

# ONTARIO HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

# NEWSLETTER

## WINTER 2005



EDITOR

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Secretaries: Please feel free to use this material in your newsletters or press releases.



*I have apples, I have cakes,  
Icicles, and snowy flakes,  
Hanging on each naked bough;  
Sugar strawberries and cherries  
Mistletoe and holly-berries  
Nail'd above the glorious show.*

*I have presents rich and rare,  
Beauties which I do not spare,  
For my little children dear;  
At my steps the casements lighten,  
Sourest human faces brighten,  
And the carols, music strange,  
Float in their melodious change  
On the night wind cold and drear.*

## President's Message

I would like to take this opportunity to share with you some of the personal benefits I have realized as a member of a Horticultural Society. Believe it or not, I used to be the person at the back of the room listening but not talking- I didn't feel I was smart enough to offer any suggestions. Our local society was in trouble- no one wanted to take an office and the meetings weren't interesting enough to draw new members. A gentleman came forward and agreed to be President. He asked me to fill a position on the board and I agreed.

That small step was the start of a thirty year history with our local society. What it has done for me is to show me that I can do many things from society Treasurer, First Vice President, then move on to the District level as Assistant Director ( 5 years), District Director ( 5 years) , and, with the help of our District, hosted the 2002 Convention.

During my fourth term as Director, I was asked by my peers on the board if I would run for Second Vice President. I wasn't confident that I could do the job justice but, with a lot of support from all levels, I ran. Now, I proudly serve as your President.

Through the confidence I have gained belonging to this great Association and through local activities, I would urge each one of you to take this small step and serve on your local board as director of your society. I don't feel that you would ever regret the move.

Rewards abound in friendships formed, knowledge obtained, courses available, e.g. Master Gardeners, Urban Forestry, Judging Schools and other specialized courses available at your local colleges, RBG, Garden Clubs of Ontario.

Encourage friends, neighbours and relatives to join your local society and join in this fellowship. You will get out of any organization what you are willing to put into it and much, much more.

Conventions are a great way to expand your knowledge by hearing good main speakers and attending informative seminars. Meeting new and old friends and talking with people from different areas and sharing tips help to enhance your own green space.

A friend whose husband was our local MP was required to attend many functions in Ottawa. She said that, during dinner, she watched to see which wives didn't have manicured nails and then approached these women as they were likely to be gardeners like herself.

I look forward to greeting many of you in Ottawa on August 11, 12, 13, 2006 for the celebration of our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.. "One Hundred Years and Growing" is the theme. Thanks go out to the members of District 2 and their Director Ken Fink who are working hard to make this Convention go down in history as a celebration to remember. I had the privilege to meet some of these folks last spring and they are a great bunch of people.

Judy Lewis, President

## Message From The Editor

I would like to thank everyone for their support of the Newsletter over the last twelve years. This will be the last issue of the Newsletter with myself as Editor. I have asked that someone else become the Editor although distribution will still take place through the Association office.

There are many separate items in this mailing, including:

2006 Competitions- Youth and Adult

2007 Competitions- Youth and some Adult

Volunteer Hour Form- to be returned to the Association office

Information Form A- to be returned to your District Director

Information Form B- to be returned to the Association office

Society Service Certificate Application Form

Special Project Application Form

Resolution Form

I hope that everyone has a pleasant winter. I hope to see many of you in Ottawa in August at our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations.

Bonnie Warner, Editor

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## Nominations for Association Awards

The Ontario Horticultural Association sponsors a number of Awards which are presented annually during the Convention. Each Society should have an Awards Booklet available to inform the members of the Awards available and the procedure to follow to place a nomination for an Award.

Awards presented at the Convention are:

Silver Medal Award  
Trillium Award  
Silver Fir Award  
Award of Merit  
Community Improvement Award  
Environmental Award  
Youth Leader  
Honor Roll

Nominations, with supporting information, should be sent to the Association Secretary by February 28. The Secretary will forward the nominations to the Awards Committee for selection of the winning recipients. The Awards Committee is composed of the President ( chair), Immediate Past president, Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer and Chair of the Past Presidents' Council.

