

Fall 2025

Dirt Newsletter

Ontario Horticultural Association – District 6



Message From District Director Lianne Krane

Assistant District Directors (ADDs)

Here are your ADDs and their assigned societies.

Bob Heil – Lynden
Brantford, Winona

Susan MacMillan –
Waterford, Oakville,
Ancaster and
Dirt Editor

Marie Decker – Acton,
Milton & District,
Georgetown

Liz Chappel – Stoney
Creek, Mt Hamilton,
Haldimand

Christine Scheewe
Burlington, Flamborough,
and Bronte

Martine Emery Kelman –
Paris, Glen Morris, St
George

Janet Lala – Delhi,
Simcoe, Port Dover/
Woodhouse

As we enter the beautiful fall season, I can't help but reflect on what a wonderful season it has been for our District 6 Societies. While July and August are often a time when many of our Societies take a well-deserved break and focus on their own gardens, several of you kept the momentum going with truly memorable events — milestone celebrations, garden tours, bus trips, and special outings that showcased the beauty of our gardens and the strength of our community spirit. Maintaining your community gardens was a huge part of that. The OHA and I, want to take a moment to sincerely thank you for continuing to make your part of Ontario beautiful.

It was such a joy to be invited to some of your events and to see firsthand the enthusiasm, creativity, and hospitality that define your Society. Whether it was a Society celebrating an anniversary, opening their gardens to visitors, or taking members on an adventure-filled outing, I was reminded how fortunate we are to belong to such a vibrant and dedicated group of gardeners.

A special thank-you goes out to those Societies who took the time to send in articles. Your contributions help us share your successes and celebrate your achievements. Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery.

As we look ahead to the, I encourage everyone to send us your posters, pictures, and write ups. Whether your Society is planning a meeting, workshop, or special event, remember that every gathering strengthens our network and helps to inspire others — both as gardeners and as friends.

Wishing you all a colourful and rewarding fall season!

Warm regards,
Lianne Krane
District 6 Director



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Special Announcements

Our District 6 Fall Lunch and Fundraiser hosted by Flamborough and Garden Hamilton

Speaker The fabulous Sean James: Life Magnet. Creating a layered Native Garden for Biodiversity. Please join us!

Menu: Baked chicken (non batter/gluten free), meatballs (gluten free), Fall vegetables, peas, salad, assorted desserts, coffee, tea. **\$30 E-transfer to d.6treasurer@outlook.com**

Pre register at [Registration Form, District 6 Meeting & Luncheon](#)

Bring your mug. Please support the Penny Sale Draw Prizes. Special Seasonal Hanger. Auction of two aprons by Martine Emery Kelham. Draw Prize. Share the Wealth Draw.

Society Events & Local Happenings

Acton

TBD

Ancaster

Sept. 16, Nick Winkelmolen, will present on The Past, Present, and Future of Trees.

Oct. 21, Drew Goddard —Breeding and Growing Orchids: A Hobbyist’s Journey
Event Location: Ancaster Town Hall. If you are in the area or planning a visit. Please visit <https://ancasterhort.org/> . Or, find us on Facebook and Instagram.

A field trip takes place in September 2025 to Generations Marketplace and Learning Centre, located at 200 Concession 13, Townsend, Simcoe, Norfolk County, Ontario <https://www.generationsmarketplace.ca/>
See Ancaster’s submission that follows on page 6.

Brantford

Oct. 9 Alex Kucharew & Dan Brown - members of the City of Brantford 's Communities in Bloom Committee.

Bob Heil, OHA District Six Assistant District Director- An Overview of District Six & The OHA. The Who & What

Nov 13 Mark Meloun Winter Urn Arrangement inspired by Nature

Dec 11. Kevin Kavanagh & Dylan Cowan Plants in Jeopardy - a light take on the game show Jeopardy
Traditional Christmas dinner with all the trimmings. Tickets must be purchased in advance.

Bronte Horticulture Events

At our October 28, 2025, General meeting, Bronte HS will be hosting a 100th birthday party for members with refreshments, a birthday cake and a slide show of society events including pictures from the 100th Anniversary Celebration held on July 10 at the Bronte Heritage Waterfront Park. Members will also get to view the many certificates of congratulation we have received to mark our anniversary.

