards the Leaside Garden Society's \$2000 scholarship fund which is awarded annually to a student studying in horticulture or a related field.



Scholarship Winner

Submitted by Nora Campbell



*Leaside Garden Society's Scholarship Winner,
Sara Escallon-Sotomayora
Photo by Joanna Blanchard*

The Ravines of Toronto: A Unique and Fragile Heritage

By Cynthia B. Lauer, PhD (Sociology); member, Simcoe County Master Gardeners

Home to three million residents (and another three million in the surrounding areas), Toronto has everything you'd expect from a major urban centre. Big commerce, busy public transportation lines, vibrant neighbourhoods and an exciting arts scene are enjoyed by all. At the same time, problems of unaffordable housing, endless traffic congestion and an unreasonable cost of living are permanent agenda items for city council. Like other big cities.

There is one feature of Toronto that is completely unique. It has an extensive ravine system that extends over 300 kilometers and covers 11,000 hectares or 17 percent of Toronto's land area. Combined, the system is thirty times the size of New York's Central Park. Over half of ravine lands – 5700 hectares – is publicly owned parkland. The remaining 40 percent is owned by a patchwork of landowners including public institutions and private property owners and includes approximately 30,000 private addresses. Subjected to both protective interventions and public misuse, these vast and non-contiguous green spaces are a beloved yet fragile urban heritage.

Topographically, ravines are small valleys dissected by a stream or river. Since the pandemic, their use has increased as Torontonians enjoy the multiple benefits of biophilia, humans' innate drive to commune with nature. An explosion of research confirms its benefits. Proximity to plants in natural locations improves emotional, physical, social and environmental wellbeing. Measurable positive impacts on obesity, depression, anxiety, cardiovascular disease, blood pressure and stress have been reported. Trees are particularly acute in their health effects spawning a new pastime inspired by the Japanese practice of *shinrin-yoku*, or forest bathing. Some researchers have suggested that trees emit phytoncides. These wood essential oils are antimicrobial volatile organic compounds that effect stress levels and promote mindfulness, sociability, and creativity. Prolonged exposure to nature is unnecessary; a single "dose" works just as well.



Magwood Park



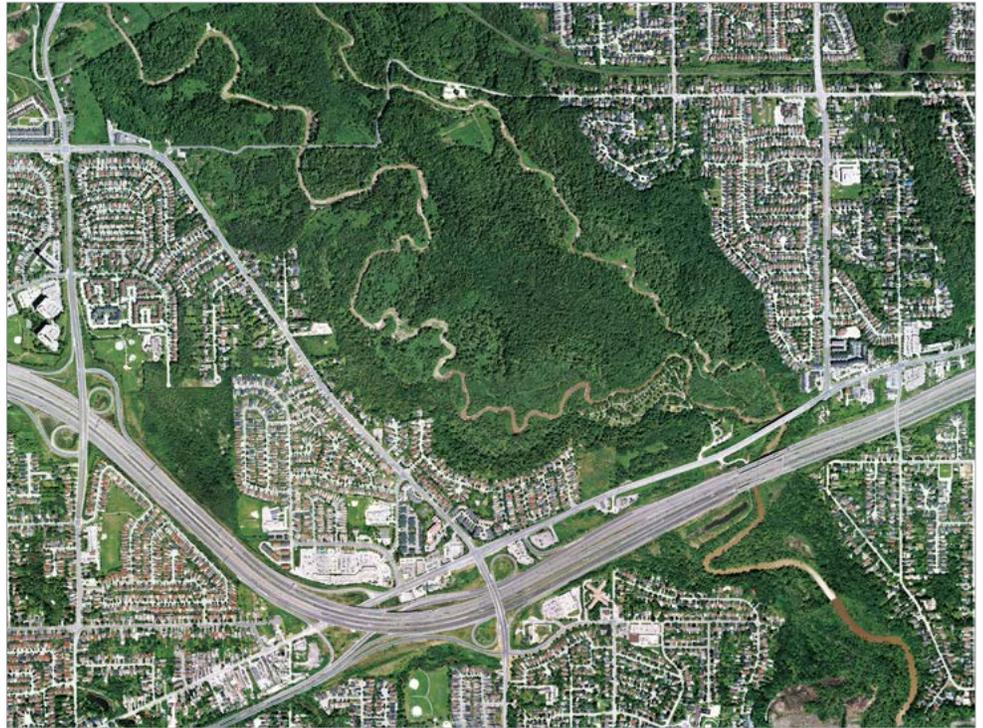
Yello Creek embankment

Toronto's ravines were carved by glaciers that receded more than 12,000 years ago leaving winding rivers, grassy meadows, dense forests and small beaches. While some rivers were buried to make way for urban growth, the extant ravines owe their existence to the city's response to Hurricane Hazel in October 1954. The catastrophic flooding that killed 81 people and destroyed millions of dollars of property was a fatal demonstration of the consequences of constructing buildings on ravine banks. In 1957, the city amended laws allowing it to purchase or expropriate lands for conservation purposes, especially those deemed essential to flood control and water management. Over the following decades, thousands of hectares of land were acquired on which dams, dykes, channels and erosion-control projects were built. Construction within the city's floodplains was prohibited and infrastructure was modified to prevent the worst potential outcomes of extreme weather events. Today, the ravines function not only as flood protection, but also as noise abatement, microclimate regulation, and air purification, invaluable resources that are under-appreciated by visitors who enjoy them as places for recreation.

Torontonians love their ravines. The value of a home backing onto a ravine lot well exceeds that of a neighbour's house across the street. But the very qualities that draw people to use these wild green spaces also contribute to their fragility. It's a paradox: continuous funding for ravine management relies on the advocacy of users – the hikers, cyclists, bird watchers, picnickers, and dog walkers, who enjoy the ravine paths, waterways, trees and undeveloped ecosystems. Yet public access to these sensitive areas is a source of harm that needs to be controlled if the ravines are to endure in their natural state.

While Toronto ravines share many features in common and face similar threats, each one is distinct. The Rouge National Urban Park, for example, is the largest protected area in urban North America. It is home to wild blue lupin, dense blazing star and American ginseng; to northern pike, rainbow trout, pumpkinseed, brown bullhead, white perch and black crappie; and to short-eared owls, least bitterns, red-shouldered hawks, eastern loggerhead shrikes, great blue herons, and rarer birds like ovenbird, ruffled grouse, Acadian flycatcher and broad-winged hawk. Warden Woods Park boasts a mature growth forest of sugar maple, American beech and red oak but it also funnels stormwater from sixteen hectares of Highway 401 through a concrete channel built for this purpose. Combined sewer overflows and illegal residential sewage hookups add to the contamination. Taylor Creek Park is one of the worst polluted waterways in the city yet its wetland supports some magnificent plant life. Nannyberry, black elderberry, meadowsweet, chokecherry, snowdrops and bloodroot can be found there as well as green frogs, leopard frogs, American toads, painted and snapping turtles, mallard ducks, great blue heron and red-tailed hawks.

