

Trillium

Keeping Ontario Beautiful

Ontario Horticultural Association Newsletter

Fall 2009



Photography Competition – 1st Place – Class 3
Kelley Moody – ‘Raindrops Keep Falling...’



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...and much more...

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President's Message

It is both a great pleasure and an honour to have been elected as your 2009 OHA President. It is my hope that this year our association will grow, providing leadership and education in the field of horticulture.

We have an excellent Board of Directors and Executive Officers who are enthusiastic in carrying on the theme of *Keeping Ontario Beautiful*. The Conservation and Environment Committee will be hard at work on special projects such as *Roadside Planting*. The Youth program will be sure to attract young people whose involvement will ensure the future of our organization.

At the District AGMs, I would like to see many members of societies *Show What You Grow*. The change in the economy has provided us with a time of reflection, going back to basics in gardening, be it agriculture or horticulture. Growing and exhibiting our homegrown products gives us an opportunity to showcase the fruits of our labour.

As well, I would like to suggest that societies hold flower-arranging workshops throughout the year. These are great opportunities to increase membership and inform the members and general public about the use of various plant materials. Educational programs help to promote interest in horticulture at the youth and adult level.

This year, the many volunteers of District 4, under the leadership of District Director John Sellers, welcomed OHA members to Trent University in Peterborough for a wonderful convention. This event, with many activities for all to enjoy, was well organized and very successful. *Congratulations to everyone on a job well done!*

I have always had an interest in horticulture, even as a young child. Being of Dutch descent, this interest was natural and fostered by my parents. My father always had a beautiful garden with many unusual plants. To this day he enjoys the beauty of flowers. My initial involvement with the Ontario Horticultural Association was in Scarborough 34 years ago. Since then, I have held many positions both at society and district levels. It's always my pleasure to meet new people and talk horticulture.

Georgian College in Barrie will be the site of the 2010 Convention. Carol Dunk and District 16 are busy preparing the two day event with great speakers and a chance for members to meet and have the opportunity to share ideas. It is hoped that many will consider attending.

Yours in Horticulture,
Kees Stryland,
Ontario Horticultural Association President



From the Secretary's Desk

To those of you who attended the Peterborough Convention and those of you who didn't but wanted to, it was a blast! We enjoyed great programs, competitions, speakers, food, and friends, as well as the hilarious 'adjoining bathrooms' escapades! Congratulations to District 4 hosts.

On a more serious note, and already thinking about our next annual event, enclosed with this mailing are forms which your Youth Leaders will need: the 2010 Youth Competition Schedule, Youth Competition Entry Sheet, Youth Club Activity Report, and a Youth Permission Form. Please distribute these to the appropriate members as soon as possible. If you have any questions about these forms, please contact Youth Chair, Anna Peterson, at 519-284-0179 or email Anna at agp3@quadro.net.

At the Convention, I did speak about the importance of recognizing members for their contributions to your society. I would encourage you to go to our website, www.gardenontario.org, click on Resources, Awards Booklet, and read about the numerous Society and OHA awards which are available.

Until next time, walk on the bright side.

Janet Moyser
secretary@ gardenontario.org **519-395-0227**

Parting Words from the Past President

What a thrilling ride I have had as your President for 2008-2009. It has been a pleasure and an honour to be your president. I started my many tours with the dedication of *Molly Wilson Gardens* in the Kanata March area. I worked as a volunteer at *Canada Blooms* as I have done for the past 6 years.

The AGMs started in April and I was off in a snowstorm to Ayton (District 8) in the Bruce Peninsula. That was some ride. You could not read the road signs with the wet snow....but by the time we finished the snow had melted. The next AGM was in Bradford (District 16). It was a great meeting and we all left with a 2 pound bag of carrots....now that was different...as Bradford is known as the carrot capital of Ontario.

Then I was off to the Parry Sound area where we met in Argyle (District 18). I was surprised and grateful to receive local maple syrup, pickles, and homemade candy. I have already put my name down for next year.

The next adventure took me to Thunder Bay (District 14) on Bearskin Airlines - a ride I will never forget. Once there we drove to Nipigon Red Rock for a two day meeting. Those people in the North sure know how to entertain their guests. What a grand time we had!

I planted a tree in Espanola (District 13) in the beautiful month of May, and helped them celebrate their 60th anniversary. I then came home and planted two trees in Beachburg (my own society in District 2) - one for our 50th anniversary, and one in honour of my presidency. Our guest speaker was Mary Ann Van Berlo, president of the Gloucester Society. We were privileged to have in attendance four former district directors of District 2. During my term as President I presented many life memberships, special certificates, and honours that the OHA awards to deserving members. Congratulations to one and all.

I was on the team that hired our new secretary Janet Moyser, met with CIB judges in Pembroke, worked with John Sellers and the convention committee, and welcomed seven new directors to the OHA Board. I did interviews with local newspapers and radio stations, attended many pot luck dinners, and the list goes on.

I had a great time. And now is the time to step down. I would like to thank the officers of the Board and its 19 directors. I wish all the new OHA officers and incoming directors a great year. Let's keep the OHA growing and Keep Ontario Beautiful.

Ken Fink,
OHA President, 2008-2009

Beachburg Horticultural Society 50th Anniversary

On May 28th, the Beachburg Society celebrated its 50th Anniversary at the Beachburg Orange Hall. Ninety members, past members, and guests viewed a beautiful Spring Flower Show from, that was judged by Helen Halpenny of Almonte - 125 entries and 13 exhibitors. The local United Church UCW served a delicious buffet salad dinner.

Hazel Hawthorn conducted a Memorial Service remembering dedicated members of the past. Greetings with congratulatory certificates from distinguished guests were received; OHA President Ken Fink, District 2 Director Sheila King, MP Cheryl Gallant, MPP John Yakaboski, Deputy Mayor Ron Lowe of Whitewater Region, and Barry Stephen of the Beachburg Agricultural Society.

Kaye Beach read highlights from the Society's 50 year history. Though we struggle to obtain 50 members each year, we have had extraordinary accomplishments, activities, tours, public plantings, four Flower Shows each year, and much more.

Guest speaker Mary Ann Van Berlo of Ottawa, in a power point presentation, gave a humorous and enjoyable talk on *A Light-hearted Look at Gardening* focusing on *Five Steps to the Addiction of Gardeners*. Door prizes and two plant raffles created some fun. What overwhelming support from our community and neighbouring societies!



Ken Fink, OHA President, & Shirley Kasaboski, President, at celebration of Beachburg Society's 50th Anniversary.

District 16 to the Rescue! Convention in Barrie - August 13th & 14th, 2010

As of April, 2009, there was no host for the 2010 Convention. OHA, like all its member societies, is a corporation, and must have at least an Annual General Meeting each year. What to do?

District 16, scheduled to do the 2013 convention, stepped up to the plate and promised to do what we could in a year. We first offered to do a one-day AGM to solve the problem. And then we went to Peterborough...

In Peterborough, the District 16 crew realized that there's more to a convention than the business meeting. How could one day supply the fun and camaraderie that encompasses an OHA convention? How could we renew friendships, learn about all the things OHA has done during the year, and listen to great speakers in just one day?

So..... we're going to have a two-day convention on August 13th and 14th of 2010 in Barrie, Ontario. Our convention will include everything except the Sunday morning session. The theme for the 2010 Convention is *Everything Old Is New Again* – a renewal of hopes and plans and ideas. A two-day Convention itself is a renewal. Up until the 1940s, all OHA conventions were two days long.

We've found a venue, sketched out the activities, and are pleased with our plans. There will be a Meet & Greet on Thursday night for those who want to come early to see old friends. The business meeting will start early on Friday morning. Just when we're tired of business, business, business, **Paul Zammit** will liven us up.

Friday afternoon, as is traditional, will feature seminars and tours. Barrie has some wonderful gardens to see and just like Peterborough we have a lake on which to cruise. Friday night will be hosted by District 16. We're planning some old-fashioned fun for that evening.

Saturday's plenary session will be a little longer than usual. We're putting three days of meetings into two, remember. The afternoon will have more tours and one seminar session or free time for you to visit the competitions or shopping places in Barrie. And then it's off to our rooms in the student residence at Georgian College to freshen up for the Banquet. The banquet will follow the usual format. Awards will be presented and there will be an exciting speaker, **Diana Beresford-Kroeger**. Diana is known for her books on gardening in environmentally sound ways. She has worked internationally as a speaker and researcher of environmental information. Some of you may know one of Diana's books, *Bioplanning a North Temperate Garden*, or you may know Diana from the television series, *Recreating Eden*.

The competition committees are busy planning schedules, and Youth Leader Ron Nelsons is finalizing plans for the youth camp. What fun our young gardeners will have at the Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre in Midland. Registration information and forms will be available in the Winter 2009/2010 Trillium. You're going to like the financial aspect of a two-day Convention and be absolutely ecstatic about the speakers.

Remember to circle August 12th – 14th, 2010, and come spend time with us in Barrie.

Carol Dunk

*Ron Baird, *Spirit Catcher*, 1986, Collection of the MacLaren Art Centre. Photographer: Andre Beneteau



Insurance Queries?

