



OHA District 10

Thames Valley

www.gardenthamesvalley.ca

4. **Resources** - On the GardenOntario.org website, there is so much information for Societies. **General Guide for Horticulture Society/Club Officers** (a printed copy is provided on the tables, but a newer version is being worked on by the OHA), **Meeting Guidelines, Bus Waivers, Photo Release Forms, Supplies, Awards & Grants** (which Kelly will talk to us about in more detail), **Speakers Lists, Judges List** and more. **Society pages** are free and where you can share info & events, a reminder to please keep these updated. **Every Society board member** should sign a **Code of Conduct of Oath of Office & Confidentiality Agreement**, a customizable form is provided under Resources.
5. **TPON** - Get funding from the Ontario government. They've changed the way you access Transfer Payment Ontario (TPON). As of April 17, 2023, they have switched over from **One-key/GO Secure ID** to **My Ontario Account**. For more information, please refer to [Creating a My Ontario Account](#) Transfer your profile to the MyOntario account using the same email address used on your TPON account.
6. **ONCA** – Ontario has updated rules for not-for-profit corporations under the **Ontario Non-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA)** that came into effect on **October 19, 2021**, with a 3-year transition period to comply. Under OMAFRA, the OHA and Horticultural Societies in Ontario are considered incorporated non-profit organizations as per the Agricultural and Horticultural organization Act. **As such, every Society will need to make any necessary changes to your Constitution/By-Laws/Rules of Governance to bring them into conformity with ONCA by October 2024.**
 - a. Charles Freeman, over a 20-month period, has created a guideline for the OHA, Districts and Societies on what changes we need to make to our Bylaws/Constitution/Rules of Governance to bring them into compliance with ONCA. A printed copy of his report is on the tables, one per Society. Charles has also clarified that as for the **Articles of Incorporation**, they are the property of the Society/Club. They are not applied for; they are simply submitted by the Society/Club with all of the other documents required to be sent to OMAFRA.
 - b. Changes made to your Bylaws/Constitution/ Rules of Governance must be approved at an annual general meeting or a special meeting of your members to come into effect.