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Burlington Horticultural Society

New location -Auditorium, Central Arena, 519 Drury Lane, Burlington L7R 2X3

Time: 6:30 - 9:00 pm

2nd Wednesday of the month

Mon. Sept 29th Councillor Kearns' pop-up Ward meeting from 9:30 am to 10:30 am in Spencer Smith Park. Unveiling of a special sign. Read more about Spencer Smith and his connection to our Society on our website at:

<https://www.burlingtonhs.com/index.php/about/>



October 8: speaker: Ryan Vieira: “Composting with worms”.

Nov 12: Photography 101: photographing flowers, gardens, and landscapes

Dec10: potluck and Annual Meeting

Delhi

Contact delhi@gardenontario.org for event details.

Flamborough (FHS)

Sept. 17, at 7:30pm (refreshments 7:00 pm) Marion Jarvis— Exciting Color Year Round with Hardy Plants.

Oct15 Jeff Scott, Hamilton Conservation--Habitat at Home. How to Enhance Biodiversity Everywhere and In-Between Your Garden

FHS had a successful Open Garden Walk where hosts at 37 gardens greeted visitors on the July 1st long weekend. Handouts provided ample learning opportunities.

Several members also judged the Hamilton Trillium Awards or were recipients of the Awards. Members also car-pooled to, and had a great time at the Donkey Sanctuary, 6981 Conc. 4, Puslinch ON N0B 2J0.

On Oct 1, several members will go to the Summit Dairy Farm tour.

Georgetown.

TBA

Glen Morris - Newsletter Excerpt-

Fall yard cleanup could wipe out native pollinators since 80% of native bees nest in dead plant stems. One stem can shelter up to 20 pollinator larvae. Mason bee cocoons, leafcutter bee nests, native wasp larvae, and beneficial insect eggs could all be hiding somewhere in your yard.

A newly fertilized bumble bee queen forages to build fat reserves before entering a dormant state called diapause. She hibernates in a small nest, or hibernaculum. It could be in a rotten log, beneath stones, in a chipmunk hole, or in soft soil a few inches underground. Solitary bees overwinter as dormant pupae or adults in their underground nests or in sealed, insulated cavities above ground. The nests provide protection from the cold.





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Haldimand

See submission that follows.

Lynden- Thankyou Lynden for posting Summit Station will be highlighting flavours from some of the amazing ice cream producers working with Ontario dairy...

[@shawsicecream](#)

[@chapmansicecream](#)

[@fourallicecream](#)

[@mapletonsorganic](#)

[@kawartha_dairy](#)

[@central_smith](#)

Waffle cones from [@donsigcones](#) - made in Waterloo!

Thanks to [@chocolatetalesca](#) for making our finishing touch 🍫

[#localfoodweek](#)

[#supportlocal](#)

[#dairy](#)

[#milk](#)

[#icecream](#)

[#youscream](#)

Milton & District

The Milton Fall Fair is on Sept. 26-28 at the fairgrounds.

Memorial Tree planting is Sun. Oct. 19th in the afternoon at Sunny Mount Gardens.

Mount Hamilton. Garden Hamilton

Oct 17 Marie Decker presents RBG Rose Garden

Nov 21 Awards dinner, Paul Zammit- Plants that Like it Hot.

Oakville

Oct. 13 Danielle Duval, Lead Hand – Horticulture Dept., Town of Oakville, “A Behind the Scenes look at the Town of Oakville’s Horticulture Department”

Nov 10- Alex Henderson, Curator of Collections/Horticulturist at Royal Botanical Gardens.

Paris

Dec 3rd, 2025: Our annual Christmas dinner. Social time at 6 pm. Dinner at 6:30 pm. Tickets at \$30 each will be available at the October and November meetings. We will be gathering in the larger room so will be able to accommodate more members. It will be a traditional Turkey dinner. with dessert and the Beechnuts will be entreating us with their Ukuleles.

Port Dover/ Woodhouse

For our Spring Plant sale many entries were exhibited from specimens, potted plants, floral designs, photography and more.

See details below about their bus Trip.