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Hierarchy - Who Cares?

The simple answer is ... 'We all should!' It is necessary because someone or some entity oversees things. Horticultural Societies throughout Ontario are a part of a larger group. There are 19 Districts and 283 Societies. We cannot have 19 Districts and 283 Societies all doing their own thing. What a mess that would be. No one would know what others are doing.

It all begins with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA). This organization, technically at least, is in charge of it all. We are governed by Bill 66 which deals with Agricultural and Horticultural organizations. The latest version of the Bill received Royal Assent in 1988. The link between OMAFRA and us is really the Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA). OMAFRA does not generally deal directly with societies but does provide funding to societies via grants. The OHA links to its member societies through the District Directors. The lines of communication extend from the Ministry through the OHA to the societies. Societies and their executives/boards need to keep in mind that they are not islands separate from everyone else and cannot go about doing their own thing. The OHA, at times, seems to take a lot of undeserved flack from societies and their memberships. Societies must operate within prescribed boundaries and within certain rules. It behooves societies to consider that they cannot operate in whatever manner they choose.

The rules originate from the Ministry, not the OHA. When a society receives its initial articles it becomes a corporation. As a corporation all must adhere to the rules set out by the Ministry. One of the rules is that the organizations, including the OHA, must have a constitution. If the OHA has one, the districts must also have one and so must the societies. These constitutions cannot go in different directions. Therefore a district's constitution needs to be similar in principle to the OHA constitution and the society constitutions must then be in principle similar to the district one. If they were all very different, whose would take precedence - what an untenable mess.

OMAFRA provides grant funds to each society. Therefore they can and will dictate, within reason, how the money is spent. In a sense they hold the purse strings. Questions and comments I have often heard are: **1.** If we must have a constitution, why not just make up our own? **2.** Why do we need a constitution anyway? **3.** Give us our grant money and leave us alone! **4** How could the OHA know what is best for our situation?

Q 1&2: Societies are a part of a larger organization and are considered a corporation. As far as the government is concerned each society therefore requires a constitution and bylaws.

Q 3: Not too many entities/organizations, including government, provide funding without some strings attached, such as being concerned about how the money is being spent and on what.

Q 4: OHA representatives attend many society/district functions throughout the province during the year and are aware of needs in the various regions and towns. The District Directors converse at meetings (board/convention) so there is a good pipeline between societies and the OHA.

What I hope to initiate/accomplish with a series of articles in the Trillium magazine is a dialogue between the OHA and horticultural society members. If you disagree with what I write - let me know. Things move forward when there is open communication between people and when they work together.

Marvin Myhre, Education Committee

Panel Members Needed!

Members of OHA societies, who are interested in becoming involved in a committee to study the activities of the Association and make recommendations about changes, are reminded to put their names forward to be a part of the *Organizational Advisory Panel* which will be formed this fall.

Full details were included in the Summer Trillium, but to briefly recap, the purpose of the panel is to examine the organization of the Association and the way it conducts business. The structure of the OHA, policies, and significant OHA activities will be studied, with an eye to improving performance, and ensuring that members receive the best value for their money. It's important to note that the panel will not be looking at expenditures on a line-by-line basis, but instead will be reviewing the OHA's business model, to see if it properly meets not just today's challenges, but those that will face us in the future.

If you are interested in being a part of the panel, or are looking for more information, please contact **Malcolm Geast** at malcolm@eastyork.net or 416-429-4719. The panel selection will be taking place in mid-September.

Meet the New Directors...



Jeff Blackadar - District 2

I've been gardening since I was a kid when I replanted an azalea that a neighbour had thrown out. The idea of getting a great plant for free hooked me on propagating coleus, potato cuttings, cacti, and perennials. When I lived in a highrise apartment, I had dozens of indoor plants and tried hard to over-winter perennials and a mugo pine on my balcony. At this time I heard about the Ottawa Horticultural Society. When I took my then girlfriend (now wife) to Ottawa's Indoor Plant Show and Sale, it made an impression on me. A few years later I joined the society to get the OHS newsletter and was warmly welcomed to help out with the website and then on the board. I find community beautification projects, plant sales, increasing membership, and looking for ways to save money all rewarding. With the OHA, I'm now involved with our website. If you have ideas, comments, articles or pictures, please e-mail me: webmaster@gardenontario.org

Jennifer Plaus - District 11

The love of gardening I developed at a young age has grown and resulted in my having the privilege of serving the gardening community in many ways. Since retiring, I have become a certified Horticulturist and a Master Gardener. Within the OHA I have been an Assistant Director of District 11 for 5 years and now its Director. My husband and I own 7½ acres in Southwestern Ontario (zone 6b) on which we run an organic hobby farm. One of my continuing inspirations is our property which has been brought to life under our stewardship. It was mostly barren when we bought it. Since then, we have planted over 200 trees and who knows how many shrubs, grasses and perennials. We've also added several ponds. Every year we notice more wildlife of every kind, from mammals to birds to insects, sharing our land. We work on the principle of making our property a much more sustainable habitat that fits into the natural environment in which it resides. We are able to be fairly self sufficient with our food in terms of meat, veggies, and fruit. One of my main concerns is for our environment and I take every opportunity to share my passion for gardening and my knowledge. I love to learn as well as teach, through Powerpoint presentations to various groups, about organic/natural, pesticide free gardening, and veggie gardening. I believe that the OHA was in the past, is now, and has the potential to be, a real force for change within our province. I am privileged to be part of this exciting time in the long history of the OHA.



Pat Stachon - District 1

District #1 is the most easterly and southerly of all the districts within the OHA. My name is Patricia Stachon and I live on a sheep and cattle farm in Metcalfe, Ontario. I retired from community health nursing during the last century in 1997, and took up gardening with a vengeance. I am short on years and years of experience but love my garden passionately.

In 1998 I joined the Russell and District Horticultural Society, and became a Master Gardener too. I think I am making up for lost time. It is an honour and a pleasure to represent District #1.

Nancy Serrick - District 5



Long ago and far away . . . kidding. I was raised in Keswick Ontario, lived in Toronto for 30 years, then moved back to the family home in the 90s where my cats and I garden now. I serve(d) on horticultural committees, became Society President and am now a new District Director. My career was with one of Canada's largest investment dealers, on the administration side, where I was Vice President, Compliance, Western Region, meaning I was based in T.O. but had to travel to branches throughout the west. Quelle hardship!

How'd I get into gardening? My dad had vegetable and flower gardens while we were growing up. My sister, brother and I have the hoeing scars to prove it. In addition, I had an aunt who belonged to a society and she'd constantly urge, "Join the local hort, Nance, you'll love it. You'll learn lots and you'll meet the nicest people!"

....and my auntie was never wrong.

Suzanne Hanna - District 13

I was born in Edmonton, but have made my home in Sault Ste. Marie since 1977. I am married with three children. Employed as a Personal Support Worker since 1979 with Community Living Algoma, I support individuals with intellectual and/or physical challenges who strive to live fully in our communities. I also work seasonally at New North Greenhouses.

An organic gardener for the past 35 years, I enjoy speaking and writing about horticulture. I am immediate Past President of the Sault Ste. Marie Horticultural Society and now the Director of District 13, having served two terms as the Assistant Director for the Algoma area.

I am an active volunteer in my community, serving on numerous boards and committees of a number of organizations including Clean North, City Beautification, Algoma Food Network, and the Historic Sites Board. I am most proud of my role in the development and delivery of a "Grow up Green" gardening program to over 60 children who live in family housing sites across the Sault, the creation of sensory gardens, and my seven year involvement with the Allard Street Community Garden, which I helped create in 2003. I serve as the Garden Coordinator of this award-winning garden that provides space for over 200 people of all ages, abilities, and incomes to grow their own healthy, nutritious food. The Allard St. Garden has recently served as the inspiration for the creation of over eight new community gardens in the North in the past year.



Recognizing the importance of preserving Canada's genetic plant heritage and the need for seed-saving, I co-organized the Sault's annual Seedy Saturday event which is now entering its third season. I teamed up with Markus Schwabe of CBC Radio for the Morning North Garden program, encouraging gardeners in the North to try heirloom varieties and share their experiences. Passionate about the environment and the need to involve youth in gardening, I lead a troop of guerrilla gardeners armed with trowels and plants to perform "random acts of gardening" at night.

I openly encourage our societies in District 13 and throughout the entire OHA to be more active, to develop a sense of community in our neighbourhoods, and to "sow the seeds of beauty in people's minds." It is about time to we all joined the revolution and practiced a little clandestine cultivation. We need to rekindle our sense of humour and have more fun with gardening if we hope to grow in the future.

Editor's Note: My sincere apology to Suzanne for misspelling her name in the summer issue!

Pulling Together to Eradicate Garlic Mustard



Introduced to North America by pioneers as a pot herb, garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) has been spreading rapidly. By seeding prolifically and releasing chemicals into the soil that reduce the growth of other plants, garlic mustard keeps expanding its range. Our most beautiful woodland plants and trees, like our native trillium and sugar maple, are endangered by the unchecked spread of this most invasive species.

