



Dirt Newsletter

Ontario Horticultural Association – District 6

Assistant District Directors (ADDs)

Here are your ADDs and their assigned societies.

Bob Heil –Treasurer.
ADD for Ancaster
Brantford, Winona

Susan MacMillan
Secretary. ADD for
Bronte, Burlington,
Dundas, Oakville

Tomm Wenzel – ADD
for Acton, Georgetown
Milton & District

Liz Chappel – ADD for
Flamborough, Mt.
Hamilton, Stoney
Creek

Elsie Eubank – ADD
for Haldimand, Paris
Waterford

Dave Collins – ADD
for Glen Morris,
Lynden, St George

Janet Lala – ADD for
Delhi, Port Dover &
Woodhouse, Simcoe

Message From District Director Lianne Krane

A warm welcome to the newest members of our District Board: Elsie Eubank, Dave Collins, and Tom Wenzel. We are delighted to have you join our continuing board members—Susan MacMillan, Bob Heil, Janet Lala, Liz Chapple, and myself. Our experience and dedication provide a strong foundation for our work. Together, this team offers a valuable blend of fresh perspective and steady leadership.

We also extend our heartfelt thanks and best wishes to Marie Decker. Her many years of service at the District level, from Secretary to ADD, have been truly inspiring. Marie's dedication, knowledge, and unfailing willingness to support others have made a lasting impact on societies throughout our District, and they are deeply grateful to her.

Marie's passion for the Flower Show world will continue to be vibrant and thriving. Because of individuals like Marie, these events continue to bring joy not only to those who participate, but also to all who come to appreciate the beauty and creativity on display. Our District thanks you so much.

We also had to say goodbye to Martine Emery-Kelman and Christine Scheewe and want to thank them for their dedication to the District and look forward to seeing them during Society events.

I would also like to offer my sincere thanks to everyone who attended the AGM in Paris and helped make the day such an enjoyable and resounding success. Your enthusiasm, participation, and support made the event truly memorable.

A special thank you goes to the Paris Horticultural Society and its dedicated team of volunteers and leaders. Your hard work, organization, and warm hospitality did not go unnoticed and was greatly appreciated by all who attended.

We are also pleased to continue offering several incentives and forms of support for our societies. These include:

- Two free tickets to the Fall Brunch for the societies with the highest attendance at the Annual Meeting
- A \$100 award for the greatest increase in membership over the past year
- The \$500 Rejuvenation Grant

In 2026, there were unfortunately no nominations from District 6 for an OHA Award. We are determined to change that for 2027. To encourage broader participation, we are renewing our commitment to recognizing the outstanding contributions within our societies by supporting submissions for OHA Awards.

Our goal is for every society to submit at least one nomination—more would be even better. Please connect with your Assistant District Directors (ADDs), who can help guide you through the nomination process. If you already have someone in mind, please bring their name forward. There is **no need to wait until the 2027 submission deadline; let's begin preparing now** so we can fully celebrate these contributions.

All District 6 OHA Award nominations submitted for 2027 will be entered into a District draw to be held at next year's AGM for **two tickets to the Fall Brunch. Other details to follow.**

We hope this initiative encourages every society to share its successes, ideas, and experiences, while celebrating the vibrant work taking place throughout our District. Wishing you all a wonderful summer and happy gardening.

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Special Announcements

ONTARIO HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

2026 ANNUAL MEETING & CONVENTION
Hosts: Districts 4 & 17



OHA Convention Early bird rate - Up to June 15, 2026

[Register](#)

\$300 – includes full registration, morning breaks (Friday & Saturday), seminar speakers, Friday evening entertainment, Silent Auction, Saturday Evening Awards Presentation and Keynote Speaker

June 15 to July 10, 2026, registration:

\$350 – Standard Rate includes full registration, morning breaks (Friday & Saturday), seminar speakers, Friday evening entertainment, Silent Auction, Saturday Evening Awards Presentation and Keynote Speaker

One day rate

\$200 – One-Day Rate includes morning break, seminar speakers, Friday evening

entertainment (if registering for Friday), Silent Auction, Saturday Evening Awards Presentation and Keynote Speaker (if registered for Saturday)

Botanical Drawing Workshop

Saturday afternoon workshop (please see the Speakers document below for details). There is a \$20 fee for materials. Only 50 places available!

Bus Tours

You can sign up for bus tours when registering (please see the Bus Tour document below for details). Guided bus tours are \$45 each and run from 1:00–4:30 p.m. on both Friday and Saturday. Please fill out and email the OHA a Bus Waiver Form (see the Bus Tour information) after you register. Only one form is needed per person.