Oct 15 Dry Flower Arrangement Workshop 2-4pm Walt’s Kitchen

Nov 20 General Meeting: Presentation: Angelina McKeen: “Horticultural Therapy”

Dec 10 Christmas Arrangement Workshop: 7-9pm Walt’s Kitchen

Simcoe

AGM Sept 9 at 7:30 -Junior Farmers building Speaker- Nathan Knechtel-Topic is Soil Health

St. George

Tues., Sept 16th. 7:00pm. Membership Meeting St. George Firehall. Amy Bradley & Maggie McGuire: Herbs Design Challenge: Homemade Preserve with Herbs

Applefest. September 20th & 21st. St. George, Bulb Fundraiser/ Outreach

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Stoney Creek

Oct 6 - SILENT AUCTION Incredible items to bid on, refreshments available. Stoney Creek United Church Hall

For all meetings, Doors open at 6:30 p.m. with refreshments, Flower Show at 7

Oct 6, Halloween Event

Waterford

Wed Oct 22 at 7:30. Joint meeting in October with Simcoe, Port Dover, Waterford, and Delhi Horticultural Societies coming together at the Junior Farmers Building -Presenter is Adam Biddle, an Arborist with Norfolk County

On Wed Nov 5th, meet at the Waterford Library at 6:30pm. Karen Lindsay presents, Post Cards from the past. Landscape across Norfolk County.

Below are photos of gardens WHS looks after. The garden with the bike is at the entrance to Waterford.

The other photos are of the Alice Street gardens in Waterford.



Winona.

TBA at St. Johns's Anglican Church Hall
1285 Hwy 8 (at Winona Road)

Doug Tallamy Free Webinar Oct 16 at 7pm

["Next Steps for Nature" with Doug Tallamy - Wild Ones: Native Plants, Natural Landscapes](#) to register.

Event outside the District- Paul Zammit, Lorraine Johnson



St Catharines Museum,
Lock 3,
1932 Welland Canal Pkwy
Oct 19th-10-4pm

Silent
AUCTION
&

Special guest speakers
Paul Zammit and Lorraine Johnson

Advance Tickets
\$20, e-transfer to
8888gcg@gmail.com
Cheques-St Catharines
Horticultural Society, 8 Ottawa St.
St. Catharines L2R 1Y9

Refreshments and light
lunch at noon are included

Tickets will be available at
door \$25

Presented by the
St. Catharines Horticultural
Society

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Ancaster Horticultural Society – Established in 1961

We had a lovely, busy, hot, dry summer, enjoying the various projects in our village, and our volunteers are making a difference. Everyone who attended the Ancaster Horticultural Society's 'Strawberry Social' held in June 2025 enjoyed fresh strawberry shortcake. Our talented members had a 'Member's Share' night where crafts, or hobbies including knitting, quilting, photography, cross-stitch, and a collection of egg cups were displayed. There was Remembrance Day poppies from St. John's Church, artistry, miniature dollhouse with accessories, and dot mandala artwork. At the conclusion, nine strawberry plants were raffled.

Twenty-two people attended the Historic Dundurn Castle outing on Thursday, August 21. The visit began with an introduction by our host, Cameron, who was in costume, at the L-shaped Coach House. During the 19th century, many servants were employed in large homes like Dundurn to perform cleaning, polishing, cooking, and other tasks. Participants had the opportunity to explore, over 40 rooms and discover the history of the McNab family and the servants who lived and worked there. We made a traditional recipe in the historic McNab's castle kitchen with the assistance of Chef Fiona using ingredients from the kitchen garden.

We explored the lovingly restored Historic Kitchen Garden, where Jamie was also in costume. Staff grow over 200 heirloom varieties of fruits, vegetables, herbs, and flowers for use in the historic kitchen. Thank you, Betty Howitt, for the article contribution.

Trillium Awards: The annual Ancaster Trillium Awards were presented on August 19, 2025, at the Ancaster Town Hall. The event was a celebration of the beautiful gardens found in the village of Ancaster. There were 225 gardens judged this year, with 110 Trillium Awards presented. There were 3 Diamond winners (15 years), 7 Ruby winners (10 years), 10 Gold winners (5 years), and 90 White Trilliums. There were 39 volunteer AHS judges. Thank you to the AHS Trillium committee members for hosting the event.

"Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower." *Albert Camus*
Rhu Sherrard, AHS Publicity Director 2025-2026

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Photos at Dundurn Castle courtesy of Betty Howitt.



From the Haldimand Horticultural Society- Submitted by Barbara Wilson



Photos by Barb Wilson

Members got to see a monarch eclose while at the Aug 31 picnic hosted by Elsie Eugank

Fall greetings from the Haldimand Horticultural Society- our members are looking forward to the season ahead. The summer was a busy one for our volunteers. The 6 community gardens and large pots situated in Caledonia, Hagersville and Cayuga were maintained all summer by our dedicated volunteers. Residents and visitors to our communities are appreciative of the colorful displays created.

The "Maintenance Monday" volunteers once again met each Monday this summer to weed and trim our community gardens. A wonderful time to get our exercise and socialize too.

