



DIRECTors NEWS



DEAR SOCIETIES

The new OHA President James Graham issued a challenge at the Convention in Thunder Bay to all societies. He has asked us to take a close look at how we make our societies known within the our communities and to come up with new ideas to make people feel welcome – he wants us all to report back in our annual reports of the ideas we come up and how they are working.

So as District 3 Director I have decided to try and improve my communications and hopefully make each of you feel welcome to the OHA. I hope by putting together this short news letter I will have a new tool to keep us all connected. We in District 3 not unlike the northern Districts face being spread out over a large area. It's not easy for us to just drop in on each other's meetings and events.

I am going to make it my goal to get out to each society for at least one meeting and also want to make myself available to attend one of your executive meetings.

CONVENTION NEWS

It was a smaller than usual convention in Thunder Bay – the theme of UP NORTH AND DOWN TO EARTH was fitting. The up north did mean those in attendance had quite the tales of how they got there and yes it was down to earth. It was an interesting challenge for me to try and do competitive floral designs working out of a suitcase. The result was 2 second place ribbons and one honorable mention – not bad given I had to scramble to find flowers (this included scouring the ditches and back streets near the hotel)and I ended up buying containers at the Wal -mart across the street just before closing time the night before (my containers didn't travel well as checked baggage !)

The workshops and speakers were very informative. It gave me an opportunity to meet all the Board members of the OHA and get to know them. It was also a bit of a crash course on how the Board works and all the things that go on behind the scenes at the OHA. Each Director is expected to, in addition to attending board meetings and acting as the district liaison, do some committee work. I am now on two committees the Constitution Committee and on the Flower Show sub -committee of the Competitions Committee. I will be working with Katherine Lindsay Director of D2 on the Flower Show that will be held at next year's convention in Cornwall.

One thing that was emphasized at Convention is the importance of all the volunteers that keep our societies and the OHA working. Think about your group and all the great work that gets done. What about some recognition? OHA has service pins, certificates and awards. Please check the awards information on the web and take a look at the supplies list for the new service pins. I would be glad to come and make presentations.

The resolutions that were presented at the convention were voted on and as a result.

- 1) The position of 2nd VP has been eliminated
- 2) The representative from the Past Presidents Council will be the immediate Past President.

- 3) The resolution recommending the term of President be increased to two years was defeated.
- 4) The name changes passed with the exception of D6 which was defeated and SW who withdrew their motion.
- 5) The other resolutions thanking the Province, OMAFRA and D14 passed.

Next year's convention is in Cornwall with a theme of "A RIVER RUNS BY ". D1 has only 7 societies which means a convention is a big job in terms of hosting. Being next door neighbours here in D3 I hope that we can pitch in and perhaps some of us can be volunteers at the convention as well as attending.

OUT AND ABOUT

In keeping with my goal of getting out and about I am happy to report that I attended the Picton Garden Gala in June. It was a delightful day, a beautiful flower show, a Victorian tea, lots of interesting vendors all held in the Crystal Palace in Picton. The venue made me feel like I had stepped back in time .

Late June found me at the Trenton Strawberry Social with special Speaker Steven Biggs journalist, food and garden speaker. It was a real gourmet treat with so many strawberry desserts that it was hard to choose. Steven's talk was a very light hearted but educational talk on Urban Gardening. A whole new look at urban streetscaping.

It was nice to see a number of you at my garden on June 23 for the Gananoque Garden Tour.

With July came the garden tour at Rideau Lakes. This tour had a great twist it was a scavenger hunt and a tasty barbeque was held at the end at the Delta fairgrounds. I had the pleasure of taking my daughter Sarai and my son's girlfriend Alissa along with me. They are not yet avid gardeners but they were humouring me. The gardens were just beautiful. I came back with more ideas for my gardens plus a bonus red Peony I won as part of the draw at the barbeque.

I look forward to getting out to more events come September please let me know if you have something you would like me to attend. August will find me off on a western tour visiting my daughter on Vancouver Island , going to a family wedding in Alberta then taking a long drive home with my husband Tom .I do hope to include a few garden visits along the way . I will be staying in touch by email. pennysuestewart@gmail.com For those societies that have member e-mail lists please pass this news letter along.

Wishing you all, a happy rest of summer, enjoy the sun and have fun gardening.

Regards

Penny

DATES TO REMEMBER

A couple of dates to remember and mark on your calendar are:

OCT 26 2013 is the Fall Advisory meeting hosted by Tweed – Registration and information will be coming out early in September.

MAY 3 2014 is the District 3 Annual General Meeting in Cloyne hosted by Land O Lakes

IDEAS to PLANT and MAYBE GROW

What about having a District 3 LOGO contest? Does your society have an idea? Take a look at OHA web page for other District's logos? Let's dig deep for some creativity.

What's your idea on what our D3 web site should look like? What info should be posted?

