

**OHAAGM2014 ONTARIO HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION DISTRICT 15**  
**DISTRICT 15 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**HOSTED BY: SCHOMBERG HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**  
**NOBLETON LAKES GOLF CLUB, 125 Nobleton Lakes Drive, Nobleton, On L0G 1N0**  
**APRIL 26, 2014** **9:30 A.M. – 2:55 P.M.**

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**1. MEETING PREPARATIONS & SETTING:**

**MEETING REGISTRATION**

8:00 a.m. The Registration Chair Linda Jessop and her team reported 142 registered with Club & Society representatives each receiving an envelope with an agenda, voting card where applicable, name tag, door prize ticket and a bag of giveaways.

**FLOWER SHOW EXHIBIT REGISTRATION**

Flower Show Convener Janet Orr and her committee received entries between 8.00 a.m. and 9.00 a.m.

**MORNING REFRESHMENTS**

We enjoyed breads, baked goods, yogurt, fruit, coffee, tea and juice

**SETTING**

The theme was “Live Life as a Garden”. The venue was in a lovely bright setting with amazing and beautiful flower arrangements displayed around the room and on the tables. They were designed by Eleanora Schmied, a member of Schomberg Horticultural Society. The District Welcome Banner and the District 15 Banner, Youth banner and Society banners were displayed around the room. Copies of the Treasurers’ reports and Society reports were on the members tables.

**VENDOR TABLES**

*Pathways to Perennials:* various plants, planters, fairy gardens, natural insect repellent, *Odile Sahl:* greeting cards, *Lemon Meringue Bake Shop:* baked goods, *Maji Designs:* hats, soaps, magnets, flax & lavender pads, *Mountain Grove Seed Co:* organic and heirloom seeds, *StoneRidge Studio:* leather jewelry, fabric scarves.

**2. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

Carole Spraggett District Director called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and thanked Schomberg for organizing the meeting and Caledon and the District Board for all their support. She welcomed Society Presidents, delegates, and guests to the 2014 District 15 Annual General Meeting and asked everyone to stand for the singing of O Canada as a video of Canadian scenes from across the country played.

**2b. WELCOME & GREETINGS: were received from;**

- Jill Watts-Hayward, President of Schomberg Horticultural Society thanked everyone for coming. She thanked her executive and their teams of volunteers, Jules Maule-ffinch, president, and Calendon Horticultural Society for their support.
- Jill introduced Steve Pellegrini, the Mayor of King Township who brought greetings from the Township. He praised Schomberg Horticultural Society for all the work they do. He welcomed everyone to the area and encouraged every one present to shop local.
- Carole introduced the guests; Past Presidents OHA: Jim Anderson, Shirley Daniels and Arlene Baker Drew and husband Jim who represented the Baker family. The District Board was introduced.
- Carole introduced Jeff Blackadar, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice- President OHA, who brought greetings from the OHA.
- Carole thanked all societies for contributing door prizes.
- The agenda was reviewed with no additions: A motion was made by Grace Nelham to accept the agenda as written. Seconded by Dawn Teal. All in favour. None opposed. Carried.
- Carole read the Invocation from the 2013 OHA Convention written by Suzanne Hanna.

**2c. IN MEMORIAM;**

Grace Nelham recited the poem below and read the names of members of societies who had passed away during the past year. A yellow carnation for each person was placed in a vase by Barb O’Malley and a minutes silence was held.

**Peace** by Helen Steiner Rice

After the clouds, the sunshine; after the winter, the spring;  
After the shower, the rainbow... for life is a changeable thing.  
After the night, the morning, bidding all darkness cease,  
After life’s cares and sorrows, the comfort and sweetness of peace.

Bolton & District Horticultural Society  
Brampton Horticultural Society  
Chinguacousy Garden Club

Jean Tuckett, Michael Tuckett  
Jean Weaver  
Dianne Wagg

Cloverleaf Garden Club

Lotte Bruner, **OHA Honour Roll 2013**,  
Shirley Walker, **Past President**

Credit Valley Horticultural Society,  
Nobleton & King Horticultural Society  
Richmond Hill Horticultural Society  
Roselands Horticultural Society  
Swansea Horticultural Society  
Thornhill Garden & Horticultural Society  
Woodbridge Garden & Horticultural Society

Anita Rose  
John Lesey  
Christina Rickaby  
Tom Madsen, Kay Apted  
Kay Apted & Martha Mueller, **Life Members**, Muriel Sides  
Ian Mooney, Richard Jarrell  
Elva Williams, Jean Thompson, Jean Tuckett, Michael Tuckett

**2d. ROLL CALL BY SOCIETY;**

Grace Nelham invited a society representative to stand for the roll call count by Society.

