



The District 5 Comm-Post



Volume 3, Issue 2, Fall 2015

Keeping Ontario Beautiful

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District 5 Executive

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Tina Forrester
Malcolm Geast
June Morton

Treasurer

Ellen Power

Secretary

Dawn McEachern

Supplies

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Past Directors

Nancy Serrick
Nikola Warnock

Fall is a little bittersweet. Our light is fading, vegetables are harvested, houseplants return indoors, flowers are fewer, but more precious for their rarity. Some of you will revel in this season, some of us will lament the loss of green and growing.

For District 5 there is much ahead this Fall.

OHA **bulbs** for the OHA fundraiser are in and Nancy Serrick is delivering them to any Society that submitted an order. Happy bulb planting to those who participated and helped OHA with this project. Many thanks.



We have a **District 5 meeting** for our Presidents, Vice Presidents (1st and 2nd), Secretaries and Treasurers on October 24 at the Knox Christian Education Centre, Agincourt. This is a wonderful opportunity for Societies to network, learn about OHA activities and share strategies for growing strong Societies/Clubs. Details about the **2016 District 5 AGM** will be provided. Please note that the date has been changed to **Saturday**, April 23, 2016...a reminder appears later in this newsletter.

The Ontario Horticultural Association will hold its Fall board meeting the weekend of October 18. This group of provincial directors meets near Barrie, so the fall colours will be peaking and will provide us with inspiration. News from this meeting will be shared with your President to pass on to all members of your Societies.

A core committee of the District 5 Executive team has started planning for the 2017 OHA Convention. We will need the help of members from all our Societies both in planning and on site. We need your help. If you are interested in sharing your time, and perhaps expertise, please let your President know.

May the finale of Summer's pageant bring you closer to nature as you gather your bounty and savour the tastes, enjoy the splendor of blazing sunsets and the gems you gather to decorate your homes.

Cindy Scythes

Ontario Horticultural Association Convention July 5-7, 2015 Ancaster, Ontario

"Summer in the Southern Tier" set a convention standard for all future OHA conventions.

Our hosts were from the 21 societies that make up OHA District 6 and the location was Redeemer University College in Ancaster, near Hamilton. For two and half days we learned and socialized and had lots of fun.

Prior to the opening of the convention, on the Thursday evening, there was an optional dinner cruise on the Grand River. Two riverboats leisurely cruised the river for two hours, while guests enjoyed dinner.

Friday morning, activities began in earnest and we were greeted by helpful and visible volunteers in green shirts. The theme "Summer in the Southern Tier" was showcased with hallways festooned with umbrellas, plants, and colourful pairs of rubber boots, sitting on puddles, filled with floral arrangements.



D5 delegates Ralph & Marilyn Cox, Joyce Cathcart



D5 delegates Anne Hill, Barb Naismith, Valerie Liney

Saturday morning Trish Symons shared pictures of her garden as she transitioned it "From Hayfield to Heaven", and shared with us some of her gardening tricks for working in a rural environment.

The Convention closed on a high note with Darren Heimbecker, creator of Whistling Gardens in Wilsonville, Ontario, nestled in Norfolk County. Darren's talk was about witch's broom, a disease or deformity in a woody plant. Sounds dry, but Darren made it fascinating and fun. He even collects these anomalies.

OHA divides its Annual General Meeting (AGM) into three parts, so each morning included some AGM business. But then, they moved on to speakers and this year all three were entertaining, inspiring and educational.

The speaker on Friday morning was Catherine Kavassalis, Master Gardener, who spoke on 'Gardening for Life', highlighting the importance of good soil, indigenous plants, native trees, detection of invasives. She left us with the message that we should all do something to support our planet.



D5 delegates Audrey Whitcombe, Ellen Power, Barb Elend

District 6 introduced a new "Activity Trophy" to be given to the district with the highest number of points at the end of the convention along with \$100. A resourceful Activities Team created all kinds of competitions including hat decorating, geocaching, puzzles and quizzes for every delegate to take part in. This effectively encouraged members of each district to work together. Rubber boots, decorated by all the societies in District 6 were voted on by delegates, which went towards a ribbon for the designing society. Each delegate vote also gave our district points toward the trophy. The final challenge was for future convention planners to continue this contest between districts.



Decorated hat competition



Dundurn Castle

In the afternoons we had a choice of bus tours to the Royal Botanical Gardens, Whistling Gardens, Dundurn Castle (think Downton Abbey in Hamilton) or private gardens. Or, people could stay on site and take in seminars by interesting speakers.

