

Katharine Smyth for OHA President

I am Katharine Smyth, your Vice President of the Ontario Horticultural Association. I have been a member of the Tilbury Horticultural Society for 18 years and have held various positions and I am currently the Past President. I have been a board member of the OHA for six years, representing District 11, which is comprised of Essex and Lambton Counties and the Municipality of Chatham-Kent. I have completed the OHA Judges Course and have been to updates held at convention and in our district. I participate in our society flower show and enjoy judging other shows. I am currently the Chair of the 2019 OHA Convention to be held in Windsor. I have gardened ever since I can remember, having grown up on a farm in Chatham-Kent with vegetable, fruit and flower gardens covering two acres. I love trees, perennials, annuals and containers and have a large garden with lots of shade.



I have been married to Doug for fifty years this year, have four children and nine grandchildren. Two children live close by and two live at the other end of the province. Our oldest son is in the military and we have travelled to cities and countries where he has been stationed.

I, along with my husband have owned and operated a Bed and Breakfast for twenty years. Upon retirement from a career in Medical Laboratory Technology, I became involved in my community by joining the Chamber of Commerce and Business Improvement Areas (BIA) and was Treasurer for six years. I was chair of the OMAFRA First Impressions and Treasurer of the Tilbury Revitalization Committee. I am on the board of our local Heritage Committee and on the Board of the Chatham-Kent United Way. I am a member of the Chatham-Kent Tourism Advisory Committee. I also trained as a Culinary Judge and judge at many local fairs. I became a member of Beta Sigma Phi in 1965 and have held many executive positions in this cultural, service and social group. I have worked with my community as member of the Chatham-Kent Communities in Bloom Committee since 2008 and have first-hand experience earning the coveted 5 Bloom Award as winner in Provincial, National and International categories and as the National winner in 2010.

I love to cook, bake, and preserve our local produce and freeze vegetables I have grown. I enjoy gardening, birding, photography, travelling, reading and baking and decorating wedding and special occasion cakes.

I love meeting OHA members from other communities and enjoy seeing their passion and enthusiasm in bringing horticulture to others. My goal, if I am elected President, would be find ways to reach and engage young people in our communities, to encourage and grow membership in our societies and to find ways to empower young people to attend and participate in society meetings. I believe we need to teach our youth how to take care of and nurture a garden and enjoy the benefits.

Alfred Austin once said "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."