



**ONTARIO HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL MEETING, July 3-5, 2015
Redeemer University College**

"Summer in the Southern Tier"

FRIDAY, JULY 3, 2015

Registration desk and vendors' area were open before the start of the convention for delegates to visit. An early bird draw was held prior to the start of today's session.

The meeting opened at 9:00 a.m. in the Auditorium of Redeemer College, Ancaster.

Convention Theme: *"Summer in the Southern Tier"*

Opening Ceremonies:

The Executive of the Ontario Horticultural Association paraded in to the Ball Room. We opened the convention with O Canada.

Raison d'être: Jeff Blackadar, OHA President provided the raison d'être.

Master of Ceremonies: Charles Freeman, District 1 Director welcomed Kieran McGill, Caledonia's mascot "Scotty McKinnon", who commemorated Caledonia's Scottish founder, Ranald McKinnon (1801 – 1879).

OHA President's Welcome: Jeff Blackadar, OHA President welcomed the Dignitaries, Executive, District Directors, and Past Presidents of the Ontario Horticultural Association. Jeff welcomed all delegates to Ancaster and provided the President's Welcome.

Introduction of Dignitaries: Charles introduced our special guests and dignitaries to the 109th Convention. Greetings were received from Helen Scutt, Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs. Greetings were brought by Councilor Robert Pasute, Claudette Smith, Garden Clubs of Ontario, Denis Flanigan, Landscape Ontario, Claudette Sims, Master Gardeners of Ontario, Sylvia Parr, Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies, and Shawn LaPalm, Co-operators Insurance.

Charles introduced OHA Convention Host and District 6 Director, Donna Hussey. Donna provided a warm welcome on behalf of District 6.

In Memoriam: Suzanne Hanna, Vice President was introduced and read a beautiful poem for those that we have lost since the last convention. The names and many pictures were highlighted on the screen by district.

Roll Call: Kelly Taylor, OHA Secretary was introduced and called on each District Director and District to be recognized.

Minutes of the 2014 Convention: The minutes of the 2014 OHA Convention were made available on the OHA GardenOntario website for review. OHA Secretary, Kelly Taylor noted that the minutes will not be read out loud and indicated that this may be something districts and societies could consider moving to.

**MOTION 15-22: That the OHA Convention Minutes of July 18-20, 2014 be approved as circulated.
M/S: Kelly Taylor, District 10/Shirley Robson, District 14. Carried.**

Nominating Committee: Jeff Blackadar introduced Past President and Nominating Committee Chair, James Graham who presented the report of the Nominating Committee and introduced the candidates as follows:

President
Vice-President

Suzanne Hanna
Rose Odell

No other nominations were put forth from the floor at this time. The elections will take place on Sunday, July 5, 2015.

Hasty Hort Humdinger #1: Shawn LaPalm, Cooperators Insurance
Hasty Hort Humdinger #2: James Graham, Immediate Past President

Speaker: Catherine Kavassalis, Co-President of Oakville Horticultural Society spoke on "Gardening For Life".

Announcements – Charles noted that the flower show and competition rooms will be open for viewing from 12:00 – 8:00 p.m., various bus trips will be departing promptly at 1 p.m. and various seminars would be available in the afternoon from 1:30 – 2:30 and 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Delegates were reminded of the evening banquet and to join in on the fun of the silent auction.

Banquet Highlights: Highlights for tonight's dinner include a BBQ banquet, silent auction and live entertainment featuring Sterling.

SATURDAY, JULY 4, 2015

Registration desk, vendors' area and competition rooms were open before the start of the convention for delegates to visit.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Jeff noted that we had 79 events posted to the GardenOntario Week website this year and noted that the OHA will build on this success next year with more events and more publicity. GardenOntario Week will take place June 11-19, 2016. Thanks to Suzanne Hanna and Carol Dunk for their work on this excellent initiative.

We had a very positive response to the Haskaps this year, but unfortunately the initiative did not go as planned. We have learned from this experience, and were pleased to take the opportunity to offer it out to the province. Thanks to Rose Odell for organizing this event and to those who distributed.