This spring, Biodiversity Education Awareness Network (BEAN) called upon organizations to participate in a first time provincial effort to eradicate garlic mustard (GM). To raise awareness about our garlic mustard problem, Oakville Horticultural Society partnered with the Town of Oakville for series of garlic mustard pulls that were planned to coincide with International Biodiversity Day, May 22.

Over 100 volunteers participated in GM pulls at Winston Park Woods and in the prime oak regeneration sites of Iroquois Shoreline Woods. Participants included members of the general public, students from Rotherglen School, Oakville 15th Pathfinders, employees of Genworth Financial, members of Oakville Horticultural Society, Oakville Master

Gardeners and Oakvillegreen Conservation Association. These enthusiastic volunteers helped to protect vital woodland species and more importantly will help to spread information about the problem.

While we removed 87 large garbage bags of garlic mustard (thousands of pounds), we left abundant amounts of the weed standing. As this invasive plant will continue to increase in density and cause increasing damage to our urban forest and native plant species, we will need to develop a strategy to address its impact. While there is significant research in developing biological controls for this plant, it will probably be several years before controlling insects can be safely released.

You may recall that purple loosestrife was once damaging our wetlands and had to be carefully managed before it was brought under control by the careful release of species-specific leaf eating beetles and root mining weevils. We need a short term strategy to protect critical sites from garlic mustard damage until similar biocontrols can be introduced to provide a long term solution. Communities should direct resources for that stopgap solution. This should probably include manual removal and appropriate usage of late fall or early spring applications of glyphosate on critically infested sites, as well as public education.

Look for garlic mustard in your yard. A single plant normally lives for two years. It begins as an attractive low growing rosette with round-shaped wrinkled toothed leaves that smell like garlic when crushed. The bright green leaves are often visible late into the fall and early in the spring. Usually during its second year, the leaves become more triangular and the plant bolts. In late May, it will begin producing clusters of small, four-petaled, cross shaped, white flowers. Shortly after, slender seed pods will form containing two rows of abundant seeds. It is important to pull or cut this plant down before those seed pods form. In sensitive sites, cutting is preferable because it does not increase soil disturbance. Although the plants can re-grow if taproots remain, if it is continually cut back to the ground, it will not have energy to produce seeds and will eventually die. Plants with flowers or seeds should be placed in the garbage - not composted. This plant can set seed after it has been cut and those seeds are not destroyed by normal compost temperatures. Seeds will continue to produce new plants for at least five years.

If you would like more information visit the BEAN website at www.biodiversityeducation.ca/, or Catherine Kavassalis c.kavassalis@gmail.com. Together we can make a difference.

Some photographs of the Oakville Horticultural Society Garlic Mustard Events are posted to http://www.biodiversityeducation.ca/bean/past_events.php/garlic_mustard_2009.



Catherine Kavassalis
President, Oakville Horticultural Society

The Ontario Hosta Society

A New OHA Associate Member

Looking back at the original group who actually got the ball rolling for the formation of the Ontario Hosta Society in 1995 brings back thoughts of new friends, new relationships, new interests, and a new addiction.

Much credit must be given to John Kee, a life member of the American Hosta Society, who contacted others in Ontario who had shown interest in forming an associate group here. Many of us had been referred to John when we queried local nurseries, others were fellow members of the AHS, and still others were involved in the trade, either growing or retailing hostas, or both.

From the first meeting held at Landscape Ontario, it was clearly evident that there was sufficient interest to form our association. At that meeting there was much discussion as to whether we should focus on shade gardening or just on hostas and it was unanimously decided in favour of the latter. Of course it naturally encompassed many of the aspects of shade, but as we know, there are many sunnier sides to hostas as well.

While many at that original meeting were able to give the commercial aspects of marketing hostas, they, in turn, received much feedback from the ordinary hosta enthusiasts as to what they expected from the trade. It was a good cross-pollination of ideas that went a long way toward establishing the goals of our group.

The first executive was formed at that meeting and plans were enthusiastically adopted and initiated. As the spring came around that year we actively sought out members and along with the original attendees the membership started to grow (like a weed?). The first year ended with almost 80 members and in subsequent years has risen to over 300 with many coming and going each year. Many return and cite the excellent activities that we provide as the main incentive. This is a tribute to the foresight of that original group and the excellent executive members that have made their personal contributions along the way.

The Ontario Hosta Society offers its members:

- Four newsletters per year, bringing you up to date on current events, informative articles and photos.
- Annual picnics hosted by our amazing members at their gorgeous gardens.
- Knowledgeable guest speakers.
- Access to unusual hosta varieties at the annual hosta auction along with companion plants and many bargains.
- A bus tour each year which takes you to expert gardens and nurseries
- Assistance to scholarship and research funding
- Liaison with botanical and display gardens.
- Adoption program

For further information contact an executive member or visit our web site at www.OntarioHostaSociety.com



Russell's Dry Stone Bridge

What was once a village dump, early in the last century, became the first park in the Township of Russell when Dr. MacDougall, the town doctor and the **Russell Horticultural Society** planted trees on it, mainly white pine.

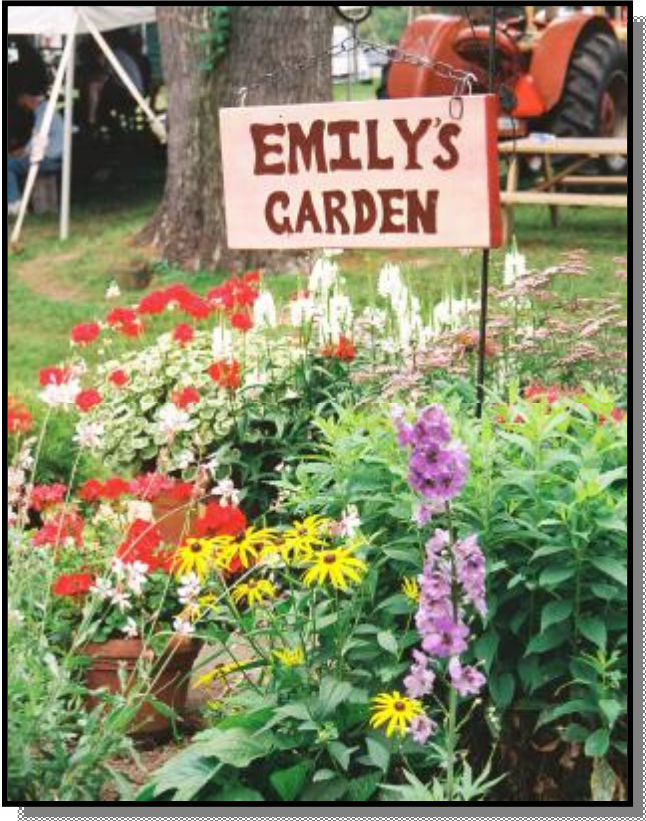
After decades of the Russell and District Horticultural Society's care we took it upon ourselves to rejuvenate the park. With the help of a member who is a landscape designer a new plan was drawn up and taken to our Township Council for approval. New beds were planned and planted. We replaced dying trees with mixed plantings and showcased shrubs and plants that grow well in our area—always adding some of our floral emblem, the Rudbeckia.

We visited Council regularly to report on the added value to the park; i.e. number of man-hours, dollar value of hours and materials put into the park; but we did not ask for public money. When we decided that we would like to replace a bridge that had once stood in the park we once again went to Council for their support – not their money, their support. With the financial support of the Russell Lions Club and many volunteers we are now building what we believe to be the first dry stone arch bridge in a public park in Canada.

Lindley McPhail,
President,
Russell and District Horticultural Society

*All gardeners live in beautiful places
because they make them so.*
- Joseph Joubert

Emily's Garden



The **Williamstown Green Thumbs Horticultural Society** participated in the 198th Williamstown Fair, the oldest annual fair in Canada, from August 5 to 9, 2009. The Society has a permanent site on the fairgrounds where a perennial flower bed was started in 2008. The site is on the side of a valley. One side of the garden was built with cultured stones and the other side encircled with natural stone edging. In 2009, perennials were planted from our annual plant sale as well as a few colourful annuals and other perennial contributions from members. In addition a Canadian native maple tree has been planted at this site. The funds to purchase the maple were received from the OHA as part of the 2009 special tree planting program.

This garden is dedicated to our oldest living member, Emily MacDonald, who is 104 years young. A sign for the garden and plant name tags were created for the fair. Part of the garden has yet to be planted with perennials so it was enhanced for this fair by potted plants from society members. The site was attended for full days on the Saturday and Sunday by Society members. A raffle was held with a rain barrel and a lady's brooch as prizes. The happy winners were Archibald MacDonald and Jim Morris. The Society also planted annuals in five window flower boxes on the Exhibition Hall on the Fairgrounds.

Mary Regan

Mulching and Pollinators

Just when you think you've got everything straight and are doing the best you can for the health of your garden and the environment, something else arises. And that's the situation I found myself in a few months ago.

I am a staunch proponent of mulch. My mantra has been: "Don't ever leave your soil bare!" Then I began my research on bees.

