

## District 10 – 2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**Meeting Start:** 9:02 am

### Call to Order & Welcome by Jennifer Lewington (Stratford)

Jennifer welcomed everyone and addressed the attendees reviewing facility safety and building logistics details, reading the Land Acknowledgement Statement and introducing the singing of 'O Canada'.

### Introduction of District 10 Director, Joyce Schlegel (Strathroy-Caradoc)

Jennifer introduced Joyce and subsequently Joyce welcomed everyone and thanked Stratford Horticultural Society for the warm welcome as well as the hard work on the AGM noting how beautiful the room setup was.

### Introduction of District 10 Board:

Joyce (District 10 Director) introduced the current District 10 board:

- **Assistant Director Perth & Lambton Shores** – Deb Pihl (Kirkton)
- **Assistant Director Elgin** - Jean-Marie Steward (St. Thomas)
- **Assistant Director Middlesex** - Pat Graham (London)
- **Assistant Director Oxford** - Agnes Burroughs (Dorchester)
- **Secretary (outgoing)** - Jennifer Prgesa (Thorndale)
- **Secretary (incoming)** - Cate O'Neill (Strathroy-Caradoc)
- **Webmaster** - Leslie Whittington-Carter (Dutton-Dunwich)

### Roll Call:

There were 117 attendees in total with 20 societies registered and in attendance:

|                      |                        |                   |               |                    |
|----------------------|------------------------|-------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Aylmer: 3            | Dorchester: 6          | Dutton-Dunwich: 3 | Glencoe: 1    | Grand Bend: 3      |
| Ingersoll: 8         | Kirkton: 9             | Lambeth: 5        | London: 8     | London-Fanshawe: 6 |
| Parkhill: 2          | Port Burwell-Bayham: 3 | St. Marys: 9      | St. Thomas: 8 | Stratford: 11      |
| Strathroy-Caradoc: 9 | Thorndale: 6           | Tillsonburg: 7    | West Lorne: 3 | Woodstock: 7       |

### Minutes of 2024 AGM By Jennifer Prgesa (Thorndale), District 10 Secretary:

[D10 2024 AGM Meeting Minutes](#) were distributed via email Feb 4, 2025 to regular email contacts and no errors or omissions were reported via email or in the room.

Motion to accept the updated 2024 AGM minutes as distributed – Deb Pihl (Assistant Director Perth & Lambton Shores). Seconded by Jean-Marie Steward (Assistant Director Elgin). Carried.

### Director's Report:

Joyce (District 10 Director) read her [2025 District 10 Directors Annual Report](#) as submitted to the OHA.

### Key Highlights:

- Society AGMs & Visits including helping societies navigate changes to their Constitution and Bylaws to comply with Ontario Non-Profit Corporations ACT (ONCA)
- Elections – illegal to have financial authority without proper due process for elections (handouts made available)
- D10 is missing out on awards offered by OHA. Look into what your society could qualify for.
- Scammers – be vigilant to look for unusual requests. e.g. logins for Garden Ontario which never expire
- Volunteers were thanked and don't forget to take time to appreciate yourself!
- Unfortunately there is a discrepancy in the finances, therefore there was no financial report to distribute however a financial statement was prepared. The OPP and OHA are involved in investigating the issue. Printed copies of the financial statement were made available.
- Thanks to donators of quilt and other silent auction table items and to [Garden Centre - Firefield Landscape Supply](#) for donating draw plants.

### Prizes & Draws:

Society prizes were distributed by drawing randomly one name from all attendees per society.

### Announcements - Joyce:

- Boards are reminded that Code of Conduct needs to be signed. Doing this right after elections is a good time.
- A proposal for revised constitutions and bylaws was distributed (will also email) – changed the name from 'procedures & ....'. This will not be voted on and will be taken up at later date possibly by virtual. Updated version of D10 bylaws can be found here: [District-10-Bylaws-Procedures-and-Protocols-FINAL-2024-1.pdf](#)
- OHA has a new scholarship program. Any member of society who is receiving education. Three \$1000 scholarships will be available
- Invasive plant booklets were made available
- [Dubois Agrinovation CA](#) offers a sponsorship program that can raise funds for OHA and society. The agreement allows for 2% rebate to local society (quarterly payments) and 2% OHA rebate (quarterly payments) for all purchases. Get number from Joyce for discounts. Gary Hendin is the contact.

### District 10 Board Nomination Report:

Reminder to societies to get the board to sign the nomination consent form to protect the society and board members. Have everyone on the board sign, including appointed positions, and keep the signed form within society records. These records should be stored for a minimum of 7 years.

Joyce presented the status of the board and the vacated positions to prepare for installation of the board and secret ballot election if required. The following existing board members have agreed to stand for their existing positions:

- **District 10 Director:** Joyce Schlegel (Strathroy-Caradoc)
- **Assistant Director Elgin:** Jean-Marie Steward (St. Thomas)
- **Assistant Director Oxford:** Agnes Burroughs (Dorchester)
- **Assistant Director Perth & Lambton Shores:** Deb Pihl (Kirkton)

The following new members have agreed to stand for the following vacated board positions:

- **Assistant Director Middlesex:** Ann Larkin (London)

All other positions will be appointed by the board.

