

## **Thames Valley District 10 Society & District Summary Report for year 2022**

### **Thames Valley District**

The D10 AGM was held virtually due to the ongoing pandemic, and the D10 Fall Workshop was held in-person in November and hosted by London/Fanshawe. The District Director and Assistant Directors attended in-person installation and celebratory events for our societies. The District also introduced a District Website this year to provide societies with access to district files, reports, society events, district events, and area events. Unfortunately, Tavistock Society was unincorporated this year, and Belmont & Area have also filed for unincorporation.

The District AGM is typically held in April each year. However, in 2022, due to the ongoing pandemic, the District Board decided to hold the AGM virtually. This decision was made as many societies were still uncomfortable with meeting in large groups. The hosting society covered the cost of a guest speaker, which made the AGM engaging, while also ensuring a quorum. Unfortunately, the District's financial situation was impacted as fundraising opportunities were limited at the virtual AGM. Some District 10 societies struggled financially caused by lower memberships, decrease in fund raising, increase in rental space, and increase in speaker fees.

### **AYLMER & DISTRICT**

A&DHS has had an interesting year. There are some residual impacts from the pandemic such as not being able to bring in treats from home for our meetings and no Potluck dinner at Christmas. However there have been fresh ideas brought in by the President including interesting games, a monkey survey online to allow for anonymous suggestions for improvements for the club and for the community gardens and parks. Also very encouraging attempts for new members to engage. A new member is on the committee that is planning the Butterfly Garden.

### **BELMONT & AREA**

Is in the process of dissolving

### **DORCHESTER**

Our membership has grown by a 'few'... but remains pretty good.  
We had good attendance at our Garden Tour/Strawberry Social in June.  
We enjoyed a Christmas Dinner/Social with a very good speaker/demo.  
We usually have a 'Garden Quiz' that enlightens and informs the members.



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## **DUTTON DUNWICH**

DDHS celebrated our 25th anniversary in 2022. Our most significant event was the installation of a bubbling rock for Centennial Park in Dutton using fundraising proceeds from previous years. A video of highlights of the 25 years was also made and played at several events as well as posted online. A flower photo collection and garden contest open to the community were also held. The Society had a presence at several community events including the local fair and craft shows.

## **GLENCOE**

Key highlights were holding Weeding Wednesdays in August - each tuesday we held a weeding Wednesday event in different locations i.e.: train station, historical society, community centres etc. around the municipality. We had some members and exec attend as well as council members and mayor to help.

## **GRAND BEND**

Our gardens, incorporating red and white flowers, were spectacular and added a welcoming flair at all the main highway entrances to Grand Bend as well as various local park areas. High praise and positive feedback were received from locals and visitors alike. Holding our meetings in-person, enabling our members to reconnect with friends and just be social again was another highlight of the year. Also, our society awarded a \$500 scholarship to a second year Fanshawe student in the Landscape Design Advanced Diploma program.

## **INGERSOLL**

We had interesting speakers and the bus trip in June was very successful - to the Butterfly Garden and to 2 garden centres.

## **KIRKTON**

Kirkton Horticultural Society was pleased to meet in person for the director's meetings. Virtual meetings via ZOOM have their advantages if the weather doesn't present favourably. Although the Open meeting attendance was down, those attending were enthusiastic and there were respectable entries in the accompanying flower shows. 2 of our workshops proceeded with directors sharing their expertise on pruning and pave' design. All in all a successful year.

Tincture" was ran during the summer. A 'soil improvement' workshop was enjoyed by 12 participants in September. In December, a Zen Floral Design workshop was held for those wanting to try their hand at a new experience.



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## **LAMBETH**

Since our focus for this year was centered around native plants, most speakers mentioned native plants in their informative presentations. We distributed native plant seedlings to our member as the premium. Our plant sale was held in May. To engage our members, we asked them to take photos of their native plants to be compiled in a special Hortigram. Donations were made to the Rotary Club and the Lambeth Cemetery Board. Our bus trip in June took us to the Sarnia area. Poinsettias were given to to the library and churches for their support.