Many crops such as blueberries and almonds almost totally depend on domesticated European honey bees for pollination. Those honey bees are going through a rough time at present because of diseases, mites, and pesticides. The number of hives in North America has been drastically reduced by these problems.

Because of the decline of honey bees, the presence of native bees becomes important for pollinating the plants in our gardens and on farms: no pollination = no fruit or seeds. However, our native bees have also been under stress because of loss of habitat and pesticide use. Studies confirm that they, too, are in decline.

Most of our native bees are solitary bees. Over 70 percent of them build their nests underground. These ground-nesting bees burrow tunnels down to small chambers used as brood cells 6 to 36-plus inches under the surface of the soil. Inside these brood cells next year's bees develop. In order to build these nests, our native bees need *direct access* to the soil surface.

So what happens when I mulch? My wonderful mulch eliminates access to the ground for any native bees that might have built their nests in my garden! What then could I do to give our native bees a chance to thrive in my garden?



I'm already planting the kinds of plants that attract native bees but once they're in my garden, there's no place to make a home. Here's one of the things I intend to do. I'm adding "paths" of uncovered soil in the middle of some of my beds by pulling away the mulch. Into those paths, I'm introducing sandy gravel to increase the drainage. I intend to keep these "paths" as undisturbed as I can and fairly free of weeds.

It's not a big thing, but I feel it's important for me to do my part in sustaining our native bees. Our food supply may one day rely on these little blighters, and I want to make sure there are lots of native bees to do the job when that time comes. Can you do something too?

Carol Dunk, Conservation & Environment Committee

Burlington Horticultural Society's 90th Anniversary

In 2009 the members of the Burlington Horticultural Society are celebrating the 90th anniversary of the founding of our organization.

In 1919, when Burlington was a small town of less than 3000 people, twenty-five residents attended a meeting in the Anglican Sunday School room and established the local group. An enthusiastic supporter and organizer was the Rev. George W. Tebbs, recently appointed Rector at St. Luke's Anglican Church. The Rev. Tebbs, a former President of the Ontario Horticultural Association, had been surprised to find his new home did not have a branch of the Association. The proposed mission of the Burlington group was to beautify vacant street corners, place flowerbeds at town entrances, and assist and instruct local citizens on the topic of horticulture.

Early newspaper articles chronicled the continued success of the group – 111 members by the end of the first year, and the establishment of parks, as well as social outings to attend picnics and view the lilacs, or visit the Rose and Peony Show in Port Credit. Members of the Society acted as the Town's Parks Board for many years, doing much of the physical work involved in establishing local parks, including preparing the soil and doing the planting. Individual members often provided plants and shrubs for various parks.



Central Park Rose Garden

Spencer Smith, who arrived in Canada as a Barnado boy, was a charter member of the club. He was instrumental in developing the beginnings of a park which is now the jewel of Burlington's waterfront. Town property along a small section of Lake Ontario was drained, cleaned up, and designated as Lakeside Park. In spite of setbacks when the lake waves almost yearly damaged the shoreline, dedicated Society members continued to work to expand this beautiful park. Finally, in 1942 the park was named Spencer Smith Park to honour Smith's vision and hard work.

In the early years of the Society, membership was encouraged by the Burlington Gazette - "Join now and boost Beautiful Burlington", through their glowing reports of meetings and outings, and by members canvassing every home in the town. Membership was at an all time high in 1950 with 548 members. The rose was adopted as Burlington's flower at the suggestion of the Society, and the Society helped establish the Civic Rose Award to recognize notable front yard gardens. Roses are purchased annually for the City's Rose Garden in Central Park.

Members have been involved in encouraging tree planting. Spencer Smith established a town nursery and school children and Scouts helped plant many of the now mature trees that make the core of Burlington so attractive. In the 1980s, the Society helped create an *Honour Roll of Trees*. In addition, the Society has planted trees to commemorate special occasions. This year, on September 9th, we will plant an *Acer pensylvanicum* (Striped Maple) at Central Park to mark our 90th year. The Society can look back with pride at the accomplishments of its members over the past nine decades. We look forward to continuing to fulfill our original mandate of beautifying Burlington and helping her citizens enjoy and learn more about gardening.



The cairn honouring Spencer Smith in Spencer Smith Park.

Linda McKay, Co-President, Burlington HS

103rd OHA Convention Introduction – REMEMBER YESTERDAY

Good morning everyone and welcome to Peterborough. Peterborough lies in the Kawartha region. In the next few days you will be hearing a lot about this area. To bring perspective to the days ahead and in keeping with the theme *Remember Yesterday - Protect Tomorrow* I am going to briefly describe some of the history of this area.

It is very fitting to have you all gathered here because for thousands of years this area “the place at the end of the rapids” was a gathering spot for different tribes and families of the Ojibwe native people. The Ojibwe people used this area as a seasonal hunting ground for centuries before the fur traders arrived. Samuel de Champlain was the first European to travel through the waters of what we now know as the Trent-Severn waterway. In the 17th century the waterway became a significant transportation route for the fur traders. This economic activity totally changed the economy and nature of the tribes in the area as they began to compete with each other for trading rights with the French and English. Historically friendly tribes began to war. To avoid conflict many Anishnaabe temporarily left the area. Ultimately a small band of Ojibwe settled at Mud Lake, now known as Curve Lake, in 1837. Today the original territory of the Anishnaabe is much reduced, to three different First Nations communities in the district. However, the aboriginal influence continues to be felt throughout the Kawarthas.

Nowhere is this more evident than at Petroglyphs Provincial Park, 55 km northeast of Peterborough. Here is “housed” the largest known concentration of aboriginal rock carvings in Canada. Hundreds of years ago images were carved into a great expanse of marble stone - 900 images altogether that depict turtles, snakes, birds, humans, and other images. The site is hauntingly spiritual and preserves for all time the area’s important indigenous heritage. Another significant sight is Serpent Mounds on Rice Lake, the location of ancient native burial grounds.

Of note is that Trent University, where we are now meeting, was the first university to establish a native studies undergraduate program in Canada, and is the first as well to develop a native studies PhD program. Many place names in the Peterborough area reflect the Anishnaabe language--the river Otonabee flowing beside us, meaning “Mouth Water”; Lake Katchewanooka in Lakefield, “water of many rapids” and even the word “Kawartha”, a corruption of the word Kawatha, meaning “bright waters and happy land”.

And indeed this area is just that. The Kawartha Heritage Conservancy describes this area as “the Land between”- a broad strip of land between the St. Lawrence lowlands of Southern Ontario and the Canadian Shield of the North. It is a land of shining waters, of moraines and drumlins and erratics left by glaciers, of thick forests, farmlands, swampy lowlands, and rock lined canals.

The first white settlement in this area was established in 1818, after the British government negotiated a series of treaties with the native occupants. Settlers who arrived found dense forests, fast moving waterways, and interminable hardships. In the early 1800s the rivers such as the Otonabee were filled with rapids and travel was very difficult. A journey that today takes 15 minutes between Trent and Lakefield, took 24 hours of arduous travel in 1832. But settlers came, mostly from England, Scotland, and Ireland, because life across the ocean had become increasingly difficult for many. Emigrants were offered free land in Upper Canada and the prospect of becoming a prosperous, independent farmer was very appealing.

Two of the most famous settlers to the Kawarthas were women - the two Strickland sisters, Susanna Moodie and Catherine Parr Traill. These two sisters were brought up in England as gentlewomen in a well-to-do family. They were highly educated and had become established authors in England before they set out for the colonies. Both came to Upper Canada with their husbands in search of a better life. Their brother Samuel Strickland was an established farmer in Douro township (Lakefield) when they arrived in 1832. The reality of carving a farm out of dense bush was far harsher than anything they had ever experienced. In 1852 Susanna published a book detailing her experiences on the farm in the 1830s - *Roughing it in the Bush*. It described graphically all of the trials and tribulations that settlers encountered, and was intended as an “emigrant’s guide” to the colonies. Although Susanna never made much money from its publication, it was widely distributed and remains an important piece of 19th century Canadian literature.

Her older sister Catherine Parr Traill and her husband also began their life in Douro. Catherine published a much more cheerful description of life in the Peterborough area in her book *Backwoods of Canada*. Although she and her family suffered many hardships and lived always on the edge of poverty, she continued to write well into her 90s. She was especially attached to the natural environment and her *Studies of Plant Life in Canada* dealt with her favourite topic, the flora of the Kawarthas. If she were alive today, she would be delighted that so many people were here together celebrating horticulture.

In the latter part of the 19th century, the Kawartha area and Peterborough became increasingly settled and prosperous. Although rapids and falls initially impeded boat travel, they were perfect waterpower sites for sawmills and gristmills. Settlements grew up along the waterway we now know as the Trent-Severn at Scott's Plains (Peterborough), Nelson Falls (Lakefield), Bridgenorth, and Young's Point. Eventually there was pressure to build dams and locks, so that the movement of people and goods in the area was facilitated. The first lock was established in 1833 in Bobcaygeon - a small wooden lock. This was the beginning of 87 years of construction along the waterway. As other locks opened, communities gained greater access to the larger markets in the south. While the navigable waters now made it possible for products to be shipped along the rivers to Lake Ontario, recreational use of the waterway quickly gained popularity as well. In the late 19th century steamboats plied all of the major lakes and opened up the area to widespread tourist use.