The judged competitions opened at noon on Friday. These included floral design, horticulture, photography, art, and youth competitions. Some lucky people took a floral design workshop with Celia Roberts, and then displayed their final products in the competition room.

On Friday evening we enjoyed a barbecue and huge silent auction that provided fundraising for the District hosts. Entertainment was provided by Sterling, a multi-talented singer, who had them dancing in the aisles.

The Saturday evening banquet was followed by the OHA awards presentations and a floral design demonstration by the wonderfully funny Lizzie Matheson. She once again created outstanding floral arrangements and told her stories as she designed.

Sunday's portion of the AGM included the election of the OHA President, Suzanne Hanna, and Vice-President, Rose Odell.



Lizzie Matheson

The 2016 Convention, will be held on July 8-10, hosted by District 19 at the Waterloo Inn. The theme is "Experience the Grand" and will include an Octoberfest evening with Polka dancing. This location is very close to the St. Jacobs market...which will also be highlighted. Mark your calendars for 2016 as this will be a fun event. In addition, Suzanne challenged the audience to bring their trowels and she will take us guerrilla gardening in Waterloo.

In 2017 it's District 5's turn to host a convention!

Share your creativity and consider volunteering for this wonderful provincial opportunity so that District 5 can shine as brightly as District 6 did.

D5 Competition Winners 2015 OHA Convention

Art Competition

Class 4 - "It's Worth the Drive to Halton Hills" - [East Gwillimbury Gardeners](#), 1st: Barb Elend

Photography Competition

Class 3 - "Aquatics"- [Stouffville Horticultural Society](#), H.M.: Jean Painter

Class 6 - "Go Wild"- [Stouffville Horticultural Society](#), 1st: Jean Painter

Class 7 - "Art In The Garden"- [North York Horticultural Society](#), H.M.: Uldis Broks

Class 8 - "Abstracts In The Garden"- [Stouffville Horticultural Society](#), H.M.: Jean Painter

Class 11 - "Front Row Seat"- [North York Horticultural Society](#), H.M.: Uldis Broks

Publications Competition

Class 2 - Yearbook Cover - Primarily Computer Generated Graphics - [Lake Simcoe Gardeners](#), 3rd

Class 5 - 2014/2015 Special Event Brochure/ Pamphlet/Flyer - [Greater Toronto Water Garden & Horticultural Society](#), 2nd

Class 6 - Club/Society Brochure/ Pamphlet/Flyer- [Leaside Garden Society](#), 2nd

Class 7 - Newsletter Cover (2) Illustration Primarily Hand Drawn 10 Pages or Less- [Lake Simcoe Gardeners](#), 1st

Class 9 - Newsletter Cover (2) Graphic Primarily Computer Generated 10 Pages or Less - [East York Garden Club](#), 3rd: Susan Bartlett

Class 11 - Club/Society Bookmark - [Leaside Garden Society](#), 3rd

Class 17 - Current Show Schedule - [Aurora Garden & Horticultural Society](#), 3rd: Debra Bowness

Flower Show

Design

Class 1 - [Newmarket Horticultural Society](#), 3rd: Mary-Ann Vercammen

Class 2 - [Beach Garden Society](#), 3rd: Ursula Eley

Class 9 - [Newmarket Horticultural Society](#), 2nd: Mary-Ann Vercammen

[Beach Garden Society](#), 3rd: Ursula Eley

Special Design Awards

Judge's Choice Miniature - [Beach Garden Society](#): Ursula Eley

Horticulture

Class 23B -[North York Horticultural Society](#), 3rd: Gloria Broks

Class 25 - [North York Horticultural Society](#), 2nd: Gloria Broks

Class 28 - [North York Horticultural Society](#), 2nd: Gloria Broks

[North York Horticultural Society](#), 3rd: Gloria Broks,

Class 31A - [Beach Garden Society](#), 1st: Ursula Eley

Class 44 - [Newmarket Horticultural Society](#), 1st: Mary-Ann Vercammen

Class 52 - [Beach Garden Society](#), 2nd: Ursula Eley

Special Horticulture Awards

Best Rose - [North York Horticultural Society](#): Gloria Broks

Best Hosta - [Beach Garden Society](#): Ursula Eley

The greatest gift of
the garden is the
restoration of the
five senses.
~ Hanna Rion

Upcoming Events



The 2016 District 5 Annual General Meeting

The East York Garden Club will be hosting the District 5 Annual General Meeting at the Latvian Canadian Cultural Centre (4 Credit Union Drive, North York) on **Saturday**, April 23, 2016. Our theme is "Garden Senses" and our goal is to incorporate all five senses throughout the day's activities. Our flower show, music and prizes will reflect the theme of the senses. To round it out, we will have Margaret Nevett and David Hobson as speakers!

