

Ottawa Horticultural Society



2026 Yearbook

OTTAWA | ONTARIO

The OHS is a not-for-profit organization affiliated with the Ontario Horticultural Association



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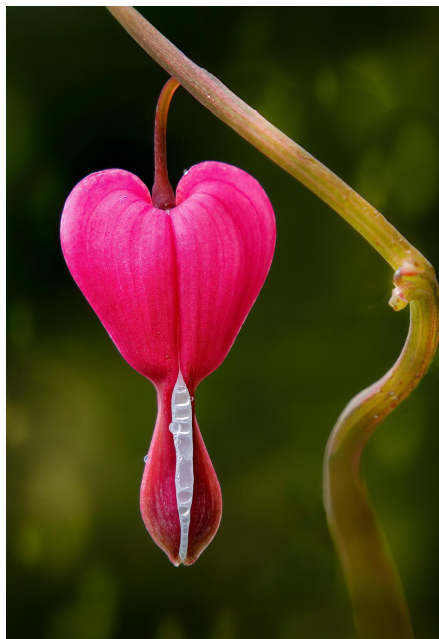


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About the 2026 Front Cover:



Congratulations to Paula Brown!

Congratulations to Paula, the overall winner of the 2025 OHS Annual Photography Competition and recipient of both the Judge's Choice and People's Choice awards.

As per competition tradition, the Judge's Choice first-place photo is proudly featured on the cover of this year's Yearbook. Newly added this year, the winning image will also appear on the OHS homepage, giving it a special place of honour.

Please see pp. [55](#)–64 for the winning entries and the names of all competition classes for 2025.

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FIRST NATIONS TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



We acknowledge that for thousands of years, First Nations people have walked on this land. Their relationship with the land is at the centre of their lives and spirituality.

We are gathered on the traditional territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabe people and acknowledge their stewardship of this land throughout the ages. Like them, may we come to better understand and honour that incredible web of life called biodiversity that exists between ourselves, animals, plants, soil, water and sky.



PRESIDENT'S SUMMARY

A Way to Garden



Julianne Labreche, President, OHS 2023-2025.
Photo Credit: Julianne Labreche.

One of my favourite garden bloggers is Margaret Roach. She's an American journalist, author, podcaster and columnist for the New York Times. She calls her website *A Way to Garden*.

This past summer, I signed up for three online garden webinars through *A Way to Garden*, including one to learn the latest news about jumping worms. As many of you know, jumping worms have been the curse of recent OHS plant sales. We're concerned about the spread of these invasive worms, so we are providing education and making extra efforts – big time – at our plant sales to root-wash donated plants to help prevent their spread.

Online learning is a terrific way to stay up to date with gardening advice. But now I'd like to address a way to garden that involves people, as well as technology and screens. It's a way to garden with the Ottawa Horticultural Society. This way of gardening is social, fun, gives back to the community, and helps to get you outside and away from your screen. Plus, dare I say, it's a real deal. Membership is only fifteen dollars.

This past year, there have been so many OHS activities. Many have been social, combined with education and learning. It's always a pleasure to meet fellow gardeners at our program meetings and catch up over tea. Program organizers Joanne Lacroix and Claire Leduc have provided us with a great array of interesting speakers this past year, including: several Master Gardeners, a local farmer, a flower photographer, a biologist and a well-known garden consultant.

It has been a full year of learning, with both in-person and online meetings. Of course, not everyone can attend our in-person meetings, especially at night and if the weather is poor. We are grateful to our technology team, including Rob Brandon, whose support has been essential as we work to improve our online capabilities. This focus on better technology brought us back to St. Mark's Church, where the Wi-Fi is stronger and the space quieter than Tom Brown Arena. Warm thanks as well to our refreshment team, especially Lynn Armstrong.

It's always fun to get involved with the plant sales. You learn a lot about plants, make new gardening friends and sometimes find a plant or two that you'd really like to take home to grow in your own garden. Even OHS members who get up at the crack of dawn to set up and sell plants at the Friends of the Farm plant sale say they enjoy themselves, coffee in hand. We owe a big thank-you to Cathy Younger-Lewis and her team who organized OHS participation at that sale, and to Gloria Sola and her crew who root-washed and replanted donated plants. We couldn't have done it without you.

As always, the May plant auction and sale was a huge success. Tensions always mount as bidders go higher and higher to buy a prized plant. Auctioneering was carried out skilfully again this year by Rebecca Last and Jennifer Mix. Such fun!



PRESIDENT'S SUMMARY (CONT'D)

Tuula Talvila organized volunteers for the big plant sale that same night. Lots of work goes into these sales. Many volunteers are needed to make it a success. Others spent some time buying plants and thoroughly enjoyed the night.

Of course, joining the OHS is more than just having fun and learning. It's a wonderful way to give back to our local community. This year, our OHS Board, in partnership with our Finance Committee, strengthened its commitment to community outreach. Board members Cecilia Lee and Juliana Adema skillfully led the Board in discussions. Eventually, we decided upon some community groups doing great work and worthy of OHS support.

Here are a few examples. We were proud to be able to assist Carty House II, which supports and houses newly arrived refugee women. We helped them to purchase new garden tools, provided a site plan and gathered volunteers to plant a Canada garden – in colours of red and white. We also purchased or donated plants.

We were pleased to offer financial support to The Children's Garden of Old Ottawa East to buy native trees, mulch, and a wheelbarrow. Some funds for the children's garden were donated in her will by Virginia Peck, a former OHS member who loved children and whose legacy will be remembered in this way.

We helped the Centretown Community Garden Project purchase new steel raised beds for plants. We helped the Orleans-Cumberland Community Resource Centre purchase tools, a shed and a hose. We supported a Canadensis project growing native trees, purchasing native tree seeds, seedlings and pots. These trees will be distributed in the Ottawa community when they are ready to be transplanted. We assisted the Wild Bird Care Centre, busy constructing a new building for injured local birds, because all of us enjoy birds in our gardens. In total, the OHS donated \$5,000 to worthy local community projects.

We also organized community projects that involved no costs to the OHS, including a very pleasant morning washing lettuce heads and weeding beets and sweet peppers at the Food Bank's Community Harvest Farm. We organized a team to help there, thanks to Juliana Adema, one of our Board members who works professionally in horticulture. I'd love to see more members involved in coming out and working at the Food Bank's Community Harvest Farm with us this year.

I will say that the Board worked very hard to create improved documentation around the application process for these community planting projects. We analysed the applications carefully and took care to ensure that these OHS funds were spent wisely. Each project filed a final summary report and provided some photos. These details are shared in this Yearbook, always so carefully crafted by Maria Nicoll.

We also celebrated a successful summer of pop-up garden tours that helped to get people outdoors to see some great gardens, meet some interesting garden hosts and again get us away from our screens. Tuula Talvila, Cindy Lyon, Maria Nicoll, and I were involved in planning these events and had fun doing it. We took our chances with the tour dates and the sun shone, as it did often during this summer of extended periods of heat and drought. It was a varied mixture of gardens this past summer: pollinator gardens, vegetable gardens, a wedding and reception garden, small gardens and at least one large private garden with its focus on art and beauty. Hopefully, there was something for everyone.



PRESIDENT'S SUMMARY (CONT'D)

Behind the scenes, we had a dedicated group of hard-working volunteers who were instrumental in helping us get through a difficult year. Many of you know that DJ Smith, who has led our membership committee for many years, decided to step away from that job last fall to pursue other interests and that led us to a big, dark hole in trying to replace her. Fortunately, one of our current Board members, Jean Carr, had the technical skills to help us to move our membership renewal and data entry online. Jean, Maria Nicoll, Sheila Carey and Janet Sullivan worked hard this past summer to create a modern, up-to-date website for us that will accommodate computers, iPads and iPhones, plus meet our membership needs. It is a French/English site that reflects the nature of our country, especially here in the nation's capital. It is also current. The 'front end' of the site was largely rewritten to reflect our current reality. We owe this team our gratitude.

As for myself, 2025 was my third and final year as your OHS President, after my term was extended one extra year. In hindsight, perhaps it was all for the best. It was a wonderful year. I can't say how lucky you are as OHS members to have such a smart, committed and caring group of volunteers working to support this horticultural society. Fellow volunteers were always there for me, including by email when my husband and I took a few weeks off in spring to explore the beautiful and historic country of Croatia.

We need more volunteers. There are never enough. I would ask you to consider getting involved in some way, even if it's just a small job such as arriving a little early to set up chairs for our meetings or helping out at a plant sale. The OHS is all about volunteers. It always has been and always will be about people stepping up to contribute their various skills.

Besides, it's fun and a great way to meet people. I stepped down knowing that the OHS is stronger than it was immediately following the pandemic. I too am stronger, having forged through this role some fine friendships that are meaningful, sincere, and genuine. Thank you to everyone, and especially thanks to our dedicated volunteers.

Julianne Labreche, President, OHS, 2023-2025



RÉSUMÉ DE LA PRÉSIDENTE

Une façon de jardiner

L'une de mes blogueuses de jardinage préférées est Margaret Roach. C'est une journaliste et auteure américaine, également podcasteuse et chroniqueuse au *New York Times*. Elle appelle son site web *A Way to Garden*.

Cet été, je me suis inscrite à trois webinaires de jardinage en ligne offerts par *A Way to Garden*—dont un pour connaître les dernières nouvelles au sujet des vers sauteurs. Comme plusieurs d'entre vous le savent, les vers sauteurs ont été la malédiction de nos récentes ventes de plantes de la SHO. Leur propagation nous préoccupe beaucoup, et nous offrons donc de l'information tout en redoublant d'efforts lors de nos ventes pour laver soigneusement les racines des plantes données afin d'aider à prévenir leur dispersion.

L'apprentissage en ligne est une excellente façon de rester à jour en matière de conseils de jardinage. Mais j'aimerais maintenant parler d'une autre manière de jardiner, une manière qui fait appel aux gens autant qu'à la technologie et aux écrans. C'est une façon de jardiner avec la Société d'horticulture d'Ottawa. Cette approche est sociale, amusante, utile à la communauté et vous encourage à sortir et à vous éloigner de votre écran. Et, osons le dire, c'est une véritable aubaine : l'adhésion ne coûte que quinze dollars.

Cette année a été remplie d'activités variées, souvent à la fois sociales et éducatives. Quel bonheur de se retrouver entre jardiniers lors de nos rencontres, de discuter autour d'un thé et d'écouter des présentations. Nos organisatrices de programmes, Joanne Lacroix et Claire Leduc, nous ont offert une belle diversité de conférenciers : plusieurs maîtres-jardiniers, un fermier local, une photographe florale, une biologiste et une consultante en jardinage reconnue.

Il s'est écoulé une année complète d'apprentissage, avec des réunions à la fois en personne et en ligne. Bien sûr, il n'est pas toujours possible pour tout le monde d'assister à nos réunions en personne, surtout le soir ou lorsque la météo est mauvaise. Nous sommes reconnaissants envers notre équipe technique, y compris Rob Brandon, dont le soutien a été essentiel alors que nous travaillons à améliorer nos capacités en ligne. Cet accent mis sur une meilleure technologie nous a ramenés à l'église St. Mark's, où le Wi-Fi est plus performant et l'espace plus calme que l'aréna Tom Brown. Nous adressons également nos chaleureux remerciements à notre équipe de rafraîchissements, en particulier à Lynn Armstrong.

Il y a aussi toujours beaucoup de plaisir à participer aux ventes de plantes au mois de mai. On apprend, on se fait de nouveaux amis, et on trouve parfois une ou deux plantes irrésistibles à rapporter chez soi. Même ceux qui se lèvent à l'aube pour installer les tables lors de la vente des Friends of the Farm en ressortent contents, café à la main. Un grand merci à Cathy Younger-Lewis et son équipe pour avoir organisé la participation de la SHO à cette vente, ainsi qu'à Gloria Sola et son équipe pour le lavage et le rempotage des plantes données. Sans vous, impossible d'y arriver.

Comme toujours, la vente aux enchères de plantes de juin a été un immense succès. La tension monte toujours lorsque les enchérisseurs vont de plus en plus haut pour obtenir une plante convoitée.



Julianne Labreche, présidente, SHO 2023-2025.
Crédit photo : Julianne Labreche.



RÉSUMÉ DE LA PRÉSIDENTE (SUITE)

L'animat on de la vente a de nouveau été menée avec brio cet e année par Rebecca Last et Jennifer Mix. Quel plaisir!

Tuula Talvila a coordonné les bénévoles pour la grande vente ce même soir. Ces événements demandent énormément de bénévolat, et il en faut beaucoup pour les réussir. Certains ont travaillé dur, d'autres ont dépensé un peu et tout le monde a passé une excellente soirée.

Bien sûr, adhérer à la SHO, ce n'est pas seulement pour le plaisir. C'est aussi une belle façon de redonner à notre communauté. Cet e année, notre conseil d'administrat on, avec le sout en du comité des f nances, a renforcé son engagement envers les projets communautaires. Cecilia Lee et Juliana Adema ont mené les discussions avec doigté, et nous avons choisi de soutenir plusieurs groupes locaux qui font un travail formidable.

