

# ONTARIO HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

# NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2005



EDITOR

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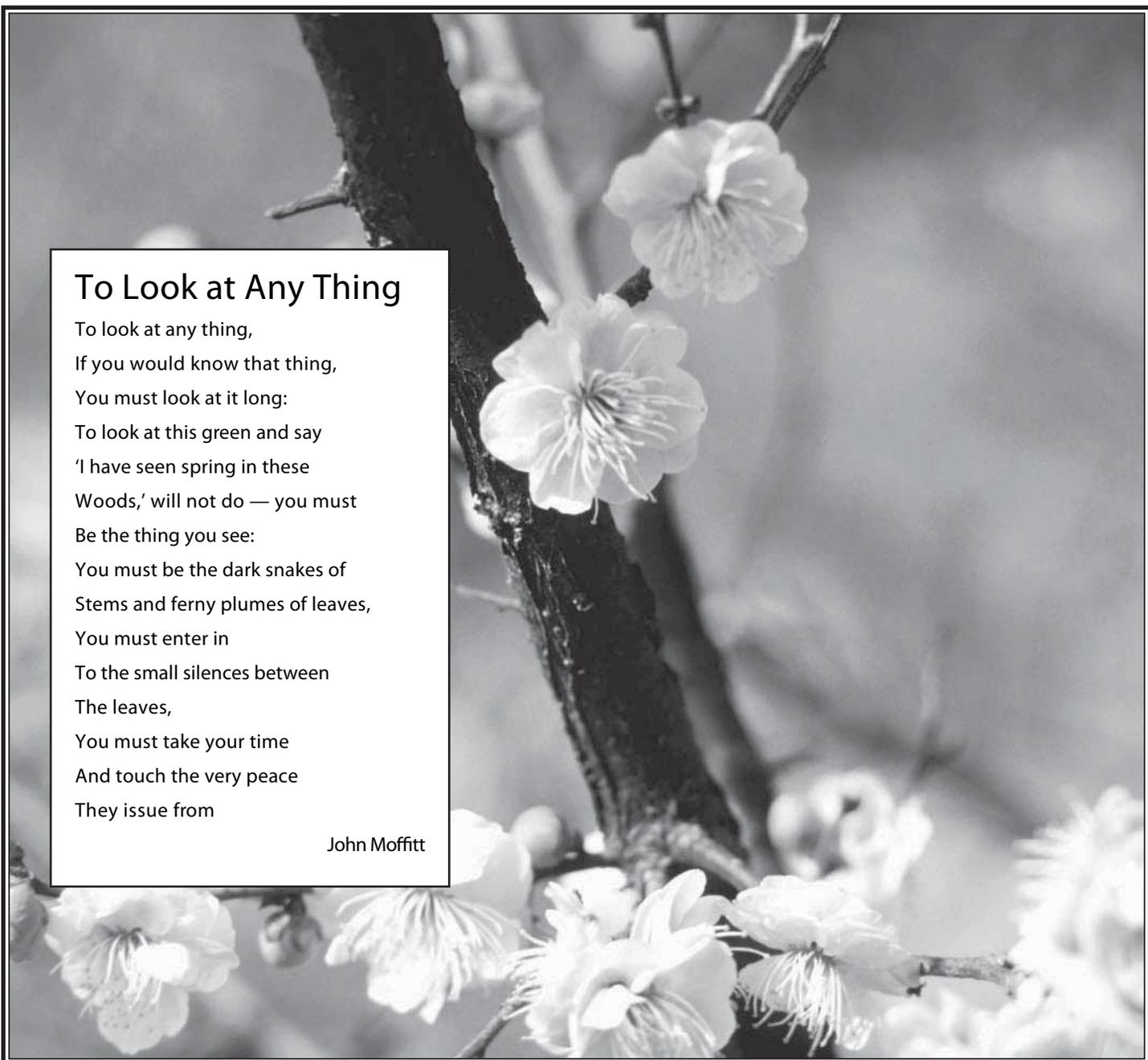


Secretaries: Please feel free to use this material in your newsletters or press releases.