As many of you know from previous communications, our website was vandalized in November 2014. This caused a lot of work for the team that runs the OHA website and for all of the societies who have websites on gardenontario.org. I was very impressed and greatly appreciated how all of the volunteers within the OHA pulled together to resolve this issue so that our annual reporting and volunteer hours collection proceeded normally. We issued new passwords to all users and made it more difficult for non OHA members to log into our web site and engaged IT Security Companies to assist with fixing the problem and to continue to monitor our website. We took this issue seriously and resolved it.

This year the OHA established two \$1000 bursaries, to a second or third year student at each of Lakehead University in relation to Food Security and to the University of Guelph in relation to Eco-Friendly Horticultural Science.

New Seedy Saturday/Sunday Events have been popping up in Ontario and Horticultural Societies are very much involved. The OHA has established a Grant of \$250 to help horticultural societies organize a first time Seedy Saturday/Sunday Event, and I'm pleased to say the first grant was awarded this year in March.

We developed new Youth Program Standards and a Youth Leader Code of Conduct. We worked with Cooperators Insurance so that societies could access Youth Program Insurance as well.

The OHA took a stand against the use of Neonicotinoid Pesticides on ornamental plants sold to gardeners. We contacted retailers about how they treat the plants they sell and heard that our individual members also asked their garden centres about this. This year we have seen progress on this issue. We have been a part of making a change for the better on this issue.....

We also changed the boundaries of District 1 and 2 and this was done very effectively. Thank you to the members of both districts for making this transition so smoothly.

For awards, new forms were created to make it easier to make a submission for OHA Awards. On behalf of the Awards Committee, we want to recognize deserving volunteers, but we can only do that if members send in a nomination. Please review the awards page of our web site and, if you know of someone in your society who should receive an award, use the forms to send in a nomination.

The OHA Executive was involved in providing advice to some horticultural societies who experienced conflict and difficulty. A theme in these issues was a lack of knowledge in the society about how to resolve conflict as well as the responsibilities society board members have. Helen Scutt of OMAFRA has announced new training available to society members to build up their knowledge and avoid difficult situations. Links will be available on the OHA GardenOntario site.

In the coming years, we know we need to continue to grow, to build the membership up in each horticultural society and renew our volunteer strength. We know we need to reach more people through events like GardenOntario Week. We'll have other possibilities and challenges that we haven't imagined yet, but we can count on the OHA being in good hands.

MOTION 15-23: That the President's Report be accepted as read. Angela Davis, District 1/Wayne Pfeffer, District 8. Carried.

TREASURER'S 2014 FINANCIAL REPORT: Sharon Hill, OHA Treasurer thanked the many people that assist with the OHA business through the year. Sharon presented the audited financial statements to the delegates, reviewed the Statement of Operations and Fund Balances.

Revenues from 2014: Membership - \$86,007, Convention/AGM \$63,062, Insurance - \$50,137, Fundraising/Other - \$7,194, Donations - \$15,715, Gain on Investments - \$5,857, Supplies - \$8,646.

Donations from 2014: General - \$6,652, Societies (inc. Loblaws) - \$4,203, In Memoriam - \$1,303, Conserv & Enviro - \$750, Community Garden Grants - \$500, Website \$584, Seedy Saturday/Sunday - \$576, GardenOntario Week - \$591, Youth - \$476.

Expenses from 2014: Convention - \$57,119, Insurance - \$52,656, Fundraising/Professional/Office - \$45,984, Meetings/Projects - \$43,397, Awards/Bursaries/Grants \$17,168, Education, Promotion, Publicity - \$5,496.

For 2014, the OHA realized a profit of \$14,788.

Insurance: Commencing with the billing this September (for the year of 2016), insurance charges on the dues/insurance invoice will be: 70 cents per member (previously 65 cents member) and \$100 per society (previously \$86 per society). This increase is due to decreasing membership numbers in the province.

OHA Rebranding: The OHA is pursuing the trade name GardenOntario. This will take 18-24 months to complete the process. We will maintain our legal name as the Ontario Horticultural Association.

Governance Regulations: Many questions have come forward from societies related to society constitution and guideline questions. Sharon noted that the first place to reference is the society Constitution, Bylaws and Guidelines with the second source being the Agricultural and Horticultural Organizations Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. A.9. Sharon noted that the final reference point should be the Ontario's Not-for-Profit Corporations Act and if that fails to go back and amend your society by-laws.

MOTION 15-24: That the Treasurer's Report be approved for 2015 as presented. M/S: Sharon Hill, District 18/Rose Odell, District 4. Carried.