Nous avons contribué f nancièrement au Jardin des enfants d'Ot awa-Est pour acheter des arbres indigènes, du paillis et une brouet e. Une part e de ces fonds provenait d'un legs de Virginia Peck, membre de la SHO qui aimait beaucoup les enfants.

Nous avons aidé le Jardin communautaire du centre-ville à acheter de nouveaux bacs en acier, et le Centre de ressources d'Orléans-Cumberland à acquérir des out ls, un cabanon et un tuyau. Nous avons soutenu un projet de Canadensis pour faire pousser des arbres indigènes qui seront replantés dans Ot awa, en f nçant graines, semis et pots. Nous avons aussi soutenu le Centre de soins pour oiseaux sauvages, qui construit un nouveau bât ment pour les oiseaux blessés. En tout, la SHO a donné 5 000 \$ à des projets locaux.

Nous avons également organisé des projets communautaires qui n'ont entraîné aucun coût pour la SHO, notamment une très agréable mat née passée à laver des laitues et à désherber des bet eraves et des poivrons doux à la ferme de récolte communautaire de la Banque alimentaire. Nous avons formé une équipe pour y prêter main-forte, grâce à Juliana Adema, l'une de nos administratrices qui travaille professionnellement en hort culture. J'aimerais beaucoup voir davantage de membres venir part ciper et travailler avec nous dans les jardins de la ferme de la Banque alimentaire l'an prochain.

Je dirai que le Conseil a travaillé très fort pour améliorer la documentat on entourant le processus de demande pour ces projets de plantat on communautaires. Nous avons analysé les demandes avec soin et veillé à ce que ces fonds de la SHO soient ut lisés judicieusement. Chaque projet a soumis un rapport f nal ainsi que quelques photos. Ces renseignements sont présentés dans cet Annuaire, toujours si soigneusement préparé par Maria Nicoll.

Nous avons également prof té d'un bel été de visites de jardins impromptues qui ont permis de rencontrer des hôtes passionnés et de découvrir une belle variété de jardins : pollinisateurs, potagers, jardins de mariage, pet ts et grands jardins, dont un axé sur l'art et la beauté. Grâce à Tuula Talvila, Cindy Lyon, Maria Nicoll et moi-même, ces sort es ont été un vrai succès, avec du soleil, malgré la chaleur et la sécheresse.



RÉSUMÉ DE LA PRÉSIDENTE (SUITE)

En coulisses, un groupe dévoué de bénévoles assidus a joué un rôle essentiel pour nous aider à traverser une année difficile. Plusieurs d'entre vous savent que DJ Smith, qui a dirigé notre comité d'adhésion pendant de nombreuses années, a choisi de quitter ce rôle l'automne dernier pour poursuivre d'autres intérêts, ce qui nous a laissés devant un grand vide à combler. Heureusement, l'une de nos administratrices actuelles, Jean Carr, possédait les compétences techniques nécessaires pour nous aider à transférer entièrement en ligne le renouvellement des adhésions et la gestion des données. Jean, Maria Nicoll, Sheila Carey et Janet Sullivan ont travaillé très fort cet été pour créer un site Web moderne et à jour, compatible avec les ordinateurs, les iPads et les iPhones, et répondant à nos besoins en matière d'adhésion. Il s'agit d'un site bilingue, reflétant la nature de notre pays, particulièrement ici dans la capitale nationale. Il est également actuel : la page d'accueil a été largement réécrite pour refléter notre réalité d'aujourd'hui. Nous devons beaucoup à cette équipe.

Pour ma part, 2025 a été ma troisième et dernière année comme présidente de la SHO, mon mandat ayant été prolongé d'une année supplémentaire. Avec le recul, c'était peut-être pour le mieux. Ce fut une année merveilleuse. Je ne saurais dire à quel point vous êtes chanceux, en tant que membres de la SHO, d'être soutenus par un groupe de bénévoles aussi intelligents, engagés et bienveillants. Les bénévoles ont toujours été là pour moi, y compris par courriel lorsque mon mari et moi avons pris quelques semaines au printemps pour explorer le magnifique et historique pays qu'est la Croatie.

Nous avons besoin de plus de bénévoles. Il n'y en a jamais assez. Je vous invite à envisager de vous impliquer d'une manière ou d'une autre, même pour une petite tâche comme arriver un peu plus tôt pour installer les chaises lors de nos réunions ou aider lors d'une vente de plantes. La SHO repose entièrement sur ses bénévoles. Elle l'a toujours fait et le fera toujours, grâce à des personnes prêtes à offrir leurs compétences.

En plus, c'est amusant et une excellente façon de rencontrer des gens. J'ai quitté mes fonctions en sachant que la SHO est plus forte qu'elle ne l'était immédiatement après la pandémie. Je suis moi-même plus forte, ayant tissé grâce à ce rôle de belles amitiés sincères, authentiques et profondes. Merci à vous tous, et un merci tout particulier à nos bénévoles dévoués.

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Merci à vous tous, et un merci tout particulier à nos bénévoles dévoués.

Julianne Labreche, Présidente de la SHO, 2023-2025



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ABOUT THE OTTAWA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY (OHS)

OHS Mission

“Our mission is to cultivate a passion for horticulture in Ottawa by sharing knowledge, fostering community engagement, and promoting sustainable practices and biodiversity that connect people with nature and each other.”

Who We Are Today

Welcome to the Ottawa Horticultural Society (OHS). We are made up of amateur and master gardeners who have been coming together for over 132 years to promote and encourage an interest in horticulture and the love of gardening in general.

The OHS organizes a wide range of activities, including a speaker program, plant auctions and sales, and summer garden tours. Through its social media platforms, Facebook and YouTube, as well as its website, the Society shares information and builds awareness among both members and the broader public. The OHS also contributes to the Ottawa region through community impact initiatives, donations, and volunteer work that extends beyond the Society’s own programs, supporting a variety of local projects and organizations.

These are some of the numerous opportunities to get involved and make a difference by volunteering with us. New challenges, learning more and of course meeting new people. You can’t go wrong.

Our Roots

The OHS has a long history dating back to the late 1800s. While there were garden societies in the city before then, it wasn’t until the autumn of 1892 that a group of local plant enthusiasts met at City Hall to plan the launch of a horticultural society. The inaugural meeting was held on January 17, 1893, with some 30 gentlemen present to listen to a lecture on the newest and best horticultural techniques. Today, the OHS is incorporated under the Ontario Agricultural and Horticultural Organizations Act and belongs to District 2 of the Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA).

Meetings and Locations

Meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month, typically from 7:00 to 9:00 pm, except in June, when the meeting takes place on the third Tuesday. There are no meetings in July and August. In December, we hold our Annual General Meeting (AGM); the date varies and is announced through the Grapevine (ohsgrapevine2@gmail.com) and on the [OHS website](#). These gatherings are always free, or, when we host special guest speakers, admission is simply the cost of a membership. We warmly welcome the public to join us.

OHS members can attend in person or view the meeting(s) via our [OHS YouTube channel](#). The ability to participate virtually has been a valuable addition, allowing us to stay connected regardless of physical distance and of course allowing members to attend meetings virtually in the comfort of their homes.

Meetings in 2025 began at the Tom Brown Arena, 141 Bayview Rd., Ottawa, before returning to St. Mark’s Church, 1606 Fisher Ave., in September 2025, where they will continue for 2026. If any changes arise, members will be notified. As a reminder, meetings are free, and we invite all to join us in person or on YouTube. ([Click here for meeting location](#)).



OHS YEARBOOK

Editor: Maria Nicoll | Editorial Review Team: Lori Gandy | Sanchita Ghosh | Josie Pazdzior | Tuula Talvila

2025 was a year of meaningful progress for the Otawa Hort cultural Society, and this Yearbook reflects the many contributions that made it possible. I'm grateful to everyone who provided content, support, and collaboration to bring this publication together. A big thank-you to the editorial review team for helping shape the final version with such care.

A major accomplishment this year was the successful refresh of our membership list and the launch of our updated website. Led by Jean Carr, with support from Sheila Carey, Janet Sullivan, and DJ Smith, the team worked tirelessly to modernize our systems, migrate our data, and create a more accessible, secure online experience. Their dedication ensured everything was ready in time for the September membership drive.

Thanks to their efforts, members now enjoy a personalized dashboard, printable membership cards, and online payment, significant improvements that will serve the Society well in the years ahead. Here's to another year of growth, gratitude, and shared success.



RECOGNITION

The OHS is indebted to its volunteer officers, directors, convenors, and many other members who give generously of their time and abilities to ensure that the Society remains a useful and interesting component of Otawa life. Businesses, organizations, and individuals have contributed in various ways to the work of the Society. The Society expresses its gratitude for the assistance provided by the following: the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Agribusiness; the City of Ottawa; and Katari Imaging. The Society also acknowledges the businesses that have continued to sponsor our website and yearbook and provide OHS member discounts. (See pg. [67](#) for a full list of the businesses that offer discounts to OHS members.)



PATRON, HONORARY PRESIDENT AND HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

The Ottawa Hort cultural Society is fortunate to have a distinguished list of patrons, honorary presidents, and life members.

Patron

Canada's Governor General, Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon, C.C., C.M.M., C.O.M., C.D.

Honorary President

His Worship, the Mayor of Ottawa, Mark Sutcliffe

Honorary Life Members

Jef Blackadar, Sheila Burvill, Mr. and Mrs. Russell Gomme, Rebecca Last, Blaine Marchand, Maureen Mark, Jennifer Mix, James Robertson, Cecile Sanders, Judy Shedden, DJ Smith, Ann and John Soar, and Gloria Sola.



OHS BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Board Update

Congratulations to **Larry Chamney**, who has been elected President of the Ottawa Horticultural Society for 2026–2027. Larry brings many strengths to this role and is already a valued member of the Board. He has organized the OHS Photography Contest for the past three years and is an avid gardener, naturalist, and photographer. A true team player, Larry approaches this new challenge with commitment and care. He was also the recipient of the 2025 President's Award for his outstanding contributions to the OHS.

Joining Larry on the Board are **Lori Gandy** (Director), **Kathleen Fischer** (Director), and **Maria Nicoll** (Director). Returning Board directors are **Juliana Adema**, **Sheila Carey**, **Jean Carr**, **Cecilia Lee**, **Tuula Talvila**, and **Cathy Younger-Lewis**. **Dianne Kilpatrick** and **Janet Sullivan** also return for a second two-year term. **Cindy Lyon** will continue as Secretary, and **Julianne Labreche** moves into the role of Past President.

Retiring from the Board, with our heartfelt thanks for their many contributions over the years, are **Rob Brandon** (Treasurer), **Jef Blackadar**¹ (Past President), and directors **Tina Liu**, **Claire Leduc** and **Joanne Lacroix**.

Member Awards - Members' Appreciation Award

Congratulations to **Jean Carr** who received the Members' Appreciation Award. Jean expertly upgraded the OHS website over the past year, an enormous contribution of time, technical skill and teaching ability. The new website not only looks better, but it also manages our membership database and is expected to save countless hours of volunteer time. Jean was not expecting to take on this job when he joined the Board, yet he enthusiastically jumped into the project. He encouraged and mentored others who assisted him, including **Sheila Carey**, **Maria Nicoll** and **Janet Sullivan**. We are extremely fortunate to have Jean on the OHS Board.



Jean Carr.
Photo Credit: Maria Nicoll

Member Awards - President's Award



Larry Chamney.
Photo Credit: Maria Nicoll

Congratulations also to **Larry Chamney**, winner of the President's Award. Larry has run the photography contest for the past three years, while also contributing his skills on the OHS Board, especially in strategic planning. We look forward to his ongoing contributions as our newly elected OHS President.

Board Service Recognition

At the OHS AGM, we also celebrated three remarkable individuals whose dedication has shaped the Society over many years:

Jef Blackadar (Past President), **Rob Brandon** (outgoing Treasurer), and **Julianne Labreche** (outgoing

President). We extend our heartfelt thanks for their years of volunteer service, their steady leadership, and their unwavering commitment to OHS members, the Board, and the wider community. Their contributions have strengthened the Society in countless ways, and we are deeply grateful.



Left to Right: **Jef Blackadar**, Past President; **Rob Brandon**, Outgoing Treasurer; **Julianne Labreche**, Outgoing President. Photo Credit: Maria Nicoll

¹ At the time of preparing the 2026 OHS Yearbook, Jef Blackadar had agreed to return to the OHS Board to replace departing Director Joanne Lacroix.



OHS OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, CONVENORS AND CONTACTS 2025-2026

OFFICERS 2026

President: Larry Chamney | **Vice President:** Vacant | **Secretary:** Cindy Lyon | **Treasurer:** Vacant |
Past President: Julianne Labreche | **Controller:** Rob Brandon (Interim)

Board of Directors 2024-2026:

Juliana Adema | Sheila Carey | Jean Carr | Cecilia Lee |
Tuula Talvila | Cathy Younger-Lewis.