Please give serious consideration to selecting people who would be worthy recipients of these prestigious awards.



# ONTARIO HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

## 2006 Convention

Part 2.....Convention Ottawa



"One Hundred Years and Still Growing" - our theme for the Anniversary Convention which will be held in Ottawa August 11-12-13, 2006, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. We, from District 2 and our 21 societies, extend to you and yours a very warm welcome to attend our great Convention. We have lined up a great Convention - a great panel of key speakers, numerous seminars to pick your enthusiasm and curiosity and fabulous bus tours exploring our capital region.

If you haven't been to an Ontario Horticultural Association Convention before, this is the one not to be missed.....the one and only 100th anniversary hosted in our capital.

The following article is the continuation found in the Fall Newsletter, inviting you to our nation's capital. The first article talked about the city of Ottawa and what it had to offer - this part deals with the Outaouais...across the Ottawa river.

"The Outaouais" - what a destination to explore...our neighbours and the twin city of Gatineau (formerly known as Hull) just across the Ottawa river, in the province of Quebec. The Outaouais people will capture your heart with their warm hospitality. The charms of the Outaouais will allow you to explore museums, art galleries, theatres, a Casino and outstanding cuisine.

It all started in 1613 with the voyage of Champlain to the land of the Algonquins as he was searching for the Northern Sea. With the arrival of American Loyalist Philemon Wright in 1800, the Outaouais really begin to expand. In Algonquin, the term "Outaouais" means "Trading".

Throughout the year, the area hosts a number of large scale events and festivals....you can admire millions of tulips in May, gaze at dazzling fireworks competitions in July or be a witness to the flight of hundreds of hot-air balloons in September.

You can visit the summer residence of the 10th Prime Minister of Canada, William Lyon MacKenzie, its gardens and have afternoon tea...where you ask....in the Gatineau Park. The MacKenzie King Estate is over 100 years old and spreads to more than 230 hectares. You can stroll along its numerous pathways, visit its numerous gardens or have afternoon tea with scones and cakes.

Come and enjoy Gatineau Park, 363 square kilometers of rolling hills and forests and an unparalleled site for leisure and conversation and interpretation of nature. You can drive its 33 kilometers on parkways named Gatineau, Champlain and Lac Fortune. The Gatineau valley is a vast expanse of lakes, rivers, forests, hiking trails and bicycle trails. Today it is still influenced by the Aboriginal presence. The Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg reservation and the Mawandoseg Algonquin interpretation centre will allow you to take a journey back in time and rediscover its rich and distinctive culture.

Gatineau, our neighbour just across the Ottawa River, is Quebec's 4th largest city. From here you can board a steam train built in 1907 that takes you to the village of Wakefield, one of the most scenic rail routes in Eastern Canada. Not to be missed once you arrive in Wakefield is the train being turned around manually for the trek back home.

Chelsea is a rural municipality at the gateway to Gatineau Park that prides itself on the protection of the environment. Here you can enjoy winter and summer activities, and in the fall it unveils its spectacular colours, while the local artists welcome you on their studio tours. If you would like to live the urban Outaouais, grab your bike

or in-line skates and explore our most impressive network of bike paths which cross the National Capital region and link the city to the country.

Back in Ottawa, you must not miss a visit to the Byward Market. You can stroll around the historic neighbourhood, chat with local farmers about their products and check out the nearby shops to get a feel for the fantastic cheeses, baked goods, meats and speciality dishes. While at the famous Byward Market, you don't want to miss the great opportunity to take a sample of a famous "Beaver Tail" These super pastry treats come with an array of sweet and savoury toppings. This Ottawa tradition, now found around the world, originated at a stall in the Byward Market.

For families with children, you should visit the hands-on adventure at the Canadian Children's Museum located within the Canadian Museum of Civilization (found in Hull). The Canada Science and Technology Museum will give you more fun and interaction. It's "crazy kitchen" will put you off balance while other exhibits will explore astronomy, communications, computers and physics.