In June we held an "Open Garden Tour." Five beautiful gardens were open to the members to view. Each one was unique, and visitors enjoyed walking through each property.

The HHS participated in the 150th Anniversary of Hagersville in June. We had a booth on the Market Square at which we handed out our information, gave away seed packages and visitors played our "Blinko Game." A fun day for the community.

Our "Garden of the Month" program for June, July & August saw 6 gardens nominated from the communities of Caledonia & Hagersville. Congratulations to all our monthly winners as their gardens were spectacular.

Yearly bursaries are presented to graduating students at the three area secondary schools. A bursary has been presented to a student from McKinnon Park Secondary in Caledonia.



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Cayuga and Hagersville Secondary Schools ceremonies are in the Fall when students selected will receive theirs.

Our annual Picnic this year, held in August, under sunny skies, was enjoyed by many members. The menu of Synder's corn along with hamburgers, sausages, salads, desserts, and a special HHS cake was delicious. Life member John Bouman was presented with a cake on the occasion of his 92nd birthday. Thank you to Elsie Eubank for hosting this special event.

Upcoming Events:

* We encourage members to attend our monthly meetings and enter our flower show and other competitions.

*The HHS has entered the Group Display section, "Fireplace Mantle" at the Caledonia Fair in September- hoping to bring home a ribbon!

* Design Workshops (4) will be held in September, lead by Catherine McGill.

* We will be creating a new poppy banner for the Jarvis Cenotaph for November 11th. We thank those members who continue to crochet & knit poppies for this ongoing project. So far, we have created poppy displays at the cenotaphs in Caledonia, Hagersville & Cayuga.

* October General Meeting- our volunteer recognition evening. Meal is provided along with a guest speaker for a fun evening.

* Our annual Christmas urn & wreath workshops will be coming up in November.

We thank all our members for their continued support. Our membership has grown to 136 members. Enjoy the season ahead! Take a moment to embrace the beauty of Fall.

Port Dover & Woodhouse Bus Trip

On Wednesday June 18, 2025, we hosted 51 participants on a Bus Trip to the Guelph Area. Heading out at 8:00 am in the morning, the first stop was at the University of Guelph Arboretum. Here we had a guided tour of the gardens, (even though the rain did not dampen our spirits) while exploring the various gardens and the Arboretum's collection of native plants and trees. The lunch stop was at the sunny Riverside Park featuring a Floral Clock and an accessibility garden. Some guests enjoyed lunch at the Bistro in the Senior Center adjacent to the park. Then it was time to shop, and we stopped at the Belgium Nurseries wandering through an amazing array of annuals, perennials and native plants, leaving with a bus load of flora and fauna. Our final visit was to a National Historic Site, Castle Kilbride in Baden. Built in 1877, it is an amazing example of 19th century decadence and ingenuity both inside and out. Dinner at the Kitchener Mandarin was a great way to end the day, returning home by 8:00pm. I believe everyone enjoyed themselves and are looking forward to next year. Thank you to all of those who were able to join in and save the date of June 17, 2026, for next year's adventure.
Deb Lamb-Green, Bus Trip Chair

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Glen Morris Central Public School Garden Project

Wow we had quite a week August 11-15! It was hot, dirty, demanding work and so much fun! The community sure showed up and were generous with their time, energy, and equipment.

We installed “Rain Garden Revelry” as designed by Lynn Leach of Bird’s Foot Design. It consists of 2 rain gardens which sit either side of the front entrance of the school to capture and filter the storm water from the roof downspouts, a pathway snaking through from one end of the garden to the other which invites all to wander through and interact with the plants and pollinators / other wildlife that our native plantings will provide for, and in the middle is a 12 foot diameter circle that can facilitate teachers and students for learning activities and anyone wanting to sit a spell in the garden.

The planting will be done mid-September with every student participating. We feel the most important piece of this project is the ongoing maintenance that we will involve our horticultural society members, school community, high school volunteers, and the whole community in helping with it.

We plan to hold workshops for the public at the garden, starting with one explaining the importance of and “how-to” of a rain garden.

The rain gardens were dug out to a depth of 5 feet, then backfilled with $\frac{3}{4}$ ” stone topped with quick-draining planting medium. Hand work was required to top that with 2-4” river rock and border it with 8-10” river rock. Areas outside the rain gardens were covered in cardboard to keep the weeds we had removed from resurfacing. The path was mulched with playground mulch and the planting areas with garden mulch. We cannot wait to watch the garden grow and support biodiversity and curious children and adults of the community.