Some of you will be taking a tour of the Peterborough Liftlock today or tomorrow. The Peterborough Liftlock opened in 1904 and was an incredible engineering achievement for its time. Even today it is an engineering wonder - a water elevator that uses hydraulic pressure to lift the equivalent of two football fields of water.

Much has changed over the centuries in this region. But in spite of development, this is still a land of shining waters, impressive rocks, and incredible beauty and diversity. Within a half hour of here, there still exists wilderness as dense as anything in more northerly parts of our province.

So as we begin this conference, remember what has come before to this wonderful land. The past is a gift, a gift that should inform and guide our judgment. We must not lose sight of the past in our efforts to do better in the future.

Pam Chellew, Lakefield Horticultural Society

And the Award Goes to...

At the 2009 Awards Banquet, Past President, Metje Mabee, announced the following awards to honour OHA members for their contributions to their societies and OHA.

Community Improvement Award presented to **Cathy Dueck**, Peterborough Horticultural Society, Dist. 4, by John Sellers.

Environmental Award presented to **Cathy Dueck**, Peterborough Horticultural Society, by John Sellers.

Award of Merit presented to **David Marshall** of Oakville Horticultural Society by District 6 Director, Celia Roberts.

Trillium Award presented to **Betty Douglas** of Orangeville Horticultural Society, District 7, by President Ken Fink. The Trillium Award is a silver brooch initially donated by Mrs. Thelma Boucher, who was OHA Past President in 1941 and is the highest OHA award presented to a lady.

Silver Fir Award presented to **Bruce Wilson** by President Ken Fink. This is a silver pin initially donated by Mr. Alastair Crawford, an OHA Past President and is the highest OHA award presented to a gentleman.

Silver Medal Award presented to **Beryl Harris**, Lakefield Horticultural Society, District 4, by President Ken Fink. This is a round, silver medal, suspended under a bar with the Association logo. It is made to be worn as a pin and is accompanied by a framed certificate. This is the highest award of the Association and is for outstanding work in the advancement of horticulture in accordance with the aims of the Association.

Honour Roll : **Kevin Healey**, Elmvale Horticultural Society, District 16 presented by Carol Dunk. Pictures and a biography of Kevin Healey has been included in the Honour Roll book.

Youth Leader Award presented to **Merleen Hall**, Oakville Horticultural Society, District 6, by Celia Roberts. This plaque is presented to a person who has been a Youth Club leader for a minimum of 5 years.

OHA's 103rd Convention

Remember Yesterday – Protect Tomorrow

The theme for the 103rd Convention was Remember Yesterday – Protect Tomorrow and while this event is over, the societies of District 4 challenge each member of the OHA to continue to use this as a springboard for future endeavours.

Thank you to the delegates who came to Peterborough. We hope you will come back again. Lots of activities occupied our days and nights. Speakers, adult and youth competitions, bus trips and boat tours entertained and informed. The barbecue and banquet were highlights of the weekend. The business of the OHA was also conducted at the AGM. This year an added bonus was having the Youth Camp located nearby. This meant that we were able to see some of their activities throughout the weekend.

Trent University was an impressive setting for the event and the conference staff bent over backwards to make sure that everyone was taken care of. Staying at the student residence may have given us all new insight and some new skills, like remembering to unlock the connecting bathroom door.

Even the weather cooperated – most of the time we were dry and the temperature was certainly comfortable. This was especially important as we walked around the campus.

The many volunteers who worked during the actual convention came from societies across the district and were highly visible in their green vests. Smiling faces and offers of help were always appreciated. They met challenges head on and I hope each one of them had the opportunity to chat with some of the interesting people who attended. For those who had never attended an OHA Convention, it was a wonderful opportunity to see what actually takes place.

In addition there was a legion of volunteers who worked off-site or in other locations, setting up or taking down. Dealing with the logistics of using two areas of the campus during the weekend was a challenge but everyone pitched in and got the job done. The organizing committee cannot thank our society members enough. It reminds us all that OHA is a volunteer organization and we depend on our volunteers for so many things.

Members of the OHA Board and our Youth Leaders were also out and about doing their part to make things run smoothly.

I would like to extend special thanks to Barb O'Malley, the OHA Registrar, who was a huge help to us all. Also to our 'volunteer wranglers', Anne Milne and Etela Vojnic and to, my husband, Gary for all computer related tasks he dealt with.

The organizing committee worked tirelessly to make sure everything was taken care of. Lenna Broatch, Beryl Harris, Rose Odell, Bev. Silk and Rodger Smith came through when we needed them most. They took on responsibilities and went beyond the call of duty. Our meetings were filled with laughter, no matter how difficult a problem we were dealing with. They made the process much more enjoyable.

Lastly, I would like to especially thank John Sellers, our District Director, for all of the work he has done, not only for this convention but also for our district as a whole. He was our spokesperson throughout and we all appreciate his efforts. Now he can go back to his garden for a while.

We all learned a lot and grew as a result of our experience. It was a great ride!

Dianne Westlake
Organizing Committee
2009 OHA Convention



Wow...What a Weekend!

There were 12 enthusiastic youth attending the camp this year. They were welcomed at the plenary session on Friday morning wearing their yellow t-shirts and carrying their own water bottles and cameras. A busy, fun-filled weekend awaited them! Mornings they could be seen in the dining room enjoying breakfast. They all raved about the delicious barbeque on Friday before heading over to the Athletic Complex for a swim followed by a camp fire by the water.

The youth spent their days at the Camp Kawartha outdoor education area about a five minute walk from the residence. They participated in team building activities which included an Inuit blanket toss, did some animal tracking and hiked along some of the many trails throughout Trent Nature Areas. A tour of a straw bale building, Camp Kawartha Environment Centre that is under construction, was part of their alternative energy session. Peterborough Green-Up supplied some native shrubs and flowers for the youth to plant near this building. Pictures were taken and a sign erected saying "Our Butterfly Garden" was planted by the "OHA Youth 2009". The weather co-operated as there was a bit of rain when they were planting and then it cleared for other fun activities. The youth learned some traditional skills such as making fire using flint. They enjoyed storytelling, singing and guitar playing around the camp fire on Saturday night.

The youth and leaders were welcomed back during Sunday's plenary session. It was a positive experience having the young people around during the weekend, and it is hoped they felt included in the 103rd OHA Convention.

Special mention must be made of the two extraordinary people who were the OHA leaders for the weekend...Ron Nelsons and Margaret McDonald. They were responsible for these youth 24/7 as well as taking charge of activities when the Camp Kawartha staff person was not in attendance...Thank you so much!

I'd like to thank the following for supporting the youth camp in a variety of ways:

Ontario Horticultural Association
Anonymous from District 2
Grafton Horticultural Society District 15
JT Promotions - t-shirts
Kawartha Pine Ridge Health Unit - Frisbees, lanyards, bookmarks, pins, etc.
Estate of Jean Tilney (Campbellford H.S.) - water bottles
Kodak - disposable cameras

Bev. Silk,
Youth Camp Co-ordinator



News from the Far North

Far North District 14 Director Marjorie Larson visited the Fort Frances and Sioux Lookout Horticultural Societies in August to judge their Flower Shows. The **Fort Frances Horticultural Society** had a wonderful show of entries despite the seasonally wet weather and displayed a trophy from 1925 that is still actively being used. Dryden had a record number of participants and Sharon McGillivray won 1st with her arrangement in "Shades". The Sioux Lookout Society had been very busy. Beverly Falhman was the "Grand Aggregate" Winner and shows off her "Best in Show" orchid in the photo at left..

**Flower Show – Celia Roberts. Chair
Ontario Horticultural Association Convention
Trent University, Peterborough**

Horticultural Competition:

SECTION A – ROSES

Class 1

1st Pam Chellew, Lakefield & District , 2nd Melanie Marjoram, Orangeville, 3rd Wendy Gay, Roselands

Class 2

1st Wendy Gay, Roselands, 2nd Mary Ann Vercammen, Aurora, 3rd Wendy Gay, Roselands, HM Wendy Gay, Roselands

Class 3 No Entries

Class 4

1st Pam Chellew, Lakefield & District , 2nd Gladys Fowler, Peterborough, 3rd Melanie Marjoram, Orangeville

Class 5

1st Emily Henkeleman, Nepean , 3rd Melanie Marjoram, Orangeville

Class 6

1st Melanie Marjoram, Orangeville, 2nd Wendy Gay, Roselands, 3rd Rosi Mikolajewski, Nepean , HM Bev Thompson, Lakefield & District

Class 7

1st Melanie Marjoram, Orangeville, 2nd Rosi Mikolajewski, Nepean , 3rd Melanie Marjoram, Orangeville

Class 8

1st Roselea Paliwoda, Minden & District , 2nd Emily Henkeleman, Nepean

Class 9

3rd Melanie Marjoram, Orangeville

Class 10 No Entries

Class 11

1st Pam Chellew, Lakefield & District, 2nd Melanie Marjoram, Orangeville , Pam Chellew, Lakefield & District