Show them the pomp and circumstance with the changing of the guards ceremony on Parliament Hill. Every morning at 10 a.m. this dramatic spectacle is repeated. Why not stroll through the Canadian Museum of Nature and learn first hand about our natural world from dinosaurs, plants, minerals through the ever so popular "creepy critters" section.

Head to the country and explore the largest collection of hedge mazes in North America (Saunders Farm). Take a side trip to the RCMP stables and view the exhibits of the world famous RCMP musical ride. You could take your children to the Currency Museum of Canada and they would learn the story of money and how it evolved around the world. Next it's off to the Royal Canadian Mint where you can hold a gold bar in your hands (if you are strong enough).

If water is your thing you could travel west for 90 minutes and go rafting on the Ottawa river near Beachburg, or spend sometime riding with some equine pals.

Take your camera along when you visit 24 Sussex Drive, home of the Prime Minister, and take some snaps of the famous and picturesque Rideau Falls.

For your shopping pleasure don't forget Canada's first pedestrian mall "Sparks Street Mall", and the Rideau Centre with over 170 stores and services....all within walking distance from our hotel.

A visit to the National Arts Centre, Canada's premier performing arts venue, is a great outing. While you visit our city during the Convention you may stroll along Chinatown or visit Little Italy with its many patios. Iranian and Greek fests also happen in August, with music, dance, a craft fair and incredible foods. Vanier, our "French Quarter", has its own sugar bush within the city and every March celebrates the "cabane a sucre" (the maple sugar shack season)

Here's hoping you will attend our 100th birthday celebrations in the Nation's Capital. If you have never been to your capital now is the time to come. We'll treat you royally.

Remember August 11-12-13 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

Until the next update...Your convention Host...Ken Fink District 2

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# Ontario Horticultural Association 2005

## Photographic PRINT Competition Award Winners

CLASS	TITLE	FIRST (Name/Society)	SECOND (Name/Society)	THIRD (Name/Society)
1	Where Did I Put That ...idle garden implement(s)in winter	Martha Branigan Brampton	Ilona Drumm Nipigon-Red Rock	Kristine Black Brampton
2	Trees in the Breeze -unique tree	Linda Tibbles Sault Saint Marie	Rosemary Thomson Markdale	Impi Pink Nipigon
3	Outstanding In Its Field -a fall scarecrow	John Tibbles Sault Saint Marie	Rosemary Thomson Markdale	Linda Tibbles Sault Saint Marie
4	Leaf Me Alone a fall Maple leaf	Marjorie Dow Fergus	Mary Ann Gilhuly Waterloo	Jim Tibbles Sault Saint Marie
5	This Buds for You fresh buds in the garden	Phyllis Garton Thunder Bay	Rosemary Thomson Markdale	Marjorie Dow Fergus
6	How Green is My Garden shades of green in the spring	Linda Tibbles Sault Saint Marie	Gloria Broks North York	Wilma Wood Thunder Bay
7	It Takes Two a child and adult in the garden	Jim Tibbles Sault Saint Marie	S. Lloyd-Halliday Carleton Place	Richard Toivonen Sudbury
8	A Baker's Dozen your horticultural society in action	Wilma Wood Thunder Bay	Shannon Culhane Kirkland Lake	Jim Tibbles Sault Saint Marie
9	Many Hands Do Light Work Gardener's hands	Jim Tibbles Sault Saint Marie <i>Best in Show</i>	Marjorie Dow Fergus	Phyllis Garton Thunder Bay
10	A Tribute to Ontario a spring Trillium	Linda Boyko East York	Kristine Black Brampton	Linda Tibbles Sault Saint Marie
11	Looney Twoonie a loon and its reflection	-none-	-none-	-none-
12	Whispers of the North beauty of the north	Richard Toivonen Sudbury	Jim Tibbles Goulais	Phyllis Garton Thunder Bay
13	Can You Remember My Name? an unusual plant	David Wood Brampton	Phyllis Garton Thunder Bay	Linda Tibbles Sault Saint Marie
14	Smoke and Mirrors a digitally skewed photo of a reflection	Uldis Broks North York	David Wood Brampton	Richard Toivonen Sudbury
15	A Lone Star a child holding a single flower	Judy McGrath Pakenham	Mary Ann Gilhuly Waterloo	John Tibbles Sault Saint Marie
16	Trespassing Friends an animal, insect or bird in your yard	Richard Toivonen Sudbury	Neville Glen Brighton	Linda Tibbles Sault Saint Marie
17	Home Tweet Home a bird feeder in the garden	Linda Tibbles Sault Saint Marie	Uldis Broks North York	Richard Toivonen Sudbury
18	Reflections of Ontario a panoramic picture of Ontario	Richard Toivonen Sudbury	Linda Tibbles Sault Saint Marie	Ilona Drumm Nipigon-Red Rock

