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 Catherine McGill.
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DISTRICT SIX



AUTUMN 2017

Convention 2017

District 6 Director Report

Catherine McGill

My summary would be, too bad you have not made the decision to go to convention YET, because you missed a huge fun-filled chance to learn about what's going on in our small section of the world and what you as an individual can do to make a difference in the world we will leave our children's children.

I could have done without the 6 hrs of meetings before the convention or the 3 hrs after but even there I learned a lot. It's part of my new role as District Director, suck it up buttercup.

I feel the convention itself was one of the best, (yes, we did some better, but overall!) The Competition Room was something not to miss—with amazing designs, cool photography, children's projects, poems and so much more. There are a ton of categories that you can enter, without having to go. Many get mailed in and the director or someone from your area can pick them up for you. Check the convention competition schedule gardenontario.org and soon! Many need to be sent in by Feb!

If you go, plan to arrive Thursday and go on the special tour event! Usually only offered that night and no other time, I hope this year has a boat involved!

Friday night is a ton of fun, it's a more casual supper with entertainment, silent auction, music and lots of visiting other folk who all have the same interest—flowers. The seminars on Fri and Sat are all free and you can always find one that interests you, this year the Lee Valley Bee-house Seminars were full and everyone made a bee-house to take home, awesome!

The speakers for the 2 dinners were Paul Zammit and Carson Arthur who both are internationally known and who talked about what we can do to help our world and pollinators. Who knew that Toronto was known for roof-top gardens, it's law that buildings of a certain height must have one, or that the unofficial bee of Toronto is the Green Sweat Bee? I didn't! Food was awesome and I do not know of any hitches or hiccups. It was a very well-run convention.

I look forward to next year in Kingston. I am already looking for bell-bottoms for the 60s & 70s Friday night music! July 27-29, 2018.....See you there in your tie dye! ●

Want an Interesting Read?

This is about the true story of the people who started horticulture as we know it in Britain and America, *The Brother Gardeners, Botany, Empire and the Birth of an Obsession*, by Andrea Wulf. I was amazed at how the obsession of a few became a craze of gardening and of plants from around the world for not just a few but of Nations! A very worthwhile book to read. This all started one January morning in 1734, with the arrival of plants and seeds from the American colonies in with the bales of cotton on that cargo ship. John Bartram then spent 40 years shipping hundreds of American species to England and then they spread across the world from the passions of just a few who would foster a national obsession and change the gardens of Britain forever. I read the book in 2 sittings, as a passenger on long car trips (The only time I get to read.) ●

2018 Events

- SPRING BREAKFAST MEETING: Haldimand Feb 24
- AGM: St. George (Lynden & Glen Morris) April 14
- FALL BREAKFAST MEETING: Paris Sept 28- **THIS IS A DATE CHANGE!**
- FALL DINNER: Brantford—Pending

Mount Hamilton Celebrates 90 Years

Since the start of 2017, the Mount Hamilton Horticultural Society has been celebrating their 90th Anniversary in several different ways: a new banner was unveiled, lifetime members were honoured, Lizzie Matheson ran a special design workshop, Kathy Renwald wrote an article in *The Spectator*, and they hosted the D6 Fall Breakfast to name a few. Fortunately, they still have more events to enjoy including an Anniversary Gala dinner in October which will be held at the Gage Park Greenhouses on the opening night of the Mum Show. But in September, they completed a project which they feel is their most significant celebration yet, the beautification of the Norman 'Pinky' Lewis Parkette. They feel it is extremely important because it epitomizes one of the founding principles of their Society. For almost twenty years, they have maintained the gardens at Jason's House, a March of Dimes Home for people with Cerebral Palsy, and more recently the gardens at Chedoke Presbyterian Church, but it has been some time since they have been involved in a new community beautification project.

The Norman 'Pinky' Lewis Parkette is situated in the lower part of the City on Sanford Ave. N., and this area is heavily populated by new immigrants who have settled in Hamilton. The large oval island at the entrance was overgrown and covered in weeds, and it wasn't very inviting to the community.

Through a Clean and Green grant from the City, and one from Ward 3 Councillor Mathew Green, they created a place that people can enjoy. The project was conducted over two days: cleanup on Sept. 9, and planting on Sept. 16, 2017. A handful of hard working volunteers cleaned out the island of weeds, overgrown bushes and garbage on the first Saturday, and the next Saturday the volunteers turned out to replant the island. New plant material was purchased

with grant money, and the City supplied topsoil, mulch and a beautiful, 240-foot yellow hose so the garden can be watered by the Society.

