

District 10 Director Report

April 29, 2024

As I finish my first year as your District Director, I must say it's been an interesting and enjoyable year, with many ups and downs. Charles Freeman, OHA President, inducted me in the position last May, as I was still uncertain at our 2023 AGM. If you elect me as your Director today for another one year term, I will be officially installed by the membership. Some of my report will also be covered by the OHA President's Report, so will try to be brief.

1. Sadly in June last year, **Belmont Society dissolved**. Dian and I did our best to find an alternate solution for them, but it wasn't to be. Other Societies went to **Governance by Committee** as no one stepped forward to fill the vacant leadership positions. **Be proactive, put a succession plan in place** for prospective members who may be approached to fill the vacancies. Talk to them one on one, would you be interested in a year or two. We all lead busy lives, but your Society needs people just like you. Share the duties and delegate. Sure, you can do it yourself; but that's how many become overwhelmed and burn out. Put a good team in place as your Board of Directors and rely on them to help.
2. **Earth Day OHA Presentation online** April 19th – did you log in? Christina Sims spoke on why invasive plants are still being sold in nurseries. Long story short – because we keep buying them. We need to do better. Learn what plants are invasive. **Don't buy them, don't plant them, don't sell them at your plant sales.** If you have invasives in your garden (and many of us do; like the aggressive bully goutweed or the sweet fragrance of lily of the valley.) Learn how to dispose of them properly. Ontario Invasive Plants Council is a great source of information on invasives. The OHA Conservation and Environment Committee have put together a flyer to help Societies identify invasives that arrive at our plant sales. The recording of the Earth Day presentation is posted here: [Earth Day Celebration 2024 » GardenOntario](#).
3. **New Invasive Worm to Watch Out For:** Just a heads up as we are all playing in the dirt! The **hammerhead flatworm** has been spotted in St Thomas, Ontario. They are flattened, small to large worm-like critters that live in moist, terrestrial environments. Species here are typically yellow or orange with dark stripes to dark brown or black. They are most likely riding in all the plant matter coming from the US. The worms produce a neurotoxin used to paralyze prey, including earthworms, and there is the potential for harm to humans if these worms are touched. If you find one do not squish it or cut it, it will not kill it. Place in a bag and bake in the sun or place in a container of salt and seal before tossing in the trash. Report any sightings to 1-800-563-7711. The Invading Species Hotline is a valuable resource for the public, especially during times of increased public concern.
4. **Volunteers Rock!** District 10 Societies logged in more than **18,000** volunteer hours! Volunteers make a huge difference in our Societies and communities. Stand up if you volunteer for your

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Society (let's show our appreciation for each other!). Thank you! We couldn't do what we do without your dedication and service.

5. **ONCA legislation:** Hopefully every Society by now has gone through and revised their Bylaws and Constitution to comply with ONCA. We have until October 2024. Remember, any changes to your Bylaws and Constitution must be approved by a majority of your members at an AGM or Special Meeting. I've worked with a number of District Societies to help them bring their governing documents into compliance

6. **District 10 2023 AGM minutes Amendment:** **This has been emailed to all Societies.** **Flower Show & Results:** Bernice Barratt, District 10 Flower Show Convenor submitted the following report: The theme "Rock Your Garden World", and four of the design titles were copied from the OHA 2023 Convention Flower Show schedule. This is sort of a "dry run" idea for those thinking about entering the OHA competition. Participants were thanked for their excellent exhibits, with the judges giving special mention to the quality of the daffodils and design classes. There were 91 exhibits in total with 41 horticultural, 28 designs as well as 22 in photography. The convenor made the decision to sub-divide some of the classes that had large numbers of entries. This also facilitated judging within the shortened time allowed. Bernice thanked the flower show judges, Richard and Tena Poortinga (from Ingersoll), for doing such a great job with the shorter time frame! Appreciation was extended to the flower show clerks Deb McRobert (Kirkton) & Nancy Habermehl (St. Marys) for their excellent clerking. Comments from clerks and exhibitors will be applied to the 2024 schedule. Thank you to everyone for putting together a great show!

7. **Dubois Agrinovation** – This is very exciting opportunity for the OHA and all our Societies! Information packages were sent out to all Societies/Clubs and individual Society codes have been shared, plus a written guide on how to log in was sent to all Societies in March. If you still have trouble registering, a how-to video has been posted to the GardenOntario website. Gary Herdin is with us today and will be giving us more information. If you lose your code or need help logging in to register, please contact the District.

8. **Sipology Tea Fundraiser** – closed 2 weeks ago so that the products could be delivered in time for the AGM. We were close to reaching the \$500 minimum in sales, we had \$360 and the District gets a percentage of those sales. Marian Heil also will donate her commission. We don't have totals yet. The fundraiser will continue until the minimum is reached, but shipping will be on own going forward. It's amazing teas, some of the best I've ever tasted!

9. **BIOS Nutrients** Aaron Deacon has generously donated 200 free samples of his fertilizer to distribute at our AGM. It's amazing stuff! <https://biosnutrients.ca/>

10. **2024 OHA AGM Convention & AGM** – will be held in Guelph July 12-14, hosted by Districts 7&8, with the theme of "The Heartland of Gardens Growing and Rivers Flowing". If you've never been to an OHA Convention before, I highly recommend attending this one in

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Guelph. It may be several years before there's another this close. Some people have complained about the cost, but I guarantee you'll get a lot out of going. The Speakers, the bus trips, marketplace, entertainment, silent auction, and the opportunity to meet other gardeners from all over Ontario. (You'll spend as much or more \$ on any weekend away from home staying in a hotel and attending events, *and this is so much better!*)

11. **Invitations:** Please invite the District Director and your area's Assistant Director to your events or meetings. Your Society is important to us. Please add our emails to your Society Newsletter distribution so we can follow what's going on, hear what's new and exciting with your Society.
12. **In Memorium.** The following Society members have left us since our last AGM, may they be happily puttering about in their heavenly gardens. **Read names next page.** Their names will also be added to the In Memorium presentation at the 2024 OHA Convention in Guelph. If you would also like their name entered in the OHA Memory book, contact Kelly Taylor for details and cost. Please join me as we observe **a minute of silence** in memory and reflection as a gesture of respect.