



**Ontario Horticultural Association
District 2
Annual General Meeting
Director's Report
April 2017-2018**



In 2017:

19 Societies; 2,340 adult members
26,960.5 volunteer hours; 11.5 VH/member
D2 Executive: 658.5 volunteer hours
District adult membership: +1.49%
New adult members = -18.84%
Youth members = 306
District Dues = \$.50 per member

D2 Trophy

Highest % increase in adult membership between 2016 and 2017:

Pembroke Horticultural Society at 40.86%

D2 Service Award: Madeline Archer

Scholarships: 9 Societies offering 11 scholarships totalling \$3,450

Special Anniversaries:

Deep River - 70th

Nepean - 60th

Ottawa - 125th

Ottawa Valley Rock Garden - 25th

Petawawa - 20th

Stittsville-Goulbourn - 55th

District AGM: Held April 22, 2017, at the Rankin Community Center with the day hosted by the Eganville HS on the theme *Celebrate Earth Day in Eganville*. James Graham, an OHA Past President, provided highlights on behalf of the OHA. James was also one of the speakers of the day and told us all about "Old Fashioned Favourites - the plants and flowers of our grandparents, from snowdrops to dahlias." In the afternoon, Michael Runtz spoke on "Fatal Attractions and Surrogate Lovers: the unusual lives of wildflowers." Michael is a highly respected Canadian naturalist, nature photographer and natural history author.

Draft minutes of the AGM were circulated in a D2 Communiqué and posted on the D2 website. In addition to the AGM, there was a wonderful vendors market and the D2 photo competition results. Twelve societies participated in 9 classes. There were 25 participants and 99 entries. An excellent lunch was provided and enjoyed by all.

District 2 Communiqué: It has continued to be managed by Linda Bartlett and has been sent out throughout the year on an "as required" basis to communicate OHA and D2 information and events. Information from affiliated organizations may be included but is not sent out separately. It is important that

information of relevance to all Society members be shared at meetings and in your Society newsletters.

D2 Website (<http://www.gardenontario.org/site.php/district2>): The D2 webmaster Lori Ray, who took over from Linda Bartlett, has continued to work hard to make the website as useful as possible. We thank Linda for all her hard work on the website for many years. Hopefully the new platform being developed by the OHA will be easier to work with.

OHA Board meetings: The D2 Director, Sharlene Desjardins, attended three meetings during the year- in July (in conjunction with the 2017 Convention in Richmond Hill) and in October 2017 and March 2018. On behalf of the OHA, Sharlene was a member of the OHA Competitions Committee, and a member of the fundraising committee. Sharlene gave up the fundraising committee when she became the OHA Awards Coordinator on January 1st of 2018.

GardenOntario week: Events posted for June 10th-18th, 2017

OHA Convention: The D2 Director and Society members attended the 111th OHA Convention in Richmond Hill from July - 23. Convention adult and youth competition results were reported in the 2017 fall issue of the Trillium newsletter available on the Garden Ontario website.

D2 Flower and Edibles Show: It was held in Almonte on August 12 and hosted by the Almonte, Pakenham and Carleton Place Societies. Participation: 43 exhibitors, 10 Societies; 419 entries including 9 youth. There was also a tea room. Solitary pollen bee nests were sold as a fundraiser for this event which was a huge success.

OHA Judges:

- As the OHA, we encourage Societies to use Judges that are OHA up-to-date certified and for not more than 2 years in a row. Societies should look at the list on the OHA website to find Judges for Shows. You can access the registry from the Garden Ontario website > Resources > Judging then scroll down.
- The OHA registry is being opened up to other qualified judges that meet certain criteria.
- The Ontario Judging and Exhibiting Standards (OJES) publication is being revised as a joint project of the OHA and Garden Clubs of Ontario.
- D2 was part of an Interdistrict judge's update with Districts 1 to 4 on Saturday, September 16th. There were 44 participants.