There is still a lot of work to do in the rest of the parkette, and this year they will be limited to replanting the island at the entrance. Next year they will plant a shade garden in front of a mural-painted fence and perhaps plant some flowers if the City installs planters.

The project required a lot of hard work, but the group were committed to make the space look as beautiful as possible. As Vita Sackville-West, the British poet, novelist, and designer of the garden at Sissinghurst Castle, her home, once said: "The man who has planted a garden feels that he has done something for the good of the world" and, it can be added, his community.

What a wonderful way to celebrate a 90th anniversary.

And the celebrations continued

The Fall Breakfast meeting was hosted by Mt Hamilton and very tasty cupcakes and lovely nibbles abounded. Thank you, Mt Hamilton, for your warm welcome and congratulations on 90 years! ●



Mt Hamilton celebrated their 90th anniversary with a remake of Norman Lewis bed, the butterflies will be arriving at this oasis soon.



Oakville's 60th Party-goers



D6 Fall Dinner 2017

DONNA HUSSEY AND AMANDA RYDER, Co-Presidents, Delhi & District Horticultural Society

The Delhi & District Horticultural Society is this year's proud hosts of the 2017 Annual District Six Fall Dinner and extend a warm welcome to our district friends and their friends! We look forward to a great turn out and have an enjoyable evening planned featuring a great meal, wonderful guest speaker, door prizes and fellowship. Our Society is celebrating its 35th Anniversary this year and wanted to include hosting this evening as part of our celebrations.

Our small but mighty group of 55 members is very active in our community of Delhi; population 4,240. We plant and maintain 8 gardens at our local Delhi Tobacco Museum and Heritage Centre and have a successful partnership with the Delhi BIA to offer interested residents and businesses the opportunity to adopt, plant and maintain 1 of 54 town planters for the chance to win prize money: Junior and Senior Divisions. We also, participate in the Norfolk County Fair's horticultural societies' themed booth competition and we help children pot up free strawberry plants each year at Delhi's Strawberry Festival. We make annual donations to the Delhi Public Library, Delhi Christmas Parade and lay a wreath during the Remembrance Day Ceremony.

Delhi has a rich multicultural heritage of Belgian, German, Polish, Hungarian, Dutch, Portuguese, Greek, Ukrainian, Lithuanian, British and First Nations backgrounds—just to name a few! Delhi boasts several multicultural halls and our venue is at one of the most popular halls in Delhi. Our venue, the Delhi Hungarian Hall, is well known for its delicious Chicken and Cabbage Roll meals and friendly service! We offer Gluten Free and Vegetarian options to suit everyone!

Our guest speaker, Mae Leonard, is our Society's very own plant guru and is a founding member of our Society. We are sure you will enjoy her passionate talk on, "The Art of Dowsing; Not Just For Water"!

Please see the 2017 District Six Fall Dinner flyer for more information, fill out and return your order form along with payment before the deadline! Any questions, please call Donna at 519-582-4523 evenings or email anytime to husseyde@sympatico.ca. We hope to see you all there; remember to carpool and have a safe journey to/from Delhi! We promise you an early but enjoyable evening! •

Order Form is on the next page.

Winona Peach Festival



Winona Society at the Peach Festival, President Helene Brule Besner and her volunteers did an amazing job with all the plants/books they had for sale! Who says that plant sales are only for the spring? •

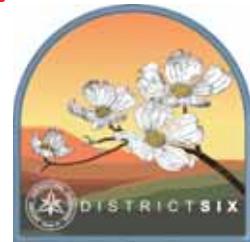
Photos by member, Ryan Inch



**OHA District 6 Annual Fall Dinner Hosted By:
Delhi & District Horticultural Society**

Delhi Hungarian Hall
71 King Street, Delhi, ON N4B 1X7

November 4, 2017



Doors open at 5:00 p.m. - Dinner starts at 6:00 p.m.

Society and Individual Orders will be accepted!

\$30.00 Per Person

**For Tickets Phone Evenings 519-582-4523 or
Email Donna Hussey at husseyde@sympatico.ca**

Deadline: October 25, 2017; Sorry No Refunds!