17 Societies were represented with 127 members, 5 guests and 7 District Board members present.

**3. MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING 2013:**

The minutes of 2013 Annual Meeting held on April 27, 2013 having been previously distributed.

Grace Nelham read highlights from the minutes. She asked for any errors and omissions, there being none. She asked for a motion to accept the minutes as previously circulated and read. Jean Barner, District Board moved for the adoption of the minutes, seconded by Asna Black, Chinguacousy.

All in Favour. None Opposed. Carried.

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

**4. TREASURER'S REPORT:**

For the year from January 1 to December 31, 2013, the District took in \$6,802 and spent \$6,615 with net earnings of \$187.43. These amounts include the income and expenses regarding the Annual General Meeting last April. The bank balance at the end of December, 2013 was \$4,450. This includes the \$2,559 balance of the Baker Fund. The audited Financial Statements have been distributed, and the financial records are available for review.

**4a. AUDITORS' REPORT:**

The auditors for the year 2013 were Marg Rowan and John Magennis.

They have reviewed the bank statements and financial records, and have found everything in order. They have indicated this by signing the Financial Statements at December 31, 2013.

Dorothy Wood read the reports and asked for a motion to accept the reports as read.

Ruth Bender, Chinguacousy Garden Club moved for adoption of the report, seconded by Lizanne Murphy, Brampton Horticultural Society. All in Favour. None Opposed. Carried.

**4b. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Jules Maule-ffinich, Caledon Horticultural Society questioned the recorded miscellaneous expense of \$495.76, it has been confirmed that \$322.05 is for Flower Show ribbons.

**5. DISTRICT 15 REPORT:**

Carole Spraggett read her report. First, I must tell you I look around the room and it feels so good to see so many familiar faces, friends and new faces. This can only mean we are all doing something right and I am really happy about that.

Forty one thousand, three hundred and eight hours, involvement in forty two community projects and engagement with at least nine youth groups were some of the statistics reported by the seventeen societies in District 15. We all know that the volunteer hours are likely many more because we all forget to report some.

Congratulations to you all. Great work continued sharing, growing and working together. You know that all members of the District 15 Board are there for you as we were in 2013.

We achieved a great deal in 2013. Just look at the Society reports to remind you of our collective endeavors.

Our two Presidents meetings were hosted by the District board and Roselands Horticultural Society. At those meetings we made some decisions to change the format of the meetings, eliminating the format to include a presentation and introducing the idea of having open, round table discussions on a selected subject. If at any time we felt it necessary to have a presentation on a given subject we would organize it. Some items covered during those meetings were a survey on membership fees and flower judges fees. Information from this was circulated to all societies. A short discussion ensued in connection with OHA investments and a motion was passed indicating that District 15 would not support any investment in Mutual Funds. Items requiring clarification were addressed by me at the OHA Board meetings including the reporting and recording of District funds.

The Thornhill Horticultural Society offered a challenge known as the 2015 challenge” to all district and OHA societies to record all vegetable growing in the province between 2013 and 2015. We are still working on a method of establishing a suitable way to do it.

Cloverleaf Garden Club hosted the 2013 AGM in a very unique venue, Nissan Corporate headquarters. We had the pleasure of Mr. James Graham, 1<sup>st</sup> VP’s company both as the OHA rep and our speaker. As usual he was greeted very warmly and enlightened us and added humour to the day. All aspects of the day were very rewarding and Cloverleaf made the perfect hosts.

The OHA Convention was held in Thunder Bay. Significant awards were received by many members of District 15 including the Trillium Award to Kathy Andrachuk from the Horticultural Societies of Parkdale and Toronto.

Sixteen delegates attended from District 15, allowing 56% of our district’s eligible votes to be used on the two significant resolutions. The position of 2nd VP has been eliminated together with a change in the representation from the Past Presidents’ Council, which will now be made by the Immediate Past President. We have seen significant growth in youth programmes within the District and we continued to be able to give the \$50 youth grant established thanks to the donations from societies to the Baker fund.

Myself and all members of the Board made representation at all Society AGMs and other events where possible. We have seen some significant changes in the interaction between many societies which has led to a greater sharing of ideas.

We have encountered one or more incidences of respect issues within societies and are working hard to encourage all members to have caring, understanding and tolerance when working with each other.

Something we know we will resolve collectively.

At this point I would like to reiterate what I said earlier 2013 was a very successful year for all societies in District 15, all growing in different ways and directions.