## To Look at Any Thing

To look at any thing,  
If you would know that thing,  
You must look at it long:  
To look at this green and say  
'I have seen spring in these  
Woods,' will not do — you must  
Be the thing you see:  
You must be the dark snakes of  
Stems and ferny plumes of leaves,  
You must enter in  
To the small silences between  
The leaves,  
You must take your time  
And touch the very peace  
They issue from

John Moffitt



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# Message from The Editor

Seed catalogues are arriving and seed orders are being sent out- spring is really coming. We have had two weeks of milder than usual weather, so I hope that continues.

Please remember to return your information forms to the appropriate person- including the volunteer hours sheet. All these forms went out in the November ( winter) Newsletter package.

Thanks to those Societies who sent in articles about their Society/ activities in 2004. Just remember that the information should be of interest to people across the province.

If you are emailing me, please put some form of Association/ Society identification in the subject of the email. I get so many "junk" emails that sometimes my delete finger goes wild. If I don't respond, please email me again in case you were deleted by mistake.

The deadline to submit articles for the next Newsletter is March 31.

Hope to see many of you in North Bay in August

Bonnie Warner

## REFLECTIONS OF ONTARIO

An invitation from District 18 to come to the 2005 convention of the Ont. Hort. Assoc at Nipissing University, North Bay, August 12 to 14th.

If you have been coming straight up highway 11, the society after Huntsville is called Sprucedale and District. It alternates its meetings between four different small

communities – Sprucedale itself, Emsdale, Kearney and Novar. The area is supported by trappers, hunters, farmers and foresters and is becoming the home of a good many retirees. Gardens are maintained in all four communities.

Further up highway 11 or if you have just come off of highway 124, is the town of Sundridge. It is located on the largest fresh water lake in the world without an island. Originally called Sunny Ridge, it was founded in 1889 by an Act of Parliament. In 1989, as a centennial project, the Society created the Childrens' Garden. A statue was donated for this special garden by the Mike Turner family. Tucked away to the left of Highway 11, on Highway 522 is the Argyle and District Hort. Soc. which meets in Arnstein. Beginning as a logging community in the 1880's, it soon attracted hunters, fishermen and then vacationers. A multicultural area, it has been settled by Germans, Swedes, French, English and Scottish people. Vacation camps are now numerous and there is quite a bit of farming.

Back to the highway and to Powassan, which is an Indian name meaning "bend in the river". While it also started as a logging community, farming is now its main occupation and it is beginning to attract Mennonites, famous for their farming skills. It is a very busy community nestled in a valley at the end of the Almaquin Highlands.

In the next newsletter, we will finish the 20 minutes to North Bay and arrive at Nipissing University.

- Vickie Wiemer, District 18 Director

### Computer Terms continued - how times change

Mouse	What eats grain in the barn
Mainframe	What holds the barn up
Enter	City talk for "Come on in, eh?"
Web	What a spider makes
Web site	The barn or attic
Cursor	Someone who swears
Search Engine	What you do when the car dies
Screen Saver	A repair kit for the torn window screen
Upgrade	Steep hill
User	The neighbour who keeps borrowing stuff

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## Message from the President - (Spring 2005)

My greetings to you all are tempered by the terrible tragedy in South East Asia. My heartfelt sympathy to our members and friends who have witnessed and been affected by this Tsunami. I want to inform you that in regard to this tragedy I have been in touch with Denise Edwards, our MPP Monique Smith and the Minister of Agriculture, the Honorable Steve Peters. This office has expressed their strong support to our Association along with the Premier. The Premiere's remark on the Tsunami.. "We are citizens of the world, we hail from every part of it and we're connected to every corner of it," Premier McGuinty said. "The world has been dealt a tremendous blow, so Ontario is responding, and we will continue to respond, because that's what Ontarians do when our fellow citizens need help." The government is developing a Five Point Plan for assistance and reconstruction and they are pleased that our Association is interested in helping. They will keep us informed as to how we can help. I would like all our readers to write or E-Mail to our District Directors as to the help they and their Society have already offered. We can assemble all these notes and give you a partial report in March. Remember how we helped out members involved in the Ice Storm? By March the Association will have more details on the Ontario Government's 5 Point Plan on how we might offer our assistance. The Minister's office passed along this Web Site to view for aid details: <http://www.premier.gov.on.ca/english/news/TsunamiRelief010505.asp>

I was in Thailand some years back to visit my Son and his family and toured many of the beautiful gardens. They returned home two years ago.