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# Photographic SLIDE Competition

## Award Winners

CLASS	TITLE	FIRST (Name/Society)	SECOND (Name/Society)	THIRD (Name/Society)
1	Fall Fair Follies capture the essence of a horticultural display	Betty Squires Sarnia	-none-	-none-
2	Leaf Me Alone a fall maple leaf	Charles Doekes St. Catherines	June Blackstock Oro-Medonte	Betty Squires Sarnia
3	How Green is My Spring shades of green in the spring	Betty Squire Sarnia	-none-	-none-
4	Double Takes a picture of a Summer reflection	Charles Doekes St. Catherines	Betty Squire Sarnia	Richard Toivonen Sudbury
5	It Takes Two a child and adult in the garden	Betty Squire Sarnia	-none-	-none-
6	A Baker's Dozen your horticultural society in action	Betty Squire Sarnia	-none-	-none-
7	Many Hands Make Light Work your horticultural society in action	Betty Squire Sarnia	-none-	-none-
8	It's Been Around well used gardening accessories (non-winter)	Jane Blackstock Oro-Medonte Best of Show	Betty Squire	-none-
9	Fly Away, Fly Away Home Ladybug(s)	Betty Squire Sarnia	-none-	-none-
10	A River Runs Through It a picture of your pool, pond, or barrel	Charles Doekes St. Catherines	Jane Blackstock Oro-Medonte	Linda Bayko East York
11	Whispers of the North beauty of the north	Richard Toivonen Sudbury	Betty Squire Sarnia	Jane Blackstock Oro-Medonte
12	Can You Remember My Name? an unusual plant	Charles Doekes St. Catherines	K. J. Stryland Porcupine	Derek Stryland Porcupine
13	Ribbons of Steel train tacks	Charles Doekes St. Catherines	Mary Ann Gilhuly Waterloo	Richard Toivonen Sudbury

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*From Denise Edwards, OMAFRA*

## **Re. Horticultural Society Annual Return Packages**

The Annual Return package was mailed from OMAFRA to your society contact in early November. The forms are to be completed and returned to the designated MNM or OMKAFRA office by February 1, 2006.

If your society has not received the package, please contact Kathie Noble ( ext. 63132) or Denise Edwards ( ext.63115) at OMAFRA, 1-888-466-2372

*From Kathie Noble, OMAFRA*

## **Re: Correction To The 2005 Annual Return & Grant Application Packages**

Page 1 of the Pink-Guide for Completing the Horticultural Society 2005 Annual Return

Section 2: Grants- Bullet # 3 should read...

"Submit all required information on the 2005 Annual Return"- not 2003

## **Rule Change**

District 2 flower show committee for the O.H.A. 100th Convention has set lofty standards for the Flower Show in 2006- befitting a grand organization that came into being a century ago. To raise the standard of the Show and make it a spectacle to delight and educate the delegates and general public we are instituting a new rule in the Decorative Section of the Show. In 2006, entrants must register their intent to exhibit in the design classes by contacting the Flower Show Chair in advance of the Show. This will allow the staging committee to plan space and arrange proper staging to compliment the entries. The committee at last year's Show strongly advised us to implement this rule.