Meals

You can sign up for meals when registering (please see the Convention Meals document for details, including pricing). The registration form allows you to specify any dietary restrictions.

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Aug. 15 Tissue Flower workshop at Stoney Creek United Church, 1 King Street West, Stoney Creek, use the Lake Avenue entrance, it's on grade no steps for anyone with mobility issues. [Registration LINK \(click here\) for Crepe Paper Flower](#) Workshop.

District 6 Fall Meeting, Sunday Oct. 25.

Save the Date! Hosted by Stoney Creek at 269 Glover Rd. Stoney Creek. Deadline for registering to follow. Registration is limited to a maximum of 168 people.

Society Events

Many of the societies are busy with civic beds or in their own garden. Here are a few upcoming activities or submissions.

Acton —TBA

Ancaster

Speakers:

June 16, 2026, Colin Phillips and Mandey Moote, Sycamore Hill Flower Farm, "From Garden to Farm, Scaling up the Love of Flowers"

* June 2026 Road trip to Purple Haven Lavender Farm and Beth Powell's garden in Canfield, Ontario, more information to follow.
September 15, 2026, Dr. Mike Dixon, University of Guelph, "The Contribution of Plants to Life Support in Space"
October 20, 2026, Irene Kicak and Veronica Tunzi, Fancy Farmerettes, "Growing with Hemp"

Brantford.

Thur., June 11-The Beauty in Garden Art (The art of fabric sculpture) Tamara Plugers
June 23-Brantford Garden Club Bus Trip
Sat. July 18-Summer Flower Show

Bronte:

June 20th Garden Tour & Picnic

Burlington: Speakers:

June 10: Helen Battersby, Gardening in Shade.
Sept. 9: Mike Prong: Fusion Gardening.
Oct. 14: Darren Heimbecker: Whistling Gardens: Then and now.

Delhi TBA.

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Flamborough (FHS)

June 20- Members' Garden tour to Aspen Gardens

A Rainy Plant Sale- Submitted by Susan MacMillan

Many societies, including FHS, chose May 23rd as the date of our plant sale; our major fundraiser. Set-up started at 06:30 am for an 8 am opening of the Waterdown Farmers' Market. The Market usually brings about 40+ vendors every Saturday. Driving wind and two inches of rain kept most of the public away. At 10:00, we packed up in the cold rain and took the plants to President Susan MacMillan's driveway to sell the remainder the following week. We also used the opportunity to provide some education to new homeowners/gardeners who had no experience with annuals vs perennials, and no knowledge about invasive species. Seasoned shoppers knew what they wanted! We usually have an early bird sale so that we do not have to transport so many plants to the Market. We finished a very successful plant sale in the driveway. For the past six years, FHS plant donations have had their roots washed of garden soil and they are brought in a pail or plastic bag and potted up at a central location. They are then planted in soilless potting mix to reduce the risk of spread of jumping worms (JWs). This works well as gardeners do it at home and use the wash water for their own plants. Gardeners who donate, test their soil and will not donate plants if they find JWs.

- Testing involves mixing 1/3 cup of ground mustard in hot water to dissolve then add to one gallon (4.5L) of water.

- Slowly pour mustard solution onto the soil. The solution irritates all worms and drives them to the surface. JWs jump/ thrash. Look for the usually white clitellum (reproductive part on the whole circumference of the JWs) and remove JWs as they appear. A one-page info. sheet was provided to Societies at the D6 AGM. Contact the D6 Secretary if you need a copy.
- Place JWs in isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol or solarize JWs by placing them in a plastic bag or container in the hot sun for at least 10 minutes.
- Dispose of dead JWs in the garbage, NOT in the compost pile or garden.
- Cocoons can be destroyed using a clear plastic bag and solarization. For small areas affected, in mid to late summer, cover moistened soil with a sheet of transparent polyethylene for two-three weeks or until the soil temperature exceeds 40°C for at least three days. This method works for beds in full sun. For our local garden tours and because RBG is known to have JWs, host gardeners purchased coir mats from Ikea, placed them on a boot tray and soaked it with 20% Acetic Acid (Vinegar). Visitors rub and wet their shoe soles on the coir mat/ solution to remove any JW eggs.
- Dr Michael McTavish stresses the importance of slowing or reducing the risk of spread and requests that as citizen scientists, we report JWs. See more details in the link [here](#).

Georgetown- TBA

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Haldimand- Spring Happenings

Submitted & photos by Barbara Wilson

Haldimand members are gearing up for another Spring & Summer of garden activities. We maintain 9 community gardens as well as plant 6 large pots in Caledonia, Cayuga & Hagersville.

