** 112th Convention **

**Ontario Horticultural Association**

**Friday July 27 to Sunday July 29, 2018**

**Location: Ambassador Hotel and Conference Centre**

 **1550 Princess St Kingston On 613 548-3605**

* Room rates for the Ambassador – $135
* **BOOK YOUR ROOMS AT THE AMBASSADOR NOW !!**
* Alternate accommodations in the area with range of prices
* Close to 401 Train Station Kingston Airport close by
* **Free Parking, Free Wi-Fi ,Pool and Water Slide**

**Theme: “Shore to Shield”** Join into the gardening diversity of District 3

**Plans are in progress for:**

**Friday Night:**

GARDENING “ROCKS”with 60’s and 70’s music with “The Reasons”

 Dig out your Tie dye and Bellbottoms and plan to step back in time and party

 **“BE THERE OR BE SQUARE “**

**Vendors:** Our Vendors Market is SOLD OUT!! With a waiting list.The lovely sunny Atrium at the Ambassador will be the site of the Garden Market. We have some popular return vendors plus new and interesting garden related products. Come shop with us.

**Silent Auction** The Friday night District fun will include a silent auction. So dance the night away to your favourite tunes and bid! Bid! Bid! On all the terrific auction items.

**Bus tours**

**Thursday Early Bird Bus Tour:** Come Early to Convention

Relax on a coach bus as you lunch then tour four of the beautiful Rideau Canal and Thousand Islands Garden Trail Gardens. These gardens are beautiful Private Gardens that are amazing.

Dinner is planned at the Ivy Club. A unique local dining experience with a beautiful view of the St Lawrence River .Travel back to the hotel is via the picturesque route along the river. More details will be posted on the web.

**Friday and Saturday Bus Tours** Bus tours are planned to head out North West and East of Kingston to take in a variety of beautiful Private gardens and garden stops. There will also be a Thousand Island Boat cruise tour option which will give you a chance to see the spectacular scenery of the region from the water. Again details will follow on the web site.

**Speakers and Seminars:**

Carson Arthur– Carson the well-known outdoor lifestyle and design expert who focuses on environmentally friendly design is our keynote speaker. Carson is now a resident in Prince Edward County. He hosts not only TV programs but has a radio blog direct from the County.

Carson gave us a lot to think about this year and he promises to bring us more informative and forward thinking ideas as our keynote speaker.

**Other topics in the works:** Dry Stone Walls and Other Creations, The Wild Side of a Garden, Preservation of Indigenous Knowledge: Traditional Medicinal Plants, Tree Pruning – Hands on Demonstration, Rideau Woodland Ramble (a destination for all gardeners) Quinte Botanical Gardens

(Introduction to a new horticultural site, gardening for Nature, Floral Design Demonstration, and Natural heritage of the Frontenac Biosphere Keep an eye on the web site we will post the speaker list just as soon as it is finalized.

**Competitions –** Photography classes are posted on web. Youth will be posted soon. Check the web site. Look for the other competition schedules to be posted in late November. Check them out and sign up early there is limited registration in some of the classes. <http://www.gardenontario.org/sho/com.php>

We are going to have a friendly District Growing Competition. Seeds for our Challenge plant will be distributed to DD’s at March Board meeting for distribution. Stay tuned!

**Vacation Planner** Kingston area is part of great Eastern Waterway Tourism area and home to UNESCO heritage sites- Fort Henry , Rideau Canal, Frontenac Biosphere plus many other historic sites like the Kingston Penitentiary and the Museum, Steam Museum etc. so plan to make this a vacation stay.

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**What to Expect When Attending an OHA/Garden Ontario Convention**

This general information was gracious put together by D5 last year and well worth repeating.

**Schedule for Friday, Saturday and ½ day Sunday (Morning)**

* Morning meetings start at 8:45 a.m. with early bird door prize drawings – you need to be in the room to pick up a prize
* Formal proceedings start at 9 a.m.
* The OHA AGM makes up the first part of all three mornings and includes: minutes from previous year, secretary’s report, nominations (once each day), OHA’s Mission, President’s report, In Memoriam, Treasurer’s Report, and Resolutions
* “Registrants” of the convention have paid a registration fee, but cannot vote during the AGM
* “Delegates or Voting Delegates” are assigned voting privileges by their home Society, or are members of the Board of Directors
* Each morning includes a speaker after the AGM, until lunch
* Lunch is usually 12 noon to 1 p.m.
* Bus Tours and seminars are held at the same time during the afternoon, so you will have to choosebetween taking a tour or staying for the seminars
* Bus Tours are offered on Friday and Saturday afternoon. They leave at 1:00 p.m. and run until 4:30 p.m. This might mean that you will be asked to congregate at the bus pick-up location before 1:00 p.m. Good/appropriate footwear is recommended
* Seminars run concurrently on Friday and Saturday afternoon. There are 4 seminars at 1:30 p.m. until 2:30 p.m., with a break from 2:30-3:00 p.m., and then there are 4 different seminars from 3:00-4:00 p.m. The seminars may or may not be repeated
* Note, generally no food or “coffee” is offered during the afternoon

