

President Report from the October Board Meeting 2024

The Officers and Board of Directors of the OHA met in London October 4th to 6th, 2024 to discuss the business of the Association. The following are the highlights from that meeting.

Family Scholarship:



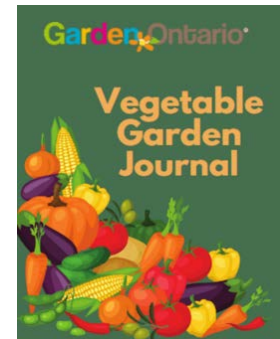
The OHA has created a new family scholarship for members and their families. Applications for the OHA/GardenOntario Family Scholarship will open March 1st of each year starting March 1st of 2025 with the deadline for applications being June 30th each year.

The application form will be posted to the GardenOntario website shortly. Please refer to the application form for all the details and read the article on the scholarship in the upcoming edition of the Trillium.



Vegetable Garden Journal:

A Vegetable Garden Journal created by the subcommittee of the Fundraising Committee has now been completed and distributed to the Directors in each District. These are lovely 2-to-3-year journals with pages of valuable information, blank pages for notes, square foot gardening tips, garden layout pages, information on straw bale gardening, plant hardiness map, beneficial bugs, veggie diseases and pests, harvesting and preserving and so much more. They are available for sale through supplies. If you would like to order, please contact Rose Odell at the supplies shop on the GardenOntario website. We hope to have a dedicated order form for the Garden Journals on the website soon.



Reg 16, Ag Act and ONCA:

Reg 16 currently states that a \$1500.00 grant will be given to an Agricultural Society to erect a structure celebrating their 100th anniversary. There is currently public consultation, which ends on October 14th, on a proposed change to include Horticultural Societies/Clubs in this grant. If no opposition, the newly worded Reg 16 will include a 1-time grant of \$1500.00 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of a horticultural society. The newly proposed wording does not include the requirement to erect a structure, but it could still be added before being finalized. The newly proposed wording also states that the grant would be retroactive. Further details and updates will be sent out once the changes to Reg 16 have been finalized.

There are currently amendments before the legislative assembly to remove the requirement of an audit for a Society/Club under the normal course of being a not for profit. We do not know when this will go through. Charles Freeman has suggested that all Societies/Clubs have the words "financials to be reviewed or audited" added to the Society/Club by-laws to cover either requirement.

Another change has come about because of ONCA. Starting on October 20th of 2024, all elected or appointed positions will require a written letter of acceptance. We are currently working on a template for Societies/Clubs to use to make this easier for everyone.

SWOT Analysis:

Each October, the Association discusses the SWOT analysis and strategic plan, and steps needed to keep moving in a positive direction. We welcome thoughts and ideas from our members on any potential strategic plan ideas. Please send your thoughts and ideas in before January as we will be meeting again to discuss this topic further.

Films Reflektor:

Films Reflektor has reached out to us as they are doing a series of videos on gardens. Some Societies/Clubs have been contacted directly and filming is currently already underway in the Toronto area. If you have not been contacted, but you have a garden you would like to have showcased, please let your District Director know and they will share the contact information with you. They are predominantly filming flower gardens but are willing to do community gardens or special gardens within your community such as historical gardens. The OHA is supportive of Societies/Clubs participating in this endeavour, but it is not a requirement. The project is running from now into next Spring and Summer.

Royal Agricultural Winter Fair (RAWF):



The OHA is going to have a booth at the RAWF which runs from November 1st to 10th. If anyone will be in that area during that time and would like to volunteer for an hour or two, please let Lianne Krane know. Her contact information can be provided on request. We did participate at the CNE and visitors to our booth were up from last year to this year. This is a wonderful way to promote the Association/GardenOntario.

Colour of the Year 2025:

There will be no colour of the year for 2025. Instead, there will be a theme which will be announced in PEI later this month. As soon as we receive the theme, it will be sent out to all Societies/Clubs.

OMAF Training Dates:

The OMAFA annual reporting training dates will take place on November 21st and January 15th. On December 9th, there will be a Zoom session put on by OMAFA. This will be a recorded viewing of the November training session with the chance to ask questions at the end.

After the November session, links to the training as well as a step-by-step YouTube video for submissions will be available on the GardenOntario website.