Board of Directors 2025-2027:

Jef Blackadar | Lori Gandy | Diane Kilpatrick |
Kathleen Fischer | Maria Nicoll | Janet Sullivan

CONVENORS 2025-2026

AGM Coordination:

Larry Chamney chamneylg@gmail.com
Julianne Labreche juliannelabreche@gmail.com
Cindy Lyon clyon9395@gmail.com

Archives:

Jef Blackadar jef_blackadar@gmail.com

Audio Visual:

Rob Brandon rob@laurabrandon.ca

Awards and Grants:

Larry Chamney chamneylg@gmail.com

Canadensis Native Tree Nursery Project:

Jean Carr 4jeancarr@gmail.com
Kathleen Fischer kfscher888@outlook.com

Community Impact:

Juliana Adema juliana.adema@gmail.com
Cecilia Lee hcfourney@gmail.com

Facebook:

Tuula Talvila tuula@ncf.ca

Finance Chair, Finance Committee:

Gloria Sola (Chair)* the.canadian.ecuatorian@gmail.com

Garden Pop-Up Tours Co-Convenors:

Julianne Labreche juliannelabreche@gmail.com
Cindy Lyon clyon9395@gmail.com
Maria Nicoll mtnicoll55@gmail.com
Tuula Talvila tuula@ncf.ca

Google for Non-Profits:

Jean Carr 4jeancarr@gmail.com
Cindy Lyon clyon9395@gmail.com

Grapevine:

Janet Sullivan otawahortweb@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Vacant NA



OHS OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, CONVENORS AND CONTACTS 2025-2026 (CONT'D)

CONVENORS 2025-2026 (CONT'D)

Member Discount and Sponsorship:

Cindy Rat le* gardenescape48@gmail.com

Membership:

Sheila Carey s_carey@rogers.com

Janet Sullivan ot_awahortweb@gmail.com

Nominat ons:

Julianne Labreche juliannelabreche@gmail.com

Ot awa Regional Science Fair Judges:

Juliana Adema juliana.adema@gmail.com

Anne Johnston* a.johnston.photo@gmail.com

Claude Tremblay Brun del Re *Email unavailable*

Josh Yazbeck* joshyaz96@gmail.com

Photo Compet t on:

Larry Chamney chamneylg@gmail.com

Plant Sales:

Friends of the Farm (FoF): Cathy Younger-Lewis *Email unavailable*

May Auct on: Tuula Talvila tuula@ncf.ca

Fall Sale: VACANT NA

Speaker Series Program:

Joanne Lacroix photojojo007@gmail.com

Julianne Labreche juliannelabreche@gmail.com

Claire Leduc claireleduc79@gmail.com

Nancy McDonald nancyemcdonald49@gmail.com

Publicity:

Tuula Talvila tuula@ncf.ca

Refreshments:

Lynn Armstrong* lrnstrng@sympat.co.ca

Volunteer Coordinator:

Vacant NA

Yearbook Editor:

Maria Nicoll mtnicoll55@gmail.com

Web Developer:

Jean Carr 4jeancarr@gmail.com

Web Masters:

Maria Nicoll mtnicoll55@gmail.com

John Waddington* johnnchar@bell.net

**denotes non-board member*





BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S CONTACTS 2026

Juliana Adema	juliana.adema@gmail.com
Jef Blackadar	jef_blackadar@gmail.com
Rob Brandon	rob@laurabrandon.ca
Sheila Carey.....	s_carey@rogers.com
Jean Carr	jcarr@jardincanadensisgarden.ca
Larry Chamney (President).....	president@otawahort.org
Kathleen Fischer.....	kf_scher888@outlook.com
Lori Gandy	lorigandy@rogers.com
Cecilia Lee	hcfourney@gmail.com
Dianne Kilpatrick	baillie.dianne@gmail.com
Julianne Labreche.....	juliannelabreche@gmail.com
Cindy Lyon.....	clyon9395@gmail.com
Maria Nicoll.....	mtnicoll55@gmail.com
Janet Sullivan	ohsgrapevine2@gmail.com
Tuula Talvila	tuula@ncf.ca
Cathy Younger-Lewis.....	<i>Email unavailable</i>



Note: OHS Board meetings are held monthly, typically on the second Monday of each month, from September through June.

OHS VOLUNTEERS 2025

Thank-you OHS Volunteers!

The OHS extends its deepest gratitude to all our volunteers for their unwavering dedication and hard work in 2025. Your contributions have been instrumental in making our society flourish.

Adair Heuchan	Ellen Derry	Nancy McDonald
Alain Decelles	Ewan McRobbie	Orisha Yachyshyn
Alex Godefroy	Gillian MacDonnell	Pamela Barber
Ann Frederking	Gloria Sola	Pat Russell
Anne Johnston	Jane Sargent	Pauline Yelle
Anne Price	Janet Sullivan	Rebecca Last
Ashinder Joshi	Jean Carr	Rob Brandon
Barry Wilson	Jef Blackadar	Robb Wainwright
Blaine Marchand	Jennifer Mix	Ron Woods
Brian Carson	Jim Godefroy	Samantha Curtis
Catherine Disley	Joanne Lacroix	Sanchita Ghosh
Cathy Pearson	John Waddington	Sandy Garland
Cathy Potts	Josie Pazdzior	Sara Power
Cathy Younger-Lewis	Juliana Adema	Sara Shapiro
Cecelia Lee	Julianne Labreche	Sharon McCue
Chris Stetsko	Kat Bauer	Sheila Burvill
Cindy Lyon	Kathleen Fischer	Sheila Carey
Cindy Ratelle	Keith Crysler	Sonia Sylvestre
Claire Leduc	Kristin Kendall	Stephen Fourney
Claude Brun del Re	Larry Chamney	Suzanne Carr
Geoff Kennedy	Leia Fourney	Sylvia Spasof
Deepak Kumar	Liz Vavasour	Tina Liu
Dianne Kilpatrick	Lori Flanagan	Tuula Talvila
DJ Smith	Lori Gandy	Wendolyn Nicholds
Dorothy Tol	Lynn Armstrong	William Fourney
Ela Kesik	Maria Nicoll	
Elizabeth Moore	Maureen Mark	



OHS LONG SERVICE MEMBERS 2025-2026

Every year, the OHS proudly lists the names of members who have achieved 10-, 20-, 30-, and 40-year milestones. The OHS extends its congratulations to all members from 2025 for their loyalty and, of course, for reaching these significant milestones.

10 Years	Mira Missop and Janet Wolfe
15 Years	Margaret Cheney Don, Sandy Garland, Anne Johnston, Tuula Talvila, and Barb Walker
20 Years	Rebecca Last-Guenette, Connie Munro, and Dorothy Tol
25 Years	Jennifer Mix and Josie Pazdzior
40+ Years	Ann Soar (44), John Soar (44), and Judy Shedden (47)



REMEMBRANCE DAY

On November 11, 2025, Remembrance Day, OHS President Julianne Labreche laid a wreath on behalf of the Ottawa Horticultural Society at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in downtown Ottawa. This gesture honoured both the wish of a former OHS member's donation and the memory of those who made the ultimate sacrifice in time of conflict.



Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Elgin Street, Ottawa
Photo Credit: Maria Nicoll



Julianne Labreche with OHS Wreath. *Photo Credit: Unknown.*



IN MEMORIAM 2025

Marilyn Light

Marilyn Light, a member of the OHS for 44 years, passed away on December 2nd, 2025, in Kingston Ontario. She was an avid gardener and maintained an almost rabid curiosity about everything in the natural world throughout her life. Marilyn had an early start, fondly remembering gardening with her father at the tender age of five. She was given many opportunities to learn more as she grew up.

When Marilyn joined the OHS she immediately got to work sharing her knowledge and her plants. She contributed many articles over the years on wide-ranging topics from her love of orchids and orchid conservation, to growing fruit trees, and hand propagating plants. More recently, she wrote about the impact of a tornado in her area from her scientist's perspective. She also shared her knowledge much more broadly as she regularly filled-in for Ed Lawrence on his CBC radio gardener's call-in show. Marilyn Light is also internationally recognized as an orchid conservationist. Locally, she participated regularly in the count of Showy Lady Slippers in the Purdon Conservation Area and spoke frequently locally and internationally about orchid conservation. Her horticultural achievements have been recognized with the award of an Honorary Life Membership by the OHS in 2004, and the Silver Medal (the highest medal) in 2000 by the Ontario Horticultural Association. She was also recognized by the North American Rock Garden Society in 2006 with the Edgar T. Wherry Award for her efforts to broadly disseminate botanical and horticultural information about native North American orchids. More recently, she was delighted to chair the North American Region and the Education Committees of the Orchid Specialist Group of the International Union for Conservation of Nature Species Survival Commission.



Marilyn Light. Photo from:
<https://otawacitizen.remembering.ca>.

Most members will remember Marilyn as the indomitable auctioneer. Marilyn was an amazing plantswoman. In the early years of the auction, there was no plant sale. Members would bring their offerings, and Marilyn would sort and group the plants for auction on the spot. She had great flair for figuring out how to get the best prices for each auction lot. She provided valuable horticultural and sometimes historical tidbits on specimens. She joyfully encouraged competition between bidders. Marilyn Light served with delight as the OHS auctioneer for almost every auction until her move to Kingston about two years ago to be closer to family.

Marilyn's spirit will live on through the plants and knowledge that she has shared over the years.

Contributed by Maureen Mark



OHS FINANCIAL STATEMENT REPORT 2024-2025

Ottawa Horticultural Society Financial Statements-Fiscal Year of September 1 2024 to August 31 2025

Income		Expenses	
Advertising	\$0.00	Civic	\$3,273.62
Donations	\$1,760.00	Distribute Information	\$2,716.53
Grants	\$1,550.00	Donation to Reg. Charity	\$0.00
HST Refund	\$838.92	Fees/Dues	\$252.36
Investment Income 2024/2025	\$4,487.73	General Administration	\$4,422.39
Memberships (including \$ of prepaid memberships) see note 1	\$4,920.00	Meetings	\$5,993.45
Sales	\$4,982.65	OHA/D2	\$2,015.50
Refreshment at talks	\$110.50	Publicity	\$0.00
Total Income 2024/2025	A \$18,649.80	Sales Materials	\$452.83
		Shows	\$267.84
		CSRF Expenses	\$0.00
		Youth/Science Fair	\$650.00
		Total Expenses 2024/2025	B \$20,044.52
Combined Income Less Expenses (A-B)	C -\$1,394.72		
Other Activities			
HST net	-\$435.50		
HST refund not received to date	-\$434.34		
Final Income less Expenses	D -\$2,264.56		
Statement of Changes in Cash Position (see note 2)			
Checking Acct Balance September 1, 2024	\$9,346.95		
Final Income less Expenses (D)	-\$2,264.56		
Less uncleared 2023/2024 cheques	-\$14.75		
Plus uncleared cheques August 31, 2025	\$1,167.43		
Less uncleared deposits	\$0.00		
Transferred to Investment Account	\$0.00		
Checking Account Balance August 31, 2025	E \$8,492.80		
Balance Sheet Asset and Liability Statement			
Assets as of August 31, 2024			\$72,124.84
Liquid Assets: Chequing Account		\$8,492.80	
Cash Float		\$200.00	
Investment Account (unrestricted)		\$50,432.04	
Cash	\$54.10		
CIBC Money Market	\$618.86		
CIBC CAD BNK 6% 2yr GIC due Jul 2026	\$6,000.00		
Equitable Bank Guaranteed Investment Certificate 4.9% Apr 2026	\$10,000.00		
Haventree Guaranteed Investment Certificate 3.47% Mar 2028	\$10,000.00		
Equitable Bank Guaranteed Investment Certificate 4.56% Feb 2027	\$10,000.00		
iShares S&P/TSX Capped Financials Index ETF	\$11,085.00		
Desjardins low CO2 Index ETF	\$2,674.08		
Segregated Funds			
Guaranteed Investment Certificate Haventree 3.46% Jul 2028	\$13,000.00	\$13,000.00	F
Liabilities as of August 31, 2023			
Accounts Payable	\$0.00		
Uncleared Cheques	-\$1,167.43		
Segregated Funds	-\$13,000.00		-\$14,167.43
Equity as of August 31, 2024		\$59,236.34	
Equity as of August 31, 2025			\$57,957.41
Decrease in equity			-\$1,278.93

1 Donations and Membership fees were transferred from the Stripe payment program to the Bank and an adjustment of \$85 was required
2 Transfer of funds from the payment program to Stripe resulted in a difference from the bank statement of \$257.72

Alain Delle
19 September 2025
CSO
Sep 22, 2025



OHS FINANCE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Chair: Gloria Sola • Committee Members: Jef Blackadar | Rob Brandon | Lori Flanagan | Geof Kennedy | Julianne Labreche | Maureen Mark

The Committee held its annual in-person meeting on February 6, 2025, to discuss the reassignment of the Treasurer's duties and to introduce Lori Flanagan as the new OHS Treasurer. The Treasurer's position was divided into a Controller and a Treasurer, with the Controller responsible for all money collections and disbursements. Rob worked with Lori and Sanchita Ghosh, the new controllers², to instruct them on the procedures of the job and guide them through the audit.