We ask for your help to make this rule known to all potential exhibitors at the O.H.A.'s upcoming Show in 2006. August 1, will be the deadline for contacting Show Chair, Helen Halpenny to enter classes in the Decorative Section of the Show. Classes will be limited to six entries, so register early to get your first choices. The rules and regulations governing the show are clearly stated in the schedule, which will be available early in the new year. ( There is no need to register Horticultural classes ahead of time.)

Our committee invites all enthusiastic exhibitors to enter the Show. Let's make it the Best Show ever!

Contact: Helen  
Halpenny, R.R. # 2, Almonte, ON  
K0A 1A0, tel: 613-256-3219, or  
e-mail halpennyfarms@sympatico.ca

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## **Ontario Horticultural Association Special Planting Projects**

The Board of the Ontario Horticultural Association has approved the continuation of the Special Planting Projects. This Special Project is for the use of Societies to assist them with projects having long lasting benefits to the Society or community, such as tree, shrub and perennial plantings. This project is not to be used for annual planting, signage, retaining walls, etc.

The Special Project will provide five projects a year to a maximum of \$500 for each project. There is a limit of one project per Society per year. The form for application is included in this package. Deadline for submission is February 28.

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## **Ontario Horticultural Association Nominations**

The election of the Ontario Horticultural Association President, First and Second Vice Presidents is an important part of the Annual Convention. Usually, there is a normal progression into the President's chair. It is essential to have a continuity in the flow of these offices.

To be eligible for a position, one must be a past or present District Director or a past or present executive member of the Ontario Horticultural Association Board of Directors for a period of not less than two years. This person must be willing to serve and consent must be obtained before nominations can be considered

Nominations for any of the above offices must be received on or before February 28. Please send the nomination to the Association Secretary Bonnie Warner, Box 449, Englehart, Ontario, P0J 1H0. This nomination must be sent by mail as there needs to be an original signature on the nomination.

Nominations must be proposed and seconded by a Horticultural Society that is affiliated with and in good standing with the Association and must be on Society letterhead. The Society MUST have the consent of the nominee and include a resume with qualifications and past or present offices held.

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## **Tree Planting Project**

The Ontario Horticultural Association is continuing its Tree Planting Special Project, whereby a Society or District can apply for up to \$100 for a special tree planting. A total of 6 projects are available for these funds in 2006 on a "first come Basis". Any Society or District who receives this funding cannot apply for five years. To apply, send a letter to the Association Secretary Bonnie Warner outlining what tree is to be planted and indicating if this is a special event for the Society /District. There is no specific application form to use. Once approved, payment is made upon submission of receipts. Receipts must be received before the end of the year ( 2006).

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# In Memoriam

## Book-Report by Alex McIntosh

As of October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2005, we are closing on the 400<sup>th</sup> name in our memorial book. However, less than half our Societies have honoured at least one person. It would be nice if every Society could see their way clear to honour someone as a tribute to our 100<sup>th</sup> Convention in Ottawa.

<h3 style="text-align: center;">The In Memoriam Book</h3> <p>The In Memoriam Book now contains the names of many of our departed friends. There are still many Societies that have not honoured anyone in this manner.</p> <p>Monies donated to this fund are only used for live garden plantings such as trees, shrubs, flowers etc... Societies can receive funds for this purpose by applying to the O.H.A. Board through their District Director.,</p> <p>The book is always on display at each Convention and can be made available for District Annual meetings if arrangements can be made for its secure transportation and custody.</p> <p>I am available for information purposes by calling collect:</p> <p>Alex McIntosh at (416) 681-9149 or by E-mail at <a href="mailto:annealex@sympatico.ca">annealex@sympatico.ca</a>.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>IN MEMORIAM BOOK DONATION</u></b></p> <p>FROM: _____</p> <p>ADDRESS: _____</p> <p>CITY: _____ PROV. _____ P.C. _____ (for receipt)</p> <p>DONATION: \$25.00 _____ \$50.00 _____ \$100.00 _____ OTHER \$ _____</p> <p><b><u>HONOURING DECEASED</u></b></p> <p>Name _____ Year _____</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Make sure that the name is correctly spelled and printed.</p> <p>If you wish a sympathy card forwarded to family, give name and address.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Name: _____</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Address: _____</p> <p>Make cheques payable to: Ontario Horticultural Association  <b>Mail to:</b> A.H. McIntosh, 830-109 Front St. E., Toronto ON M5A 4P7          (Please note: E-mail applications are <b><u>NOT</u></b> acceptable)</p>
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## Volunteer Hours For 2005