Class 12

1st Pam Chellew, Lakefield & District, 2nd Letty Barolet, Alliston & District , 3rd Lynda Burke, Richmond Hill

Class 13A

1st Roselea Paliwoda, Minden & District , 3rd Melanie Marjoram, Orangeville

Class 14

1st Bev Thompson, Lakefield & District

Class 15

1st Melanie Marjoram, Orangeville , 2nd Gladys Fowler, Peterborough

Class 16

1st Letty Barolet, Alliston & District, 2nd Wendy Gay, Roselands, 3rd Rosi Mikolajewski, Nepean

**SECTION B – HARDY PERENNIALS, BIENNIALS,
BRANCHES, VINES**

Class 17

1st Hazel Cook, Peterborough

Class 18

1st Rosi Mikolajewski, Nepean

Class 19

1st Wendy Gay, Roselands, 2nd Melanie Marjoram, Orangeville, 3rd Anne Clark-Stewart, Manotick, HM Melanie Marjoram, Orangeville

Class 20 No Entries

Class 21

1st Bev Thompson, Lakefield & District, 2nd Heather Bosman, Georgetown, 3rd Eileen Hewitt, Grimsby, HM Patty Carlson, Aurora , HM Gladys Fowler, Peterborough

Class 22

1st Melanie Marjoram, Orangeville, 2nd Hazel Cook, Peterborough , 3rd Toni Sinclair, Lakefield, HM Melanie Marjoram, Orangeville

Class 23 No Entries

Class 24

1st Bev Thompson, Lakefield & District, 2nd Sharon Belfry, Grimsby, 3rd Rosi Mikolajewski, Nepean, HM Wendy Fletcher, Grimsby

Class 25 No Entries

Class 26

1st Toni Sinclair, Lakefield & District, 2nd Sue Gemmill, Grimsby, 3rd Bev Thompson, Lakefield & District

Class 27

1st Lynda Burke, Richmond Hill, 2nd Bev Thompson, Lakefield & District , 3rd Wendy Gay, Roselands

Class 28 No Entries

Class 29

1st Toni Sinclair, Lakefield & District

Class 30

1st Susan Ross, Leamington, 2nd Rosi Mikolajewski, Nepean

Class 31

1st Rosi Mikolajewski, Nepean , 2nd Melanie Marjoram, Orangeville, 3rd Wendy Gay, Roselands

Class 32

1st Rosi Mikolajewski, Nepean, 2nd Hazel Cook, Peterborough, 3rd Hazel Cook, Peterborough

Class 32A

1st Susan Ross, Leamington, 2nd Wendy Gay, Roselands, 3rd Susan Ross, Leamington

**SECTION C – FLOWERING BULBS, CORMS,
RHIZOMES, PIPS & TUBERS**

Class 33

1st Rosi Mikolajewski, Nepean , 2nd Melanie Marjoram,
Orangeville, 3rd Letty Barolet, Alliston & District

Class 34

2nd Wendy Gay, Roselands, 3rd Wendy Gay, Roselands

Class 35 No Entries

Class 36

1st Pam Chellew, Lakefield & District, 2nd Hazel Cook,
Peterborough , 3rd Letty Barolet, Alliston & District

Class 37

2nd Melanie Marjoram, Orangeville

SECTION D – HOUSE PLANTS

Class 38

1st Anne Milne, Peterborough, 2nd Rosi Mikolajewski,
Nepean , 3rd Emily Henkelman, Nepean

Class 39

1st Hazel Cook, Peterborough , 2nd Rosi Mikolajewski,
Nepean, 3rd Emily Henkelman, Nepean

Class 40 No Entries

Class 41

1st Emily Henkelman, Nepean , 2nd Anne Milne,
Peterborough , 3rd Emily Henkelman, Nepean

Class 42 No Entries

Class 43

1st , 2nd, 3rd, Emily Henkelman, Nepean

Class 44

1st Rose Odell, Campbellford , 2nd Anne Milne,
Peterborough

Class 45

1st Rosi Mikolajewski, Nepean , 2nd Patty Carlson, Aurora
3rd Rosi Mikolajewski, Nepean

JUDGE'S CHOICE Rosi Mikolajewski, Nepean

Class 46 No Entries

SECTION E – SPECIAL EXHIBITS

Class 47

1st Sandra Williamson, Georgetown

Class 48 No Entries

Class 49 No Entries

Class 50

1st Hazel Cook, Peterborough, 2nd Sheila Ryan, Lakefield
& District , 3rd Melanie Marjoram, Orangeville

BEST IN SHOW Hazel Cook, Peterborough

Class 51

1st Hazel Cook, Peterborough, 2nd Bev Thompson,
Lakefield & District

Class 52

1st Marianne Van Tol, 2nd Gladys Fowler, Peterborough

Class 53

1st Melanie Marjoram, Orangeville, 2nd Bev Thompson,
Lakefield & District, 3rd Sue Gemmill, Grimsby

Class 54

1st Bev Thompson , London , 2nd Rosi Mikolajewski,
Nepean , 3rd Elizabeth Taylor, Stoney Creek



**Hazel Cook's
Canterbury Bells**

**Liisa Wolfgram
Horticultural Competition Chair**

Creative Writing Competition

Sonnet:

- 1st Valerie Connor, Orillia, 13
2nd Connie Suite, Kagawong, 13
3rd Sandra Flexhaug, Niagara Falls, 9

Cinquain:

- 1st Mary Ann Van Berlo, Gloucester, 2
2nd Sandra Flexhaug, Niagara Falls, 9
3rd Rosemary Kennedy, Brighton, 4

Story:

- 1st Sandra Flexhaug, Niagara Falls, 9
2nd Eileen Fisher, Englehart, 12
3rd Sheila King, Kemptville, 2

Best in Show: Story by Sandra Flexhaug

Dorelene Anderson, Chair

Garden

Natural, magical

Planting, growing, harvesting

Beautiful, bountiful, colourful, delightful

Paradise!

Mary Ann Van Berlo

Remember Today – Protecting Tomorrow

As earth's renewal once again endures,
And longer, warmer, garden days repeat,
A promised metamorphosis occurs;
And earth's cadence sways to a greener beat.

Remember today to renew starved land,
As hapless decay is tomorrow's woe,
Acknowledge burdening soil less grand;
Nourish and cherish each seed that you sow.

Conserving our precious environment,
Protecting nature's priceless habitat;
Endures new growth on land that content,
Future harmony - earth's rhythm's format.

Faithful flora confirms earth's awakening,
Heralding the circle of new life – Spring.

Valerie Connor

Floral Design

Class 55 – Saving the Best for Tomorrow

- 1st Melanie Marjoram, Orangeville
2nd Heather Bosman, Georgetown
3rd Letty Barolet, Alliston & District

Class 56 – Shooting for the Stars

- 1st Mary-Ann Vercammen, Aurora
2nd Melanie Marjoram, Orangeville
3rd Madeline Archer, Perth

Class 57 – Cool Rushing Waters

- 1st Madeline Archer, Perth
2nd Mary-Ann Vercammen, Aurora
3rd Letty Barolet, Alliston & District

Class 58 – A Bridge to Tomorrow

- 1st Letty Barolet, Alliston & District
2nd Gera Koster, Etobicoke
3rd David Archer, Perth

Class 59A – Dragonflies – Fresh Miniature

- 1st Mary-Ann Vercammen, Aurora
2nd Marie Decker, Oakville
3rd Marie Pearson, Streetsville

Class 59B – Dragonflies – Dried Miniature

- 1st Mary Ann Vercammen, Aurora
2nd Marie Decker, Oakville
3rd Rosi Mikolajewski, Nepean

Class 60 – Nature's Little Gem's

- 1st Letty Barolet, Alliston & District
2nd Melanie Marjoram, Orangeville
3rd Rosi Mikolajewski, Nepean

Class 61 – Susanna Moody's Bonnet

- 1st Melanie Marjoram, Orangeville
2nd Mary-Ann Vercammen, Aurora
3rd Heather Bosman, Georgetown

Class 62 – How Green Is My Valley

- 1st Melanie Marjoram, Orangeville
2nd Madeline Archer, Perth
3rd Gera Koster, Etobicoke

Class 63 – Bygone Days

- 1st Gera Koster, Etobicoke
2nd Heather Bosman, Georgetown
3rd Madeline Archer, Perth

Best In Show –

Melanie Marjoram, Orangeville

Judge's Choice –

Mary Ann Vercammen, Aurora

Marie Decker, Chair



Photographic Print Competition

Class 1 – “Dancing in the Moonlight”

- 1st Gloria Broks, North York, 5
- 2nd Ilona Drumm, Nipigon/Red Rock, 14
- 3rd Carolyn Ratcliff, Stouffville, 5

Class 2 – “I’m Seeing Red”

- 1st Kim Peel, Oakville, 6
- 2nd Ilona Drumm, Nipigon/Red Rock, 14
- 3rd Pamela Stierhof, Stouffville, 5

Class 3 – “Teardrops Keep Falling On”