At the end of the 18th century, the Don Valley was unspoiled wilderness, its river filled with salmon and its shorelines populated by white pines and butternut trees with an understory of hawthorn, partridgeberry and ferns. Bald eagles flew overhead and deer moved freely through the forest. But with industrialization in the 19th century came raw sewage and effluent that was dumped into the river along with waste from tanneries, abattoirs, refineries and farms that occupied the valley. Over time, other industrial activities filled the Don Valley ravine system. A grist mill, a paper mill, a brick quarry, an industrial waste dump and a sanitary landfill all left their trace.



The Rouge River Valley



Taylor Creek Pond



Taylor Creek staircase



Red-Eyed Vireo with white dogwood berry, Taylor Creek Park



East Don Park



Humber Creek



Tree Swallow

Today, the ravines are heavily used by cyclists, runners, and dog walkers while in adjacent parklands, people enjoy cricket, golf, baseball and other sports. The city promotes Ravine Days every fall. Upscale homes located on prized ravine lots bring noise, dogs, unsupervised explorers and renovation debris to ravines. Invasive plants escape from ornamental gardens abutting ravine lands. These are among the threats imposed upon the ravine lands a good deal of which are designated as Environmentally Significant Areas. In his book, *Toronto's Ravines and Urban Forests*, past president of Toronto Field Naturalists, Jason Ramsay-Brown describes the consequences: "We have driven species to extirpation or extinction and radically altered the composition of what remains through the introduction of exotic species, the transformation of topography, and the by-products of industrialization."

My own experience is apropos. As a child, I lived a block away from an offshoot of the Cedarvale Ravine. The enchanting wooded path terminated in a meadow that, some years later, was replaced by a luxury townhouse and condo development. Decades later, I owned a small house that backed onto the Williamson Park Ravine. It was a peaceful place with wild flowers growing alongside a tiny trickling stream. I sometimes heard coyotes at night. But when MetroLinx intensified the commuter and VIA rail service through the east end, they removed hundreds of trees in that ravine, causing irreparable damage to the natural landscape.



Invasive Plants

A major disturbance in the ravines is invasive species. Some of the most common of these are burdock, common (European) buckthorn, dog-strangling vine, garlic mustard, hedge parsley, Japanese knotweed, lily of the valley, Norway maple, phragmites and wood avens. In 2017, University of Toronto Forestry found that most of the ravine floor is covered by invasive plants and 40 percent of the trees are invasive species. Land dominated by non-native species cannot serve as habitat for birds, mammals and insects whose lifecycles are interconnected with native plants. As a result, their populations dwindle or disappear altogether.

Numerous citizen groups have rallied around the ravines. They maintain trails, bag garbage, remove invasive plants, plant native species and promote appropriate uses of these wild green spaces. The Community Stewardship Program is run by the city. Others like the Todmorden Mills Wildflower Preserve Stewardship Team, Beechwood Wetland Stewardship Team and Toronto Field Naturalists predate the city's initiative. Others like Toronto Nature Stewards are newer. All of these groups voluntarily provide essential services without which the ravines would be conspicuously worse off today. Ramsay-Brown commends stewardship programs as the best way for people to appreciate the ravines. There are perfectly suitable outdoor spaces for playing sports or hosting public festivals. That place, he notes, is not the ravines.

The urgent need to care for these vulnerable green spaces has affected the language used in public policy. The concept of the ravine as a municipal asset in need of protection is outdated. It is now understood that when the ravines are treated as economic assets whose value should be enhanced, it contributes to their harm. The ravines warrant



Phragmites



Todmorden Mills



Trout Lilies



Jack-in-the-Pulpit



Beaver Dam



Saw-Whet Owl

sustainable management of what the University of Toronto Forestry study calls their “ecological integrity”. This can only be achieved through concerted monitoring, stewardship and restoration. There is a clear need for the municipality to prohibit private property owners, especially those whose homes border on a ravine, from growing invasive species. Instead, with various partners, it sets up initiatives such as ecological monitoring plots and native planting programs. The city allocates annual budgets to support the ravines. Whether these efforts will be enough is uncertain. What is certain is that all of these actions and more will be necessary for the foreseeable future if we are to sustain Toronto’s extraordinary ravine forests.

(This article originally appeared in the fall 2023 issue of *The Gardener Magazine*.)

Bio: C. B. Lauer is a member of Simcoe County Master Gardeners, a retired sociology professor, a published author (as C. Levine-Rasky) and proprietor of a publishing development business for academic and nonfiction writers.

PHOTO CREDITS (alphabetical by caption/file name)

Beaver Dam

Credit: Jason Ramsay-Brown

East Don Park

Credit: Raysonho @ Open Grid Scheduler / Grid Engine, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

Humber Creek

Credit: Jakej77, CC BY-SA 4.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons

Invasive Plants

Credit: Toronto Nature Stewards

Jack-in-the-Pulpit

Credit: Jason Ramsay-Brown

Magwood Park

Credit: Jason Ramsay-Brown

Phragmites

Credit: Jason Ramsay-Brown

Red-Eyed Vireo with white dogwood berry, Taylor Creek Park

*Shutterstock Photo ID: 2043673289
Credit: Paul Reeves*

Saw-Whet Owl

Credit: Jason Ramsay-Brown

Taylor Creek pond

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Taylor Creek staircase

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*The Rouge River Valley
Credit: City of Toronto*

Todmorden Mills

Credit: Jason Ramsay-Brown

Tree Swallow

Credit: Jason Ramsay-Brown

Trout Lilies

Credit: Jason Ramsay-Brown

Yello Creek embankment

*SimonP at English Wikipedia., CC BY 2.5 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.5/>>, via Wikimedia Commons
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Yello_Creek,_Toronto.jpg*

Dunnville Horticultural Society

By Melanie Ruigrok

Positive Partnerships - Investing in the Future

Dunnville Horticultural Society (DHS) has been making investments in the future by successfully partnering with community groups to encourage youth to garden and spend time outdoors.

No matter the weather, DHS volunteers assisted Kindergarten staff and students from St. Michael's School with outdoor learning experiences from the beginning of April to June this past spring. These visits took place at the Thompson Creek Eco Centre which is named after a tributary of the Grand River that runs through the area. Each week, students participated in nature walks with discussions about the various plants and animals within the centre. Dan McKay, local naturalist and wildlife photographer, was able to capture many photographs that further enhanced the learning. Everyone watched eagerly as McKay and DHS Past President Debbie Thomas installed loafing logs along the banks of Thompson Creek for turtles to warm themselves in the sun. In addition, students had opportunities to plant bean seeds in newspaper pots, flowers for classroom planters and learn about the important process of pollinators and pollination. McKay, Thomas and DHS have invested countless hours in this natural area and were delighted to have it utilized in this fashion.