Our “Maintenance Mondays” program which is in its 3rd year finds members meeting each Monday to weed/mulch one of the gardens to help maintain them throughout the summer. April was busy with our 9th Annual Seed & Garden Show, which was once again a great success due to all our fantastic volunteers. The community was very supportive and came out to view all our fantastic vendors, speakers, the children’s area, and gave generously to the Food Bank collection. April was also the time for us to participate in Earth Day. This year our crew traveled to Cayuga to clean up some areas.

The HHS Plant & Bake Sale held in May was a busy day. Our bake tables were overflowing with delicious items. They did not last long! Our selection of perennials & the Tools & Treasures section also sold out quickly. Our General Meeting speakers for March, April & May that members found interesting and informative were: dried flower card making with Rose Odell, Linda Zelem and the Federated Women’s Institute of Ontario and Introduction to Permaculture with Melissa North.



Kitchen crew at HHS Apr 11 Seedy Saturday



Basket weaving demo by HHS member

Upcoming events:

- * HHS is participating in the opening of the Hagersville Market in June celebrating the start of the Market Season. We will have a booth to offer our Society information.

- * In July we will be going to Guelph University on a Tour in place of a General Meeting. We will tour the Arboretum, the Tree Walk & Horticulture Research.

In the summer months we sponsor “Garden of the Month”. Each month, during June, July and August, gardens nominated by the community are judged and winners awarded a garden plaque for their efforts.

We are appreciative of all our members for their support of our society. The 2026 membership has grown to 141 members. Enjoy the summer ahead!

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Lynden. TBA

Milton & District. June 15th, 7 pm at the Milton Sports Centre. Shaun Booth presents Edible Native Plants.

Garden Hamilton.

June 19 Carol Pasternak Butterfly Drama and strawberry social.

Sept 18 Marie Decker. Veggies: Harvest to Table

Oakville Meetings:

Mon., June 8th. at C.K. Nicoll Hall (Knox Presbyterian Church), 89 Dunn St. Oakville.

Shannon Mustard presents Controlled Environment Agriculture, Resource Use, Waste Management

Mon. Sept 14 speaker TBA

Mon., Oct 5* speaker TBA

Paris- Submitted by Dave Collins

On a bright and windy day, members Dave Collins and Doug Hanna planted an "Autumn Blaze" maple tree to commemorate hosting the District Six 2026 AGM and Flower Show. The tree, located near the new entrance for the Paris Fall Fair was funded by receiving an OHA tree grant.



Dave Collins with the completed tree installation. Tree plaque. Photo Credit: Doug Hanna.

June 6th & 7th PHS GARDEN TOUR. (10:00-4:00) After many searches for gardens, Nancy Chipman had secured 5-6 gardens for the 2026 tour.

July 8th, PHS Excursion, 6 pm. Blue Gables Haskap Farm, 141 Governors Rd., East.

Port Dover/ Woodhouse: TBA

Simcoe TBA

St. George. TBA

Simcoe. June 10 Member Garden Tour. Meet at the Junior Farmers building parking lot at 9:30 for carpooling.

St. George. TBA

Stoney Creek Garden Club

Celebrates their 100th Anniversary with a Tree Planting at Erland Lee Museum



The Stoney Creek Garden Club was honoured to plant a tree on the Erland Lee (Museum) Home property and to hold their May meeting at this lovely location. The Club has a close relationship with the Museum, creating a pollinator garden several years ago and with several members tending to the Museum gardens throughout the year.

Despite the chilly weather, approximately 70 members and guests attended the meeting which was conducted in a different format than usual.

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A delicious buffet of sandwiches, vegetables and fruit was provided, wrapped up with a celebratory cake, of course, and the added treat of cookies made by Seasons Retirement Community, with whom the Club has a garden relationship. Tea and coffee were provided by Erland Lee staff and it was much appreciated on this cool evening.



Waterford. TBA

Winona. TBA

Winona. Usually has a plant sale in August during the Peach Festival



Share Your Love of Gardening!
Volunteer at the OHA Booth
Help us inspire visitors and promote the many benefits of gardening and joining your local horticultural society.

CNE CANADIAN NATIONAL EXHIBITION
Aug 21 – Sept 7, 2026
Exhibition Place, Toronto

Talk about the joy of gardening, share tips, and encourage visitors to join their local horticultural society.

ROYAL WINTER FAIR
Nov 6 – 15, 2026
Exhibition Place, Toronto

Celebrate horticulture, meet passionate gardeners, and invite them to connect with their local horticultural society.

