



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

March 2025

OHA SPRING BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS AND INFORMATION



The Officers and Board of Directors of the OHA met via WebEx on March 28th and 29th, 2025 to discuss the business of the Association. The following are the highlights of that meeting as well as reminders for the coming year.

Family Scholarship

The OHA has created a new family scholarship for members and their families.

Applications for the OHA/GardenOntario Family Scholarship opened March 1st of 2025 with a deadline for applications of June 30th, 2025.

The application form is available on the [GardenOntario website](https://www.gardenontario.org). Please refer to the application form for all the details and take the time to read the article in the most recent issue of the Trillium.

GardenOntario
Member or Family Member
Scholarship Program

Invest in Your Future With Our Program

We are thrilled to announce our Scholarship Program, designed to empower ambitious individuals like you to achieve your academic goals in a horticultural related field. Let's create a better tomorrow through education!

Details of the Scholarship:

- Member, Child, Stepchild, Grand child or Step-Grandchild
- Up to \$1000 Scholarship Awarded Yearly
- For attendance at Post Secondary Education Institute in Ontario
- Minimum of 2 Year Program

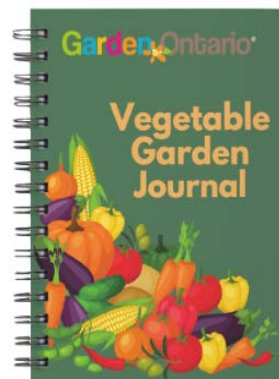
Don't miss this opportunity. Check out the application for all the details and how to apply. Deadline to apply is June 30th

WWW.GARDENONTARIO.ORG

Vegetable Garden Journal



Garden Journals are still available for purchase for \$20 each. 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 a Vegetable Garden Journal, please order them through Supplies on the [GardenOntario website](https://www.gardenontario.org/shop/).

SWOT Analysis

We are still welcoming ideas from members to be brought forward for discussion at the October Board Meeting. If you have any thoughts, please send an email to the OHA President at president@gardenontario.org outlining your idea, the pros and cons involved, any financial implications and the rationale behind it.

CNE and RAWF

The OHA had a booth and representation at the CNE in previous years and at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair for the first time last year. Both of these events have been huge hits with the public, garnering new memberships and allowing us to get the word out about the Association, the importance of pollinators and invasive species to watch for. The CNE will take place from August 15 to September 1st, 2025, and the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair will be taking place from November 7th to November 16, 2025.



OHA Annual General Meeting 2025

The 2025 OHA Annual General Meeting will be taking place on July 19th via WebEx starting at 9 am.

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 to make quorum. Please mark the date on your calendar and plan to attend.

Registration is Open Now at:

<https://forms.gle/ygQCqo8LVfnoZS3W6>

Further details of the AGM will be available on the [GardenOntario website](https://www.gardenontario.org/).

Convention 2026

Details on the 2026 Convention and Annual General Meeting will be sent to all Societies/Clubs as soon as information becomes available.



OHA Treasurer Position

Marian Heil, OHA Treasurer for the last 4 and ½ years has retired from the position effective March 31st, 2025. Marian brought a wealth of knowledge to the Association and was an excellent Treasurer. She was a true asset to the organization and will be missed by everyone who knows her. We wish Marian all the best in her future endeavours!

We would like to welcome Joy Cosmas Osiagwu to the Board of Directors as the new OHA Treasurer. Joy has an extensive financial background and will be an excellent addition to the Association. We look forward to working with Joy and continuing to move the Association forward in a positive way. Please don't hesitate to reach out to Joy with any financial questions you may have. Joy can be reached at treasurer@gardenontario.org.

Judging School and Updates Position Coordinator

Longtime Judging School and Updates Coordinator, Jim Mabee, retired at the end of 2024. Jim was an excellent coordinator and assisted with many schools and updates over the years. We wish Jim well in his future endeavours!

We welcome Penny Stewart as the new Judging School and Updates Coordinator in early 2025. There is a Judging School planned to begin in late May for Districts 1, 2 and 3. Should your District wish to host an update or a school, please contact Penny for more information at judgingschoolcoordinator@gmail.com.

OHA Resolutions Chair Position

A new position has been created to have a dedicated individual in the role of Resolutions Chair. Charles Freeman was offered and accepted the position and will begin his new role on July 20th, 2025, immediately following the 2025 Annual General Meeting. Charles will continue to offer assistance to Societies/Clubs and Districts with their Constitutions and By-Laws and will prepare or receive resolutions to be brought forward.

Insurance Documentation and FAQ

A new insurance summary document as well as an insurance FAQ was sent to all societies and can also be accessed on the GardenOntario website in the secure sign in section. We hope that these documents will answer many questions members have brought forward regarding coverage.

New OMAFA Honourable Minister, Trevor Jones



We have been advised by email that Honourable Minister Trevor Jones has been appointed as the new Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness. A letter will be sent to him shortly introducing the OHA and the Societies/Clubs and what our mission, goals and purpose is in Ontario.

GardenOntario 50/50 Draw



Total Winnings of \$3475.00
Winning Ticket No. C-23236



Next Draw Deadline for Tickets:
July 18, 2025

Next Draw Date: July 19, 2025

Ticket Packages
A - 10 for \$10.00
B - 40 for \$20.00
C - 200 for \$50.00
D - 700 for \$75.00

We are thrilled to announce the winner of the March 8th Raffle Box Draw!! Please congratulate Leslie Daniels from District 9 who won \$3,475 with ticket number C-23236.