- 1st Kelley Moody, Sault Ste Marie, 13
- 2nd Roselea Paliwoda, Minden, 4
- 3rd Kim Peel, Oakville, 6

Class 4 – “I Don’t Beleaf It”

- 1st Gloria Broks, North York, 5
- 2nd Marjut Mickels, Lakefield, 4
- 3rd Margaret Dudley, Belle River & Dist., 11

Class 5 – “Frosty the Flora”

- 1st Brenda Theoret, Cornwall & Dist., 1
- 2nd Eileen Fisher, Englehart, 12
- 3rd Judy McGrath, Pakenham, 2

Class 6 – “You Crack Me Up”

- 1st Judy McGrath, Pakenham, 2
- 2nd Linda Boyko, East York, 5
- 3rd Kathy Ward, Stoney Creek, 6

Class 7 – “Straight to the Bank”

- 1st Ilona Drumm, Nipigon/Red Rock, 14
- 2nd Liz McConachie, Markdale & Dist., 8
- 3rd Shirley M. Temple, Stoney Creek, 6

Class 8 – “I Pine for You”

- 1st Ilona Drumm, Nipigon/Red Rock, 14
- 2nd Marie Decker, Oakville, 6
- 3rd Art Ward, Stoney Creek, 6

Class 9 – “Country Roads”

- 1st Dick Wales, London Fanshawe, 10
- 2nd Kathy Ward, Stoney Creek, 6
- 3rd Judy McGrath, Pakenham, 2

Class 10 – “Close the Barn Door”

- 1st Virginia Dupuis, Gloucester, 2
- 2nd Richard Toivonen, Brantford & Sudbury
- 3rd J. James Tibbles, Sault Ste. Marie, 13

Class 11 – “Crooked as They Come”

- 1st Kathy Ward, Stoney Creek, 6
- 2nd Mary Ann Van Berlo, Gloucester, 2
- 3rd Linda Boyko, East York, 5

Class 12 – “Please Be Seated”

- 1st Art Ward, Stoney Creek, 6
- 2nd Kathy Ward, Stoney Creek, 6
- 3rd J. James Tibbles, Sault Ste. Marie, 13

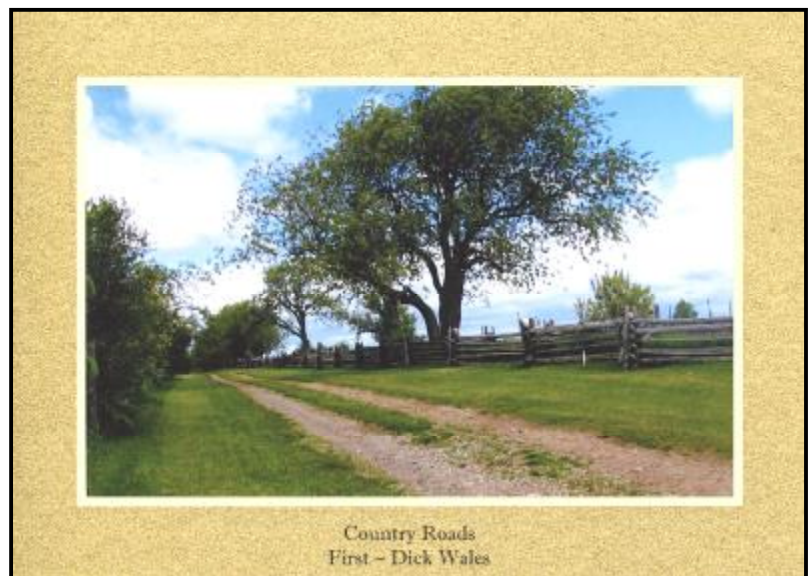
Class 13 – “An Open or Shut Case”

- 1st Carolyn Ratcliff, Stouffville, 5
- 2nd Marie Decker, Oakville, 6
- 3rd Dawn Crowhurst, London Fanshawe, 10

Class 14 – “Lean on Me”

- 1st Kim Peel, Oakville, 6
- 2nd Linda Pentney, Minden, 4
- 3rd Teryl Sewell, Markdale & District, 8

BEST OF SHOW: Dick Wales, London Fanshawe, 10



Ray Clement, Chair

Dear Ray,

I submit this letter to you, **Chair of the OHA Photography Competition** for the past three years, as well as to all photographers who are members of the OHA and its societies.

I have had the privilege of judging the Photography Competition for the past three years. What a great honour to be able to view over a thousand photos taken by dozens of photographers whose main focus in so doing was horticulture. In the process, I have seen a myriad of beautiful and exciting photos that I only wish I had been the “eye behind the camera” that captured the theme of the competition classes. Every one of the people who submitted photos is to be highly commended for his or her artistic talent.

As with all competitions, questions always surface when people are finally able to view all the submissions. Perhaps by addressing some of the queries, it can help photographers, in future competitions, eliminate some common errors.

Submission Date: Four to five days after the closing date is kept open for people whose photos were submitted in time but the postal service failed to deliver on time. Now who can think that a possibility!!!

Class: It has been argued by submitters that their photos were displayed in the wrong class. In every instance, by looking at the back of the photo, it was proven that the person sending in the photo had specified the wrong class. Unfortunately, that is solely the responsibility of the photographer. None will be changed, as obvious as they may seem... YOU are totally responsible for placing YOUR photos in the proper class.

Class Subject: Often, people submit photos that are excellent in all aspects, but they don't reflect the class as specified. For example, in the 2009 class “Frosty the Flora”, many submitted snow scenes, ice scenes etc. The class called for “frost on flora”. Be careful in your submissions.

Orientation: As with the above mentioned point, some photos are submitted as horizontal when they should be vertical and vice versa. Directions are very clear. Place your name etc, on the top right corner of the back of the photo as you want it displayed. If your tag is positioned in the wrong corner... sorry, we cannot assume that you want it any differently.

Mat Size: Very specific are the dimensions of the mat – 5 x 7. If it is smaller, it is disqualified. Large - disqualified. No mat - disqualified. And that's the final answer!

Photo Size: It has always been stated that the photo must be a 4 x 6 in a 5 x 7 mat. That issue was questioned by me over the three years as judge and has subsequently been changed. The photo can be any size that is within the 5 x 7 mat, but it still **MUST** have a mat. How can the judge know if the photo is a 4 x 6 unless the matting is ripped

apart in the instance of a backing having been applied – thus the reason for the change. You can show all or any part of your photo as dictated by the cut-out in the 5 x 7 mat. This feature allows for greater creativity... make use of it. Also make sure that the mat is **IN FRONT** of the photo and not the photo on top of the mat. That error will disqualify the entry.

Colour or Black and White or Sepia or....: The rules, to date, stated that all photos were to be in colour. That is not necessarily true. Some categories call for black and white or sepia or some other type of artistic interpretation. Please read the class descriptions very carefully before pressing the shutter button.

How the judging was done: Ray Clement was the Chair of the Photo Competition. At no time had he seen the photos prior to laying them out for me to judge. At no time had I seen any of them until all of one class was set out for judging. **AT NO TIME HAD EITHER ONE OF US SEEN THE NAME ON THE PHOTOS UNTIL AFTER THE JUDGING WAS COMPLETED.** The final choices were always a great surprise to both of us. And what a pleasant surprise they were. Each one evoked a sense of elation at the discovery of who had been behind the camera!

Was it a subjected view?: Of course subjectivity always comes into play – what judging doesn't? I did my best to be as open and candid as possible taking in all aspects of the judging criteria and be the best judge of the competition that I could be. Unfortunately that doesn't satisfy everyone. Frankly, it didn't always satisfy the Chair, but that wasn't his decision to make and I never let his judgment interfere with the results after the fact. He secluded himself while the judging was being done for each class and graciously accepted the results as presented to him. We discussed my selections but never changed them!

I hope you accept these observations as constructive information to help you achieve a higher level of personal satisfaction in the coming Photography Competitions. Remember, if you submit even one photo, you are a winner. Don't get wrapped up with winning a ribbon. Realize that you did your best and that's all that counts in the end. If you didn't get a 1st, 2nd or 3rd, **you got a 4th!** Think about it – you were number 4 **in all of Ontario...** how can you not be elated about that!

Please continue to take part in this competition. All of you are doing great photography. One person said last year, “I don't think I'll enter again... I never win.” That person did “win” this year! And is it all about winning? I hope not.

Get out there! Shoot, shoot, shoot and submit, submit, submit. Let's make this competition the largest one in all the OHA Convention Competitions. Let's show them we can do it! You have all done exceptional work and I know, looking at the past three years, it will only get better.