We're very excited to be planning this event and we hope to have the registration package to you very soon. We look forward to seeing you all in April 2016!

Susan Bartlett
East York Garden Club

GardenOntario Week June 12 - 17, 201 (third week in June)

Not sure what to do? Check out this website for a few ideas:
<http://www.gardenontario.org/subdomains/week/ideas.html>

Here are a some things you will find there:

Hold a Garden Party

Invite your neighbours to an afternoon of enjoyment in a garden. Add artists and music and make the event a memorable one.

Have a Family Day in your Local Park

Plan a day of activities for local families in the park. Clean up an area of the park, create a new garden, or just enjoy the fruits of past labours

Show How to Grow Herbs in Containers

Hold a demonstration for the public on growing herbs (or something else) in containers.

And check out page 5 of this newsletter to see how two District 5 societies celebrated GardenOntario Week in 2015.

GardenOntario Week 2015 June 13 - 21

Leaside Garden Society

On June 20, our Society hosted another successful garden tour of eight intriguing neighbourhood city gardens. More than 400 passports were sold for 'The Magical Gardens of Leaside' Tour, a most popular community event.

We also continued our 'Gardens of Distinction' initiative. The selection committee spent many enjoyable hours walking each and every street. We are indeed fortunate to live in a community where so many property owners show such pride in their property. These folks were presented with a sign for their lawn celebrating their efforts, and a garden centre gift card.



GardenOntario Week was also celebrated by our Junior Gardeners' Community Planting Program. Grade 3 classes from our local schools met with our members on different days during that week to plant the public gardens in the area. The colourful results are still bloomin' beautiful!

With so many events, we encourage our members to actively participate during GardenOntario Week with the slogan 'Let's All Dig In'.

Markham Garden and Horticultural Society

Prior to GardenOntario Week becoming 'official', the Markham Garden and Horticultural Society was well into planning a Bus Tour that was to take place on June 17, 2015. We decided to call the Tour a sort of unofficial Garden Week activity.

Fifty members and friends of the Markham Garden Society set off on a beautiful sunny morning and headed towards the Hamilton area. The Tour began with visits to two exceptional private gardens in the morning with time for a coffee break along the way. Following the garden visits, we journeyed on to the village of Troy, stopping for a delicious lunch at the Café Troy restaurant. From there, we went to Whistling Gardens where members enjoyed a guided tour before heading back home. All agreed it was great day out.

Society members were also encouraged, as individuals, to share something from their gardens with friends and neighbours.

District 5 News

Aurora Garden & Horticultural Society

2015 Environment Award to Aurora Community Arboretum, July 4, 2015

In 2014, the Aurora Garden and Horticultural Society nominated the Board of Directors of the Aurora Community Arboretum (ACA) for the Ontario Horticultural Association's prestigious Environmental Award. On July 4, OHA President Jeff Blackadar, presented ACA Board Chair Irene Clement and John Clement with the Environmental Award plaque at the OHA convention in Ancaster.

The nomination specified that: "The Aurora Community Arboretum has been in operation for 17 years . . . [it] has been planned with a vision for future generations, and as a living museum for trees in Zone 5. The intention is to provide a space that will engage, educate and enrich its visitors so they may become better stewards of nature and the environment."

The Aurora Community Arboretum's wonderful set of trails stretch through 100 acres of parkland in the heart of Aurora. If you have not been to the ACA, take a stroll in nature and enjoy the magic of this woodland.

The arboretum has a brand new website www.auroraarboretum.ca



John and Irene Clement with Jeff Blackadar, OHA President (Photograph courtesy of Art Ward)

Therapeutic Garden in Aurora

A partnership in gardening is blooming spectacularly at a therapeutic garden for seniors in Aurora. CHATS (Community & Home Assistance to Seniors) is a not-for-profit charitable organization launched in 1980 by a caring group of community members who believed in enhancing the independence of seniors living at home. For their adult day program, a therapeutic garden was suggested by a social enterprise project aimed at providing therapeutic horticulture, floral design and landscape design.



Through the New Horizons grant program, CHATS received funding in 2014 which saw the creation of a deck, seating, and pergola, all erected to be fully accessible. Local woodworking experts built several flower boxes for the garden including two boxes made for growing herbs and vegetables, which are also accessible.