As another note of sorrow I have contacted Jim Hole and expressed our sympathy on the passing of his mother, Lois Hole. I'm sure many of you have her books on a number of horticultural topics.

Spring is a great time to plan for a number of things, the seeds and shrubs we would like to order, the gardens we would like to re-organize. Let's not forget those great catalogues with tools and equipment. A new 'toy' is always appreciated. Many stepping stones to put in place.

Well so it is with the Association. We have been 'digging' into the details of our finances to make sure you are getting the best 'bloom' for your loonie. Our Treasurer, Sybille Schaufler, will be stepping down as our Treasurer. She has to spend more time to work with her new clients in her business. She will stay on as our Treasurer and will pass along the books and

files as soon as we have a qualified candidate to replace her. In the last Newsletter I commented how .."our Secretary and Treasurer provide the foundation of our Association's information and finances, key to all our activities." Sybille has introduced many new features and has done a superb job. We wish Sybille the best in her new endeavours and will miss her cheerie smile.

The reality our Treasurer brought to light was the seriousness of our Finances. At the London Convention in 2004 she pointed out that the services we are providing the Societies must be matched with the funds needed to adequately run the Association. There has been no increase in our Affiliated Member Fees for many years and yet the cost of 'doing business' has continued to climb. Gas, lodging, supplies, insurance have all affected our budget. Presently the one dollar dues as income does not cover the expenses of things you want us to do. We want to assure you that the items in our Budget are being spent wisely. The Association's principal responsibility to each Society and their elected Executives, Directors and members is to provide the tools and expertise to make them strong, successful and fun to be related to this great Association. The tools we have presented to you include your new Society Handbook, the new look of the Home Page <http://www.gardenontario.org> and the ability of each Society to tell their own story on the Web. There are many services to the Societies in the form of Awards, Certified Judges for the Flower and Vegetable Shows, with a new Ontario Judging and Exhibiting Standards Handbook, representation at Success with Gardening and regional Fairs. I hope each Society will look at the new things we have accomplished on your behalf and reassure me that you will reply through your District Director of your support for a dollar increase in dues at the Convention in August. I would like each Society to e-mail or write to their District Director about this issue. The only two executive positions in the Association where we are allowed by our Constitution, to provide remuneration is for the Secretary and Treasurer. You and we need to keep these two positions financially equitable and stable. With your help we can do it.

In our 99 year and beyond into our 100th anniversary, there will be more 'digging' into the issues and looking at 'stepping stones' we can put in place which could help your elected officers and Directors. On the subject of insurance, there are potential benefits to all our elected Executives and Directors of all of our Societies, Districts and the Association to being protected

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## Message from the President - (Spring 2005) cont.

### Continued from Page 2

by Personal Liability Insurance. It was explored some years back. Since that time Law Suits on slander and the like have been heard. This topic is a big concern for those volunteers who agree to be an Officer. In future months we will have a report to you showing you the benefits and the low cost per person and what you can have with this coverage. Also under the umbrella of the Association a Property Insurance Plan can be offered to and paid for by those Societies who do own properties and want protection.

This spring time period can be spent in planning how your Plant Sales and other fundraising events can help sponsor a youth member in your area to attend the first Youth Delegate Program at the Ecology Centre at Mattawa.

For \$189.00 each youth member can experience three days and two nights enjoying the many aspects of this environmental education. Ecology, renewable resources, wet-

lands, technology in the forest, GPS and GIS tools are only part of what will be offered. The Youth Newsletter is contained in the New Society Handbook in Section 9 - Youth Leaders Manual. Let your youth leader bring back to you the information they learned and the enjoyment they experienced. Contact Betty Morrison-District 18 Asst. District Director-Youth at kmorrison@accglobal.net

The last stepping stone to put in place in this message is one with your name on it. For the last 10 years I have had the pleasure of reaching out to many of you thru the Home Pages and getting back your information to put up on the web. Here's your chance to reply to me on your concerns and interests. E-Mail me at tedreed@ontera.net and I will be pleased to reply.