Turtle Loafing Logs. Photo by Dan McKay

In May, Haldimand 4-H Cut Flower Club members were each given a pair of pruners and a painted rock to be used as a garden decoration from DHS. Words of encouragement were given after listening to an update about how each 4-H member's garden was progressing. These young gardeners will be displaying flowers at the Caledonia Fair in September.

DHS jumped at the opportunity to pair with REACH to build a pollinator garden at their Dunnville campus. Haldimand-Norfolk REACH is a multi-service, non-profit organization that offers a wide variety of programs for youth and their families. Nancy Schuur of REACH reminded the children (a.k.a. Pollinator Pals) and DHS volunteers that being outdoors can assist with one's mental health. Gardening is a great way to be outdoors and participate in a meaningful activity. The garden was planted with brightly-coloured plants such as Joe Pye weed (*Eupatorium maculatum*) and purple coneflowers (*Echinacea purpurea*). This pollinator garden is the first phase of campus improvements to be made. DHS hopes to be helping with the additional projects to promote youth health and well-being in the outdoors.



Photo by Petra Kruis-Daly

Projects that include local youth and community groups are rewarding to all involved and are possibly planting seeds for the next generation of gardeners. Dunnville Horticultural Society meets at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month (from September to June) at the Dunnville Optimist Hall, 101 Main Street East.

Technology Adaptation in Northern Ontario Horticulture

Overcoming Barriers and Embracing Opportunities

Submitted by Rachel Kehoe, Communications & Events Coordinator

Northern Ontario's horticulture sector faces unique challenges due to its geographical location, including a short growing season, high transportation costs, price competition from non-local foods and shortage of skilled labour. However, the region has been making strides in overcoming these barriers through the adoption of technologies. In this article, we will provide an overview of technology adaptation in Northern Ontario horticulture with a focus on key technologies highlighted in the *Technology Roadmap for Horticulture in Northern Ontario* by Vineland Research and Innovation Centre. The research review emphasizes bed preparation tools, small-scale harvest equipment, indoor horticulture and contained growing systems. We will explore how these technologies have been instrumental in surmounting the challenges faced by the region's agricultural production as well as the opportunities they present.

Combating High Costs of Transportation, Price Competition and Short Growing Season

Transporting fresh produce to and from Northern Ontario can be prohibitively expensive, putting local farmers at a disadvantage compared to larger, centralized agricultural regions. By adopting indoor horticulture and contained growing systems, farmers can produce closer to the point of consumption, thereby reducing transportation costs. Additionally, growing crops locally allows farmers to compete on quality and freshness rather than solely on price, encouraging consumers to choose local products.

Indoor Agriculture

The adoption of indoor horticulture, particularly greenhouses, has defined Northern Ontario's horticultural landscape. Greenhouses provide a controlled environment that extends the growing season, or with additions such as solar-powered heaters on certain houses, the season can be pushed to year-round growing. This allows farmers to cultivate crops unsuitable for the Northern Ontario climate. This expansion of crop variety can open new market opportunities and increase the region's reliance on locally produced food. With the ability to control temperature, humidity and light, greenhouse growers can optimize plant growth and yield, resulting in higher-quality produce. Moreover, the protected environment reduces the risk of pest infestations, ensuring more consistent harvests.

Contained Growing Systems: Growcer and Food Security Systems Canada

Contained growing systems, such as Growcer and Food Security Systems Canada, represent an innovative approach to horticulture in Northern Ontario. These systems enable farmers to grow produce well past the typical growing season of the north. Growcer facilities are a pod system made in shipping containers which allows for easier moving and affordable shipping costs, reduced infrastructure costs and land requirements. By using hydroponics or aeroponics, crops can be grown with minimal water usage and in a soilless medium, making them ideal for areas with limited arable land. Food Security Systems Canada provides a product that uses nature for insulation with grass cover and snow on the structure's roof reducing heating costs and extending the growing season. This system allows for in-ground growth as well as hydroponics or conventional greenhouse growing systems. Furthermore, contained growing systems are scalable and can be set up in northern remote communities, reducing transportation costs and bringing fresh, locally grown produce closer to consumers.

Shortage of Skilled Labour

Technology adaptation is pivotal in addressing the shortage of skilled labour in Northern Ontario horticulture. Automation and advanced machinery have reduced the need for extensive manual labour, making horticultural production more accessible to individuals with diverse skill sets. By focusing on training and upskilling local workers, the industry can build a more sustainable workforce to support the growing adoption of technology.

Bed Preparation Tools and Small-scale Harvest Equipment

Traditional horticultural practices in Northern Ontario were often labor-intensive and time consuming. However, the introduction of advanced bed preparation tools, such as pull-type mulchers, has significantly improved efficiency and reduced labour requirements. These mulchers can prepare beds quickly and effectively, ensuring optimal conditions for crop growth. Additionally, the implementation of small-scale harvest equipment, such as powered lettuce harvesters or berry pickers, allows farmers to harvest crops more efficiently, saving time

and reducing waste. By adopting these technologies, Northern Ontario growers can overcome a portion of the shortage of skilled labour and high costs of productions, making their operations more economically viable.

Embracing Opportunities

Increasing Awareness of Eating Local Products

The eat local movement has gained momentum in recent years as consumers become more conscious of the environmental and economic benefits of supporting local farmers. Northern Ontario horticulture stands to benefit from this trend by emphasizing the freshness and quality of their produce, fostering a deeper connection between farmers and consumers.

High Demand for Direct-to-Consumer e-commerce

Advancements in e-commerce have created new avenues for farmers to sell their products directly to consumers. By leveraging online platforms, Northern Ontario growers can reach a broader customer base beyond their immediate community. Direct-to-consumer sales also allow farmers to retain a larger portion of their profits, further incentivizing the adoption of technology to meet consumer demands efficiently.

Acceptance and Adoption of Technological Research and Innovation

Collaboration between research institutions, government agencies and the agricultural community is crucial to driving further technological advancements. Encouraging farms to embrace innovation and sharing success stories of technology adaptation will foster a culture of acceptance and continuous improvement.

Technology adaptation has become a cornerstone of Northern Ontario horticulture, enabling farmers to overcome numerous barriers and capitalize on emerging opportunities. From advanced bed preparation tools and small-scale harvest equipment to indoor horticulture and contained growing systems, these technologies have revolutionized horticultural practices in the region. By reducing transportation costs, increasing the availability of fresh produce and enhancing the industry's economic viability, technology has paved the way for a prosperous and sustainable future for Northern Ontario's horticulture sector. Visit www.farmnorth.com to read the full study review.