SIGN UP NOW!
Choose the time slot that works for you.
<https://signup.com/go/oha/2026>

CLICK HERE:
<https://signup.com/go/oha/2026>

Many hands make light work—and have more fun!
Your time makes a real difference!

Pick a shift. Make an impact. Grow our community.
We can't do it without you!

Soul Metal: Offering Garden and Workshop Tours. 564 Concession 5 W., Millgrove. Only a few km from Northland Nursery; both worth the visit. Contact Carol at 905-802-6220 carolnasvytis@gmail.com to book a group tour.



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FHS member Carol Nasvytis had an open house the last weekend in May. Her gardens were resplendent with plants purchased from the FHS Plant sales over the years. Visitors commented on how beautiful the sculptures were; all tastefully placed throughout the gardens with extras on display in her workshop. Carol spends many hours designing, drawing, and inputting details into her metal cutting machine and then welding her art. Congratulations Carol on a successful open house.



Ferns and a Privacy Screen



Oak leaves - partial Privacy screen/in garden art.
All sizes of art available.

Carol also custom-designed the metal art secured in planters throughout the Waterdown Core for the BIA and

Beautification Committee to commemorate the town's historic roots.



Depiction of the historic Waterdown fire and of our fallen soldiers. Photos by Susan MacMillan
As in the summer, they also look fabulous in Winter!



Crops and our Agricultural heritage

The Hamilton and Burlington Rose Society's 69th Annual Exhibition of Cut Garden Roses and Floral Design

At RBG in Burlington on Sat., June 20 and Sun., June 21, from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Admission is free with paid RBG admission. Non-members can enter the show; registration opened on April 9. Email -

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hbrosesociety@sympatico.ca for information and a schedule.



GARDEN JOURNEYS OPEN DAYS
returns for a third season in
August 2026!

Garden Journeys Open Days will take place over two weekends in 2026: August 8 & 9, and August 14, 15 & 16

Free to the public, gardens across the City of Hamilton will be open for visitors, with host gardeners available to discuss their journeys toward eco-friendly gardening, from first steps to fully mature gardens. An interactive map of participating gardens will also be available at the following link in late July 2026.

<https://haltonmastergardeners.com/garden-journeys-open-days/>

Visit the Monarch Award Recipient gardens. Email gardenjourneysopendays@gmail.com with any questions about the event!

Garden Clubs of Ontario is presenting a Triennial Flower show at Landscape

Ontario on Friday, June 19th, 10 am-8 pm and Saturday, June 20th, 10 am-4 pm.

There will be two demonstrations daily at 11 am and 1:30 pm. Cost is \$10.

Companion Planting Myths vs What Works

[MGP Episode 83: Companion Planting Myths with Robert Pavlis](#)

Example: Evidence that garlic and onions are good companions because they release sulfa compounds into the soil and it affects soil microorganisms.

[Companion Planting Myths Science Cannot Support](#)

Intercropping Instead of Companion Planting

Three rules:



1. Plant tall plants beside tall plants not short plants. Tall plants crowd out the sun for the small plants.
2. Large leaf plants push smaller leaf plants out of the way. So they will not tolerate intercropping of small and large leaf plants.
3. If roots play nice together- do not plant tubers and other root crops together.

Garden Showcase 2026



Guelph Horticultural Society
Sunday, June 14, 2026 1:00 pm–5:30 pm
(The Milton Country Garden opens at 12:30 pm)
\$15.00 per person—Cash only
(Children under 12 free. No pets please. Rain or Shine)



Tickets available at:

- Brook Road Nursery
- Royal City Nursery

➤ Sunday Blooms

Or Day of Tour at any of the following garden locations:

- 9520 - 5 Side Rd, Milton
- 100 Queen St. Guelph
- 34 Norwich St E, Guelph
- 28 Lyon Ave, Guelph
- 195 Paisley St, Guelph
- 205 Paisley St, Guelph
- 17 Aberdeen St, Guelph

Includes:

- Master Gardeners
- Local artists and musicians
- Door prizes

Scan to access the GHS Website



For more information call (519) 837-8274

or visit: www.guelphhort.org

The Guelph Horticultural Society is having a garden showcase on Sunday, June 14th, from 1 pm to 5:30 pm. There is a Milton country garden at 9520 5 Side Rd. in the showcase. It opens at 12:30 pm. The cost is \$15 per person – cash only. Tickets can be purchased at any of the gardens.

Plant Finders and Latin pronunciations.
See [Plant Finder](#)