Yours in horticulture,  
Ted Reed, President

## Scarborough Garden & Horticultural Society

It was my pleasure to attend Scarborough Garden & Horticultural Society's Annual Pot Luck and Awards night on Nov 25/04 at the Scarborough Village Community Centre. Not only did the youth members create beautiful centre pieces but they also entertained us with some wonderful Christmas carols. They even created a new horticulture version of one of the carols. The future of horticulture is definitely in good hands with their youth leader Jean Cope. I was delighted to be a part of the celebration in their 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary year.

I also attended the Mount Albert Garden & Horticultural Society's AGM and Awards Night on Nov 16/04. The theme this year was a Hawaiian Luau and the youth created a wonderful Aloha sign out of plastic flowers. Ryan Martin stole the show when it came to the awards. Kathy Martin (yes, it's Ryan's mom) is the proud youth leader. Mount Albert was also celebrating its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary year.

Gail Sanderson  
Assistant Director for the Youth  
District 5

## ADDRESSES TO KEEP HANDY

Denise Edwards

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food

Denise Edwards

Volunteer Management Specialist

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food

3rd Floor, 1 Stone Road West

Guelph, Ontario N1G 4Y2

Tel.: 519-826-3115

Fax: 519-826-3259

email: denise.edwards@omaf.gov.on.ca

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### Insurance Questions

Please address any questions about insurance coverage to:

Law Insurance, 14900 Yonge St.

Aurora, Ontario L4G 1M7

(905) 727-1913

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# Think Global, Eat Local

By Laura Anderson  
EcoAction Teams Program Coordinator

Many of us are helping to reduce automobile emissions by walking or cycling to our local grocery stores and making fewer shopping trips with our cars. But did you know that the choices we make while in the grocery store also affect greenhouse (GHG) emissions?

Transporting our food over long distances is a major source of GHG emissions, which contribute to global climate change. Since many food items are transported up to 2000 km to our grocery stores, the food that we eat is responsible for 20% to 25% of Canada's greenhouse gases. Only 10% of the fossil fuels that produce these greenhouse gases are actually used on the farm. The other 90% go into transportation, related packaging, and marketing. One of the best ways to reduce transportation emissions is to choose locally produced, organic food or, better yet, grow your own fruits, vegetables and herbs.

Across Ontario, individuals, families and community groups are taking significant steps towards establishing sustainable lifestyles. Gardeners and knowledgeable consumers are no exception. "Local grocery stores are selling organic food, compost bins are sprouting up in backyards all over the country, and municipalities across the province are banning the cosmetic use of pesticides," says Jed Goldberg, President of Earth Day Canada. EcoAction Teams, a program of Earth Day Canada, is offering households an opportunity to learn about the importance of locally grown, organic produce with the Food & Garden Guide. The guide includes comprehensive information that help make better consumer choices at the grocery store, as well as, many helpful tips for sustainable lawns and gardens. The following are a few of the activities you will find within the guide:

Simple Steps Towards Sustainable Gardening & Smart Consumerism:

- Buy Local. Support local farmers and producers or suppliers in your region. You will also significantly reduce the GHG emissions created by the transportation of food.
- Grow your own food. Gardens are diverse as the people who create them. They do not have to grow just in your backyard; you can have a window and balcony garden too!

- Xeriscape your Lawn & Garden. Choose plants that are native to the area you live or plants that are drought resistant.
- Install a Rain Barrel. The collected water is healthier for your plants and will divert thousands of litres of water from the municipal sewer system.
- Eliminate Pesticides. Organic lawn care is cheaper and safer for your household as well as usually being "pest-specific".
- Water Early in the Morning. Make a commitment to water early in the morning or late in the evening to avoid water evaporation during the heat of the day.

EcoAction Teams is a province-wide program that provides tools and solutions to help Canadians deal with the volumes of information and incentives available to them when addressing issues of household resource efficiency. It is designed to help people understand that making the right decisions makes good economic and environmental sense. Five activity guides outline practical tips and actions in the areas of household energy efficiency, water conservation, waste reduction, transportation alternatives and food & garden.