After considerable difficulty, the signing authorities for the CIBC account have finally been updated. CIBC has become very challenging to deal with, particularly as all decisions must come from the Toronto head office, and small not-for-profit organizations are not being encouraged to be clients.

Approximately 20% of OHS investments are held in two Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs), 14% in Guaranteed Investment Certificates (GICs) and money market funds, and 66% in fixed-income instruments. It was agreed that this proportion represents a low-risk portfolio consistent with the OHS investment policy.

The annual budget line for civic projects has been increased from \$2,000 to \$5,000.

This year, one bond and one certificate came due. It was decided to invest the \$10,000 from the Manitoba strip bond into a three-year Haventree Bank GIC at 3.47%, and the \$13,000 from the Haventree Bank GIC into another three-year Haventree Bank GIC at 3.46%. That GIC contains all the Memorial Fund money, and it is desirable to keep those funds together.

It was agreed that the investment policies should be recorded on the OHS website as part of the OHS policies found in the OHS Manual. There should also be a write-up on the website about the Memorial Funds and bequests.

² Due to unforeseen circumstances, both Lori Flanagan and Sanchita Ghosh are no longer able to continue in these volunteer positions. As of February 2026, the OHS Board is actively seeking new candidates.



OHS CASH DONOR REPORT 2024-2025

The Ottawa Horticultural Society gratefully acknowledges the generosity of our cash donors for 2024–2025. Their contributions strengthen our programs, support community initiatives, and help us continue our mission of celebrating and advancing horticulture in Ottawa.

Marija Bacic	Mary Joy	Elaine Rainboth
Gillian Boyd	Janet Kennedy	Joan Reade
Rayna Bonner	Caroline Koehler	Emma Roblin
Sheila Burvill	Maureen Lachance	Louise Rowe
Sue Chalmers	Michel Leblanc	Pat Russell
Donna Chan	Nora Lee	Barbara Sibbald
Beverley Chartrand	Tina Liu	Carole Sheppard
Centretown United Church	Maureen Mark	DJ Smith
Inge Dam	Nancy McDonald	Robert W. Smith
Naeema Doctor	Judy Mills	Gloria Sola
Harry Fischer	Susan Moore	Jenny Stepa
Ann Frederking	Tim Moore	Silvia Strobl
Marsa Galea	Monique Gofinet Miller	Kathryn Wallace
Lori Gandy	Maria Nicoll	Drina Wethey
James Godefroy	Stephanie Pelot	Janet Wolfe
Anne Johnston	Ian Pringle	



OHS COMMUNITY IMPACT DONATIONS OVERVIEW REPORT

Overview - OHS Donations to Community Impact Initiatives

In 2025, the OHS donated \$4,719.87 to eight community-led horticultural initiatives, an increase of 109.8% over 2024's \$2,250. These projects received a blend of financial support, horticultural expertise, and volunteer involvement. Each initiative was selected for its alignment with Board priorities in community sustainability, food security, and biodiversity enhancement.

To qualify, initiatives had to meet a clear community need, engage local groups through funding or volunteer effort, and be ready to implement with OHS support in 2025. The impressive results achieved this year highlight what can be accomplished when community partners work together.

We are grateful to all the OHS volunteer leads and community volunteers who partnered with us to make these initiatives come to life.

Comprehensive summaries of all eight initiatives, along with the outcomes achieved through OHS support, appear in the following pages of this Yearbook. The page numbers provided in the final column of Table 1 point readers directly to the full stories of their impact.

TABLE 1		
Community Initiatives 2025	Amount	Full Details
Canadensis Native Tree Nursery	\$800.00	Pg 42
Ottawa Valley Wild Bird Care Centre Building Fund	\$600.00	Pg 43-44
Carty House II (<i>An OHS Garden for Refuge</i>)	\$717.97	Pg 45
Centretown Community Garden Rehabilitation Project (CCGRP)	\$1342.00	Pg 46
Healthful Food Community Garden Initiative	Volunteer Support	Pg 47
Children's Garden of Old Ottawa East (Robert Legget Park)	\$600.00	Pg 48
Green Thumb Garden and the Orleans Cumberland Resource Centre (OCCRC)	\$659.90	Pg 49
Ottawa Food Bank Community Harvest Farm	Volunteer Support	Pg 50
Total³	\$4,719.87	

³ The total includes financial contributions and not volunteer support.



REGISTERED CHARITY

The Ottawa Horticultural Society is a registered charitable organization authorized to issue receipts. All cash gifts to the Society, donations, prizes, in-memoriam bequests or trusts, or contributions to any of our existing trust funds, are greatly appreciated. These donations help support our community projects and presentations.

OHS charity registration number: #13232 9335 RR 0001.



OHS MEMBER DISCOUNT AND ADVERTISING

Coordinator: Cindy Ratelle

Member Discount

Once again, thanks to the dedicated efforts of Cindy Ratelle, OHS members will continue to enjoy exclusive discounts at local nurseries and garden centres. For 2025–26, members receive 10% of applicable purchases, with exclusions noted by each vendor. Cindy's work ensures this valued benefit continues year after year, strengthening ties between the Society and community partners.

New this year, Potter's Nurseries in Kingston joins the network, alongside returning favourites such as Budd Gardens, Green Thumb Garden Centre, Artistic Landscape Designs Ltd., and more. These partnerships reflect the OHS's commitment to supporting horticultural businesses across the region while offering meaningful savings to members.

Advertising Opportunities with OHS

The Ottawa Horticultural Society is renewing its efforts to encourage vendors to advertise in our yearbook. In past years, yearbook advertising was well supported, but we have recently seen a decline. To strengthen this program, we are now offering website visibility as an option, either on its own or combined with Yearbook advertising. A full pricing table was created in April 2025, with fair and below-market rates designed to encourage participation and provide greater value to vendors.

This expanded approach provides vendors with greater exposure to our membership and the wider community, while helping to support the work of the OHS. We are confident that these opportunities will continue to build strong partnerships and provide valuable visibility for participating businesses.



SPEAKER SERIES PROGRAM, TOURS AND REGIONAL SCIENCE FAIR

OHS SPEAKER SERIES PROGRAM 2025: LEARN & GROW WITH US

Program Coordinators: Joanne Lacroix | Claire Leduc

The 2025 Speaker Series Program, whose theme was *Learn and Grow with Us*, was packed with inspiration, creativity, and practical know-how to keep members and the public's gardening passion growing all year long. From design and biodiversity to photography, pollinators, and the art of eco-friendly gardening, the 2025 lineup featured a dynamic mix of experts eager to share their knowledge and stories.

The year was kicked off in January with Lana Doss of *The Fine Gardener*, who showed us how to design outdoor spaces that burst with biodiversity.



Photo Credit: Tuula Talvila



Top row, left to right: Lana Doss, Jonathan Bruderlein, and Mary Crawford.
Bottom row, left to right: Janice Street, Nancy McDonald, and Mary Reid.
Photos courtesy of each speaker.

In February, Jonathan Bruderlein, better known as *Farmer Joe* of Ottawa Farm Fresh, inspired us with his passion for organic growing and sustainable farming.

Spring brought new perspectives, with Mary Crawford taking us on a virtual stroll along New York's famous High Line Park, followed by Janice Street, who revealed the *art of photography* and how to capture nature's magic through our lenses.

Summer's presentation by Nancy McDonald opened our eyes to the fascinating world of beneficial bugs, friends, foes, and everything in between.

As autumn rolled in, Mary Reid, beloved CBC Radio garden show guest and owner of *The Green Thumb*

Garden Centre, shared humour and wisdom from her decades in the gardening industry.

Sean James, Master Gardener, horticulturist and owner of Sean James Consulting and Design, followed with his innovative approach to *Fusion® Gardening*, an artistic blend of beauty, biodiversity, and water-wise design.

The year closed off with Dr. Jessica Forrest, a University of Ottawa professor and pollinator expert, who helped us discover the native bees thriving in our own backyards and how we can support them.

Whether our members are seasoned gardeners or just starting out, the 2025 OHS Speaker Series offered something for everyone - new ideas, fresh perspectives, and the joy of connecting through our shared love of growing things.



Left: Sean James. Right: Dr. Jessica Forrest.
Photos courtesy of each speaker.



SPEAKER SERIES PROGRAM, TOURS AND REGIONAL SCIENCE FAIR (CONT'D)

OHS SPEAKER SERIES PROGRAM OVERVIEW 2026:

SEEDS OF KNOWLEDGE — GROWING SMARTER AND GREENER

Program Coordinators for 2026: Joanne Lacroix | Claire Leduc

Program Coordinators for 2027: Julianne Labreche | Claire Leduc | Nancy McDonald

The 2026 Speaker Series theme, “*Seeds of Knowledge: Growing Smarter and Greener*,” has been designed to appeal to our members’ wide range of interests. Program details will be available on the OHS website, and reminders will be shared throughout the year via the OHS Grapevine newsletter.

We are looking forward to an engaging and fresh lineup of speakers, including gardening leaders and innovators, master gardeners, community advocates, and ecological and biosecurity experts. They will explore diverse themes in horticulture such as addressing food insecurity, protecting Canada’s biosecurity, garden design, and organic innovations in gardening.

The sessions will run from January to November, with the usual break during May, July, and August. Our traditional December meeting is reserved for the Annual General Meeting and the Holly Jolly Social (2025’s Christmas gathering), so a speaker presentation will not be offered that month.

Presentations will continue to take place at the new venue introduced in September 2025, St. Mark’s Anglican Church, except for the January and February sessions, which will be delivered via Zoom to OHS members. For those unable to attend live—either in person or on Zoom—recordings will be available on the OHS website through our YouTube link after each event. Be sure to take a look at the preview of our 2026 Speakers Series featured on the next page.

We are very excited and eagerly anticipating the new “Speaker Series 2026” program. It’s been a pleasure working on this project, and we hope you enjoy our 2026 program speaker lineup. Feel free to prepare questions, as all speakers are happy to answer them.

As a reminder, online presentations start at 7:30 pm and end at 8:30 pm. Be sure to view live at the [OHS YouTube channel](#).

In-person meetings start at 7:00 pm, with the guest speaker’s presentation starting at 7:30 pm and running to 9:00 pm. No worries, if you cannot make it in person on a given night. Presentations are recorded live and again, can be viewed at the [OHS YouTube channel](#).

In early 2025 the speaker series developed a new look and feel. Please visit the OHS website to view the full speaker series program.



Photo Credit: Aroop Ghosh



SPEAKER SERIES PROGRAM, TOURS AND REGIONAL SCIENCE FAIR (CONT'D)

OHS SPEAKER SERIES PROGRAM OVERVIEW 2026:

SEEDS OF KNOWLEDGE — GROWING SMARTER AND GREENER (CONT'D)



Left: Pat Lucey. **Right:** Mat Bolding. **Photos:** courtesy of speakers.

January: *Combating Invasive Plants* — Mat Bolding, Ecologist and GIS Professional, Invasive Species Program Coordinator, Ducks Unlimited Canada (Eastern Region).

February: *Organic Gardening for the Home Gardener* — Pat Lucey, Gardening Instructor, Canadian Organic Growers.

March: *Food for Life: How Some Organizations Are*

Addressing the Food Insecurity Gap — A panel featuring community leaders, CEOs, innovators, and business owners.

April: *A Team Approach to Protecting Canada's Biosecurity: How a Detector Dog and His Handler Work Together* — Mathieu Morin, Food, Plant and Animal K9 Officer, Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA).



Left: Mathieu Morin. **Right:** Nancy McDonald. **Photos:** courtesy of speaker.

June: *Culinary Delights with Herbs and Edible Flowers* — Nancy McDonald, Master Gardener of Ottawa-Carleton and member of the Ottawa Horticultural Society.

September: *Interesting Perspectives and Wisdom from the Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton* — A panel with Mary Crawford, Odette McIntyre, and Lee Ann Smith.

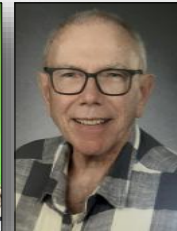
October: *Drama in the Buttery Garden*, with Carol Pasternak, MBA, LLB, author, photographer and Motivational Nature Speaker.

November: *Designing with Nature, for Outdoor and Indoor Enjoyment*, with Emma Terrell, The Urban Botanist.



Left: Carol Pasternak. **Right:** Emma Terrell. **Photos:** courtesy of the speakers.

As we look ahead to 2027, we are excited for the new and inspiring speakers and topics that await. We hope you will join us for another year of learning, connection, and community.



Top row, left to right: Peter Tilley, Carla De Ciccio, Nelson Coyle. **Bottom row, left to right:** Cecilia Lee and Tom Robson. **Photos:** courtesy of the speakers.



Left to right: Mary Crawford, Odette McIntyre and Lee Ann Smith. **Photos:** courtesy of the speakers.