Our 50/50 raffle draws will continue in 2026! Our next draw will take place on July 19th at the OHA virtual AGM. Please share the word and links about the 50/50 raffle and encourage friends and family to purchase tickets to help support the Association.



Tickets can be purchased at <https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/ontario-ha>.

Updated Code of Conduct

The OHA has recently updated our Code of Conduct, and the document was approved at the March Board Meeting on March 29, 2025. This was a collaborative effort between the OHA Code of Conduct Committee and the OHA Appeals Committee. We are thankful for all the input received.

Earth Day 2025

The OHA will be holding an Earth Day Celebration!

Join us on April 25th at 7 pm via WebEx for this Free Webinar!

No Registration Required. First come, first served to the 1st 1000 attendees. The WebEx Link has been shared with all Societies/Clubs and is on the GardenOntario.org website.

Emily Posteraro from the Invasive Species Centre will be speaking on the “**Spotted Lanternfly and the Box Tree Moth**”.

We will also have **Kathy Smyth, OHA Past President**, speaking about the “**Ease of Growing Vegetables and Herbs**”.

Please save the date and join us for these engaging and informative topics.



Climate Action Trivia Cards

Our Conservation and Environment committee has designed some wonderful climate action trivia cards that can be downloaded and printed for your use at the Society/Club/District level. These cards could be used 1 or 2 at a time in your newsletters to pique interest in climate change, as a conversation starter or ice breaker or in any way you choose. Please find these on the GardenOntario website soon!

On Monday, April 7th at 2:00 pm, Lorraine Johnson will speak on Gardening for the Planet via Zoom.

Climate Legacy and the Ontario Horticultural Association are partnering on a new webinar: Gardening for the Planet! We're thrilled to welcome advocate, writer, and cultivation activist extraordinaire Lorraine Johnson as our speaker.

Please join us for a free webinar April 7, 2025, from 2-3:30 pm

Registration Link: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_RT-XDCYBQxm_pGZ1NR40Uw

Climate change threatens ecosystem health and is already negatively impacting plants and animals in Ontario and globally. Existing challenges such as the spread of ticks and invasive species are increasing. And certain gardening practices, such as using pesticides or fertilizer, can actually contribute to climate change. If you're wondering how to make your garden more resilient to our changing climate, and a space that supports local biodiversity, we hope you will join us on Monday, April 7th!



Options for Planting/Grow Me Instead Cards

The Conservation and Environment Committee have developed Options For Planting/Grow Me Instead business cards. The card will have a QR code on the back which will take you directly to the Ontario Invasive Plant Council website where you can access the Grow Me Instead pamphlet for your area. The jpegs of the card will be uploaded to the website so it will be accessible to societies for printing as well as available at <https://gardenontario.ourproshop.ca/>



Reg 16 and ONCA

Reg 16 will come into effect on July 1st of 2025. This will offer Societies/Clubs celebrating their 100th anniversary the opportunity to receive a one-time grant of \$1500.00 to erect a structure to commemorate the event. Further details will be shared once available.

Due to amendments to remove the requirement of an audit for a Society/Club under the normal course of being a not for profit, the OHA is recommending that all Societies/Clubs have the words "financials to be reviewed or audited" added to the Society/Club by-laws to cover either requirement.

Consent to Hold Office

Another change has come about as a result of ONCA. Starting on October 20th of 2024, all elected or appointed positions will require a written letter of acceptance. A template is available for Societies/Clubs to use to make this transition easier on the [GardenOntario website](#).

Theme of the Year 2025



Communities in Bloom Canada invites you to join them in exploring our **Theme of the Year: Edible Gardens**. Growing your own food is a powerful way to support sustainability, enhance local ecosystems, and build stronger connections within our communities. It also provides a meaningful response to the challenges of food insecurity. This year let's focus on creating edible landscapes that nourish both people and the environment. Together, we'll plant the seeds for a greener, healthier future!

Society/Club Billing

Please note that as per a motion passed at the Annual General Meeting in July 2024, 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 budget accordingly and raise your membership fees, if required, to accommodate the new increases.

Dubois Agrinovation



Start your gardening season with Bio Plus!

The Bio Plus range is designed to help you put simple techniques into practice so that you can enjoy the pleasure of gardening to its fullest.

Quality products in your garden

Developed by Dubois Agrinovation, **Bio Plus** guarantees professional-quality products for home gardening. Canada's favorite gardening accessories are now available in sizes that are accessible to ALL gardeners! Garden like a pro, **work less** and harvest more.



Please remember to register with Dubois in order to receive 10% off of your purchases. As a result of your order, your society will receive a 2% rebate and the OHA will receive a 2% rebate. In order to receive the society rebate, your society must be registered. If you need assistance, please contact your District Director. Please note that new items as well as seeds have been added to the list of available items for purchase.

Awards and Grants



The OHA will be recognizing this year Award's recipients at the OHA Annual General Meeting via WebEx on July 19th, 2025. Full details of the Awards recipients will be available on the GardenOntario website after the Annual General Meeting.

Please apply for Horticultural Service Certificates and Judging/Exhibiting Certificates to recognize your members for outstanding service. Forms are available on the [GardenOntario website](https://www.gardenontario.org).

Best Wishes For The Season Ahead

On behalf of the Association/GardenOntario, I hope everyone has a wonderful Easter with family and friends.

Keep the thought of Edible Gardens in your mind as you plant and good growing to all in the season ahead.

I hope to see everyone at the Virtual Annual General Meeting on July 19th.



Sincerely,

Sharlene Desjardins
OHA President