Options are available for independent, self-directed participation or as part of a team that meets 4-6 times per year. Team members work through the Activity Guides and then track their progress and savings on the EcoAction Teams Web site – [www.ecoactionteams.ca](http://www.ecoactionteams.ca). To receive a free set of activity guides and to learn more about the program, contact Earth Day Canada (toll-free) at 1-888-283-2784 extension 106, or email us at [info@ecoactionteams.ca](mailto:info@ecoactionteams.ca).

Earth Day Canada is the national not-for-profit charitable environmental communications organization that coordinates Earth Day nationally. Our mandate is to improve the state of the environment by empowering Canadians with information, and by encouraging them to take positive action at the local level. Earth Day Canada has programs for Canadians of all ages. For more information about Earth Day Canada and its programs, please visit [www.earthday.ca](http://www.earthday.ca).

## Action Fact

To produce a single glass of orange juice, it takes up to 1000 glasses of irrigation water, 22 glasses of processing water and 2 glasses of diesel for processing and transport.

# Cut Tulip Care Tips

The 2500 or so different varieties of tulips available in the marketplace come in every shape, colour and size imaginable. Their flowers run the gamut from delicately ruffles petals, to those sporting frilly edges, striking bi-colours, double blooms, pointed petals, the blowzy parrot varieties and even some with surprisingly sweet scents. Whatever your preference, there are tulips to suit everyone and every location, be it home, office, shop or even classroom.

Making sure that you buy the best cut tulips on the market, and caring for them once they're home, could not be easier. Following is the six step guide:

## When buying

- \* Look for tightly closed, plump buds with a small amount of colour showing.
- \* Look for firm stems and strong, lush green foliage.

## When arranging

- \* Cut the stems at an angle. This applies to all flowers. Cutting at an angle maximizes the surface area of the stem's water uptake channels.
- \* Keep tulips in room temperature water and make sure that it is changed often.
- \* Group tulips together for maximum impact.
- \* Fresh, healthy tulips will grow a good 3 to 5 cm in the first few days after you get them home. Allow for this quirk and leave "growing room" in your arrangement design.

And

- \* For some, it is a frustration, for most, a delight. Cut tulips will gracefully grow, bend and move toward the strongest light source. If you want this changing nature of your arrangement to take place as symmetrically as possible, give your vase a quarter-turn once a day.
- \* If you want to get the longest possible enjoyment out of your tulips, don't throw them away when their heads become fully open. They are now the perfect water feature, as they float in the most soothing way. Select a shallow container, fill it with water and then gently lay the open flowers on the top of the water. You are now the proud creator of an instant centerpiece for tonight's dinner party.

Netherlands Flower Bulb Information Centre

## *In Memoriam*

The Ontario Horticultural Association would like to thank the following Societies for "In Memoriam" donations:

Cannington Horticultural Society in memory of  
Joan Arnold

Arthur & Area Horticultural Society in memory  
of Stewart Shaw

## Ontario Horticultural Association Volunteer Workshop Schedule 2005

Date	Location	Dist	Society Organizer	Phone
April 2, 2005	Kemptville	2	Diane Partlo, Kemptville Society	613-258-2507
April 9, 2005	London	10	Jim Mabee, District Director	519-842-9829
April 23, 2005	Windsor	11	TBA	
May 7, 2005	Terrace Bay (To be confirmed)	14	Harriet Hansen, District Director	807-886-2467

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# Ontario Horticultural Association Supplies

Please note

As of March 15, the Association Supplies will be looked after by Past President

Don Matthews  
Box 491,  
Harriston, Ontario  
N0G 1Z0

After that time, please send all orders to Don.

We thank him for looking after this committee for the Association.

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The Association was saddened to hear of the unexpected death of Past District Director Michael Phipps (District 18). Our thoughts go out to Frances and the family.

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## Youth Leaders - Pre-Judged Convention Entries

Please remember to have the pre-judged entries sent to Marlene Bruckhardt no later than June 30, 2005.

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## From The Waterloo Horticultural Society's Newsletter "Garden Gazette"

An old plastic milk crate makes a ready-made compost sieve. Place the crate in a wheelbarrow and shovel compost into it. The material left in the crate after shaking it goes into a new pile, and the compost in the wheelbarrow goes into the garden.

Sprinkle a ring of wood ashes around the base of every susceptible plant. It keeps the creepy crawly slugs from crossing the line.