**Evenings**

* Thursday – there may be a tour, or special dinner at the discretion of the host District
* Friday – dinner, entertainment and Silent Auction reveal the character of the host District. Proceeds from the Silent Auction are an opportunity for the host District to recoup some of their expenses for planning the convention.
* Saturday – Banquet, OHA Awards presentation, Keynote Speaker
* A cash bar may be available for the Friday and Saturday evening events

**Accommodations**

* The hotel contract allows for a block of rooms at a special convention rate
* You book your room personally, stating that you're part of the OHA Convention, but the OHA has no part in that room booking
* If you know you are going to the convention, book your hotel room first/early, to ensure you receive the convention rate
* Note that check-out time for the hotel may be between 11:00 a.m. – noon on Sunday, but our meeting runs until noon, so you will need to plan your morning accordingly

**Meals**

* These are arranged through OHA via your registration form, and are not part of your registration fee. Hotel food is expensive, but the food is also a commitment that OHA makes to the hotel, so buying your meals through OHA keeps other costs down
* Meals sold through registration this year include breakfast lunch and dinner on Friday and Saturday and breakfast on Sunday.

**Competitions**

* Competition schedules are available as follows:
	+ Photography is published in the fall, 1.5 years in advance of the convention to allow for one full year to take photos
	+ Youth competition schedules are released in Fall of the year before the convention to allow for a full school year of youth programming to plan entries
	+ Art, Creative Writing, Publications, and Flower Show schedules are announced in the Trillium but the schedules are found on the website in November of the year before the convention

**Note that each schedule outlines the rules about registering to exhibit prior to the convention. Some of these competitions have early cut off dates for registering your society’s publications, or your desire to enter a design etc. Check the dates!**

* Usually, you may deliver your exhibits on Thursday evening, and early Friday morning
* Competition rooms are open for viewing from noon on Friday to the end of programing on Saturday afternoon – check schedules for details
* Exhibits can be picked up, and prizes are paid out, on Sunday morning- check schedules for details

**Additional Activities**

**OHA Supplies** – Supplies are sold at the convention and include OHA pins, certificates, note cards etc. see full list of items here <http://www.gardenontario.org/docs/supplies_list.pdf>

**OHA In Memoriam Book** –View the names of gardeners for whom a memorial donation has been made to OHA. This book is benevolently looked after by Marilyn Cox, from Lake Simcoe Gardeners

**OHA Tree Planting** – as part of each convention, a tree is planted and dedicated by the OHA President to commemorate the convention in that District. Tree plantings may happen during the convention or prior to the convention

**Vendors** – Friday and Saturday (vendors are a person or company offering something for sale); these may include local artisans, plants, garden décor, garden tours, insurance etc.

**Exhibitors** - Offering information, such as Master Gardeners

**Please Note…**

* The meeting rooms in most hotels are often chilly, and you may wish to bring a sweater. It is easier to warm up that way, and kinder to the people who are bothered by being hot, than adjusting the A/C
* For the Saturday night banquet, some of the attendees change into dressier clothes.
* **Silent Auction** – Friday only; bidding all day until after dinner.

A Silent Auction is: donated items displayed on a table. In front of each item will be a Bidding Sheet listing the approximate retail value of the item, the minimum starting bid, and the acceptable bidding increments (e.g., increases of $.50, $1, $5 etc. If you wish to bid on an item, print your name on the sheet and the amount of your bid. The next bidder must offer a higher amount, increasing their bid by the posted acceptable increment amount.

For example, if the minimum bid is $15 with allowable increases of $1, and you bid $15, the next person must up the bid by at least $1 (to $16), and so on.

If you really want an item that you bid on, be sure to check back before the bidding closes to make a final bid. When the bidding closes, the bidding sheets are removed by volunteers and the last person who placed a bid gets the item for the amount of their bid.

Closing time for bidding varies by groupings of items, with the group being identified by different colours of Bidding Sheets.

Payment for Silent Auction items is usually cash. Cheques or credit cards may be offered at the discretion of the hosting district.