OHS SUMMER 2025 POP-UP GARDEN TOURS REPORT

Leads: Julianne Labreche | Cindy Lyon | Maria Nicoll | Tuula Talvila

The Gardens of Nancy McDonald – July 13

Members began the season in Orleans with a visit to Nancy McDonald’s plant-filled suburban garden. Once shaded by towering ash trees, the garden has been lovingly reimagined to welcome native species, pollinators, and birds. Beds of herbs and edible flowers add fragrance and flavour, while touches of whimsy reflect Nancy’s joy in gardening. A long-time Master Gardener, Nancy shared thoughtful tips and stories from her PEI childhood that inspired her love of plants. We thank Nancy for opening what she calls her “happy place” and for showing how small spaces can become havens for both people and wildlife.



Top row, left to right: Nancy McDonald’s garden and gazebo; Nancy McDonald, garden host; beautiful garden path. **Bottom row, left to right:** *Clethra alnifolia* (Summersweet); ornamental garden tea pot and *Acanthus Hungaricus* (Bear’s breech.) **Photos:** Maria Nicoll.

The Gardens of Danielle Beaulieu – July 13

Later that day, visitors explored Danielle Beaulieu’s two-acre property, where art and horticulture meet in a blend of colour and texture. Winding woodland paths, dramatic daylily borders, and shady hosta groves reveal



Top row, left to right: Gardens and house; Danielle Beaulieu and partner, garden hosts; shady forest gardens with hostas. **Bottom row, left to right:** *Yucca filamentosa* (Adam’s needle), in bloom; statue of young girl with basket; clematis. **Photos:** Maria Nicoll.

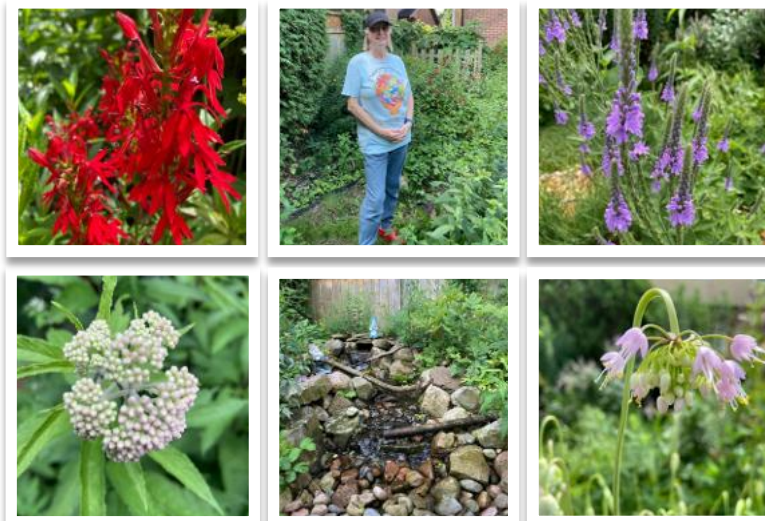
her painter’s eye for design. Danielle delights in reshaping her beds, moving plants like brushstrokes to refine each view and create daily surprises of new blooms.

Perennials transplanted from her grandfather’s northern Ontario garden connect past and present in this living masterpiece. We are grateful to Danielle for her gracious welcome and for demonstrating how a gardener’s artistic vision can transform a large landscape into a work of art.



OHS SUMMER 2025 POP-UP GARDEN TOURS REPORT (CONT'D)

The Pollinator Gardens of Nina Foster-MacLaren – July 20



Top row, left to right: *Lobelia cardinalis* (Cardinal flower); Nina Foster-MacLaren our enthusiastic and charming garden host; *Verbena stricta* (Hoary vervain). **Bottom, left to right:** *Eutrochium maculatum* (Spotted Joe Pye weed); Beautiful multi-level stone water feature; *Allium cernuum* (Nodding onion).

Photos: Maria Nicoll.

In Kanata, Nina Foster-MacLaren’s award-winning front-yard pollinator garden proved that a lawn can be more than grass; it can be a thriving ecosystem. Starting during the 2020 lockdown, Nina replaced ornamentals with native trees, shrubs, and vines, extending plantings right to the curb. Keystone species and host plants now provide nectar, seeds, and berries, inviting bees, butterflies, and birds throughout the seasons.

Nina’s enthusiasm for ecological gardening undoubtedly inspired visitors to rethink their own yards as wildlife sanctuaries.

Our thanks to Nina for her infectious passion and for showing how a suburban property can become a vibrant hub for biodiversity.

Kanata North Pollinator Patch – July 20

That afternoon, members joined Lyndee Wolf of the Ottawa Stewardship Council (OSC) for a guided walk through the Kanata North Hydro Corridor (KNHC), an excellent example of community-driven environmental restoration. Points of interest showcased invasive-species removal, native meadow establishment, and the ongoing creation of an 883-square-metre urban mini-meadow. Lyndee’s engaging commentary highlighted the partnerships and persistence required to convert utility land into valuable pollinator habitat.



Left to right: Lyndee Wolf, OSC, the OHS’s guided tour host for the Kanata North Hydro Corridor and OHS tour participants; pollinator plant and vegetable gardens; pollinator plants along the KNHC.

Photos: Left, Maria Nicoll; Centre to right, courtesy of Kanata North Regeneration Stewards.

We extend our thanks to Lyndee and the dedicated stewardship volunteers for sharing their expertise and for demonstrating the powerful impact of collective action.

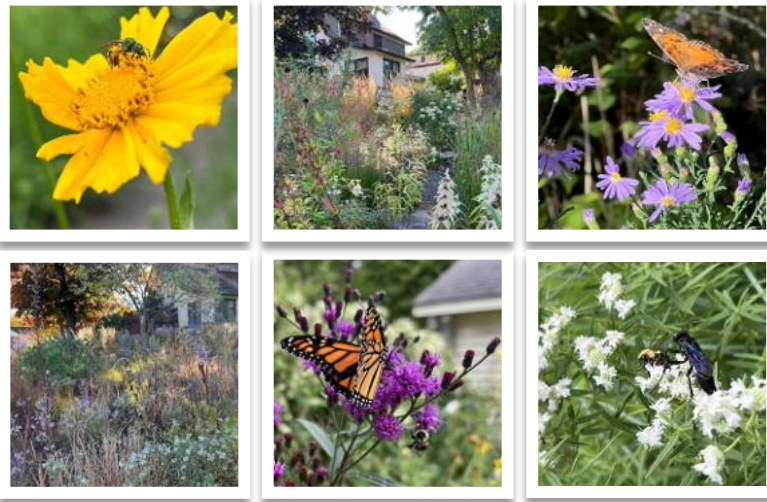
For more information, please visit the following: [Kanata North Regeneration Stewards - Ottawa Stewardship Council](#)



OHS SUMMER 2025 POP-UP GARDEN TOURS REPORT (CONT'D)

The Pollinator Garden of Christine Edmonds – August 17

Christine Edmonds welcomed members to her Westboro corner lot, where a dynamic dry-meadow planting thrives despite sandy soil, salt spray, and heavy foot traffic. Designed as a mixed grass-and-forbs habitat, the garden bursts with seasonal vignettes that attract bees, wasps, butterflies, and songbirds. Spring bulbs mingle with native meadow plants, including grasses and sedges. As a professional garden designer, Christine shared both practical advice and aesthetic insights, proving that urban spaces can be both resilient and beautiful. Many thanks to Christine for her hospitality and for modeling a thoughtful, climate-adapted approach to gardening.



Top row, left to right: Sweat bee on *Coreopsis lanceolata* (lanceleaf tickseed); corner garden early October 2025; American painted lady on *Symphotrichum laeve* (smooth aster). **Bottom row, left to right:** Corner garden in late August 2025; monarch and bumblebee on giant ironweed (*Vernonia gigantea*); great black digger wasp and bumblebee on *Pycnanthemum virginianum* (Virginia mountain mint). **Photos:** courtesy of Christine Edmonds.

The Pollinator Garden of Adair Heuchan – August 17

At CentrepoinTE, Adair Heuchan invited visitors through a tall hedge into a generous backyard alive with birdsong and pollinator activity. Native keystone plants fill the expansive borders, ensuring blooms and nectar from spring to fall. A secluded shade garden shelters ephemeral woodland plants, while vegetables and herbs flourish in pots for



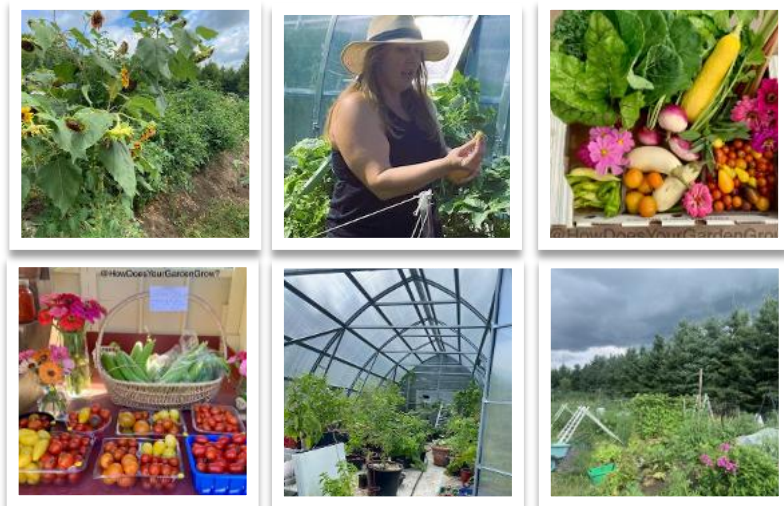
Left to right: Adair in her pollinator garden; Adair Heuchan, garden host; red fox visitor. **Photo Credit:** Adair Heuchan.

easy harvesting. Adair's Master Gardener knowledge and infectious enthusiasm made this visit as informative as it was inspiring. We thank Adair for sharing her expertise and for demonstrating how native plantings can thrive in a suburban setting while maintaining a sense of structure and charm.



OHS SUMMER 2025 POP-UP GARDEN TOURS REPORT (CONT'D)

The Gardens of Rachel Gill – August 24



The day began in Kars at the home of Rachel Gill, whose productive two-acre property reflects her mission to help others grow their own food. Rachel feeds her family of four for much of the year while also sharing produce with neighbours, selling baskets at a roadside stand, and supporting local farmers through bartering. From seed starting in January to organic cultivation and community outreach, her gardens illustrate how food security and environmental stewardship go hand in hand.

Top row, left to right Sunflowers; Rachel Gill, garden tour host; harvested vegetables and flowers for donation or sale (photos courtesy of *How Does Your Garden Grow*, proprietor R. Gill). **Bottom row:** Tomatoes, flowers and more; greenhouse; property and gardens. **Photos:** Top right, top centre, and bottom centre, *Maria Nicoll*. Remaining photos courtesy of Rachel Gill.

A warm thanks to Rachel for her generous welcome and for inspiring members to embrace edible gardening. Additional information can be found here: [Support HowDoesYourGardenGrow?](#)

The Gardens of Marie-Claude Cardinal – August 24

Next, members visited Marie-Claude Cardinal’s Manotick garden, where wellness and productivity flourish side by side. What began as a personal health journey has grown into a thriving edible landscape that sustains her family of four for most of the year. Hydroponics and a makeshift greenhouse kick-start the growing season, while organic methods and rare vegetable varieties ensure a colourful harvest. Marie-Claude’s enthusiasm for seed saving, composting, and continual learning embodies the spirit of self-reliance and creativity.

We are grateful to Marie-Claude for sharing both her garden and her inspiring story of healing through horticulture.



Top row, left to right: Members looking at raised bed gardens; Marie-Claude’s garden sign; eggplants in raised garden bed. **Bottom row:** Garlic harvest drying; greenhouse; mixed vegetable harvest. **Photos:** Top right, and centre, *Maria Nicoll*. Remaining photos courtesy of Marie-Claude Cardinal.



OHS SUMMER 2025 POP-UP GARDEN TOURS REPORT (CONT'D)

The Kitchen Gardens of Strathmere – August 24

The season concluded at Strathmere Country Retreat in North Gower, where lead gardener Colin Lundy guided members through an acre of productive kitchen gardens, fruit trees, and wildflower meadows set within a historic 200-acre estate. Colin described how the ornamental and food gardens are managed organically, with a growing emphasis on native Ontario species and soil health. From switchgrass fields to the unheated greenhouse, every feature reflected a thoughtful balance between beauty and biodiversity. Despite heat and drought conditions, Colin made the trip a useful learning experience. Thanks to Colin and the Strathmere team for an enlightening finale, a delicious lunch and the opportunity to see sustainable food production in action.



Top row, left to right: Beautiful bounty of crab apples; Colin Lundy, our Strathmere garden host; Black-eyed Susan among other pollinator plants and pollinators. **Bottom, left to right:** Raspberries; greenhouse with a bounty of tomatoes; sunflowers enjoy the sunny August afternoon. **Photos:** Maria Nicoll.

Prepared By

This report was prepared by the Summer Pop-Up Garden Tour Committee — Maria Nicoll, Cindy Lyon, Tuula Talvila, and Julianne Labreche. We warmly welcome your ideas and suggestions as we begin planning for the 2026 summer pop-up tour season, so please feel free to reach out to any one of us.