SECRETARY'S YEAR 2015 ACTIVITY REPORT

The OHA membership numbers reported for 2014 were 282 societies with 28,472 members. The membership number has decreased by 486 members from 2013.

The OHA Volunteer Hours for 2014 were 491,824.35 hours. The District Executives reported 26,491.7 hours, 1950.7 travel hours and 24,541 hours activity. The OHA Executive logged 348 travel hours and 3565 volunteer hours.

MOTION 15-25: That we retain Takalo & Burt as our auditors (Chartered Accountants). M/S: Kelly Taylor, District 10, Penny Stewart, District 3. Carried.

NOMINATIONS:

James Graham asked for any nominations from the floor. No nominations were put forth from the floor at this time.

James Graham noted that he has visited many societies this past year and has loved seeing what is going on in societies across the province.

VICE President's Report: Suzanne Hanna noted that she has been kept very busy this year with correspondence, speaking with societies across the province and working on GardenOntario Week. Suzanne thanked everyone for their efforts and noted that she is looking forward to 2016 for a solid launch of GardenOntario Week. We would like to see events in all 19 districts and are looking to revamp our website this next year as well, to make it more user friendly for everyone.

MOTION 15-26: That the Vice President's Report be accepted: M/S: Rose Walsh, District 9 /Marilyn Trunk/District 17. Carried.

CONSTITUTION, BY-LAWS AND RESOLUTIONS – CHARLES FREEMAN:

Resolution 15-1: Be it resolved that: The Ontario Horticultural Association express appreciation to the Province of Ontario for the assistance provided to Horticultural Societies and to this Association by means of grants and by the continued review and implementation of policies aimed towards the promotion of interest and participation in horticulture. **Carried.**

Resolution 15-2: Be it resolved that: The Ontario Horticultural Association convey to the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, his Deputies and Staff, our thanks for the support, assistance and co-operation accorded this Association by Ministry Personnel. **Carried.**

Resolution 15-3: Be it resolved that: The Ontario Horticultural Association extend its thanks to the Director, Assistant Directors, Societies and Members of District 6 who worked to plan and conduct the 2015 Convention, and to all others who had any part in contributing to its success. **Carried.**

Resolution 15-4: Be it resolved that: The members of the Ontario Horticultural Association would like to express their appreciation and thanks to the Executive and Directors of the OHA and all the committee workers/volunteers who contribute to the successful continuing operation of our organization. **Carried.**

Jeff Blackadar chaired the remainder of the resolutions.

Resolution 15-5: Be it resolved that: By-Law 6.6 be amended as follows:
Add the wording - "Should the need for a vote arise," at the start of the first sentence.
Remove the words "regulations" from the second sentence. Add the word - "By-Laws" at the end of the second sentence.

Section 6.6 would then read as follows:

Should the need for a vote arise, the candidate receiving a simple majority vote in a secret ballot shall be declared the winner. The election shall be carried out according to the Association's By-Laws. **Carried.**

Resolution 15-6: Be it resolved that: By-Law 13.5 be amended as follows:

The word "his" be replaced by the words "his/her" so that the section reads:

"For a Director who has resigned, or is unwilling or unable to carry out the responsibilities of the office, the District Executive shall appoint a replacement for the balance of his/her term." **Carried.**

Resolution 15-7: Be it resolved that: By-Law 13.5.2 be added to the By-Laws and read as follows:
"For an Assistant Director who has resigned, or is unwilling or unable to carry out the responsibilities of the office, the District Executive shall appoint a replacement to serve until the next (District) AGM." **Carried.**

Resolution 15-8: Be it resolved that: By-Law 13.5 be amended as follows:
The number of the By-Law be amended to read 13.5.1. **Carried.**

Hasty Hort Humdinger #3 – Carole Spraggett, District 15 Director

Hasty Hort Humdinger #4 – Penny Stewart, District 3 Director

SPEAKER: Trish Symons, Horticultural Design & Rose Judge presented "From Hayfield to Heaven".

Announcements – Charles noted that the flower show and competition rooms will be open for viewing from 12:00 – 8:00 p.m., various bus trips will be departing promptly at 1 p.m. and various seminars would be available in the afternoon from 1:30 – 2:30 and 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

GALA DINNER & AWARDS HIGHLIGHTS:

Highlights for tonight's gala dinner included Key Note Speaker Lizzie Matheson who presented on "Conversation Pieces".