Wilmot Horticultural Society,

Submitted by Janice Wagler, WHS Youth Leader

Photo by Janice Wagler

"Rock Your Garden World" was the theme of the 115th Garden Ontario OHA Convention held in Kanata from July 20-23, 2023.

Ten youth from Wilmot Horticultural Society Junior Gardeners placed winning entries in the OHA Youth Competition.

Katelynn Cressman rocked her garden world winning first prize and the Judge's Favourite rosette for her photo of "Field Stone", first prize for her Pot/Planter of Edibles and "Rocky Road Ahead". She was the recipient of the Ruby Lobban High Points Award!

Hailey Thompson won Judge's Choice rosette for her "Firm Footsteps" and Ezekiel Baer won Best In Show rosette for his "Crop Circle."



Katelynn Cressman rocking her garden world!

Haldimand Horticultural Society

By Barbara Wilson HHS Publicity Chair

Photos taken by society members

Autumn greetings from the Haldimand Horticultural Society "39 years of growing"

Currently we have 128 members and 9 youth members. We thank everyone for their support. This summer has been a busy one for members. We so appreciate our many volunteers for maintaining the community gardens, planters and the pollinator garden that beautify our communities. Hard-working volunteers also revamped the gardens surrounding Centennial Hall in York. All the plants were removed and the gardens were then replanted, adding some raised beds and enlarging another bed.

The successful annual "Blooming on the Grand" garden tour in July featured 7 homes plus the pollinator garden in the Caledonia area.

The "Green Guardians" youth group, consisting of 9 members, created a pollinator garden at the Caledonia Mill. Other activities included workshops of bird calls and bat and butterfly kits. They are also entering a display in the September Caledonia Fair. Thank you to our youth leaders for the interesting and informative activities for the group.

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

Several members attended the annual OHA Conference in Ottawa this summer. We're looking forward to next year when it will be in Guelph.

The rain stopped in time for members to enjoy an afternoon of fellowship at the annual HHS Barbeque and Corn Roast. Thank you to President Elsie Eubank for hosting.

Upcoming events: September General Meeting – a Live Auction and Peach Social.

Ongoing Poppy Campaign: last year, volunteers knit and crocheted poppies to create a display at the Caledonia Cenotaph. This year, we hope to expand and include the cenotaph in Hagersville. Thank you to all those who are busy making more poppies.

Take a moment to embrace the beauty of the Fall season – enjoy!



Revamped gardens at Centennial Hall in York



Our "Garden of the Month" for June, July and August saw 6 gardens nominated from the communities of Caledonia, Hagersville and Dunnville. Congratulations to all monthly winners – your gardens were spectacular.

Paris Horticultural Society

Submitted by Margaret Collins

Photos by Marg Collins

Mystery Tour at CloverCroft Farm

Another beautiful summer evening for our mystery tour. Over 20 members and guests met at the fairgrounds and then made our way to CloverCroft Farm at the corner of Ayr Road and Paris Plains Church Road. The farm has been in the family for 140 years. Ryan Shantz, operator of a parcel, guided us around the organic portion of the 100-acre farm. Ryan is interested in creating a food forest where there are layers. He is aiming for a cover story of oak trees, a middle layer of fruit trees and an understory of bramble such as blackberry, blueberry and raspberry with an undergrowth of medicinal herbs and roots. A very ambitious plan. Although not certified, he meets or exceeds the organic requirements. After the chickens for eating are gone, their pen is moved to a new location, the fertilized ground is then used for vegetables. As well as the vegetables, Ryan sells organic eggs and chickens. It was a very informative evening.

Can't have an outing without the usual refreshments. We made our way back to the back garden of Edith and Joe Stone to socialize and enjoy our ice cream sundaes.





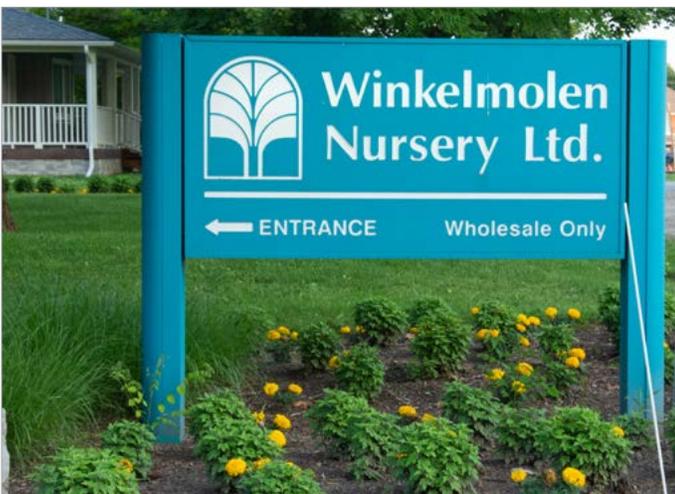
A Perfect Summer Evening

Paris Horticultural Society

Submitted by Serryn Stephenson

Photos by Marg Collins

Several members ventured out in the heat July 5th, 2023 for our evening excursion to the Winkemolen Tree Nursery in Lynden. It is located on over 750 acres of land and has 460 different species of trees. They specialize in high quality natives and ornamental shade trees. Their products are shipped to Alberta, Newfoundland and to the northern United States. Jeff Winkemolen did an excellent commentary and willingly answered our questions while one of his 45 immigrant workers drove the tractor around the farm. Some of his immigrant workers have been returning to work for 20-25 years, mostly from Mexico or Vietnam. There are also about 20 students and local workers. It was warm and it got a little uncomfortable sitting on a hay bale but it was so interesting. Our thanks to Edith Stone for organizing the event and to Nancy Slusarczyk and Brenda Simpson for our tasty and refreshing treats. Thank you Jeff, you were an excellent guide.



Paris Horticultural Society excursion to the Winkemolen Tree Nursery in Lynden



More Photos by Marg Collins

Explanation of Facebook Posting Regulations

Written by Frances Hanemaayer, MLIS (Master of Library and Information Systems)

To keep it simple, copyright is implied for any original intellectual property. If someone draws an illustration, takes a photograph or writes a paragraph, they hold the copyright to their work. So, a person's post about their hydrangeas and hostas is their intellectual property and no one else could legally share those photos without their permission.

Another person's shared post about tomato diseases has been shared using the Facebook share feature. That's fine, because by enabling the "share" feature on their content, the creator of that post has said "I am okay with other folks sharing my work so long as I am credited." Using the share feature takes care of the crediting because it links right back to the original poster's account.

