



**Ontario Horticultural Association
District 2
Annual General Meeting
Director's Report
April 2016**



In 2015:

19 Societies; 2,245 adult members; 26,966 volunteer hours; 12.0 VH/member
D2 Executive: 1,052 volunteer hours
Adult membership: +1.9% (Society average), -1.45% overall
New adult members = +0.1%
Youth members = 196

D2 Trophy

*Highest % increase in adult membership between 2014 and 2015:
Almonte & District Horticultural Society at 39%*

D2 Service Award: Jeff Blackadar

District Dues = \$.50 per member
Scholarships: 9 Societies totalling \$2,300

Special Anniversaries:

Pakenham HS – 90th
Manotick HS – 85th
Eganville & Area HS – 60th
Kanata-March HS – 45th
Madawaska Valley HS – 25th

Spring Advisory Council meeting and District AGM: Held April 25 at the Civic Centre in Petawawa with the day co-hosted by Petawawa HS and Pembroke HS on the theme *Sustainability*. There were 126 delegates from all 19 Societies. Penny Stewart (Director for District 3) provided highlights on behalf of the OHA. In addition to the AGM, there was a silent auction with items donated by the community and a photo competition with 31 participants and 192 entries (results posted on the D2 website). An excellent lunch was provided and enjoyed by all. The guest speakers on *Sustainability* were Kevin Nieman (Kevin's Flowers, Petawawa), Jay McLaren (Algonquin College, Pembroke) and Mike Johns (MDFB).

District 2 Communiqué: It has continued to be managed by Linda Bartlett (Assistant District Director - Mississippi Basin) 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/or in your Society newsletters.

D2 Website (<http://www.gardenontario.org/site.php/district2>): The D2 webmaster, Linda Bartlett, has been working hard to make the website as useful as possible. It is still a “work in progress” so constructive feedback is always welcome.

OHA Board meetings: The D2 Director, Kathryn Lindsay, attended three meetings during the year- in July (in conjunction with the 2015 Convention in Ancaster) and in October 2015 and March 2016 (near Barrie). As D2 Director, Kathy is the new chair of the OHA Competitions Committee in addition to continuing to serve as co-coordinator of the Convention flower show and as co-chair of the OHA Judging Committee.

OHA Convention: The D2 Director and Society members attended the 109th OHA Convention in Ancaster from July 3-5. There were 308 registrants. Convention competition results were reported in the 2015 fall issue of the Trillium newsletter (<http://www.gardenontario.org/gar/news1.php?news=210>). D2 won the OHA Challenge Trophy for the largest % increase in adult membership between 2013 and 2014 at 12.39%. D2 also won an Honourable Mention in the delegates’ choice for the best garden hat.

D2 Flower and Edibles Show: It was held in Nepean on August 16 co-hosted by Nepean HS and the Ottawa Valley Rock Garden HS. Number of participants: 36; number of societies: 9; 100 Classes - 238 Exhibits – 175 hort, 62 edibles and 25 designs. There were 100 visitors.

OHA Judges: There are 38 OHA certified judges in D2 on the OHA Judges’ Registry. There was no judge’s update in 2015.

D2 Fun Day: Hosted by Manotick HS in conjunction with Manotick Fair on September 20. D2 was represented by Sheila King, Assistant District Director – Rideau basin.

D2 Fall Advisory Council: The meeting was held on Saturday, October 25, in Barry’s Bay hosted by Madawaska Valley HS (minutes posted on the D2 website).

D2 Society AGMs: Even with the re-alignment of Gloucester and Kemptville with District 1 in 2014, there is still a lot of distance to cover in District 2. The D2 Director was able to attend 10 of the 19 Society AGMs between October and December; the Assistant District Directors were able to attend another seven.

OHA Society Annual Reporting: All Societies are now entering their annual reports and volunteer hours via the OHA on-line system, despite challenges with the log-in as a result of tighter security measures in response to the hacking of the OHA website. 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 2015 as follows:

D2 Certificate for the most number of volunteer hours per member

-> Carleton Place & District Horticultural Society at 24.2 hrs/member

D2 Certificate for highest number of new adult members

-> Ottawa Horticultural Society at 58

D2 Certificate for highest % of new adult members

-> Almonte & District Horticultural Society at 44%

D2 AGM Trophy/D2 Certificate for highest % increase in adult membership

-> 2014 to 2015: Almonte & District Horticultural Society at 39%

Seedy Saturday/Sunday: District 2 Societies were represented at the Seedy Saturday in Ottawa and the Seedy Sunday in Pembroke and Perth in 2015.

D1D2 Boundary Revision: The boundary revision to have Kemptville and Gloucester re-align with D1 was approved at the 2014 OHA AGM. The financial transfer from D2 to D1 was completed at the D1 AGM in April 2015 based on 2014 membership statistics reported in February 2015.

District 2 Annual Reporting – The District Director entered the highlights and volunteer hours in to the OHA on-line reporting system following the AGM in 2015.

Upcoming highlights for D2 in 2016 include:

Special Anniversaries

- *Almonte & District – 95th*

OHA Awards & Grants: D2 Societies are encouraged to continue to submit applications for awards and grants outline in the new Awards and Grants booklet (<http://www.gardenontario.org/docs/OHAAwards/OHAAwardsGrantsBooklet.pdf>)

OHA 110th Convention: The Convention is being hosted by OHA District 19 in Kitchener on July 29-31, 2016. 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 new \$100 prize for the Society that has the highest aggregate points in the adult competitions. There is also a District Chicken Dance challenge is anyone is interested in making one for D2.

D2 Flower and Edibles show: D2 Society members are also encouraged to participate in our own show being hosted by Perth & District on Saturday, August 6, 2016 in conjunction with the 200 years of settlement of Perth.

D2 Fun Day: None currently being planned.

Interdistrict Judges' Update: Currently being planned for Saturday, September 24th in Kemptville in collaboration with District 1 and District 3.

D2 Fall Advisory Council: Meeting being hosted by Stittsville-Goulbourn HS on Saturday October 29, 2016.

Spring Advisory Council meeting and District 2 AGM: Thank you to Smith's Falls & District for hosting the 2016 D2 AGM. The Spring Advisory has not been organized given approval of revisions to the D2 constitution at the AGM. We are still looking for a volunteer to host the 2017 District 2 AGM.

Respectfully yours in horticulture and floral design,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathryn Lindsay". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kathryn Lindsay
District 2 Director
Member of the Ottawa HS and Beachburg HS
Renfrew, Ontario