

Greetings from the OHA President, Rose Odell



## October 20-22, 2018 OHA Board Of Directors Meeting

We covered an incredible amount of OHA board business at the October Board Meeting and are excited to share these updates with you. This was our last meeting at the Kempenfelt Conference Centre as the venue is closing at the end of this month. We are currently working to finalize a contract with a new venue for 2018.

I have tried my best to bring my positive leadership style to the OHA and have been incredibly fortunate to have a legacy of wonderful leaders within the OHA to pull inspiration from. The president position is one that is challenging and also extremely rewarding. The OHA has a great team including all of the Board of Directors, the Districts, Societies and Members across Ontario.



We are thankful for the employees and contractors that make the job of conducting association business easier and more efficient. Teleconferences have become a large part of the work of the association to take care of the work that needs to be done between the OHA Board Meetings.

A personal note of thanks to Past President Suzanne Hanna for her ongoing commitment to finishing up some long term projects such as the GardenOntario.org website refresh and the Pollinator Initiative.

### UPDATES ON ONGOING WORK:

**STBI Update:** Distribution of the OHA Treasurer Bonding Fund was approved at our 2017 OHA AGM and will be paid out, by cheque, to participating Societies and Districts at the 2018 District Annual General Meetings.

**OHA Pollinator Initiative:** Since the OHA Convention, the committee working with the Ontario Government received formal approval from Minister Leal's office to begin the Heritage and Environmental Assessments on land near the Frost Building of Queen's Park for the new Pollinator garden. The Pollinator brochure produced by the Conservation & Environment Committee has recently been reprinted for distribution at Society/District Outreach events. The brochure is also available on the current website on the home page. OHA Pollinator signs are now available in English and French.



**OHA GardenOntario Website:** The content document is still under development. It is hoped that all required areas will have been reviewed and/or amended or created prior to late November so it can be submitted to Urban & Co. for loading on the new website.

**GardenOntario Week** will be held **June 9-17, 2018**. The site has been updated and is ready to receive 2018 gardening related events on its Event Calendar and map. 2017 activities have been archived. Be sure to spread the word and register!



**OHA Annual Information Reports and Volunteer Hours** will be done this year on the current gardenontario.org website as it is too late in the year to start using the new site. Education will be provided next year for use of the new site.

**OMAFRA** would like to remind you that your designated contact person will soon be receiving an email to direct them to complete their Society's **Annual OMAFRA Report no later than Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>** in order to receive their annual grant.

**OHA Trademark:** We have made an application to trademark "gardenontario". This process is quite timely and will not be completed for some time so stay tuned.

**Awards and Grants:** A reminder that some grant requests from the OHA are due to be submitted very soon. Completed applications for 2018 Seedy Saturday Grants need to be received by the Awards Coordinator no later than November 15<sup>th</sup>. Please ensure your paperwork is sent in on time to ensure eligibility. The forms are available in the Resources section of the current website.

**Grant Reimbursements:** If you have been awarded a grant this year the project must be done within this year and the proper paperwork sent to the Awards Coordinator as soon as the project is complete.

**Nominations for Awards:** There are many Awards that you may have members that should be considered for nomination. Please take the time to honour the work they have done for you and your community by submitting them for nomination. The Awards booklet and appropriate forms are online on the gardenontario.org website.

**Director's Quick Start Manual:** The Education Committee is hard at work to complete the revised Director's Quick Start Manual. This will be a valuable tool for our new Board of Directors members. This should be finalized and ready for our Directors before the March Board Meeting.

**Committees & Outreach Work:** The OHA committees and outreach representatives took some time this past weekend to work on committee Terms of Reference as well as planning their work for 2018 year.

**OHA Constitution/Bylaws:** The OHA is currently reviewing several draft Resolutions for next year's convention. Stay tuned for those resolutions in the pre-convention *Trillium* issue.

**Board of Directors Idea Table:** At the last two OHA Board of Director Meetings, our District 19 Director, Gary Brenner, requested that each board member bring an idea to share with everyone. This Idea Table has brought forward some great suggestions to take back to the Districts. This would be a great idea for consideration at District Meetings.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**NEW Pollinator Project Grant:** In support of our recent OHA Pollinator Initiative, the Board of Directors has approved a new grant that societies can apply for. Starting in 2018, the new Pollinator Project Grant will offer up to two (2) \$200 grants annually for the creation of pollinator habitat (garden, nesting site). The criteria and application process will be finalized by the Awards Committee and made available shortly.

### **OHA POSITIONS AVAILABLE:**

**Awards Coordinator – Available as of January 1, 2018:** The OHA Awards Coordinator is responsible for overseeing, managing and maintaining the Awards Program for the Ontario Horticultural Association, working in conjunction with the Officers of the Association.

**Treasurer – Available as of January 1, 2018:** The OHA Treasurer is responsible for overseeing, managing and maintaining the finances of the Ontario Horticultural Association, working in conjunction with the Officers of the Association.

**Marketing and Communications Coordinator – Available Immediately:** This position reports to the Ontario Horticultural Association Officers and Board of Directors, with responsibility for marketing and communications, under the supervision of the Officers. This person is responsible for supporting and assisting in the promotion and publicity of all aspects and events that this group undertakes. The Marketing and Communications Coordinator will implement a broad spectrum of publicity and marketing tools that assist in advertising the association and making the name become recognizable throughout Ontario.

### **112<sup>th</sup> OHA Convention 2018**

**Theme:** From Shore to Shield  
**Dates:** July 27-29, 2018  
**Location:** Ambassador Hotel & Conference Hotel  
Kingston, ON (District 3)

This year's convention will be taking on a nostalgic flare as we delve into the garden diversity of District 3 - from Shore to Shield. Get out your tie dye and bell bottoms!



I thank you for your continued support and commit to providing the best leadership possible during my tenure. Best wishes to you all as you clean up your yards and put your gardens to bed for the winter.

Sincerely  
Rose Odell, OHA President