It WOULD be a problem if a person saw that post about tomato diseases on "The Seed Person's" page and thought "Oh, that's good information, I should tell the Garden Club," then copied and pasted the text about tomato diseases into their own post without including any reference to The Seed Person. This is a problem because without including credit to the creator, they would be presenting the text as their own original work, intentionally or not.

Cheat sheet - It is fine to:

- "Share" a post from elsewhere on Facebook, using the "share" feature
- Share information from another website, copied and pasted, IF you clearly include the URL to the website where the information was originally posted
- Share a photo you did not take, if you share a reference to who did take it or clearly include the URL to the website where the photo was originally posted

It is not okay to:

- Post text you didn't write, without linking or otherwise referencing the original author
- Post a photo you didn't take, without linking or otherwise referencing the original photographer
- Post an illustration you did not draw, without linking or otherwise referencing the original artist
- Etc.

Murky:

- Sharing a photo/illustration that contains the creator's name/information as a watermark on the photo, without any other reference to the copyright holder. Look at The Seed Person's tomato post. While they wrote the text, the illustration has another business/individual's name in the lower left corner, "A Person's Flowers". The Seed Person has used someone else's copyright image to add to their own copyright text, while doing the bare minimum to show the image is not their own creation. They're okay here, because they have left the watermark on the image, but it would be better that they linked to the original image or creator somewhere in the text.

Example of a Watermark:



Walnut trees are one of the first to lose their leaves in the fall and the last ones to have new leaves in the spring.

Photo by Laura Masterson

Ancaster Horticultural Society
Keeping Ancaster Beautiful for 62 years.

Rhu Sherrard, Publicity Director AHS

AHS Trillium Awards



Photos by David Puskas

One of the most exciting times during the summer is our annual presentation of the Trillium Awards. Carol Howe, the Co-chair of the event, provided a summary. The awards were held despite the rain at the Ancaster Old Town Hall. It was standing room only as the homeowners who were receiving a Trillium came out in droves to celebrate. Ancaster Ward 12 counsellor Craig Cassar presented 6 Diamond awards (15th Trillium), 7 Ruby Awards (10th Trillium) and 12 Gold Awards (5th Trillium). In addition to these special awards, white trilliums were handed out to 100 other homeowners. Thanks must go to the volunteer judges who evaluated over 280 front gardens this year.



Photos by Rhu Sherrard

The AHS member volunteer gardeners, lead by Sharon Lee, continue to maintain some of the various gardens around town including Fieldcote Museum and have done a splendid job. With time and effort dedicated to the gardens and Mother Nature's summer weather which included sufficient rain, the gardens were in full bloom.

David Puskas is our official photographer and has provided great pictures which are regularly posted on our Facebook and Instagram accounts. David was also the Grand Marshall at the Ancaster Heritage Day Parade held in June 2023. We also requested photo submissions from our local gardeners and the results have been stunning to say the least. Green thumb or not, gardening is an adventure.

We look forward to a great season of events, Betty Howe, who is also a Trillium Diamond Award winner, always keeps the topics current and interesting. The Executive meeting will be held on September 5, 2023. The next event hosted by AHS will be Tuesday September 23, 2023, at the Ancaster Old Town Hall. The topic of "Jumping Worms, Community Outreach and Monitoring Research" will be presented by Michael McTavish Post Doctoral Research Fellow/University of Toronto. Jumping worms are a new group of non-native invasive earthworms that threatens gardens and natural ecosystems. His presentation is to help raise public awareness about invasive jumping worms and to encourage reporting of observations.

All are welcome and our events are free to all members of the community.

A few of our members are hoping to attend the District 6 Fall Breakfast on September 9, 2023 being hosted by the Simcoe District and Horticultural Society.

Gardening adds years to your life and life to your years. – UNKNOWN

Bath Gardening Club

What's Happening in Bath

Submitted by Pat Chown, Photography by J. Love, D. Taylor and an attendee of the Parade!

Bath Gardening Club is constantly on the move with gardening challenges, projects, expanding gardening and of course, weeding! In this article, the Club pauses to recognize all who have worked so hard to create a more attractive and viable Bath. We happily share with other Clubs our energy and love of gardening.

Membership Update:

Our Club currently prides itself on having 94 members.

Significant Leadership Opportunities Are Now Available!

As we begin our new year, some Executive members will be passing the baton to others. The Club extends a huge thank you to Janice Firth who has been at the helm as President for the past three years. During Janice's tenure, she has worked diligently to keep our Club robust. Even during Covid-19, the Club and members' learning continued through our Zoom meetings. Janice has brought new ideas and initiatives to the Club and has encouraged members to step up and bring their expertise and creativity to projects to help move the Club forward. As Janice assumes the role of Past-President, she will remain on the Executive and will be involved in many of the Club's future projects.

As the new year approaches, the Club welcomes Sylvia Whalen as President. Sylvia has been a very active member for the past five years involved in plant sales, Sunday Market, planting and weeding, Christmas decorating and a participant in the many workshops and conferences that have taken place in our Club. The Club welcomes Sylvia's knowledge and experience.

The Club also thanks Mary Drinkwater for her leadership as the Co-Chair of the Programme Committee. During Mary's tenure, members have been inspired by the many wonderful speakers she brought to the Club meetings as well as the fun outings and workshops she organized.

Our retiring recording secretary, Heather Bennett, has done a superb job keeping minutes at all of our regular and executive meetings – she has great attention to detail! She has kept us all informed by sending out the emails. Heather also receives the Club mail and sorts through this to decide what is relevant to send along to you. Thank you, Heather, for a job well done!

Jane Ledingham stepped up to be our market coordinator this year when the Executive decided that, in many ways, the market needed a new direction. The market is a major fundraiser for the Club, so Jane's responsibilities have been significant. She has been responsible for communicating with and receiving applications from vendors, arranging vendor location in Centennial Park while the market is open, collecting fees and trying to keep everyone happy! She has had the great support of Linda Cohen and Sylvia Whalen as part of the market team.

Vacancies are open for a variety of positions. The positions may sound daunting! They are not! Yes, some time and commitment are required but there are many people both on and off the Executive that are knowledgeable and eager to help. "Many hands do make light work" in our Club. Stepping up gives all of us an opportunity to connect, to make new friends, to learn from one another, to try new things and to have a great deal of fun in the process! Positions available: Vice-President, Treasurer, Programme Committee Lead, Market Coordinator. If you are interested in learning more about any of the available positions, contact Janice Firth or Sylvia Whalen. Our next meeting is September 18th, we hope to see you there!

Bugtel Update:

The Bugtel, our pollinator garden and insect "safe house", was an idea inspired by Wendy O'Neill, president of our Club in 2017.