Thanks so much to all that have made this a reality!

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Does your Town /City have a Biodiversity Action Plan?

A Biodiversity Action Plan is a detailed strategy aimed at preserving and restoring threatened species and ecosystems. This includes an inventory of species and their habitat and specific goals to improve biodiversity. It should also include strategies on how to help the public learn more about optimizing biodiversity in their gardens.

Biodiversity.

Biodiversity involves different life forms and species, including plants, animals, insects, fungi and other organisms. They are all interconnected to form ecosystems to support life and maintain a balance.

Species diversity refers to the variety of different plant species within a given region/area. It involves both species richness (the total number of species) and species evenness (relative abundance). High

biodiversity means all or almost all native species are represented equally in the landscape. Not to be confused with abundance which is the total number of plants/organisms etc., or the total number of a specific species.

A small number of species completely dominating the landscape while everything else is rare, or that only a few species lives / or are planted in an area is **low biodiversity**. To improve biodiversity, we need to remove invasive species, plant natives, and stop using herbicides that negatively affect native plants (or use them only when absolutely necessary). You can improve biodiversity on a larger scale by giving people seeds and seedlings to beautify their own yards and provide education to them. You can also lobby for change, support conservation initiatives, and vote for people who prioritize conservation. Plant biodiversity supports animal biodiversity, allowing species to better survive.

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An exotic plant is any plant species introduced to a geographical region where it does not naturally occur. Some exotic plants facilitate the pollination of native plants by attracting diverse pollinators. Not all exotic plants are invasive. An invasive plant is a subset of exotic plants that not only establish themselves in a new environment but also spread aggressively, causing significant environmental or economic harm. Most exotic plants compete with native species for resources like sunlight, water, and nutrients, potentially reducing native plant populations. Some exotic plants can alter soil chemistry or introduce new diseases and pests, further stressing native flora and fauna. This can lead to a shift in the native plant community, potentially diminishing biodiversity and

Beneficial Nematodes can kill

Bumblebees.

[A 2015 study](#) showed that beneficial nematodes can kill bumble bees. The researchers said bumble bees were “remarkably susceptible” to beneficial nematodes with “high levels of bee mortality after only 72 hours of exposure, with the first deaths evident after 48 hours.” Granted this was one study under laboratory technique but it might warrant the cautionary principle.

BTK Kills Lepidoptera (Butterfly and moth) larvae.

During sporulation, Btk produces a crystal protein that is lethal to lepidopteran larvae. [2] Once ingested by the insect, the dissolution of the crystal allows the protoxin

altering food sources for animals, insects, and other invertebrates.

Ecological restoration in our gardens offers a proactive approach to reversing habitat loss and degradation. The focus is to rebuild functional ecosystems and improve resilience by reintroducing native plant communities to areas fragmented or damaged. Even a small garden with pollinators and native plants will help reduce fragmentation.

Reference: [What Is Plant Biodiversity and Why Is It Important? - Biology Insights \(PDF\) Plant Biodiversity](#)
[See also Canadensys – making biodiversity data available.](#)

to be released. The toxin is then activated by the insect gut juice, and it begins to break down the gut.

A Short Fall To-Do List

- Fall is the best time for planting shrubs and trees. The still-warm soil encourages root growth and cooler temperatures reduce stress.
- Divide perennials or mark those you want to divide in spring.
- Prune shrubs to improve air circulation and remove branches that cross. Refer to the specific shrub care guides.
- Rake leaves from your turf grass and place them on the flower beds.
- Plant Fall bulbs.

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- Clean and disinfect sharpen then lubricate your gardening tools.
- Give pots a good scrub with a stiff brush and soapy water especially if fertilizer salts have accumulated.

Dahlias

- Cut your Dahlia stalks leaving about 6-8” of stem. Cover the hollow stems to prevent water getting in and rotting the tuber especially if rain is forecast. Leave them in the ground for about 10 days. This will promote eye formation and make dividing your tubers easier. Using a fork carefully loosen and dig the soil from around the tubers.

- Lift the tubers and wash with a hose. Let them “cure “ for a few days on newspaper or craft paper.
- Divide tubers ensuring each has an “eye” Mark the name right on the tuber with a permanent marker. Of ensure there is a label attached.
- Store tubers separately in vermiculite, wood shavings, or peat in bags.
- It is important to keep the correct amount of moisture and dryness so that the tubers do not rot or shrivel up.
- Check them in December and if too dry give the medium a light short spritz with water. Check again in March.
-