To remove mold and mildew from shady patio decks and garden paths, wash down affected areas with a solution of 1 cup thick bleach (like Vim) to half a 2L bucket of water. Leave for at least 10 minutes, then wash away with lots of water.

Trick gnats and fruit flies to a watery death with simple cider vinegar.

Sprinkle lemon gelatin powder on seeds with a salt shaker. Also feed young plants. The gelatin helps the plant hold water and the sugar feeds the organisms in the soil. The lemon flavour is preferred because the citron odor repels some bugs.

## Floral Emblems

Can you match the floral emblem with the correct province or territory?

Newfoundland	Mountain Avens
Prince Edward Island	Madona Lily
Nova Scotia	Pitcher Plant
New Brunswick	Trailing Arbutus
Quebec	Lady's Slipper
Ontario	Prairie Lily
Manitoba	River Beauty
Saskatchewan	Pacific Dogwood
Alberta	Purple Violet
British Columbia	Prairie Crocus
Northwest Territories	White Trillium
Yukon Territory	Wild Rose

## Memorial Period at the 2005 Convention

Many times, a Society will lose a valuable member ( or members) during the Year. At the Memorial period at the Annual Convention, we take time to remember our friends who are no longer with us. If a Society has lost a member during 2004 and wishes to have that person's name recognized at the 2005 Convention, please send the name of that person to the Association Secretary.

Please submit names before July 1.

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# Society News From Across The Province

## Collins Bay Horticultural Society

The Collins Bay Horticultural Society honoured Helen and Harvey Shurrock as two of the longest serving volunteers in the Kingston area. Together the couple has volunteered for 100 years, 50 years each. Three hundred and four volunteers were honoured that night by the Ontario Government. Also honoured the same night was Lillian Hickey, also of the Collins Bay Society, who has been a member for 50 years.

## Fort Malden/ Greater Windsor Horticultural Society

Charlie and Florence Bowyer joined the Fort Malden Society in 1963. Since that time, Charlie has spent 34 years on the Board, many of them as President. Florence also served on

the Board for about 20 years, 5 of them as Secretary. Both Florence and Charlie are qualified flower show judges as well as being Master Gardeners. Charlie also held the position of District Director on the Board of the Association for 5 years. This couple has worked with the Youth program in District 11 for 35 years. To honour Charlie, the Fort Malden Society purchased benches and had an arbour installed at a local park. Charlie has just been elected to the Board of the Greater Windsor Society and is responsible for the Society's programming. Congratulations to a hard working couple.

## Scarborough Garden & Horticultural Society

The Scarborough Garden & Horticultural Society was presented with an Award Citation at the Volunteer Recognition Night. This Award was presented by the Scarborough Community Council and Toronto Parks & Recreation, East District. The Society is celebrating its 80th Anniversary in 2005. Congratulations. In November, the Annual; Pot Luck and Awards Night was held. Youth members created beautiful centrepieces and entertained with Christmas carols ( including one with original horticultural words).

## Mount Albert Garden & Horticultural Society

This Society is celebrating its 80th Anniversary this year. The November Annual Awards Night and Annual Meeting saw a Hawaiian theme, with much of the decorating done by the youth members.

## Newcastle Horticultural Society

The members of the Newcastle Society was very busy in 2004 as they celebrated their 90th Anniversary. Among the activities were hosting the District 17 Annual meeting, perennial sale ( in the rain), a summer barbecue, and flower show. Two trees and annual flowers were planted at various places in the town, and a 90th anniversary music evening was held.. The year finished with the Christmas Show and pot luck dinner where President Narda Hoogkamp was honoured for her many years of service to the Society and presented with a beautiful window ( glass crafted by Susan Gilgay).

## *Answers to Emblem Quiz*

Newfoundland	Pitcher Plant
Prince Edward Island	Lady's Slipper
Nova Scotia	Trailing Arbutus
New Brunswick	Purple Violet
Quebec	Madona Lily
Ontario	White Trillium
Manitoba	Prairie Crocus
Saskatchewan	Prairie Lily
Alberta	Wild Rose
British Columbia	Pacific Dogwood
Northwest Territories	Mountain Avens
Yukon Territory	River Beauty