Since then, the Bugtel has been refurbished and expanded. A big thank you goes to Chris Thibeault for fitting the Bugtel with a roof and Mike Whalen for providing lumber for the sides of our raised pollinator garden and obtaining "Bugtel" signage which will read, 'LaFarge



The Bugtel

Photo by Don Taylor

Memorial Grove and Pollinator Garden. The Club is honored to have the late Bonnie Fredenburgh's pallet art installed at the Bugtel site. Bonnie, through her painting, created a collage depicting the flowers that are currently growing in the Bugtel. Thank you also to Dave and Adam Bryant for consistently making sure that the rain barrel, our water source at the Bugtel, is full for our watering team. Kudos to Carol Cartier and her team for doing an amazing job in the Bugtel garden maintenance this year. Volunteers included: Kim Bonner, Carol Cartier, Marnie Brough, Diana Wilkinson, Margaret Wheatley, Nancy Willis, Rosemary Bradley, Judy Hume, Irene Oudyk-Suk, Sandra Lowman and Heather Bennett.

Kim Bonner, one of our new members, has taken an interest in working more in the Bugtel area once she has her own new home and gardens settled. After recently speaking with Kim, it seems as though she already has begun her work. She had this to say, *"With all the fertile soil in the bed, the plants had shot up and spread like crazy! I identified the plants vs the weeds and then removed the invasive and non-native marsh woundwort. I deadheaded and sheared the plants to promote a second blooming. Then I put together an inventory with a care and feeding guide, including a list of the types of pollinators each plant attracts. Once fall comes, the plants that have taken over will be divided. Smaller plants will be relocated to the front of the garden so they receive more sun and air."* Thank you, Kim!

Memorial Grove Update:

Thanks to LafargeHolcim for their generosity that made it possible for the Club to purchase saplings for the Memorial Grove. Thanks also to the Loyalist Township for planting the saplings and establishing a sitting area at the Grove site. A special thanks to Dave and Adam Bryant for watering the saplings during the summer. The Memorial Grove, located adjacent to the Bugtel area, will be officially opened in the fall. Since the Memorial Grove and Bugtel are located behind the Bath Public School, the Club welcomes the school to use the area as an outdoor classroom to augment the students' experiential learning.

Village Gardens

From Fast Freddy's on the east to the bridge areas on the west, Bath has been awash with colour this summer. Our planting and weeding team includes the following volunteers: Joanna Sperinck, Donna Mills, Judi Gould, Lynne McDonald, Mary Willing, Roxanna Beddington, Heidi Stevens, Elaine Donaldson, Marge Maciver, Anna Salmon, Kim Bonner, Jeri Love, Dawn Ford, Esther Quirt, Susan O'Conner, Val Behm, Holly Adam, Sharon, Boal, Wendy O'Neill, Cyndie Eedson, Ted Eedson, Diana Wilkinson, Jeremy Howarth, Sue Nilsson, Marnie Brough, Pat Chown, Marje Brunson and Elaine Nicholson.

The Club thanks Marnie Brough and Pat Chown, Co-Coordinator of the Planting Committee and all planters and weeders for an exemplary job. We also thank the involvement of residents and our local entrepreneurs for helping to water flowers placed in front of their homes and places of business. The Club looks forward to growing a greater partnership with the community and Township as we move forward.

And last but by no means least, a huge thank you to LafargeHolcim and Loyalist Township for their generosity in providing funds for the purchase of five new iron planters. These planters will be placed in the village in October.

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). Thank you to Jane Ledingham and Laurie Minorgan for their ability to communicate our needs through their grant writing skills.



BGC Flowers on Aug 9th



Photos by Don Taylor



BGC Flowers on Aug 9th

Photos by Don Taylor

Canada Day Bath Gardening Float – Butterfly Fantasy!

Canada Day 2023 in Bath marked a return to Bath Canada Day glory! Thousands enjoyed the day as the community and beyond enjoyed the entertainment, vendors, parade, food, the sunshine and games!

Kudos to Wendy O’Neill for taking leadership in the development of the butterfly fantasy theme and the Gardening Club Float. Members of the team included: Mary Willing, Diane Nolting, Marje Brunsdon, Sue Nilsson, Carol Cartier, Roxanna Beddington, and Diana Wilkinson

The trailer used for our float was loaned to us by Susan and Brian O’Connor. Bob and Dawn Ford hauled the trailer with their truck. Dawn played the part in a spectacular red hat. Thanks to all involved!



BGC Flowers on Canada Day

Photos by Don Taylor



BGC Canada Day Float



Photos by attendee of the Parade

Sunday Market Update

This year, the Sunday Market opened in early May and will continue until after Thanksgiving. Each week, approximately 20 vendors are on hand with everything from dumplings to fresh veggies and flowers to captivate your attention. The Club is working hard to increase the number of vendor offerings thereby increasing the number of people who drop by and shop. This is a wonderful venue for families and friends to gather. Jane Ledingham has been instrumental in helping to move the market forward this year along with her team Sylvia Whalen and Linda Cohen.

Summer Outings

When not gardening in the village or at their homes, our members have been out on the road exploring the offerings of Prince Edward County. Thank you to Lockyer's Country Gardens and Bonibrae Daylilies Nurseries for opening their doors to our Club and of course, to Huff Estates for serving a delicious lunch!

The second outing, "Cake By The Lake" will take place at the end of August. Susan O'Conner has graciously offered all members and anyone interested in becoming a member to come to her home, enjoy the outdoors, take a swim and meet new friends. This outing will allow everyone to relax, to have fun and get to know each other a bit more. No weeding required! Thanks for your generosity, Susan!



BGC July Outing

Photo by Jeri Love



BGC July Outing



Photos by Jeri Love

Belleville Garden Club

*Submitted by Chris Green and Barb Hayward, Co-chairs, BGC
Photos by Members of the Belleville Garden Club*

Courtyard Project

In the fall of 2022, the Belleville Garden Club was approached by a staff member at Quinte Health – Belleville General Hospital campus to ask if we could help with the revitalization of a courtyard area at the hospital. The courtyard is used by both staff and patients. Covid-19 had caused a lot of stress for the hospital's staff and the hope was that we would be able to "cheer up" the space. To say this space is vast is an understatement – it is 31.5 m long on one side, 22 m long on the other and 17 m across. Part of the space is grassed and the rest is paved with large patio stones. There is a short walkway between the two areas. The patio stone area has two large hard-topped gazebos, three octagonal picnic tables and one wooden picnic table. The paved area also has an enormous circular staircase that has been condemned. The grass area has a wooden picnic table with a small concrete pad for wheelchair access.