You can also view the [2025 Summer Pop-Up Garden Tour Flyer](#), available on our website at the link below.

[2025 Summer Garden Pop-Up Tours Flyer | Ottawa Horticultural Society](#)

SPEAKER SERIES PROGRAM, TOURS AND REGIONAL FAIR (CONT'D)

OHS and the Ottawa Valley Rock Garden and Horticultural Society (OVRGHS) Bus Trip May 24, 2025

Leads: Dianne Kilpatrick | Janet Sullivan | Jane Lund (OVRGHS)

After a pandemic-imposed pause, the joint trip to the Montreal Botanical Garden with the Ottawa Valley Rock Garden and Horticultural Society (OVRGHS) returned in 2025. The outing was organized through the efforts of Jane Lund and the OVRGHS, who coordinated the entire event. Although Jane was unable to attend on the day, her work behind the scenes ensured everything ran smoothly.

On May 24th, members of both Societies filled a coach, undeterred by drizzle and a lingering chill, eager to experience the “Great Gardening Weekend” with its tempting plant sales,



Montreal Botanical Gardens, 2025. Photo Credit: Janet Sullivan.

garden accessories, crafts, and of course, the gardens themselves. The dreary weather proved a blessing in disguise, keeping crowds light and making the colours in the gardens glow.

Guided tours were arranged, with the large group divided into smaller ones, each led by a knowledgeable volunteer. One of the tours ventured into areas that many visitors might never have discovered on their own, most memorably, an azalea garden tucked away in a quiet grove. Even beds where plants had yet to emerge were brought to life through vivid descriptions, allowing participants to imagine how they would look later in the season.



Montreal Botanical Gardens, 2025. Photo Credit: Janet Sullivan.

By the end of the day, the group returned to the bus tired but happy, buoyed by the excitement of a draw for gift certificates to local garden centres. Despite the less-than-ideal weather, it proved well worth donning waterproofs and gloves for a day immersed in horticultural inspiration.

A heartfelt thank-you to Jane Lund for organizing the outing, and to the OVRGHS for inviting us to join them.



SPEAKER SERIES PROGRAM, TOURS AND REGIONAL SCIENCE FAIR (CONT'D)

OTTAWA REGIONAL SCIENCE FAIR | EXPO SCIENCES RÉGIONALE d'OTTAWA 2025

OHS Judges: Juliana Adema | Anne Johnston | Claude Tremblay Brun del Re

2025 Regional Science Fair: OHS Award Winners

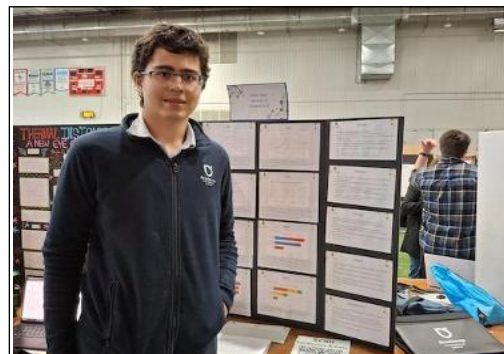
The Ottawa Regional Science Fair was held on April 4-5, 2025, at Carleton University. The OHS has been presenting prizes to deserving students for several years, recognizing projects that reflect solid, science-based home gardening practices and those that reflect the ecological values of the OHS.



Anne Satoh, Junior Award Winner at the 2025 Ottawa Regional Science Fair. **Photo Credit:** Anne Johnston.

This year, the Junior award was won by Anne Satoh, from MacDonald-Carter Academy. Her project, '*Les plantes en puissance*' (Plants in Power), was innovative. She tested the amount of energy produced by microorganisms inhabiting the soil, with the aim of creating electricity from your own backyard. She envisioned having lamps in parks that could be powered by the plants around them, acting as an alternative renewable energy source.

The Intermediate/Senior award was won by Rohan Thukral, a Senior at Acadecap International School. Rohan's project, '*Is Wet or Better - Hydroponics vs. Aeroponics vs. Soil in Romaine Lettuce Growth*', tested these alternate growing methods compared to traditional soil growth. It made use of modern technologies to solve very old issues such as lack of food access, and tested growing methods to ensure efficiency, sustainability and growth for the lettuce. It also tested multiple nutrient solutions to ensure sustainability in fertilization.



Rohan Thukral, Senior Award Winner at the 2025 Ottawa Regional Science Fair. **Photo Credit:** Anne Johnston.

These students attended the April OHS meeting to show off their projects. Each student received a cheque for \$150 from the OHS for their winning project. The OHS judges, all active members, cover a wide spectrum of research experience: Juliana Adema (agriculture), Anne Johnston (molecular genetics), and Claude Tremblay Brun del Re (geography/environment). The OHS is grateful for the wisdom and insights of these judges and thanks them for taking time to participate in this event.

As active OHS members we bring a wealth of research experience, are bilingual, and have strong teaching backgrounds. We also connect well with young students. This year we are joined by an external judge who brings additional expertise to the panel.

Your OHS Judges for the 2025 Ottawa Regional Science Fair:

Juliana Adema (Agriculture) | Anne Johnston (Molecular Genetics) | Claude Tremblay Brun del Re



VOLUNTEER HOURS FORM (NEW)

Lead: Tuula Talvila

Electronic Collect on of Volunteer Hours

Every year, our 100-plus volunteers log thousands of hours in service to the OHS, taking on jobs ranging from long-term roles to serving on the Board of Directors to volunteering at one-of events such as plant sales.

Each year, our Treasurer is required to submit the Society’s volunteer hours to the Ontario Hort cultural Associat on (OHA), who in turn submit province-wide hort cultural volunteer hours to the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness (OMAF, formerly OMAFRA) to provide cont nued evidence of the important role of hort cultural societ es in Ontario. In return, hort cultural societ es that are part of the OHA receive an annual grant (maximum \$1500). As you can see, recording the OHS’s volunteer hours is important!

To make the recording and report ng of hours easier for the Treasurer, Tuula created an online submission form for volunteers to submit hours. Using the Google form, volunteers can enter their hours for dif erent jobs and make as many submissions as they like. The informat on captured by the individual submissions is compiled automat cally in a spreadsheet. The Treasurer can then use this spreadsheet as the basis of the volunteer hour report ng and customize it according to the requirements set out by the OHA.

The form was generally easy to use, with 40 individuals submit ng their own hours. An addit onal 35 people had hours entered by someone else. The Google form captures all of the volunteers’ names, whether they entered their own hours or not, which provides the added benef t of having the annual list of volunteer names being created at the same t me. The 2026 form is for volunteer hours from September 1st 2025 unt l August 31st 2026.



OHS AUCTION & PLANT SALES 2025

OHS Seed Swap (March 2025)

Coordinator: Tuula Talvila

Once again, we held a seed swap at the March 2025 meeting. This is always a popular activity and a good selection of vegetable and flower seeds brought by attendees generated lots of interest. Anyone is welcome to take home seeds without having donated any.

We had something special to give away this time: seeds from several varieties of heirloom tomatoes and beans with connections to eastern Ontario or Québec. These had been generously donated by Mary Brittain of The Cottage Gardener, an heirloom seedhouse and nursery located in Newtonville, Ontario (now closed). Mary was interested in distributing these hard-to-find, locally developed varieties so that they are not lost, like so many vegetable varieties have been.



Thibodeau du Comte Beauce beans. Photo by M.C. Brittain.

Friends of the Farm (FoF) Mother's Day Sale 2025

Convenor: Cathy Younger-Lewis • Plant Preparation and Transport: Gloria Sola

The OHS welcomed planting season with plant sale tables at the Friends of the Farm Plant Sale (held May 11th, 2025, at the Central Experimental Farm).



OHS volunteers at annual FoF sale. Photo courtesy of OHS.

It was a beautiful spring day, with an enthusiastic crowd enjoying the large number of garden-related vendors from Ottawa and area.

The OHS Convenors extend a big thank-you to all the plant donors and the volunteers who helped with the many, many jobs related to this sale, both during the days leading up to the Sale and on the day of the Sale.

Of note, Gloria Sola hosted three days of plant preparation at her home. Plants were accepted either pre-potted or bare-rooted. This initiative lessened the amount of preparation required of the plant donors – much appreciated! And very successful!

Through everyone's efforts we raised a total of **\$2,083!** This revenue significantly surpassed previous years.

Volunteers:

Pre-Sale: Sheila Burvill, Rob Brandon, Larry Chamney, Denise Conway, Keith Crysler, Kristin Kendall, Geoff Kennedy, Cindy Lyon, Gillian Macdonell, Sara Shapiro, DJ Smith, Chris Stetsko, Tuula Talvila, Anne Yachyshyn, Orisha Yachyshyn and Cathy Younger-Lewis.

Day of Sale: Juliana Adema, Jeff Blackadar, Rob Brandon, Sheila Burvill, Larry Chamney, Cecilia Lee, Cathy Pearson, Sylvia Spasof, Chris Stetsko, Tuula Talvila and Robb Wainwright.

OHS AUCTION AND PLANT SALES 2025 (CONT'D)

OHS Auct on and Plant Sale

Auct oners: Rebecca Last | Jennifer Mix • Coordinators: Tuula Talvila | Cindy Lyon

Auct on Overview

One of the OHS’s signature events, and a significant fundraiser, the 2025 auct on and plant sale attracted about sixty participants and yielded a combined revenue of \$2,274.50. This result was comparable to revenue levels seen pre-COVID, after several years of lower returns. Despite a decline in the number of plants donated to the sale, perhaps due to fears of jumping worms, higher prices compensated.

IN PERSON AUCTIONS ONLY - OVERVIEW: 2018 to Present

	EARNINGS	NO .OF BIDDERS REGISTERED	NO .OF WINNING BIDDERS	NO. OF PLANT LOTS	AVG BID	HIGHEST BID	HIGHEST AMT PAID BY ONE PERSON
2025	\$942	43	14	21	\$46	\$120	\$165
2024	\$857	46	14	19	\$45	\$75	\$72
2023	\$571	25	12	25	\$23	\$45	\$118
2022, 2021, 2020 ⁴	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2019	\$1010	52	19	27	\$37	\$85	\$185
2018	\$1290	66	17	29	\$44	\$75	\$175

Forty-three paddles were issued to prospective auct on bidders, and fourteen bidders were successful. Twenty-one plants were offered for auct on, with the highest bid—\$120—going to a double fernleaf peony (*Paeonia tenuifolia* ‘Rubra Plena’) donated by Brian Carson. The auct on raised a total of \$942, with an average bid of \$46, arguably the highest average bid in OHS auct on history.

Stepping back from her lead role in past years, Maureen Mark continued to offer invaluable advice on selection of choice plants for the auct on. She also introduced the auct on and outlined the bidding rules to participants.



OHS Auct oners: Left to right, MC Maureen Mark, and Auct oners Rebecca Last, and Jennifer Mix. **Photo credit:** Maria Nicoll

⁴ From 2020 to 2022, OHS held its auct ons online in response to COVID-19 restrictions



OHS AUCTION & PLANT SALES 2025 (CONT'D)

Under Maureen's guidance, Rebecca Last assumed some of the duties of securing specimen plants for the auction. As in the past few years, Rebecca also served as auctioneer with Jennifer Mix. Tuula Talvila did yeoman work wrangling volunteers for the event, including overseeing the room set-up and reception of plant donations. Cindy Lyon coordinated the plant sale and managed an effective volunteer team. Blaine Marchand put up posters in Mechanicsville and Westboro, which encouraged attendance by local residents. A post-auction debrief has identified what worked and ways the event can be improved in 2026.



OHS 2025 Plant Auction and Sale: a small sample of the many plants offered during the auction and plant sale. **Top row, left to right:** Close-up of rare *Streptocarpus Paeonia tenuifolia* 'Rubra Plena' (double fernleaf peony); various perennials and annuals. **Bottom row, left to right:** Full image of rare *Streptocarpus*; donated garden bouquet from an OHS member; *Mukdenia rossii* and *Pulmonaria* (Lungwort); **Photo credits:** Top row—middle, Brian Carson. **Remaining photos:** Maria Nicoll.

Thank you to all. This event was made possible by the 35 volunteers who contributed more than 150 hours of dedicated work, and by everyone who donated such a generous array of perennials, annuals, bulbs, tubers, and more.



OHS AUCTION & PLANT SALES 2025 (CONT'D)

OHS Fall Plant Sale

Convenor: Tuula Talvila

As usual, we had planned to hold our annual fall plant sale in conjunction with the Old Ottawa South Porch Sale on the first Saturday of September. Unfortunately, we had to cancel, due to a sudden family emergency and no back-up coordinator. This highlighted the need to have two organizers for our events. Here's looking forward to next year!



OTHER ACTIVITIES

Eco-Fair (October 2025)

Coordinators: Julianne Labreche | Rebecca Last | Claire Leduc | Kathleen Fischer

Last October, OHS organized an Eco-Fair for members who opted to travel in person that night to attend our regularly scheduled program meeting. Members were encouraged to come early to participate and then settle in to enjoy some screen time together and watch a presentation provided by Canadian garden designer Sean James.