District 15 Director, Carole Spraggett, announced the following awards to honour OHA members for their contributions to their society and OHA.

Community Improvement Award presented to St. Hilary's Church Garden, c/o Cloverleaf Garden Club District 15. This 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.

Youth Leader Award presented to Patricia Bell, Oro-Medonte Horticultural Society, District 16. This plaque is presented to a person who has been a Youth Club leader for a minimum of 5 years.

Environmental Award presented to Aurora Community Arboretum, District 5 and The Riverwood Conservancy (TRC), Mississauga, ON c/o Cloverleaf Garden Club of Mississauga, District 15. This award is a framed certificate and is given 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.

Honour Roll presented to Stuart Gough, Oakville Horticultural Society, District 6. Nominations should be for members of a horticultural society with at least fifteen years of service to one or more societies, should have made a contribution of horticultural service to the community, district or association and should have given outstanding service at the society and district level.

Silver Trillium/Fir Award presented to Jean Phillips, Orangeville and District Horticultural Society, District 7 and Shirley Daniels, Cloverleaf Garden Club, District 15. This award as designated in 2009 is given to the 2 most worthy candidates who have given outstanding service to horticultural societies and to the Ontario Horticultural Association.

Silver Medal presented to Carol Dunk, Barrie's Garden Club, District 16. The Ontario Horticultural Association Silver Medal, with its associated framed certificate, is the highest award of the Association. The award is given for outstanding work in the advancement of horticulture in accordance with the aims of the Association.

Youth Project Award: The OHA Youth Project Award (formerly known as the Nother's Award) presented to Frank Cox and the students of Oakridge Public School c/o Cloverleaf Garden Club of Mississauga, District 15. The Youth Project Award can be awarded annually to the winner of a public project undertaken by a Youth Club.

OHA Tree Grants: The following societies received tree grants, up to \$200, in 2014.

Brockville & District, District 3	Nipigon Red Rock, District 14
Burlington, District 6	Pakenham, District 2
Clinton, District 8	Peterborough, District 4
Durham & District, District 8	Sudbury, District 13
Eganville & Area, District 2	St. Marys, District 10
Elora Salem, District 7	Tilbury & District, District 11
Galt, District 19	Wasaga Beach, District 16
Greater Windsor, District 11	Wilmot, District 19
Lake Simcoe South Shores, District 5	Woodbridge, District 15
London Fanshawe, District 10	

OHA Special Project Grants: To assist Societies in meeting the objectives of the Ontario Horticultural Association, the board will provide a Special Project Grant to a maximum of \$500.00 for each project.

Grand Valley, District 7	London Fanshawe, District 10
Parry Sound, District 18	

Community Garden Grants: The Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA) encourages its member societies to create or contribute to community gardens whether urban or rural. OHA will award a grant of \$500 to assist in the funding of a new community garden or the upgrading of an existing community garden.

Port Dover, District 6	Ripley & District, District 8
------------------------	-------------------------------

Seedy Saturday/Sunday Grants: The Ontario Horticultural Association will provide a grant of \$250 annually to a member society to organize a first-time Seedy Saturday/Sunday event in their community. It is hoped that such support will promote seed saving and the exchange of regionally adapted, bio-diverse seed in Ontario for the purposes of promoting seed saving and seed exchange in Ontario.

Wingham Society, District 8

OHA Membership Challenge Trophy: Jeff Blackadar, OHA President presented a trophy, donated by Fines Flowers of Ottawa. This is a trophy to be awarded to a District with the highest percentage membership increase overall for the year. This year it was awarded to District 2. Kathryn Lindsay, District 2 Director accepted the award on behalf of the District.

SUNDAY, JULY 5, 2015

Susan Reeder, along with the District 6 Team announced the results of the District Activities Challenge between districts. District 8 was announced the winner of the District Challenge.

Jeff Blackadar, OHA President welcomed everyone back to the convention.

THANK YOU TO RETIRING DIRECTORS: Jeff thanked the retiring directors for their years of service and dedication to the OHA. Thanks went out to Pat Stachon, District 1, Rose Odell, District 4, Nancy Serrick, District 5, and Roland Craig, District 10.