The club took up the challenge with a unanimous yes vote, and we allocated \$500 from club funds to get the project started. The hospital's only ask was that we try to incorporate their official colours into our work. Further, the hospital vetoed only one item of our proposed plan, which was to build an archway over the little staircases in the middle of the space. The area is windy and there was concern that such a structure would blow over.



In early October, 2022, we brought in cornstalks, pumpkins, solar lights and mums (our club flower). Two large fibreglass Alibaba planters were purchased. We strung the solar lights along the eaves of the gazebos and the staircase railing. In November, we removed all the fall decor and brought in two lighted artificial Christmas trees with built-in timers, filled the two planters with seasonal greenery and put up a northern lights projector to shine on one of the walls of the space.



We were the happy recipients of 400 red bouquet tulip bulbs (from an anonymous donor) as well as 5 dozen large daffodil bulbs (from Thrashers Garden Centre). We planted about 150 tulip bulbs in a heart-shaped pattern in the grass area with the daffodils in the centre and more tulips along one of the walls. We also planted 120 tulips at Memorial Gardens in the city and gave some to the Nursing Association at the hospital for their flower beds at the front of the building.

In the spring of 2023, we really got to work, digging up the bulbs and making new flower beds along the walls and walkway edges. We put in a circular bed with a bird bath at its centre. Through a generous donation from Home Depot, we were able to buy lots of perennials and many, many bags of soil. One of our members built us a large wooden planter which we filled with columbine, creeping Jenny and liatris. There are plans to build another planter, ready for spring, that will be placed in the upper courtyard area.

We were given a turquoise water feature which provides a nice babbling sound in the background. We were also given a string of Buddhist prayer flags by one of the local Buddhist temples, which we hung between a gazebo and the staircase railing. Prayer flags provide a sense of peace and tranquility and add a dimension of height to the courtyard.

One of our really quirky projects was to create large (35 cm) flowers from hubcaps that were donated by a local car dealer. The hubcaps were trimmed and painted vibrant colours (using the hospital's logo as a guide) and attached to the staircase railing. We have received many compliments on these flowers.

Currently, we are painting the wooden picnic tables. An old bench from the Hospital Auxiliary that hadn't been updated since 1973 has been rejuvenated with a coat of paint. To enliven the paving stone area, we decided to stain a "carpet" on the paving stones and will put a picnic table on it. We used the same stain to colour a concrete planter in that area.

We are planning ahead – for the fall, more cornstalks, Indian corn swags and pumpkins and for the winter, the hubcap flowers will be replaced with a number of silver-and-gold five-pointed stars. We already have plans for the spring of 2024 – more flower beds and plants that will survive the harsh, hot and windy environment.

We have a work gang once a week to keep up with the weeding and watering although any team member is welcome to drop in and do some work. Our team is currently comprised of 14 club members. Everyone has signed a volunteer application form, a confidentiality form from the hospital and a waiver from the club allowing their picture to be posted on social media. We have also provided the hospital with an insurance certificate from Co-operators to cover the 2023 year.

We have received many compliments and thank-yous from staff and patients alike. The courtyard has seen a big change in the last six months, and usage has gone up a lot.



For more information about the Belleville Garden Club, please visit BellevilleGardenClub.ca or send an email to yourbellevillegardenclub@gmail.com.

Congratulations!

District 6

Submitted by D6 Director Lianne Krane

Rocking Spring Youth Contest Winners



Class 1 Winner:
Brian Wolf (age 6)



Class 1 Runner Up:
Hailey Thompson (Age 7)



Class 2 Winner:
Chloe Thompson (Age 9)



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OHA 50/50 Raffle Winners!

Submitted by Marian Heil, OHA Treasurer



July 21, 2023 winner of the 5th OHA 50/50 Raffle was Susan Tobias (B-2502) with \$3682.50. She is a member of the Greater Windsor Horticultural Society in District 11. That winning ticket was drawn during the convention.



Our Early Bird winner Carmen Lint (*left*) of the Oshawa Garden Club received \$500 presented by District 17 Director Debi Foster (*right*). A big thank you to Robert Plante Greenhouse for sponsoring the early bird prize for tickets purchased by August 18, 2023.



The winner of the 6th OHA 50/50 Raffle was Sharon Leggett from the Elora and Salem Horticultural Society in District 7. She won \$1550 with ticket number B-2553.

Next Draw #7: December 15, 2023
Get Your Early Bird Tickets by October 20, 2023

For your chance to win, visit <https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/ontario-ha>

The Early Bird prize is sponsored by D. Culbert Ltd - Ontario Land Surveyor.
Early bird prize of \$500 to be drawn on October 21 and final draw takes place on Dec. 16.
The winning early bird ticket is re-entered for the grand prize draw.

Manotick Horticultural Society

Submitted by Anne Harbord

Photographer Anne Harbord

How to Build Concrete Orbs for the Garden



Members intent on the process of getting the cloth soaked in cement

On August 26 and 27, 2023, the driveway of Chris and Jim Robotham in Manotick was the tented venue for a great workshop on how to build Concrete Orbs for the garden.

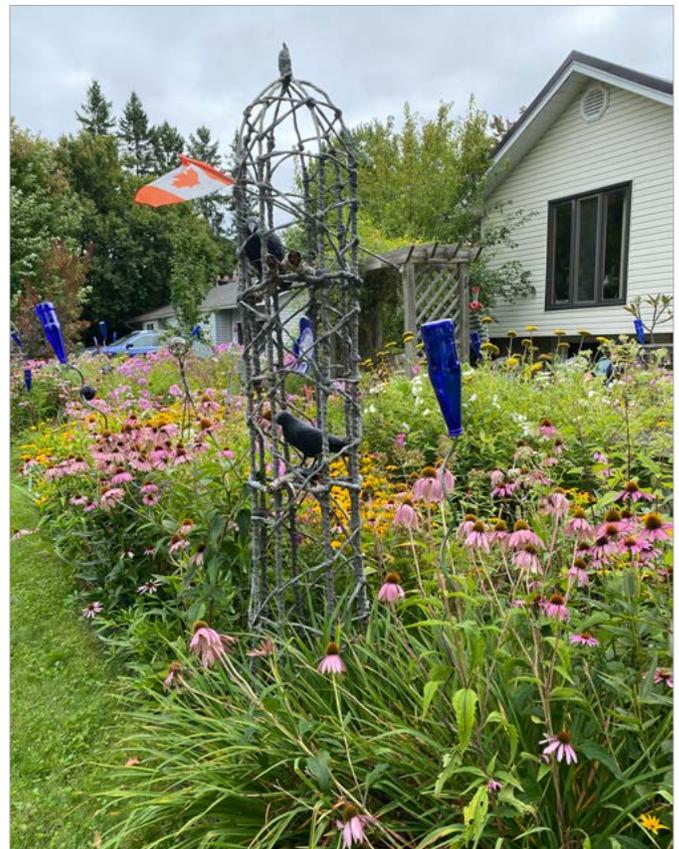
There were two sessions, morning and afternoon, with approximately 20 people at each session learning how to turn strips of old sheets, soaked in concrete, into Concrete Orbs.