It is expensive to bring out-of-town speakers to Ottawa, so the Eco-Fair was a way to bring members together to listen via Zoom to our speaker and learn about environmental issues local to Ottawa.

Members were encouraged to bring along a plant or two for a plant exchange that night. Bring a plant, trade a plant, and take home something new for your herbaceous family was the theme that night.

The plant exchange generated lots of interest that evening, with many plants traded back and forth. Many gardeners know that growing plants helps to promote good mental health, as well as creating healthy homes.

The [Ottawa Wildflower Seed Library](#) participated too, with native seeds for winter sowing available at no charge. In recent years, many OHS members have become interested in learning about and growing native plants for their gardens. These plants help to promote biodiversity in the region. Volunteers from the library (**Charlene Dixon** and **Nina Foster-MaLaren**) are always generous with their time, and careful to package flower seeds traditional to this eco-region.



Eco-Fair October 2025. Top: Assortment of plants for the plant exchange. **Bottom:** Charlene Dixon and Nina Foster-MaLaren of the Ottawa Wildflower Seed Library, providing an abundance of free seeds.

Photos: Maria Nicoll.



OTHER ACTIVITIES (CONT'D)



Eco Night October 2025. Left to Right: City of Ottawa representative. Rain ready information. Photos: Maria Nicoll.

The City of Ottawa was represented that night with materials on their [Rain Ready Ottawa program](#), designed to reduce rainwater runoff and prevent contamination in our local waterways. With changes in our climate due to climate change and other factors, some members are turning to rain gardens.

This way, water soaks into the ground rather than being washed away. City officials were generous in providing education and information about ways to prevent water run-off.



Finally, **Jethro Kastner**, a young native tree grower, demonstrated the art and science of sowing native tree seeds. Jethro is a teenager whose passion in growing native seeds from rare and endangered trees has resulted in such success that he is now able to teach others about his over-wintering methods for germinating these seeds. This young man deserves a lot of credit for his environmental initiatives. We were grateful for his participation that night at the Eco-Fair.



OHS Eco Night October 2025. Left to Right: Jethro Kastner, native tree grower. Jethro's model and data of native tree growth. Photos: Maria Nicoll.

Many thanks to all our Eco-Fair participants, along with OHS members who helped in the organization of the Eco-Fair, MC-ed by Rebecca Last and key organizers Kathleen Fischer and Julianne Labreche.



OHS COMMUNITY IMPACT, OUTREACH AND VOLUNTEER WORK 2025

Community Leads: Juliana Adema | Cecilia Lee

Canadensis Native Tree Nursery Project (Central Experimental Farm, Canadensis site)

OHS Collaboration and Community Impact

The OHS collaboration with the Canadensis Native Tree Nursery continued to flourish in 2025, marking the project's second year of growth, learning, and community engagement. This initiative remains close to the hearts of many OHS members, who have contributed time, expertise, and enthusiasm to help expand Ottawa's native tree canopy.

Building on momentum from 2024, when rare native seeds were offered to members and 25 volunteers eagerly stepped forward, the project advanced significantly this year. More than 200 native tree seeds representing 15 species were successfully germinated and grown by OHS volunteers. Because many seedlings remained small, trays of young trees are being overwintered in volunteers' gardens, while larger trees were planted at the nursery at Canadensis and some were donated to community projects.

The OHS allocated \$800 in funding to purchase seedlings and potting mix, to add white oak and hemlock seedlings to the nursery. Half of the funds were used in 2025, with the remainder to be provided in 2026. Despite setbacks, including poor native tree seed germination and wildlife foraging, volunteers achieved strong results. Species grown this year included northern hackberry, yellow and cherry birch, American elm, Ohio buckeye, and Kentucky coffee tree, to name a few. With the addition of the 80 white oak seedlings and six eastern hemlock trees purchased with the OHS grant in 2025, the nursery had enough larger trees to support community conservation and reforestation projects identified through Nora Lee and the Ottawa Valley Buckthorn Network.

Community volunteers play a vital role by removing invasive plants from City and NCC parks and gardens and replacing these with native trees and shrubs. As part of National Tree Day initiatives this past fall, 25 native trees and shrubs were provided from the Canadensis Native Tree Nursery. This partnership model, combining OHS expertise, Canadensis Native Tree Nursery seedlings, and the work of community volunteers and networks, proved essential to the project's success.

Collaboration extended beyond OHS membership. Rare native tree seeds were shared with the Ottawa Wildflower Seed Library (OWSL), which in turn provided volunteers and native tree and shrub seeds from its extensive network. The Master Gardeners of Ottawa Carleton (MGOC) and the Gloucester Horticultural Society are also providing volunteers and horticultural expertise.

James Wilson and Jason Vodden of the Horticultural Industries Program at Algonquin College led an arboriculture course to germinate seeds of rare native trees this winter (before the program cuts were announced in February 2026). Their work on the more difficult to germinate native tree seeds is intended to provide the Canadensis Native Tree Nursery with growing techniques and instructions to share with volunteers.



Left to right: Seedlings at the Canadensis site, Ottawa; Potted young oak saplings; Native Tree Nursery (planted 2022), Canadensis site, Ottawa. **Photos:** Kathleen Fischer.



OHS COMMUNITY IMPACT, OUTREACH AND VOLUNTEER WORK 2025 (CONT'D)

Nature tree nuts such as acorns, hickory, buckeye, and walnuts have been cold stratified this winter in a mix of sand and peat moss in Ziploc bags and kept in the refrigerator. The sprouted tree nuts are being planted in pots this spring to grow rare nature nut trees for the Canadensis nursery. Volunteers are always welcome to help grow and overwinter rare nature trees, and to weed and water them at the Canadensis site on the Central Experimental Farm during the spring and summer months.

Many thanks to Gerry Lajeunesse and Steve Wilson of the Canadensis Botanical Garden Society for their ongoing work at the Nature Tree Nursery since its inception and for their hard work to expand the nursery with funding from the City of Ottawa, Community Environmental Projects Grant Program (CEPGP) in 2024-25.

The OHS extends heartfelt thanks to Kathleen Fischer and Jean Carr for their leadership and dedication to the Canadensis Nature Tree Nursery project. Jean is continuing to serve on the OHS Board, and Kathleen joined in January 2026.

About the Canadensis Nature Tree Nursery, Kathleen Fischer, OHS member and co-lead of the project, shared:

“With the support of Julianne Labreche and a number of OHS volunteers (many of whom are Master Gardeners), it was possible to attract the interest and support of other key organizations, including the Ottawa Wildflower Seed Library, Master Gardeners of Ottawa Carleton, GHS, the Ottawa Stewardship Council, Algonquin College, the City of Ottawa and more.”

Ottawa Valley Wild Bird Care Centre

A Shared Commitment to Conservation

For more than forty years, the Ottawa Valley Wild Bird Care Centre (OVWBCC) has been a lifeline for injured and orphaned wild birds across the region. Its mission, to provide emergency care with the goal of releasing birds back into nature, has never been more vital. With nearly 3 billion breeding birds lost since 1970, including many once-common species, their decline signals urgent threats to biodiversity and ecosystem health. Birds are powerful indicators of the planet’s ability to sustain life, and the Centre’s work offers hope for future generations.

To meet growing demand and strengthen its capacity for wildlife rehabilitation, the Centre embarked on an ambitious project to build a new, state-of-the-art facility on a 17-acre property. The project’s groundbreaking took place in 2024, marking the beginning of a new chapter in its long history of conservation leadership.



Top: OVWBCC conceptual drawing. **Bottom:** OVWBCC under construction. *Photos courtesy of OVWBCC.*



OHS COMMUNITY IMPACT, OUTREACH AND VOLUNTEER WORK 2025 (CONT'D)

The new Centre will significantly enhance diagnostic, treatment, and recovery capabilities, ensuring that more birds receive the specialized care they need. It will also include an education and visitor centre designed to welcome people of all ages, offering opportunities to learn about birds, their habitats, and the importance of



Left to right: Bird patients receiving care at the OVWBCC. Photos courtesy of OVWBCC.

environmental stewardship. Landscaping plans feature native trees, shrubs, and plants, reinforcing the Centre's commitment to ecological restoration. Both indoor and outdoor work will continue to rely, in part, on dedicated community volunteers.

The OHS contribution reflects our shared values of conservation, education, and community care. This support was warmly acknowledged by Juliette Marczuk, Chair of the Centre's Board of Directors, who wrote:

"On behalf of the Otawa Valley Wild Bird Care Centre, I wish to express my sincerest thanks and appreciation for your support in the construction of our new facility. Donors like you make our work possible. Birds face growing threats to their survival. As published in Science, researchers have found that one in four birds, 2.9 billion breeding adults, have been lost since 1970. The alarming trend even includes many common species. Birds are indicators of the health of our ecosystems, and the planet's ability to sustain life. The Centre's work is now more important than ever."

"The Ottawa Valley Wild Bird Care Centre's mission is to provide emergency care to wild birds that need our help, with the goal of releasing them back into nature. Every bird's release fills us with hope for future generations. The new Centre will have expanded space for advanced diagnostics, treatment and recovery, and will include an informal education/visitor centre where people of all ages can learn about birds, their habitats and environmental stewardship. The Centre will continue to play an important role in wild bird conservation, saving precious lives now and in the future."

The OHS is honoured to support this meaningful initiative, which aligns closely with our commitment to environmental sustainability and community engagement. Our contribution will be recognized in a permanent display at the new facility, acknowledging funders who helped bring this vision to life.

Those wishing to learn more about the Ottawa Valley Wild Bird Care Centre, its programs, or its new building project are encouraged to visit their website.

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Carty House II

An OHS Garden For Refuge

Carty House is a local charitable organization that provides temporary housing and essential supports for refugee women arriving in Ottawa from around the world. Many arrive alone, having fled persecution or war, and face the daunting task of rebuilding their lives in a new country. At Carty House, they receive not only safe shelter and warm meals, but also counselling, employment training, job-search assistance, and re-education opportunities to help them establish independence in Canada.

Several years ago, the OHS partnered with Carty House to create a garden at their first residence near the University of Ottawa. That garden thrived thanks to committed community volunteers who continue to support Carty House's mission. In 2025, when Carty House opened a second residence in the Vanier area, Carty House II, they reached out to the OHS once again for help rejuvenating a neglected green space.

The OHS approved \$717.92 in funding to purchase soil, mulch, garden tools, and additional plants to supplement generous donations from OHS members. Because the new residence had no tools of its own, much of the funding went toward essential items such as a watering hose and reel, shovels, and gardening gloves. OHS President Julianne Labreche, a Master Gardener, developed a site plan, prepared detailed care instructions, and led the work sessions. During a site visit, she identified an ideal location for a new garden and designed a welcoming Canada-themed planting featuring red and white perennials—symbolic colours chosen to greet newcomers to their new home.

Carty House staff laid the groundwork by clearing and weeding the site, after which volunteers from the OHS and the broader Carty House community gathered for a sunny day of garden preparation. To enrich the soil and reduce labour, they used the no-dig (lasagna) method to build the new bed. Two planting sessions followed: the first for shrubs and perennials, and the second in the fall for tulips. Many plants were donated by OHS members, including numerous red and white perennials from Maureen Mark and pots of Shasta daisies from Maria Nicoll. OHS Board member Cecilia Lee contributed several dozen tulip and daffodil bulbs, as well as hand tools for the project.

Throughout the gardening season, OHS volunteers returned several times to plant, refine the bed, and ensure the new garden was well established. Detailed care instructions were provided to Carty House staff, and ongoing maintenance will be supported by their own volunteers. The result is a vibrant, welcoming garden that brings beauty, comfort, and a sense of home to the women who live there.



OHS volunteers at Carty House II on planting day. Left to right, Lori Gandy, Julianne Labreche and Cecilia Lee. *Photo Courtesy of Louise Ebeltof, Executive Director of Carty House.*



OHS COMMUNITY IMPACT, OUTREACH AND VOLUNTEER WORK 2025 (CONT'D)

The impact of this project was deeply felt by the Carty House community. In a note of thanks to the OHS, Louise Ebeltof , Executive Director of Carty House, wrote:

“We are so grateful for the TLC and hard work you have shown Carty House and for your generosity and kindness. I know we will be enjoying this beautiful garden for years to come!”

Diana Mart n, Chair of the Carty House Board of Directors, also expressed her appreciation:

“Thank you for your time, energy, and financial gift for our new garden at Carty House. We can’t wait for spring! Together we are making a real difference.”

This project reflects the best of what community partnerships can achieve: practical support, shared expertise, and a heartfelt welcome for women beginning new lives in Canada. The OHS is grateful to all volunteers and donors who contributed their time, skills, and generosity to bring the Carty House II garden to life.