MOTION 15-27: That the Secretaries Report be approved for 2015 as presented. M/S: Angela Davis, District 1/Angela Feely, District 8. Carried.

QUESTION AND ANSWERS: Jeff asked for any questions from the floor since none were submitted in advance.

A member asked if their service years from 2 different societies would be counted when consideration for years of service is required. Jeff confirmed that those service hours could be considered if the member's current society was willing to acknowledge them. Years of service for the OHA would be counted in their entirety.

A member, asked why nominations are called once daily over the 3 days of the convention. Jeff noted that this is done to allow members the opportunity to run for office and have the opportunity to come forward on any of the 3 days.

A member asked that if their OHA society website was reviewed and protected through the IT Security Review that occurred. Jeff confirmed that all society pages, that are under the OHA banner, were reviewed and are protected now.

Wayne Pfeffer of District 8 asked if the Competitions Committees would consider allotting a 4th and a 5th prize for competitions as this would allow more recognition for members. Marie Decker confirmed that the classes, with over 10 entries submitted, are subdivided and awarded accordingly.

A member asked if society members are covered on bus trips during convention. Sharon confirmed that insurance is present with the bus company and any venue that is visited.

Jeff noted that we have not directed societies to use OHA Certified Judges. For OHA Shows, we will use OHA Certified Judges. OHA is developing a process by which GCO judges that are members of an OHA society may be able to apply to be recognized and listed on OHA web site.

FINAL NOMINATIONS:

The slate of Officers as received by the Nominating Committee was presented on the first day of the Convention. Final calls were made for further nominations. Nominations were closed.

ELECTION OF ASSOCIATION OFFICERS – JEFF BLACKADAR/CHARLES FREEMAN:

Rose Odell was declared, by acclamation, to be the Vice President for 2015-2016.

Suzanne Hanna was declared, by acclamation, to be the President for 2015-2016.

Jeff Blackadar performed the installation ceremony for Suzanne and Rose.

OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S SPEECH: Jeff Blackadar noted that being the President of the Ontario Horticultural Association is a once in a lifetime opportunity and that he was very fortunate to have served. On a personal level, he noted that being a volunteer with the OHA has been very fulfilling and that he counts among the many benefits of the past years the friends he's made and the good memories he has. Jeff noted that with your continuing support and hard work in your horticultural societies, together we will keep Ontario Beautiful.

WELCOME TO NEW PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT: Retiring President, Jeff Blackadar, introduced the in-coming President, Suzanne Hanna and Vice President, Rose Odell.

CHANGE OF OFFICE: Jeff presented Suzanne with the OHA Chain of Office and introduced the new President, Suzanne Hanna.

PAST PRESIDENT'S AWARD: Suzanne presented Jeff with the Past President's Pin and gift.

INCOMING PRESIDENTS SPEECH: Suzanne thanked everyone for their support and noted that she is looking forward to an exciting year as President of the Ontario Horticultural Association. Suzanne provided a brief introductory presentation.

Rose Odell, Vice President of the OHA, along with the District 4 Delegates sang a song, written by Rose Odell for the new OHA President, Suzanne Hanna.

Hasty Hort Humdinger #5 – Kathryn Lindsay, District 2 Director

Hasty Hort Humdinger #6 – Russ Talbot, District 16 Director

SPEAKER: Darren Heimbecker, Owner of Whistling Gardens presented a wonderful talk on "Weird and Wonderful Oddities in the Plant World".

CLOSING CEREMONIES – DONNA HUSSEY: Donna thanked everyone for attending the convention and thanked everyone who displayed their photographs, floral, and art as well as thanked all those who participated in seminars and bus trips.

The association flag was given to District 19 Director, Gary Brenner.

INVITATION TO 2016 OHA CONVENTION – GARY BRENNER: Gary announced the 110th Annual Convention which will be held in Waterloo, July 7-10, 2016 at the Waterloo Inn, Waterloo, Ontario. Gary noted that there would be tours, and much more made available to the delegates.

CLOSING CEREMONIES – SUZANNE HANNA: Suzanne Hanna, new OHA President, reviewed the events of the Convention and thanked the delegates for attending. She expressed appreciation to Donna Hussey, and the many volunteers for making this convention a memorable event.

The 2015 Convention was declared closed.

Signature of President