### Keynote Speaker:

Lorrie McFadden Introduced the guest Speaker – Aaron Deacon from [BIOS Nutrients - 100% Organic Fertilizer & Plant Care Products](#)

### Flower Show Results:

District 10 AGM Flower Show Report Submitted by District 10 Flower Show Convenor Bernice Barratt:

“FROM ROOTS TO BLOOMS” was the theme chosen by Stratford, the hosting society. Several themes within the broader gardening community were suggested for the year. These included Aurora Borealis, Edible Gardening and the colour Teal. The design titles reflected these themes as well as the theme chosen by Stratford for 2025.

Participation in our 2025 AGM flower show competition came from 14 of the 20 societies in District 10. The numbers were down slightly from 2024 but it was still a very good showing.

We had a total of 64 exhibits in the Horticultural Division, 33 in the Design Division, 19 in Photography, and 14 Special Exhibits. There was 1 entry in the Youth Division. This came to a grand total of 131 exhibits and all together they made a wonderful display.

The Best in Show in Horticulture Award went to St Marys.

The Judge’s Choice in Design Award went to Kirkton.

The Judge’s Choice in Special Exhibits Award also went to Kirkton.

The Best in Show Award in the Photography Division was won by Woodstock.

The Best in Show in the Youth Division went to Kirkton and was well deserved.

Congratulations to all who participated!

Linda Yeoman was our judge, and she was assisted by Marsha Hempel and Nancy Lupton, both from Stratford. We all had to work quickly during set up as we ended up sub-dividing several horticultural classes. Several designs had to be moved but thankfully that happened before the exhibitors left. This was to accommodate the large numbers of entries in the Design Division.

### Awards Presentations:

Joyce Schlegel (District 10 Director) presented the following awards:

1. **District Service Award** - Gail Dimson (Lambeth) accepted by Cheryl Burr (Lambeth)
2. **Glencoe** – 25 year anniversary accepted by Hannah Horton (Glencoe)
3. **Lambeth** – 50 year anniversary accepted by Cheryl Burr (Lambeth)
4. **St. Thomas** – 155 year anniversary accepted by Dianne Vaughan (St. Thomas)

### One Minute Reports:

One minute reports were presented by the following societies:

- Dutton-Dunwich
- Grand Bend
- Kirkton
- Port Burwell-Bayham
- Stratford
- Strathroy-Caradoc
- Tillsonburg
- Woodstock
- Thorndale

### Lunch Break & Flower Show Viewing

**Return to business: 1:00 pm**

### Keynote Speaker:

Lorrie McFadden introduced Bob & Ann Granatier of Trails End Iris Gardens. Ann & Bob gave an informative and visually stunning presentation of irises covering information about forms, anatomy and cultural needs. Ann & Bob provided attendees with a summary handout of their presentation including cultivar names, companion plants, and maintenance for future reference.

### District 10 Board Nominations/Elections/Installation:

Nominations for each position for the 2025 District 10 Board were called for 3 times looking for further nominations from the floor. No new nominations were received, therefore with the addition of one new elected member for the position Assistant Director Middlesex: Ann Larkin (London Fanshawe), Board members were declared acclaimed to their position:

- **District 10 Director:** Joyce Schlegel (Strathroy-Caradoc)
- **Assistant Director Elgin:** Jean-Marie Steward (St. Thomas)
- **Assistant Director Middlesex:** Ann Larkin (London Fanshawe)
- **Assistant Director Oxford:** Agnes Burroughs (Dorchester)
- **Assistant Director Perth & Lambton Shores:** Deb Pihl (Kirkton)
- **Secretary:** Cate O'Neill (Strathroy-Caradoc)

- **Webmaster:** Leslie Whittington-Carter (Dutton-Dunwich)

Bernice Barratt installed the new District 10 Board. All D10 membership in attendance was asked to, and agreed to, support the newly installed board.

### **Prizes & Draws:**

Draw Table, 50/50, Silent Auction prizes were awarded.

### **D10 Fundraising Totals:**

District 10 fundraising efforts raised \$1,815. The fundraising breakdown was as follows:

- Silent Auction total: \$910
- 50-50: \$265
- Draws: \$545
- Sale of OHA Supplies/Pins: \$55
- Donation from Aaron Deacon (BIOS Nutrients): \$40

### **Invitation to 2026 Fall Workshop:**

Joyce Calcutt of Strathroy-Caradoc Horticulture Society invited all societies to the 2026 Fall Workshop to be held on Sat, Oct 25, 2025. A teaser of a fun element that was shared was that there will be a most creative pumpkin flower arrangement.

### **Invitation to 2026 AGM:**

Dianne Vaughan of St. Thomas gave a one-minute report and then invited all societies to the 2026 AGM which will be held April 18, 2026 hosted by the St. Thomas society.

### **Closing Remarks:**

Jennifer Lewington (Stratford) thanked the loyal group of volunteers who made this such a fabulous day especially Scott Bremner, Mary Ann, Mike Matthews, and Bernice Barratt who were the key organisers.

Joyce (District 10 Director) expressed her thanks to everyone in the District and as well to Stratford for hosting such a great day.

**Meeting Close:** 3:05 pm

**Minutes:** Jennifer Prgesa (Thorndale)