## **LONDON**

We participated in Seedy Saturday (March 2022) and resumed our annual plant sale at Gathering on the Green (June 2022). The society continued to plant and maintain some gardens, including the flower beds at St. John's Ambulance, Rotholme House, the planters at CNIB and our peony bed located at the Tourist Information Office as well as some guerrilla gardening. In September we exhibited at the Western Fair and won 2nd place in the Bale Decorating contest. In October, we held our 170th Anniversary party at the London Civic

## **LONDON FANSHAWE**

Top priority was to celebrate the Year of the Garden by recognizing member gardens and garden walks, donating house plants to the food bank and nominating a garden "Hero". We were inventive with monthly meetings using Zoom, outdoor meetings and meeting at a local garden centre greenhouse. Our native pollinator garden matured and was added to this year. A stone marker with London Fanshawe's logo installed gives us recognition. We planted at Covent Garden Market and maintained gardens at Salvation Army Village and McCormick Home.

## **PARKHILL**

The Parkhill Area Horticultural Society has nothing to report that was outstanding in 2022. Volunteers planted several big planters in the Business section of the town, there was no Hanging Baskets as the streets were to be under construction all summer. That ended up not happening until November. Delays, Delays

## **PORT BURWELL-BAYHAM**

We planted all 45 of our community cement planters. We were able to go back to having our annual plant sale.

We rented a spot at the local festival Edisonfest in Vienna to sell remaining plants. We had garden tours throughout the summer. We had great informative speakers at meetings.



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## **ST. MARYS**

It was wonderful to be able to meet in person for flower shows and meetings.

## **ST. THOMAS**

We started the year with a virtual meeting in January and then moved to in-person sessions in February. It was so nice to see our members in person. We have had some great speakers. We changed to format of our meetings to accommodate regular sections on reuse/recycling and being more environmentally conscious and we invite our members to share any advice or tips. Through the repeated generosity of one of our members with donating Canadale gift cards donations to our local foodbank were promoted since our May meeting.

## **STRATFORD**

The Society started the Public Library Garden Rejuvenation in Feb 2021 and finished in November 2022. This project added communal meeting and teaching spaces and 5 gardens, with mostly native plants, to the library property.

## **STRATHROY-CARADOC**

For our 150th Anniversary Celebration, the Lion's Hall, was decorated to resemble a garden. Our guests had an opportunity to meet, visit and be delighted by visual displays of the society over the years. Many took advantage of the photo booth. Strathroy mayor brought congratulations and a certificate from the town, commemorating this event. Our District 10 and OHA president, brought their own congratulatory remarks, commending the work done by our society. A Past president shared an insightful presentation on the history of our society. Guest speaker Paul Zammit challenged us to see gardening in a different way.

## **THORNDALE**

Our society had a slow and steady return to normal, hosting interesting speakers while adjusting to new technology options in the new Thorndale Community Centre. Our society made huge efforts to restore gardens after summer construction on the main street. We held a highly successful Garden Tour, which had been on hold for two years with increased support from our local businesses and attendees. We supported a bursary for the Fanshawe College Horticulture Technician Program. We also returned to full participation in the Thorndale Fall Fair.



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OHA District 10  
Thames Valley

## OHA District 10 Thames Valley

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### **TILLSONBURG**

Given the enormous impact the pandemic had on our seniors community, whether it was illness or simply fear or being cautious, we weathered the events pretty well. We continued with the maintenance and nurturing of all 5 of our public gardens and starting with the March 2022 general meeting, we continued with our year as the same as other years. Our two bus tours (May's Annual Spring Buying Tour & November's "Sparkles" Winter Tour) were virtually sold out.

### **WEST LORNE**

We continued with our community work and yearly plant sale and were back to regular general meetings. We changed the location of our meeting location which allowing social distancing. Our plant sale and back sale was very successful this year. Best ever for revenue.

### **WOODSTOCK**

The main accomplishment of 2022 was being able to return to in-person meetings in May and to regain a sense of normality. The social aspect of the Society seems to be one of the most important reasons to bring members out to meetings. With a late start and with social distancing still the norm, we did not plan any extras such as road trips or a different fundraiser last year. Our Annual General Meeting, with potluck supper, in December was held at the Navy Club for the first time, which added a festive air to the event and was well attended.

Source OHA reports & District Reports for year 2022



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