The forms for recording your Society's volunteer hours are included in this mailing. Please return the completed form to the association office by February 28. Please remember that only ONE FORM is to be filled out per Society.

You do not have to return a form for each person or activity. Thank you for your help.

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# Dry flowering Amaryllis

## *A veritable toy box of creative opportunities*

Canadians grow somewhere in the neighbourhood of half a million Amaryllis bulbs every year. And for good reason. From December through to March these, often baseball sized, bulbs produce spectacular blooms which range in diameter between 10 cm and 18 cm. Their rapid growth and dramatic flowering habit bring joy to Canadian homes during the dreariest part of our winter season.

## *Traditional growing methods*

Amaryllis have traditionally been grown in two ways. The first is to plant the bulb in soil, with its 'neck and shoulders' exposed above soil level. The other is to suspend the bulb over, but not touching, water. Specialty garden centres and florists sell vases for just this purpose.

## *Exciting news*

'Hot off the press' trials completed in early summer 2005 at the Applied Plant Research Centre in Lisse, the Netherlands, now prove that there is another Amaryllis growing method to add into the mix. It's called: Dry Flowering. According to Paul van Leeuwen, head scientist on the project, "If the bulbs have been pre-cooled for about 8 weeks at 13°C, (which is how they are usually sold in the Canadian marketplace) this method requires nothing at all. No soil. No water. Nothing. As it appears that hardly anything will stop a pre-cooled Amaryllis bulb from sprouting and flowering."

The Research Centre is developing a list of Amaryllis varieties better suited to dry flowering than others. While the entire list is not yet ready for publication, three varieties which have made the grade are: 'Red Lion' which produces 15 to 18 cm blood-red flowers; 'Pamela', a miniature (as in not as tall) red variety with 12 cm blooms; and 'Moonlight' a stunning, large blossomed pale green/cream, frilly edged variety.

## *Let your creativity run wild*

Dry flowering opens up a veritable toy box full of new and exciting ways to use Amaryllis bulbs.

This spring, for example, the greenhouses at the world famous Keukenhof Gardens in Lisse, Holland, showcased a dramatic display of dry flowering Amaryllis bulbs simply suspended in midair with string and twine.

In the home, especially during the holiday season, it's now possible to do all sorts of new and creative dry flowering things with pre-cooled Amaryllis bulbs.

They can be tucked into garlands of fir boughs used to decorate mantles or staircase banisters. They can be grouped on pretty glass platters and used as dining table or buffet centrepieces. For a touch of whimsy, one or two can be placed on each step of a staircase (without the worry of breaking vases or spilling water).

## *Like gymnasts, they can even do it upside down*

Adding to the intrigue of a bulb which can flower without the addition of either soil or water, it doesn't even matter how they are placed. Right side up, sideways or even upside down, nothing seems to affect their ability to flower.

After the Holiday baubles, clutter and glitz have put away what fun it will be to place a simple container of any sort in the middle of the dining room table, gently toss in five or six Amaryllis bulbs of different varieties, let them lie just how they land, and then spend January, February and maybe even March watching them bloom away to their hearts' content.

Dry flowering Amaryllis, Woo-hoo! Aren't we all going to have fun with these?

From The Netherland Flower Bulb Information Centre.

## No Report No Objectives

Since I have retired from life's competition  
I find each day an exact repetition,  
I get up each morning and dust off my witts,  
Pick up the paper and read the obits.  
If my name is missing I know I'm not dead,  
So I eat a big breakfast and go back to bed.

Author Unknown