Each creation was uniquely constructed over a beachball, and left overnight to harden. The next day, any gaps were filled and the "legs" also wrapped and attached. The air was let out of the beachball and then extracted through the bottom.

Chris and Jim were amazing instructors who assisted with twisting and placement of the soaked cloths. Many of us were also able to get a tour of their unique pollinator gardens, enhanced with many garden fixtures, including a Concrete Blackbird Cage which I will definitely make next year.

The camaraderie was wonderful after so long without this type of hands-on get-togethers. Dressed in our grubbies, we all got down and dirty to make these amazing garden ornaments.

Many attendees have posted pictures of their creations in their gardens. Mine is awaiting a coat of "Glow in the Dark" spray paint before it gets pride of place in a new garden bed on the front yard. Then I can enjoy it in the day and night time too.



Concrete Blackbird Cage

Thunder Bay Horticultural Society

Written by Vickie Bureau, President

Photos by Vickie Bureau

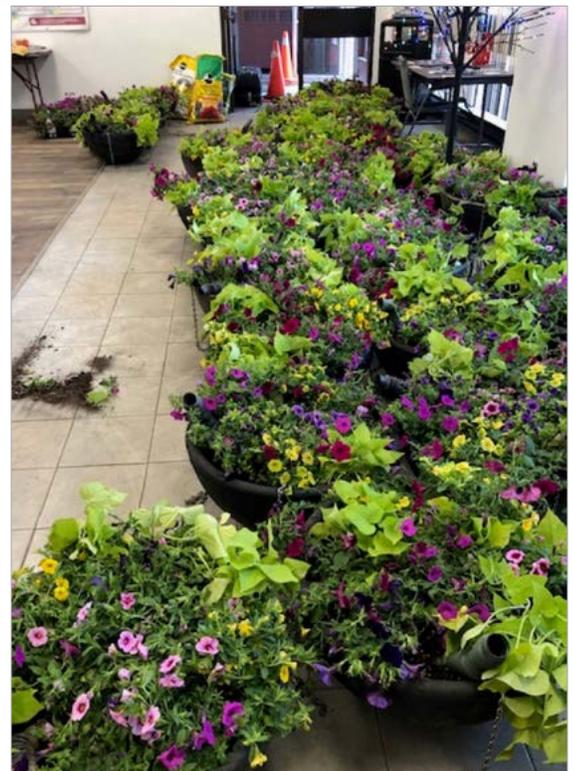
The summer is slowly coming to an end and hopefully you were able to stop and smell the flowers this season. Society members were kept busy these past months in a variety of outreach events, field trips, garden tours, our D14 AGM and the OHA Convention AGM.

June was quite a busy month starting off with the D14 AGM, June 2-4. The turnout was great with most societies attending and joining in the camaraderie, workshops, horticultural sharing, great food and laughs and we were fortunate to have Charles and Louise Freeman attend and share in the festivities. June 10th found us in the thick of our Plant Sale. Thanks to our volunteers for donating plants, items and to those assisting on the day, our Plant Sale was a success. Those plants that did not find their forever home were donated to the Lakehead University Student Garden. The following day found a few members and two visiting members from the Pembroke society assisting with the Fort William BIA container planting, in which 39 large hanging planters were filled. On the 12th, Society members could be found cleaning and planting at the Community Auditorium, just in time for the local schools to take pictures in front of the Garden for their graduation ceremonies. Next up, on the 15th, society members were greeted by Arjen and Henriette DeBruin, owners of DeBruin's Greenhouses, and participated in a tour of their Hydroponic Greenhouse. The end of the month found a small group of volunteers cleaning the garden beds at Magnus Theatre, another one in which the society maintains in the city.

In the beginning of July, Society members were back at Magnus, cleaning the garden beds again, followed by planting containers to be displayed along side the outdoor theatre. The first Garden Tour of the summer was on July 9th and consisted of 6 varied and beautiful gardens on the south side of the city with garden hosts receiving



Tree Planting at D14 AGM



Fort William BIA



Plant Sale 2023

OHA Trillium - Autumn 2023

complimentary society memberships for 2023 and 2024 as a token of our appreciation. July 10th and 11th, our society was invited to partake in the Fort William Historic Park's 50th Anniversary with an information booth and preserving demonstration on the 11th. July 21st – 23rd found society members on pretty much opposite sides of the province, with some members attending the OHA Convention and AGM in Kanata (Ottawa) and others attending the Grand Marais, USA, Flower Show with thanks to Linda Parker for putting together this (international) field trip for our members.

August 6th was our 2nd Garden Tour, which consisted of 3 beautiful private gardens and 4 public gardens and was followed up by a celebratory 100th Anniversary BBQ at Roots to Harvest – Monty Parks garden with garden hosts receiving complimentary society memberships. The society was invited to participate in the Canadian Lakehead Exhibition with an information booth from August 9th – 13th in the Dorothy Dove Building. What a commemorative place to be on our 100th Anniversary year with Dorothy Dove being a long time and prominent member of our society and our District Director for many years.

Garden maintenance continued in August at all society gardens being Magnus Theatre, Thunder Bay Community Auditorium, Pollinator Garden at the Conservatory and the Society Dedication Garden at Oliver Road Community Centre.

With fall soon approaching, we are looking forward to our Flower and Vegetable Show, Purple Flower Contest, Garden Beautification Awards, pumpkin and vegetable carving and our society AGM closing off a busy and eventful year in November.



Auditorium Planting



Information and Canning Booths



CLE Booth 2023



Magnus Theatre



Stoney Creek Garden Club

Submitted by Marian Heil

The Stoney Creek Garden Club is proud to have presented a \$500 bursary to a student from Saltfleet High School who is planning to study Agriculture at the University of Guelph this September. Club President Karen Krasko presented the recipient, Ella Henderson, with the award on June 23rd. Karen also presented a gift certificate that was provided for the bursary recipient by The Symposium restaurant (Rymal Road). Ella is excited to begin her studies this fall and the Stoney Creek Garden Club wishes her every success in her studies.

Pictured is Club President Karen Krasko with bursary recipient Ella Henderson

Insurance Queries?

Contact:

Shawn LaPalm

Non-Profit & Charity Insurance

The Co-operators

1-888-712-2667

shawn_lapalm@cooperators.ca

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

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



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This donation is to be used to:

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District # (if applies):

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