Speaker: Mae Leonard, "The Art of Dowsing; Not Just For Water"

Door Prizes - Family Style Dinner Menu

Gluten free and vegetarian options available

Tossed Garden Salad

Dinner Roll

Chicken & Cabbage Rolls

Mashed Potatoes and Gravy

Mixed Vegetables

Celebration Cake & Ice Cream

Freshly Brewed Tea and Coffee

Gluten Free & Vegetarian Options

Cash Bar

District 6 Fall Dinner Order Form—Deadline: October 25, 2017

Saturday, November 4, 2017. Delhi Hungarian Hall, 71 King Street, Delhi, ON N4B 1X7

Name of Society/Individual's Society: _____

Society/Individual Contact Person: _____ Ph#: _____

Your pre-paid tickets will be held at the door by Society Name. You will receive a confirmation email when your order form and cheque are received:

Society/Individual Contact Email: _____

Number of tickets required: _____ X \$30 = Total Amount \$ _____

Total Regular Meals: _____ Total Gluten Free Meals: _____ Total Vegetarian Meals: _____

Clip and mail: Delhi & District Horticultural Society, c/o Donna Hussey, 405 Earl Street, Delhi, ON N4B 1W4 along with one Society/Individual cheque payable to: Ontario Horticultural Association District 6

Tickets must be pre-paid — No ticket sales at the door



District recognizes Freda Flook



*Freda Flook (Milton HS) Freda won a Special District recognition award.
Freda unfortunately has passed since this presentation and she is greatly missed ●.*

A Passion for Gardening

It is with a sad heart that we say goodbye to our very dear friend and horticulturist, Pat Locker. She passed away peacefully at her home on July 1 at the age of 86. Pat was a member of our Society for almost 50 years. She served as President 4 times and was a Director for 20 years. She organized our first Plant Sale, Coffee Party, and day-long Bus Trip. Pat always had creative ideas such as the Scarecrow Invasion and she suggested this year's Alphabet Project. Pat was a member of our local Communities in Bloom.

As a Master Gardener, Pat conducted many workshops at local and district levels. In 1987, she founded the Brantford Master Gardeners. She was always in demand as a floral arranger and judge and shared her knowledge and experience in monthly newspaper articles.

Pat was actively involved at the District level serving as Assistant District Director. She received the OHA District Service Award in 2013.

Pat was an inspiration and mentor to us all. She will be greatly missed ●.



Susan Reeder at the Ancaster Fair



Port Dover Pollinator Garden



Stephanie Wilson started a pollinator garden and has many new friends visiting her garden in Port Dover ●

You Matter

**You matter to me, to your society,
to your district and to this world.**

One step, one day, one bulb, one plant, spring comes, hope, light, dreams reawaken.

Hang on, it will brighten again, promise, look for the things that bring a smile, a laugh, look for them, if you look for the light, you will soon be covered in the light and the dark will not get a foothold. Look for the light. Look for the smile, look for the hand, reach out and hang on tight.

I lost 2 friends this summer, they could not hang on. Please know, there is a hand reaching out for you, and if you do not need one, be one ●

CATHERINE MCGILL, district6@gardenontario.org

165th Brantford Garden Club Flower & Garden Show



On July 16th, 2017, the Brantford Garden Club presented “Canada 150” Flower and Garden Show. Despite all the rain during our wet and windy spring and summer, the Tranquility Hall was a mass of colour and design. From the attached photo, you can see why the Judges of the show were shocked and speechless to see the number of specimens. The Club had quite a few “First Time” entrants; so nice to see when our Club membership is over 225.

Following is a list of prize winners and their scores.

Total highest points in design class:	Debbie Harper—26 points
Total points in specimens including sections b (specimens,) c (houseplants) and d (vegetables):	Mary Thorne--127 points
Judge’s choice: Design Class:	Pat McKechnie
Judge’s choice: Best in show from 1st place ribbons	Mary Thorne
Total points for a First Time Exhibitor	Olivia Calbeck—23 points
President’s Choice	Rick Vandeven

Show convener: Mary Arrindell



Mark Meloun, Director of the Garden Club, foreman with the Parks & Recreation for the City of Brantford and Maxine Byerlay, Director of the Garden Club plant 3 Pink Saucer Magnolia trees at the Local Tourism Centre. These trees were funded through a \$200 tree Grant from the OHA. These trees will provide a burst of colour next to the existing beds of daffodils planted in previous years by the Garden Club.

Glen Morris Pollinator Garden

The Glen Morris Horticultural Society has a Pollinator Garden on the Rail Trail at the end of Forbes Street, Glen Morris. We placed an old canoe at the side of the trail last June, 2016, and have kept it filled with annuals favoured by bees, birds and butterflies. These 3 pictures from last year’s dedication.



In Memoriam

Flamborough, Georgetown, Simcoe, Stoney Creek and Winona joyfully did not lose any members from April 2016-2017. But sadly, the rest of the District did, D6 lost 34 members and for that we are very sad. The loss of a caretaker, for a plant, is a loss to the world. Period! So plant a seed in someone's memory and let's build the present world: a world of gardeners and caretakers of all that grows •

Highway of Heroes

Congratulations, the OHA agreed to match up to 2,500 in donations. Districts and members went in whole hog: \$27,075.60 and with the \$2,500 from OHA. The total was \$29,575.60.