Members of the Aurora Garden & Horticultural Society (AG&HS) were instrumental in providing perennial plants, spreading mulch, planting, and providing tools, bird feeders, a birdbath and umbrellas for shade.

The garden has been enjoyed by CHATS clients and is becoming a bit of a showpiece thanks in part to the great support from the AG&HS.

Greater Toronto Rose and Garden Horticultural Society and North York Garden Club



Carpet Rose

Gloria Broks' roses won two District 5 society's Best in Show awards this year:

- *Greater Toronto Rose and Garden Horticultural Society Annual Show at Shoppes on Steeles on June 27 - Carpet Rose (a shrub rose)
- *North York Garden Club on September 12 at the Edithvale Community Centre - 'Crocus Rose' (a David Austin rose)



'Crocus Rose'

East Gwillimbury

Art in the Garden

On August 18 at our annual Celebration of Gardens, one of the flower show design classes was "Art in the Garden" with instructions to create a floral design complimenting a painting by a member of the Mount Albert Group of Artists. Each floral designer had a different painting so they were required to pre-register to know how many paintings would be needed. We were amazed that nine designers were eager to enter! A month in advance of the show, paintings were assigned by a secret draw and then each floral designer was given a photograph of "their" painting to help them prepare for their design. The paintings covered a wide range of topics such as horses, seascapes, birds, landscapes.

On the day of the show, the original paintings were displayed on easels, with the floral designs displayed on pedestals beside them.

We were surprised by the creativity of our designers. Some arrangements reflected the colours used in the paintings, others mirrored the shapes, and all were unique. The judge commented that it was a very difficult class to judge as all the entries were outstanding.

Working with other groups within our community is important to us so we were pleased to find a project to share with our local artists. As an added bonus, we now have four artists as new EG Gardeners members!



Best Design - Riekie Bergmann

East Gwillimbury Gardeners (continued)

Endless Summer

We already knew we were in for a treat when Moira Sanders, co-author of the Harrow Fair Cookbook and author of The Family Table Cookbook, agreed to talk about "Endless Summer – Recipes From September's Harvest" at East Gwillimbury Gardeners September meeting. Moira is a member of our society and has presented for us before so expectations were running high. Then, a few months ago, Moira called to say that she had invited Elizabeth Baird, probably Canada's best-known cook, author of more than 30 cookbooks, former food editor of Canadian Living, and member of the Order of Canada, to



join her - and Elizabeth was happy to come! Moira was just about bubbling over with excitement and so were we as the day approached. We had a camera and TV screen set up so that everyone could see what Moira and Elizabeth were doing and helpers (including our own District 5 Director Cindy Scythes) ready to hand out samples of the dishes they prepared – and then we waited with bated breath to see whether the hall over-flowed!

Plum Tomato Crumble, Kale Tabbouleh, Asian Cabbage Salad, and Apple Fritter Rings – the recipes were all simple and absolutely delicious. The hall was full but everyone had a seat. Elizabeth was warm, friendly and funny and she shared interesting stories as she and Moira cooked. Everything smelled and tasted wonderful. The plum tomato crumble was sweet and savoury at the same time and would be a terrific side-dish. Kale Tabbouleh with bulgur wheat was quick and easy to prepare using a food processor to briefly chop the kale and the cabbage salad made good use of fall fruit and veggies. And as for the Apple Fritter Rings – warm and sweet and full of sunshine!



Moira had done much of the preparation ahead of time, then she and Elizabeth cooked on two hot-plates and the final stage of the cooking was completed in the oven at the hall. We passed out the individual samples in small paper cups. All the recipes were from either Canada's *Favourite Recipes* by Elizabeth Baird and Rose Murray, Whitecap Books 2012, or *The Family Table Cookbook*, by Moira Sanders, Whitecap Books 2014.

This was a great way to celebrate the harvest and the end of the growing season. Thank you to Moira for inviting Elizabeth, to Moira's husband Alan and son Gavin for the TV and camera set-up and tech help.

District 5 Newsletter Deadlines

A **BIG** thank you to all of you who contributed photos, articles and information to this newsletter. YOU make this newsletter what it is!

Winter 2016 issue: February 22, 2016

Spring/Summer 2016 issue: May 22, 2016

Fall 2016 issue: September 22, 2016

Please send photos and articles to tina.forrester@gmail.com

**The glory of gardening:
hands in the dirt, head
in the sun, heart with
nature. To nurture a
garden is to feed not
just the body, but the
soul.**

~ Alfred Austin