Fundraising:

GardenOntario 50/50 Raffle: The GardenOntario 50/50 Raffle is still going strong. Tickets are on sale for the current raffle which ends on December 14th. Please visit <https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/ontario-ha> to buy your tickets today!



Sipology Fundraiser: A new fundraiser began on October 7th and will end on November 30th with Sipology. This fundraiser provides specialty teas, hot chocolate, and accessories just in time for Christmas. This should be posted to the website soon and will be in the upcoming issue of the Trillium.



The OHA is looking to gauge interest on a garden sign that may say something similar to “A member of GardenOntario lives here” or “A member of the Ontario Horticultural Association lives here” with a QR code on it that takes the individual back to the GardenOntario website where they could find information about a society local to them. Please

let your District Director know if this would be of interest to your Society/Club.

Earth Day 2025:

Emily Posteraro from the Invasive Species Centre will be our featured speaker for Earth Day 2025 which will take place on April 25th at 7:00 pm via WebEx. A Save the Date Flyer is available for sharing with your members.



Society Membership Billing:

Please note that as per a motion passed at the AGM in July, dues will be increasing by .50 cents per member per year over the next 4 years. In 2025 dues will be \$4.50 per member, \$5.00 in 2026, \$5.50 in 2027 and \$6.00 in 2028. Please plan your budgets accordingly and consider raising your membership fees, if required, to accommodate the new increases.

Dubois Agrinovation:

Please remember to register with Dubois Agrinovation to receive 10% off your purchases. As a result of your order, your Society/Club will receive a 2% rebate, and the OHA will receive a 2% rebate. In order to receive the Society/Club rebate, your Society/Club must also be registered. Please visit https://duboisag.com/ca_en/ to register yourself and/or your Society/Club. If you require assistance, please contact your District Director.



OHA AGM 2025:

The 2025 OHA AGM will be taking place on July 19th via WebEx. It is extremely important that we have good representation from a majority of Societies/Clubs. We require a minimum of 100 voting delegates from a minimum of 50 different Societies/Clubs in good standing to make quorum. If we do not have those numbers, we would have to reschedule. Please mark the date on your calendar and plan to attend. There is no cost to attend, but registration will be required.



New Invasive Species

There is a new invasive species in Ontario called Hydrilla. It is extremely aggressive and loves slow moving streams, rivers, and lakes. It can grow up to an inch a day. It has been shown to be able to grow in every climate except Antarctica, at this time. Each fragment that breaks off can begin an entire new colony. It affects the flow of water which can cause it to go stagnant

and bring in mosquitoes. The areas in Ontario where it has been noted have been closed to boating, swimming, walking and any other recreational activities so it can be removed. It can rehydrate up to 6 years after being removed from the water. It looks similar to Elodea which is native and rarely invasive. If you see this plant or any other invasive species, please report your sightings to www.eddmaps.org or call 1-800-563-7711.

Society Benefits of Belonging Template:

A new Society benefits of belonging template has been created and is available now for all Societies/Clubs to use. This new customizable template will allow you to promote your Society/Club. There is space for your vision, mission and goals as well as all the benefits an individual will receive if they join. This document could be used during membership drives, on the Society/Club website, at fairs, shows and tours as a way to showcase all of the benefits of belonging to your society.



Awards and Grants:

Grants for Seedy Saturday/Sunday are due to the Awards Coordinator no later than November 15th, 2024. No late applications will be accepted.

District Service Award nominations are due to your District Director no later than January 20th, 2025.

If your Society/Club received a grant in 2024 and you have not yet applied for reimbursement, please do so soon. Grants expiring on December 31st will not be extended. Please apply for **Horticultural Service Certificates and Judging/Exhibiting Certificates** to recognize your members for outstanding service.

President Quick Start Manual

Updates have been made to both the Society/Club President and District Director's Quick Start Manuals. The President's Manual will be emailed out to all Societies/Clubs and will be uploaded to the GardenOntario website.



On behalf of the Association/GardenOntario, I hope everyone has a wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas season with family and friends. Browse through your seed catalogues, enjoy some tea from Sipology and we will meet again in the Spring.

Sincerely,

Sharlene Desjardins
OHA President