D2 Fun Day: None in 2017

D2 Fall Advisory Council: The meeting was held on Saturday, November 4 in Deep River hosted by the Deep River HS. Draft minutes were circulated in a D2 Communiqué and posted on the D2 website.

D2 Society AGMs:

- The D2 Director and Assistant District Directors attended 15 out of 19 Society AGMs. 4 Society AGM's were missed due to illness.
- Society constitutions should be following the OMAFRA guidelines which can be found on their site and they need to be consistent with the OHA constitution. All Society and district constitutions should have an Indemnity clause so that their directors/officers are not held personally/financially responsible.

OHA Society Annual Reporting: All Societies are now entering their annual reports and volunteer hours via the OHA on-line system, despite continuing challenges with the log-in as a result of tighter security measures. It is important to have all Societies in the system so that the following District summary reports generated with the information are complete: Society membership & executive contacts, volunteer hours, scholarships, contacts for the OHA *Trillium* newsletter, and Society meeting and contact info for the OHA District brochure.

Notable membership stats for 2016 to 2017 as follows:

D2 Acknowledgement for the most number of volunteer hours per member

-> Manotick Horticultural Society at 33.8 hrs/member

D2 Acknowledgement for highest number of new adult members

-> Ottawa Horticultural Society at 64

D2 Acknowledgement for highest % of new adult members

-> Almonte Horticultural Society at 37%

D2 AGM Trophy for highest % increase in adult membership

-> Pembroke Horticultural Society at 40.86%

Seedy Saturday/Sunday: District 2 Societies were represented at several Seedy Saturday/Sunday events.

District 2 Annual Reporting – The District Director entered the highlights and Executive volunteer hours for 2017 in to the OHA on-line reporting system.

Highlights for D2 in 2018 include:

District 2 AGM: The 2018 AGM will be held on April 21, 2018 in Manotick

D2 Service Award: David Hincks of the West Carleton Garden Club and H.S.

Special Anniversaries

Carleton Place & District - 30 years

D2 Canada 150 Project:

- Due to the success of the pollinator initiative in 2017, the OHA has decided to award two \$200 pollinator grants annually to two societies starting in 2018.

GardenOntario week

- June 9th - 17th, 2018
- Be sure to publicize your Society and District events as well as any relevant

community events on the website.

- Please send a notice to our Regional Webmaster, Howard Hunter, (adhhd3oha@gmail.com; T/613-382-6070) so that he knows that he needs to approve the post for release to the public.

OHA Convention:

- 2018 – D3 – Kingston - Shore to Shield. The 112th OHA Convention, July 27-29. Each D2 Society is encouraged to participate in the OHA business meeting and Society members to enter the adult and youth competitions, register for the Convention and participate in seminars, judging updates, bus tours, and the banquet. There is a \$100 prize for the Society that has the highest aggregate points in the adult competitions.
- 2019 – D11 – Windsor - Come to the Deep South Where Everything Grows

D2 Flower and Edibles show: With the 2018 Convention being held in Kingston, there will be no D2 flower and edibles show this year. Members will be encouraged to exhibit at the convention. We look forward to the return of our D2 show in 2019.

D2 Fun Day: None currently being planned.

Judges' Update: There will be a judge's update in conjunction with the Convention in Kingston. Judges will be encouraged to attend the update there. There is a judge's update planned for the Spring of 2019 to be organized by Sheila King and Anne Clark-Stewart. More details to be announced closer to the date.

D2 Fall Advisory Council: Meeting being hosted by West Carleton HS on Saturday November 3, 2018.

OHA Awards & Grants: D2 Societies are encouraged to continue to submit applications for awards and grants outlined in the revised Awards and Grants booklet (<http://www.gardenontario.org/docs/OHAAwards/OHAAwardsGrantsBooklet.pdf>). Note there is a new Judging/Exhibiting certificate that can now be awarded by a Society.

Respectfully Yours,
Sharlene Desjardins
District 2 Director
Member of the Deep River HS and Pembroke HS
Deep River, Ontario