I respectfully submit this report,
Judge for 2007, 2008, and 2009

Publications Competition

Class 1 – Year book Cover: primarily hand drawn

- 1st Niagara Falls Horticultural Society
- 2nd Thunder Bay HS
- 3rd Scarborough Garden & HS

Class 2 – Yearbook Cover: computer generated

- 1st Harriston & District HS
- 2nd Lake Simcoe South Shore HS
- 3rd Oro-Medonte HS

Class 3 – Yearbook Cover: photographic

- 1st Guelph Township HS
- 2nd Lakefield & District HS
- 3rd Brighton HS

Class 4 – 2008/2009 Special Event Poster

- 1st Cloverleaf Garden Club
- 2nd Wilmot HS
- 3rd Richmond Hill Garden Club & HS

Class 5 – 2008/2009 Special Event Brochure

- 1st Cloverleaf Garden Club
- 2nd Brampton HS
- 3rd Leaside Garden Society

Class 6 – Club/Society Brochure

- 1st Cloverleaf Garden Club
- 2nd Brampton HS
- 3rd Niagara Falls HS

Class 7 – Newsletter Cover - hand drawn |

- 1st Lennox & Addington HS

Class 8 – Newsletter Cover - photographic

- 1st Richmond Hill Garden Club & HS
- 2nd Waterloo HS
- 3rd Lakefield & District HS

Class 9 – Newsletter Cover- computer generated

- 1st Niagara Falls HS
- 2nd Scarborough Garden & HS
- 3rd Smith Falls HS

Class 10 – Youth Journal/ Scrapbook

- 1st Brampton HS

Class 11 – Club/Society Bookmark

- 1st Leaside Garden Society
- 2nd Brighton HS
- 3rd Lakefield & District HS

Class 12 – Recycled Publication Item – no entries

Class 13 – Club/Society Promotional Partnership

- 1st Richmond Hill Garden Club & HS
- 2nd Brampton HS

Class 14 – 2009 Yearbook – letter size

- 1st Thunder Bay HS
- 2nd Ottawa HS
- 3rd Georgetown HS

Class 15 – 2009 Yearbook – letter size, folded

- 1st Guelph Township
- 2nd Harriston & District HS
- 3rd Richmond Hill Garden Club & HS

Class 16 – 2009 Yearbook – legal size folded

- 1st Mt. Albert Garden & HS
- 2nd Brighton HS
- 3rd Lakefield & District HS

Class 17 – Youth Yearbook – no entries

Class 18 – Show Schedule – current

- 1st Brampton HS
- 2nd Thunder Bay HS
- 3rd Chinguacousy Garden Club

Marj Larson, Chair

Web Shell Competition

I wish to thank all of the entrants for the examples they set for other Horticultural Societies. It takes dedication to maintain an award winning web site. If you spend some time browsing these web sites you will see the many hours of work it takes to maintain an up to date Society web site. Web sites are a vital tool to communicate with your members and attract new ones with articles, news, and photos. I also thank Malcolm Geast of District 5, our competition judge this year. Below are the competition winners.

CLASS 1 GardenOntario web shells using standard features as outlined in the manual "Garden Webs for Societies" or "Garden Webs for Districts" (as appropriate).
First: Cloverleaf

<http://www.gardenontario.org/site.php/clover>

Second: North York

<http://www.gardenontario.org/site.php/northyork>

Third: Pakenham

<http://www.gardenontario.org/site.php/pakenham>

CLASS 2 Horticultural Society web sites outside of GardenOntario.org Web Shells (including web sites hosted on GardenOntario.org subdomains.)

First: Oakville

<http://www.oakvillehort.org>

Second: Gilford (tie)

<http://gdhs.gardenontario.org/>

Second: Russell (tie)

<http://www.russellgardeners.ca/>

Jeff Blackadar, Chair
web@ottawahort.org

Youth Competition

Section A: Creative Writing

Class 1 “Soybeans”

Age 6 – 8 years

1st Alexander Wagler, Wilmot

Age 9 – 11 years

1st Cassidy Wagler, Wilmot

2nd Libby Marlatt, Scarborough

Ages 12 – 14 years

1st Shelby Wagler, Wilmot

2nd Dana Marlatt, Scarborough

Class 2 “Wild Rice”

Ages 9 – 11

1st Libby Marlatt, Scarborough

Age 12 – 14 years

1st Dana Marlatt, Scarborough

Section B : Artistic Creativity

Class 3 “The three Sisters”

1st Rainbow-Campbell

Class 4 “My garden”

Age 6 – 8 years

1st Alexander Wagler, Wilmot

2nd Emmah Douglas, St. Marys

3rd Henrietta DenDekker, Tillsonburg

4th Mackenzie Foley, Stirling

5th Ashley Lansely, Grafton

Age 9 – 11 years

1st Libby Marlatt, Scarborough

2nd Clayton McCormick, Tillsonburg

3rd Cassidy Wagler, Wilmot

4th Hunter Lapal, Guelph Twp.

5th Nicole Brenner, Guelph Twp.

Age 12 – 14 years

1st Shelby Wagler, Wilmot

2nd Caleb Spence, Tillsonburg

3rd Dana Matlott, Scarborough

4th Jillian Foley, Stirling

5th Sarah Veldhuizen, Tillsonburg

Age 15 – 18 years

1st Sarah McDonald, Rainbow-Campbell

Class 5 “Seed Picture” Maple Leaves

Age 6 – 8 years

1st Alexander Wagler, Wilmot

2nd Ashley Langsley, Grafton

3rd Lauren Ische, St. Marys

4th Terra Young, Grafton

5th Scott McClelland, St. Marys

Age 9 – 11 years

1st Libby Marlatt, Scarborough

2nd Cassidy Wagler, Wilmot

3rd Josie Lanslet, Grafton

4th Debra-Ann Drevniok, Gloucester

Ages 12 – 14

1st Shelby Wagler, Wilmot

2nd Melissa McDonald, Rainbow-Campbell

3rd Jamie Hazlewood, Grafton

4th Sarah Veldhuizen, Tillsonburg

5th Courtney Sovie, Grafton

Age 15 – 18 years

1st Sarah McDonald, Rainbow-Campbell

“Seed Picture” Oak Leaves Ages 6 – 8 years

1st Devin Johnston, St. Marys

2nd Emily Payne, St. Marys

3rd Madison Haines, St. Marys

4th Anysha Keller-Ivory, St. Marys

5th Hunter Reid, St. Marys

Class 6 “Our Feathered Friends”

Age 6 – 8 years

1st Emmah Douglas, St. Marys

2nd Jenna Korevaar, Tillsonburg

Age 9 – 11 years

1st Hannah Koert, Tillsonburg

2nd Michael Nelsons, East Oro

3rd Rebecca Dawson, Rainbow-Campbell

4th Nicole Brenner, Guelph Twp.

5th Hunter Lupal, Guelph Twp.

Age 12 – 14 years

1st Karissa Korevaar, Tillsonburg

2nd Melissa McDonald, Rainbow-Campbell

3rd Neil Bender, Aurora

4th Dana Marlatt, Scarborough

5th Gage Picard, Rainbow-Campbell

Age 15 – 18 years

1st Sarah McDonald, Rainbow-Campbell

2nd Mandy Sinclair, Scarborough

Class 7 “Welcome”

Ages 9 – 11

1st Grace Beaman, East Oro

2nd Natalie Shelswell, East Oro

- 3rd Michael Nelsons, East Oro
- 4th Bronwyn Kelly, East Oro

Class 8 “Country Living”

Ages 6 – 8

- 1st Emmah Douglas, St. Marys
- 2nd Jesse Johnston-Newell, Grafton
- 3rd Alexander Wagler, Wilmot
- 4th Daniela Druzgala, Scarborough
- 5th Tessa Young, Grafton

Ages 9 – 11 years

- 1st Darren Dickson, Scarborough
- 2nd Bronwyn Kelly, East Oro
- 2nd Jesse Johnston-Newell, Grafton
- 3rd Clayton McCormick, Tillsonburg
- 4th Jacob Douglas, St. Marys
- 5th Hailey Lansley, Grafton

Ages 12 – 14 years

- 1st Catherine Lansley, Grafton
- 2nd Caleb Spence, Tillsonburg
- 3rd Jamie Hazlewood, Grafton
- 4th Jill VanDaele, Tillsonburg
- 5th Sarah Veldhuizen, Tillsonburg

Class 9 “Our Miniature Garden”

- 1st East Oro
- 2nd Grafton
- 3rd Rainbow-Campbell

Class 10 “Harry Wyma Fine Arts Award”

- 1st Sarah Veldhuizen, Tillsonburg
- 2nd Jacob Douglas, St. Marys
- 3rd Henriette DenDekker, Tillsonburg

Class 11 “Don Matthew’s Award

- 1st Kendra Danner, Wilmot
- 2nd Sharra James, Rainbow-Campbell
- 3rd Rebecca Dawn, Rainbow-Campbell

Class 12 “Maisie Bray Award”

- 1st Stirling
- 2nd Rainbow-Campbell

Class 13 “Ruby Bryan Award”

- 1st East Oro
- 2nd Scarborough
- 3rd Rainbow-Campbell

Class 14 “Frances Lemke Award

Strahroy-Caradoc

Class 16 Ruby Lobban Award - total points.

- 1st Wilmot
- 2nd Scarborough
- 3rd Grafton

**Alexander Wagler’s First Place Entry
“My Garden”**



**Hannah Koert’s First Place Entry
“Our Feathered Friends”**



Anna Peterson, Chair

'The Three Amigos'



Memories of Convention 2009



Convention photos in this issue were taken by Pat Bastien, Ray Clement, and Hermina Hubert.