I sincerely thank you for giving me the opportunity to be your Director in 2013. I hope I represented you and worked with you in the manner you wished.

#### **6. O.H.A. REPORT JEFF BLACKADAR 1<sup>ST</sup> VICE PRESIDENT OHA:**

Jeff Blackadar read this report from James Graham, President of the OHA.

I hope you have a wonderful time together today – sharing ideas & enjoying the company of old & new friends. I think a day like this is lost if I don’t have conversation with at least one new acquaintance and learn at least one thing that can be used by my society or in my garden.

This year I would like you to give your society a little spring check-up – just as we get one from our doctors each year. Have you had a “dose” of laughter at your meetings??

Has there been a “specialist” whose message was particularly interesting and beneficial?

Did you share that “specialists” information with another society?

How was your attendance? Did the weather interfere? Could a different “bed-side” approach help?

Would a personal call from another member have helped?

Has there been a change that was very successful to the health of your society?

What part of “your diet” would you like to eliminate?

What is something you never want to give up or change in your society?

What is the secret to your society’s longevity?

Every member has something to offer, however small it may seem, it may be like the pebble thrown into a lake, and have lots of ripples spreading from it. One such case I remember was the suggestion that refreshments be more “self-service” at our meetings. The sweets were to be set a distance apart from the now self-service beverages. This seemed rather small, maybe childish, but the effect was that people got up and moved around. When they inadvertently bumped into someone, conversation began and the society was strengthened. We never know where a suggestion will lead us or how good it can be – just think how silly that first suggestion to eat an egg must have sounded.

Best wishes for good health and happy gardening!

Jeff said that the benefits of the OHA are numerous; Over 100 years of History, now there are 270 societies and over 20,000 members. This is a unique network of volunteers where you can share knowledge and plants with fellow gardeners, make friends, beautify the Community, come together with other Societies, the District and the OHA Community.

A break was taken, a chance to have tea and coffee, visit the vendors and purchase draw tickets

**7. DRAW FOR PRIZES:** Each Society donated a Door Prize and half of the prizes were presented.

**8. JUNIOR AWARD PRESENTATION:**

The youth program awards were put in place by the late Florence and Clarence Baker as a memorial to their son Bill. Clarence Baker was a past District 15 Director. We are very grateful to the Baker family. Their daughter Arlene Baker Drew said she was very happy to be here. She said children are never too young to be introduced to gardening. Arlene and her husband gave a donation to the Baker Fund.

Arlene presented trophies to the following societies:

**The District 15 Trophy and the Bill Baker Memorial AWARD (2000) & \$100.**

For In School projects; Caledon Horticultural Society, accepted by Jules Maule-ffinch.

**The Bill Baker Memorial TROPHY (1982) & \$100**

For Outreach Community projects; Roselands Horticultural Society, accepted by Helen Deggett.

**Presentation to Societies Participating in Youth, \$50**

Brampton, Caledon, Cloverleaf, Etobicoke, Roselands and Thornhill.

**9. AWARD PRESENTATIONS:**

**District Appreciation Award;**

Carole Spraggett presented this award to Cloverleaf Garden Club for hosting the 2013 District 15 AGM.

Carole Spraggett presented this award to Lillian Brown for her dedication to District 15.

Carole Spraggett presented this award to Dorothea Cook, The Horticultural Societies of Parkdale & Toronto for her dedication to her Society and District 15.

Carole will present the District Service Award to Florrie Abbess at a meeting of Cloverleaf Garden Club.

Carole thanked all society volunteers and encouraged societies to recognise them.

**Awards and Grants to be presented at the Convention**

Honour Roll: Anne Clark-Stewart, Cloverleaf

Community Gardens Grant: Swansea, Thornhill

Tree Grants: Cloverleaf

**10. HORTICULTURAL, DESIGN and PUBLICATION JUDGES COMMENTS:**

Janet Orr introduced the **Design and Horticultural Judges:** Anne Clark Stewart and Barbara Clarke who conducted combined judging. Excellent designs, standard show. Lots of good specimens, daffodils and house plants. They congratulated Schomberg on the layout and organization of the Flower Show and Carole thanked Janet Orr and her team.

