



**Ontario Horticultural Association
District 2
Annual General Meeting
Director's Report
April 2016-2017**



In 2016:

19 Societies; 2,309 adult members
27,929 volunteer hours; 12.1 VH/member
D2 Executive: 881 volunteer hours
District adult membership: +2.9%
New adult members = +15.2%
Youth members = 265
District Dues = \$.50 per member

D2 Trophy

Highest % increase in adult membership between 2015 and 2016:
Petawawa Horticultural Society at 30%

D2 Service Award: Marion Thompson

Scholarships: 10 Societies offering 13 scholarships; 12 awarded totalling \$3,150

Special Anniversaries:

Almonte & District – 95th

District AGM: Held 23 April 2016, at the Smiths Falls High School with the day hosted by Smiths Falls HS on the theme *Back to Our Roots*. There were 132 delegates from 18 Societies. Charles Freeman (District 1 Director) provided highlights on behalf of the OHA and outlined the voting process. 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 fun flower show and a photo competition with 18 participants and 116 entries (results posted on the D2 website). An excellent lunch was provided and enjoyed by all. The guest speakers were Penny Stewart (District 3 Director) on landscape design, Dale Horeczy from Kricklewood Farms, Angela Peladeau from Heritage Harvest Farm, and Paul Zammit (Toronto Botanical Garden) on “Lessons from the Garden”.

District 2 Communiqué: It has continued to be managed by Linda Bartlett (D2 Secretary) 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, Linda Bartlett, has continued to work hard to make the website as useful as possible but the OHA website for Districts and Societies is cumbersome. Hopefully the new platform being developed by the OHA will be easier to work with. As Linda Bartlett is stepping down as of the AGM, Lori Ray (member of Pakenham HS) has volunteered to take on the responsibility of Webmaster for one year.

OHA Board meetings: The D2 Director, Kathryn Lindsay, attended three meetings during the year- in July (in conjunction with the 2016 Convention in Kitchener/Waterloo) and in October 2016 and March 2017 (near Barrie). On behalf of the OHA, Kathy was chair of the OHA Competitions Committee, co-coordinator of the Convention flower show, co-chair of the OHA Judging Committee, on the OHA Pollinator Initiative Committee and co-ordinated arrangements for a new OHA bursary to Lakehead University.

GardenOntario week: Events posted for June 10th-18th; year 2.

OHA Convention: The D2 Director and Society members attended the 110th OHA Convention in Kitchen/Waterloo from July 29-31. There were 323 registrants. Convention adult and youth competition results were reported in the 2016 fall issue of the Trillium newsletter (<http://www.gardenontario.org/gar/news1.php?news=266>).

D2 Flower and Edibles Show: It was held in Perth on August 6 hosted by Perth & District HS. Participation: 18 exhibitors, 7 Societies; 219 exhibits: 123 cut specimens, 23 edibles, 17 houseplants, 53 designs, 3 special exhibits. There was also a tea room area, design demonstration using garden flowers and an innovative floral design challenge.

OHA Judges:

- There are 25 OHA certified judges from D2 on the OHA Judges' Registry and another 43 who have indicated they are willing to judge in D2. 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.
- 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. The update is expected to be available by the end of 2017.
- D2 was part of an Interdistrict judge's update with Districts 1 and 3 on Saturday, September 24th in Kemptville. We received \$100 grant from the OHA to off-set expenses. There were about 35 judges participating; 32 from D2.

D2 Fun Day: None in 2016.

D2 Fall Advisory Council: The meeting was held on Saturday, November 5 in Stittsville hosted by Stittsville-Goulbourn HS. Draft minutes were circulated in a D2 Communiqué and posted on the D2 website.

D2 Society AGMs:

- The D2 Director attended six Society AGMs and one holiday dinner between October and December; the Assistant District Directors were able to attend the other 13 AGMs.
- Society constitutions need to be reviewed and revised as necessary. 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 2015 to 2016 as follows:

D2 Certificate for the most number of volunteer hours per member

-> Carleton Place & District Horticultural Society at 35.9 hrs/member for the second year in a row.

D2 Certificate for highest number of new adult members

-> Ottawa Horticultural Society at 102

D2 Certificate for highest % of new adult members

-> Ottawa Horticultural Society at 31%

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

-> Petawawa Horticultural Society at 30%

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

District 2 Annual Reporting – The District Director entered the highlights and Executive volunteer hours for 2016 in to the OHA on-line reporting system.

Society President's Quick Start: The manual has just been revised by the OHA, posted on the OHA website (www.gardenontario.org/docs/presidents_quick_start_book.pdf), and disseminated via the D2 Communiqué and some hardcopies at the D2 AGM. The OHA is now working on a Quick Start for District Directors.

Highlights for D2 in 2017 include:

District 2 AGM: Thank you to Eganville & Area HS for hosting the 2017 D2 AGM on Saturday April 22 on the theme “Celebrate Earth Day in Eganville”. We are still looking for a volunteer to host the 2018 District 2 AGM.

D2 Service Award: Madeline Archer

Special Anniversaries

Ottawa Horticultural Society – 125th
Deep River HS – 70th
Nepean HS – 60th
Stittsville-Goulbourn HS – 55th
OV Rock Garden & HS – 25th
Petawawa HS – 20th

D2 Canada 150 Project:

- D2 is expanding on the OHA pollinator initiative to establish pollinator habitat (gardens and/or nesting sites) as a legacy project to mark Canada’s 150th.
- D2 is giving each Society \$100.00 towards their initiative of choice.
- Societies were to submit their proposals for their pollinator projects to the District Secretary so they could be shared via the D2 Communiqué, highlighted at the spring AGM and promoted through the GardenOntario week website.
- Each Society is to report back at the Fall Advisory their success with their project along with costs. If nothing was done by a Society, then the \$100.00 is to be returned to D2.

GardenOntario week

- June 10th-18th; year 3!
- The website gardenontarioweek.org has been tweaked by adding some new resources and making it easier to share your knowledge and love of gardening in our communities across Ontario.
- 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:

- 2017 – D5 – Richmond Hill - Green from Shore to Shore. The 111th OHA Convention, July 21-23. 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. Starting with this Convention, class entries and Honourable Mention placements garner points. So the more we enter, the better our chances to win.

- 2018 – D3 – Kingston - From Shore to Shield
- 2019 – D11 – Windsor - Come to the Deep South Where Everything Grows

D2 Flower and Edibles show: D2 Society members are also encouraged to participate in our own show being co-hosted by Almonte, Pakenham and Carleton Place & District HS on Saturday, August 12, 2017 at the Almonte Civitan Hall, 500 Almonte Street, Almonte, Ontario. Solitary bee nests are being sold to raise funds for the event.

D2 Fun Day: None currently being planned.

Judges' Update: None currently being planned.

D2 Fall Advisory Council: Meeting being hosted by Deep River HS on Saturday November 4, 2017.

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 in horticulture and floral design,



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