Along the Trenton-to-Toronto-401-corridor, 117,000 trees are being planted. 2 million more trees are being planted off the highway in groves along same corridor •

Grants

If your society is going after any local grants, especially bank grants, be aware that you MUST have your own charity #, you CANNOT use the OHA#. You need to apply for your own #, if you use it and win a grant you will be required to refund the money and face possible fines •

Resources

D6 has tablecloth, banner, brochures all available for society use at events. If you want to borrow any contact Barb Bell - bbell9335@gmail.com •

Supplies@gardenontario.org

If you need any OHA resources, order them by the end of the first week of Oct, and state that they will be picked up by the D6 director at the director meeting in Oct. to save on shipping charges •

New OHA Leadership

The OHA faces have changed. The new President is Rose Odell, and the new VP is Katherine Smyth •

Volunteer hours

Yours count! OHA volunteers had over 482,485 hours! •

New D6Dirt Editor

Rita, our fearless newsletter editor, will be stepping down come January and we thank her for the great work she has done on these newsletters. We put a call out at the Breakfast Meeting and Sandi Remedios stepped up to the position. Thank you Sandi •

New Webmaster

April Davies is the new webmaster and once the new website is up and going (spring is the forecast) she is willing to do a workshop for D6 on the workings of the new site. April can be reached at webmaster@gardenontario.org •

Link your Garden Ontario Webpage to Facebook

Do you have a Society Facebook page? If you do, are you aware you can link your OHA gardenontario page to it? Contact webmaster@gardenontario.org •

D6 Facebook Page

D6 has a Facebook page to send all your meetings, events— District 6 Garden Ontario. Email d6fbgardenontario@gmail.com •

Toronto Bees

Toronto has 360 species of bee: that is 6 of the 7 families of bees. 92% of Toronto bees are native to area and 70% of Toronto bees live in the ground. Spread the buzz! Keep the landscape fabric to a minimum, leave a garden with no mulch, give a water source and of course plant food source •

Thank your ADD

Societies please reach out to your Assistant District Directors (ADDs) if you have any issues, problems, questions or you just want a visit! They are here to help and all are very friendly! They will do their best to find answers you need. They are the ones sending-forward my emails of information. The names are found in your society contact sheets. Invite them to a meeting and say "Hi" •

**2017-2018 OHA
District 6 Board of Directors**

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Judges Update

CATHERINE MCGILL, *Coordinator, district6@gardenontario.org*

Registration deadline is Nov 15.
Max 20 participants
Cost: \$20 cheque payable to OHA District 6

Date: Nov 29, 2017, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Place: Research station, 1283 Blue line Rd, Simcoe

- 9:00-9:15 a.m. Registration, Coffee & Tea
- 9:15-10:15 a.m. Spring blooms: Heinke Thiessen
- 10:15-10:30 a.m. Question and answer
- 10:30-11:30 p.m. Photography by Melanie Steeves
Please bring an 8"x10" photo, unmated, unframed, borders allowed
Class #1 Winter garden
and/or (you are welcome to bring both)
Class #2 Spring hope
Photos will be judged and comments given
- 11:30-12:00 p.m. Question and answer
- 12:00-1:00 p.m. Lunch provided
- 1:00-2:00 p.m. Design demo by Lil Taggart
- 2:00-2:30 p.m. Students will construct one.
Assignment to be given ahead of class.
Class #1. Underwater design
Class #2. Water Viewing design
- 2:30-3:00 p.m. Evaluation and comments by Instructor
- 3:00-3:30 p.m. Shop talk for next update, what do you want to see?
Clean-up and have a safe trip home!

If you are interested in a JUDGES UPDATE and would like to register please contact Catherine McGill at district6@gardenontario.org •



DISTRICT SIX **DIRT**

DISTRICT 6 DIRT is a quarterly newsletter for Garden Ontario Societies in Brant, Halton, Norfolk, Wentworth, & Hamilton

Editor: Catherine McGill
Layout: Rita Ladjansky



DISTRICT 6, A Carolinian District

A link to the District 6 Dirt Newsletters, awards, forms, speaker listings, and manuals can be found at:

www.gardenontario.org/site.php/district6

District 6 members are encouraged to submit articles, notices and photographs to the newsletter editor, Catherine McGill at: district6@gardenontario.org

DEADLINES for Newsletter

Dec 28	deadline for	Jan 18	distribution
Mar 30	deadline for	Apr 20	distribution
Jun 29	deadline for	July 20	distribution
Sept 28	deadline for	Oct 19	distribution