Best in Show results were announced:

Design; Heinke Thiessen, Credit Valley Horticultural Society, Class 3-Beauty without bloom

Cultural: Hilary Ortman, The Horticultural Societies of Parkdale & Toronto, Class 21-Cactus

**Publication Judge:** Mike and Carol Dunk. Comments are on the individual judging sheets.

**11. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Lillian explained how the Green bag Raffle and Silent Auction worked and invited everyone to participate. Silent Auction and Raffle prizes: Miscellaneous items and gift baskets donated by Lillian Brown, Dawn Teal, Valia Zorzini, District 15 board members, Schomberg Horticultural Society, Sheridan Nurseries, The Region of Peel, Glen Echo Nurseries, Premier Tech, Urban Nature Store, Tradewinds.

The Silent Auction will be closed after the lunch hour.

District Board members will be selling draw tickets @ \$1 for 1, \$2 for 3 and \$5 for your own arms length.

View flower show, publications and peoples' choice judging of photo show.

**12. NOMINATIONS REPORTS & ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**

Jean Barna introduced Jeff Blackadar who conducted the elections and the installations.

Names of individuals agreeing to stand for the positions were called out in turn, followed by requests for further nominations from the floor in accordance with the bylaws. The Assistant Director Toronto West was filled by a nomination from the floor. Without further nominations from the floor, the following were declared elected and installed as the 2014-15 executive.

District Director	Carole Spraggett
Assistant Director	Dawn Teal, Toronto West
Assistant Director	Barb O'Malley, Peel Region
Assistant Director	Barbara Downey, York West

The following were appointed:	Secretary	Grace Nelham
	Treasurer	Dorothy Wood
	Auditors:	Marg Rowan, John Magennis
	Nominations Chair	Jean Barna
	OHA Supplies	Jean Barna

The Officers for 2014-2015 were congratulated.

**13. NEW BUSINESS:**

Society Anniversaries;

Congratulations to the following: 100 years, Richmond Hill Garden & Horticultural Society  
100 years Thornhill Garden & Horticultural Society  
70 years Cloverleaf Garden Club  
40 years Chinguacousy Garden Club  
30 years Credit Valley Horticultural Society

**14. ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS:**

- Code of Conduct within Societies
- Email communications
- Society Archives and History Preservation
- Working Committees

**LUNCH & VIEWING EXHIBITS:**

Linda Jessop said grace. We enjoyed a delicious buffet lunch of a choice of salads, various sandwiches, wraps and beverages, fruit and pastries, soft drinks, tea and coffee.

- We were invited to view the flower show, photo show, yearbook and newsletter competitions, visit the vendors and bid on the Raffle and Silent Auction items.
- A Power Point presentation of Society statistics and Society photos from throughout the year will be shown during the lunch hour.  
Peel Region = Bolton, Brampton, Caledon, Chinguacousy, Cloverleaf, Credit Valley and Streetsville, Toronto West = Etobicoke, Parkdale & Toronto, Roselands, Swansea and Westway and York West = Nobleton & King City, Richmond Hill, Schomberg, Thornhill and Woodbridge.
- At the end of lunch the Silent Auction closed.

**15. GUEST SPEAKER:**

Barb Downey introduced the speaker. Diane Greenfield is a great storyteller and gardener. She is a retired educator and owner of an impressive large county property in Tiny Township. She gave a very informative, enthusiastic and humorous talk on “Totally Mad” and introduced us to the plant explorers from history, their addiction and ours to collecting plants. She stressed that it was our responsibility to garden for the universe. Some favourite gardens to explore: Jarden des Plantes – Paris France, Quatre Vents - Quebec, Library Garden Tour – Midland July 12, 2014. [www.librarygardentour.ca](http://www.librarygardentour.ca). She left us with the thought - Live life like a garden..... madness and all.

Barb O’Malley thanked the speaker.

**16. REMAINDER OF DOOR PRIZES & RAFFLE DRAW PART 1:**

Tickets were drawn and door and draw prizes were distributed.

Winners of the Silent Auction were announced

**17. PRESENTATION OF THE LIISA WOLFGRAM AWARD OF EXCELLENCE IN HORTICULTURE:**

Carole Spraggett presented the award to Janet Orr, Schomberg, for her Muscari blooms.

**18. FLOWER SHOW AND PRIZES:**

Janet Orr thanked her committee members, volunteers and those who participated in the flower show.

Barb O’Malley gave the results of the Silent Auction.

**19. OTHER BUSINESS:**

- ✓ **Host of 2015 AGM** is Roselands Horticultural Society.
- ✓ **Host for September Presidents Meeting** is Richmond Hill Horticultural Society, on September 21<sup>st</sup> at Loblaws Super Center. Time to be confirmed.
- ✓ **108<sup>th</sup> Convention** see website for details.
- ✓ **Carole presented** a bouquet of flowers to Lillian Brown to thank her for all Gifts donated over the years for silent auction and raffles.
- ✓

**20. SILENT AUCTION & RAFFLE DRAW PART 2:**

Tickets were drawn and the remainder of the draw prizes distributed.

Silent Auction winners paid for and collected their items.

Flower Show winners collected prize money packages distributed by Dorothy Wood.  
Winners, categories, award points, prizes listed separately.

**21. ADJOURNMENT: 2:55 P.M.**

Carole Spraggett thanked all who helped with the arranging and who contributed to the success of the day especially Schomberg and William Wood for the slide presentation. She asked everyone to pick up their publication entries and photo entries.

*Grace Nelham*

*Carole Spraggett*

Secretary, Grace Nelham  
Originals signed by

District Director, Carole Spraggett

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**JUDGED COMPETITIONS AT DISTRICT 15 ANNUAL MEETING APRIL 26, 2014**

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**1. SOCIETY & CLUB MEANS OF COMMUNICATING WITH MEMBERSHIP PUBLICATIONS:**

JUDGE: Carol and Mike Dunk

PRIZES: Ribbons

Class 1: YEARBOOK, fewer than 100 members

- 1<sup>st</sup> Bolton Horticultural Society
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Schomberg Horticultural Society
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Westway Horticultural Society

Class 2: YEARBOOK, 100 or more members

- 1<sup>st</sup> Richmond Hill Garden and Horticultural Society
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Etobicoke Horticultural Society
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Thornhill Horticultural Society
- HM Cloverleaf Garden Club

Class 3: 2013/14 SPECIAL EVENT POSTER

- 1<sup>st</sup> Brampton Horticultural Society
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Credit Valley Horticultural Society
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Bolton Horticultural Society
- HM Cloverleaf Garden Club

Class 4: 2013/14 SPECIAL EVENT BROCHURE/pamphlet/flyer

- 1<sup>st</sup> Cloverleaf Garden Club

Class 5: CLUB/SOCIETY BROCHURE/pamphlet/flyer

- 1<sup>st</sup> Thornhill Horticultural Society
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Chinguacousy Garden Club
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Richmond Hill Garden & Horticultural Society

Class 7: NEWSLETTER 6-10 pages

- 1<sup>st</sup> Credit Valley Horticultural Society
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Cloverleaf Garden Club
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Thornhill Garden and Horticultural Society

Class 8: NEWSLETTER 11 pages and over

- 1<sup>st</sup> The Horticultural Societies of Parkdale and Toronto

Class 9: CURRENT YOUTH JOURNAL/SCRAPBOOK/OTHER

- 1<sup>st</sup> Cloverleaf Garden Club

Class 10: CLUB/SOCIETY BOOKMARK  
1<sup>st</sup> Brampton Horticultural Society

Class 11: SHOW SCHEDULE  
1<sup>st</sup> Chinguacousy Garden Club  
2<sup>nd</sup> Credit Valley Horticultural Society  
3<sup>rd</sup> Brampton Horticultural Society  
HM Cloverleaf Garden Club

**2. FLOWER SHOW-FLORAL DESIGN & HORTICULTURAL COMPETITION:**

JUDGES: Anne Clark Stewart and Barbara Clarke

PRIZES: Monetary

Design -15 exhibitors, 32 entries

Cultural – 17 exhibitors, 68 entries

Youth – 20 entries

BEST IN SHOW DESIGN: Heinke Thiessen, Credit Valley, Class 3-Beauty without bloom

BEST IN SHOW CULTURAL: Hilary Ortman, Parkdale & Toronto, Class 21-Cactus

SPECIAL EXHIBIT; 1<sup>st</sup> Ruth Adams, Roselands

YOUTH; 6-11only 1<sup>st</sup> Danial Rostroello, Richmond Hill, 1<sup>st</sup> Jameson OcanMerra, Lean Sze, Caledon

**PHOTOGRAPHY:**

6 entrants, 18 entries

Class 26-Showstopper 1<sup>st</sup> Janet Orr-Schomberg, 2<sup>nd</sup> Heinke Thiessen-Credit Valley,

3<sup>rd</sup> Carol Ashford-Streetsville

Class 27-Our winged friends return 1<sup>st</sup> Grace Nelham-Streetsville, 2<sup>nd</sup> Carol Ashford-Streetsville,

3<sup>rd</sup> Lizanne Murphy-Brampton

Class 28-My favourite flower 1<sup>st</sup> Heinke Thiessen-Credit Valley, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grace Nelham-Streetsville,

3<sup>rd</sup> Laura Surman-Brampton