•

Centretown Community Garden Rehabilitation Project

This ongoing community project brings together the resources of Just Food and the Centretown Citizens Ottawa Corporation and operates on leased land from the Ottawa Catholic School Board. The garden is in the heart of Ottawa’s downtown core and is maintained by volunteers. It seeks to improve biodiversity in the urban space, support pollinators, foster a sense of serenity for residents, and provide gardening opportunities for urban dwellers. Food produced is for personal use and supports local food cupboards.

The OHS provided \$1,342 in funding to replace several rotting, wooden raised beds with six new galvanized steel raised bed planters used by volunteers to grow food. Midway through the summer, tomato plants from another community group were offered to supplement this project.



Centretown Community Garden Rehabilitation Project (CCGRP) Ottawa. Left to Right: New galvanized steel planters with abundant vegetables, Centretown; Centretown gardens, old wooden planters; Centretown gardens, aerial view. **Photos:** Left, Cecilia Lee. Middle and right: courtesy of CCGRP.

•

Healthful Food Community Garden Init at ve

Operat ng for eight years in the Carlington area, this vibrant project is led by a dedicated group of volunteers in partnership with local community and recreat on centres. Through the Carlington Recreat on and Alexander Community Centres, Salus, and the Van Lang Field House, the program responds to residents' requests for act vit es that support their desire to grow food and prepare healthy, easy meals.

Gardeners of all ages and experience levels are welcome. An af er-school and summer plant ng init at ve runs for six months each year, of ering gardening opportunit es to elementary school children. Plant ng and soup workshops are also held for adults, providing safe spaces to connect and build self-suf ciency skills.

This init at ve benef ts from funding from the City of Ot awa. The OHS assisted by reaching out to members through the *Grapevine*, the OHS newslet er, to recruit volunteers. Three calls to act on resulted in volunteer support for plant ng workshops and garden maintenance in the Carlington area.

This program cont nues to serve as a model that could be replicated elsewhere. Nelson Coyle, the program lead, joined our speakers' panel on March 24, 2026, *Food for Life: How Some Organizat ons in Ot awa Are Addressing the Food Insecurity Gap* (See pg [28](#)).



Left : Preparat on for children's workshop at Carlington Recreat on Centre on Caldwell Avenue. **Right**: Soup prepared from harvested veggies. **Photos**: Nelson Coyle

Children's Garden of Old Otawa East (Robert Legget Park) Project

In the heart of Old Otawa East, the Children's Garden at Robert Legget Park is a beloved community resource. With strong partnerships and guidance from a committee of expert gardeners, the Garden provides a space to inspire and demonstrate the diversity of food beyond the grocery store. The OHS contributed \$600 to support the purchase of a wheelbarrow, mulch, and two hazelnut trees for the Garden and related programming.

Given the extremely hot and dry season, the mulch proved invaluable in reducing watering needs.

Volunteers kept plants healthy, ensuring a variety of food was available for families visiting the Garden.

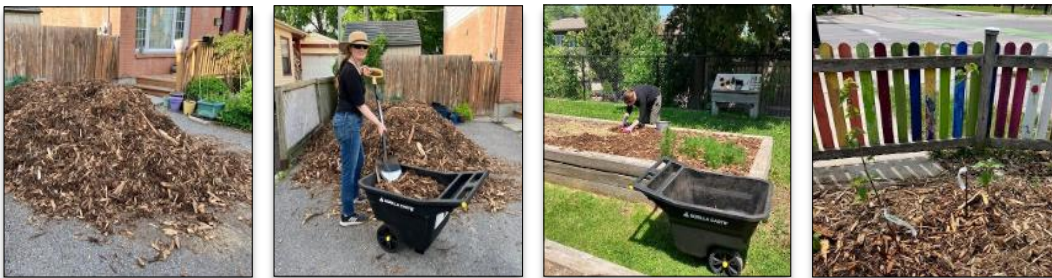
Teachers from local schools frequently bring classes for hands-on experiences to complement biology and ecology lessons. In previous years, the Garden has been used to conduct experiments on native pollinators, including solitary bee species.

The wheelbarrows were especially useful during school visits. For example, the Element High School Green Industries class visited weekly this fall, helping to dig out wild strawberry plants from one raised bed and pot them for seedling sales. They added compost and replaced the strawberries with thornless raspberry and blackberry plants. Mulch was then applied to reduce weeding needs. With 12 students working together, the entire process took less than an hour.

The two hazelnut trees flourished throughout the summer. Once mature, they will serve as a propagation source, increasing the variety of plants available for fundraising sales. Future plans include involving older students in pruning, rooting cuttings, collecting seeds, and sowing trays. Early successes have already been achieved with seed collection and processing by high school and after-school groups.

Community and educational activities in 2025 included: after-school groups of roughly 15 students aged 5–12; weekly Garden Days attended by volunteers and parents with children; special events such as potato harvesting, garlic planting, and seed saving; and participation in the Old Otawa East Farmers' Market Kids Booth, which raised funds and offered educational garden-based activities for children and parents.

Some of the funds for the Children's Garden came from a 2015 bequest made by former OHS member Virginia Peck, who lived near the Children's Garden. Virginia had supported gardening initiatives for young people and her legacy will be remembered in this way.



Children's Garden of Old Otawa East (Robert Legget Park) Project: Left to right: Mulch pile; volunteer preparing mulch; volunteer spreading mulch; two baby hazelnut trees planted. **Photos courtesy of:** Children's Garden of Old Otawa East (Robert Legget Park) Project.

Green Thumb Garden — Orleans Cumberland Community Resource Centre (OCCRC)

Led by the Orleans Cumberland Community Resource Centre (OCCRC), this project entered its second year of operation. Located on land provided by St. Helen's Anglican Church in Orleans and supported by multiple community partners, the initiative brought together local volunteers to foster friendships, learn about gardening, and produce food for the community.

After establishing two raised planting beds in 2024, the group was ready to expand. They approached the OHS to fund a tool shed, hose, and tools, and the OHS approved \$659.90 in funding.

Throughout 2025, the group purchased seeds and seedlings, conducted educational workshops, and managed volunteers for maintenance, watering, and harvesting. The results were impressive: 430 portions of food were harvested and delivered to the OCCRC Food Bank, ensuring the freshest and most nutritious supply possible. These outcomes are a testament to the dedication of the organization and its volunteers.

The OCCRC completed a thorough assessment of the year's activities, including an evaluation of all crops grown, identifying successes and challenges. Lessons learned and recommendations will be carried forward into next year's activities.

With the success of this first full year of operation, the OCCRC is hoping to secure additional funding to add two more garden beds in 2026. This expansion will increase food production and create more opportunities for social connection.

Leslie, OCCRC Food Bank Coordinator, stated:

"Clients of the Food Bank were always pleasantly surprised to see the fresh vegetables harvested the same day."

Debbie, Volunteer at the OCCRC Food Bank, shared:

"As a long-time volunteer at the food bank, I am very happy to assist with the maintenance of the community garden. Fresh vegetables are so important to a healthy diet, and clients always appreciate when there is a selection available. They can't ask for fresher veggies, grown, harvested, and distributed in Orléans!"



The Orleans Cumberland Community Resource Centre. Top: Dedicated volunteers caring for precious produce. **Bottom:** Harvest of peas, radishes and herbs. **Photos:** courtesy of OCCRC.



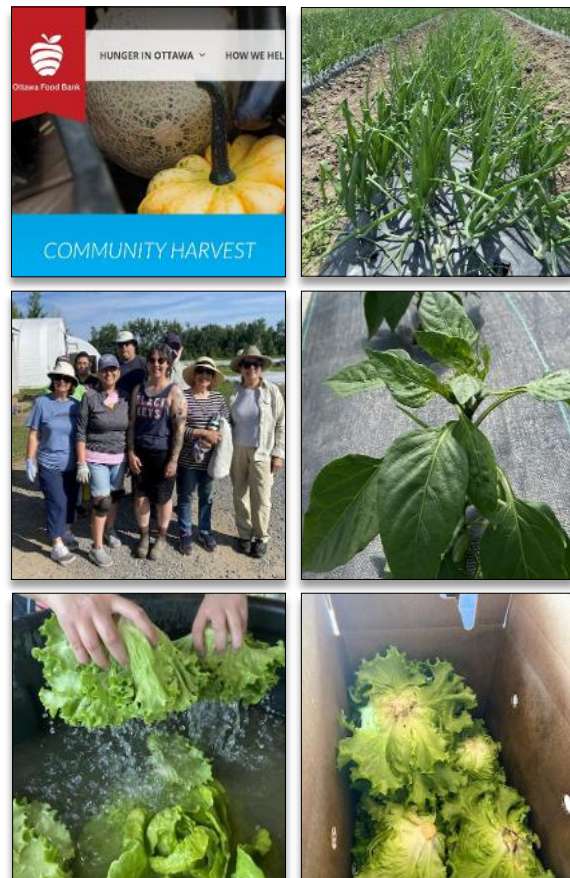
OHS Volunteer Day at the Ottawa Food Bank Community Harvest Farm (June 2025)

On a sunny Saturday morning in June, OHS Board member and project coordinator Juliana Adema, together with members of the OHS Board of Directors, friends, and family, volunteered at the [Ottawa Food Bank's Community Harvest Farm](#). The Community Harvest Farm, located in Stittsville, grows over twenty different crops and provides its yield entirely to supply the Ottawa Food Bank with fresh produce. Volunteer support is essential for the operation and success of the Farm, with up to twenty-four individual volunteers working with a small staff team seven days a week from May through to October.

There was no shortage of tasks to keep us occupied during our three-hour shift. Mid-June is a time of year when you can get a bit of everything on the farm. With temperatures rising, cold-season crops become ready for harvest, and growing, heat-loving plants need plenty of care. About half of our group assisted with all aspects of harvesting lettuce, from cutting gorgeous, leafy heads of lettuce from their stems in the field, to washing and boxing them in preparation for a delivery to the Food Bank. Other OHS volunteers weeded young tomato and pepper plants growing in the high tunnels by hand and later assisted in some field cleanup to support the maintenance of the farm. Everyone left with a great sense of accomplishment and an eagerness to volunteer again next summer!

There is a great need for volunteers at the Ottawa Food Bank. The 2024 Ottawa Food Bank Hunger Report paints a gravely worrisome picture of the state of food insecurity in our city. One in four households is food insecure, and visits to members of the Food Bank network have nearly doubled in five years. The Board of the OHS is grateful for the opportunity to share their love of gardening in support of the Ottawa community.

Thank you to all who participated!



At the OFB Community Harvest Farm. Top row, left to right: OFB Community Harvest Farm logo and link; rows of onions. **Middle row, left to right:** OHS members and family volunteers, June 2025; one of many pepper plants in greenhouse. **Bottom row, left to right:** Washing heads of freshly picked lettuce; lettuce being packed for distribution. **Photos by:** Maria Nicoll.



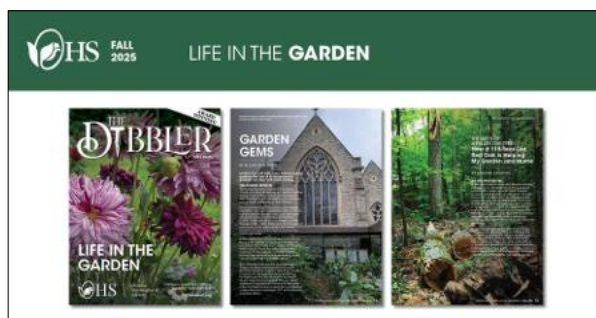
OHS COMMUNICATIONS REPORTS 2025

OHS Magazine: The Dibbler 2025

Editor: Tuula Talvila | Design & Layout: Kat Bauer (Kat B Design Studio) | Proof-reading: Lori Gandy, Anne Price, DJ Smith | Communications Intern: Leia Fourney

In 2025, *The Dibbler* – the OHS’s gardening magazine – continued to provide members with a place to share their writing and photos. Our membership enjoyed the wide selection of interesting horticultural articles, not to mention the gorgeous photos and stunning layouts put together by Kat Bauer of Kat B Design Studio. Kat generously provides this incredible work on a volunteer basis.

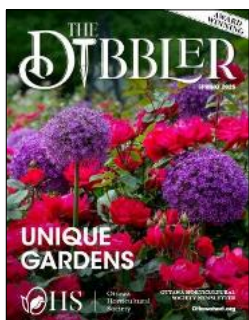
We continue with two PDF issues per year, in spring and fall, to keep the workload manageable. The two issues of 2025 comprised 13 articles by 11 different authors, many of whom are on the OHS Board of Directors. We welcomed articles from a new OHS member and also from a non-member who is a well-known figure in the world of growing native plants in Ottawa. Thanks to the abundance of contributions, each issue featured a diverse array of gardening and horticultural subjects, from the practical to the personal, from gardens local and overseas. Thank you to all our authors and photographers!



Regular features include the Directors Corner, in which we hear from a member of the OHS Board of Directors about their gardening interests. Additionally, the Ottawa Public Library continued to provide a list of new materials in their collections that would be relevant and of interest to OHS members.

The newsletter finds its digital home on the [OHS website](#) (under “Resources”), accessible to members

and the public alike. Members receive timely notifications via Grapevine emails when new issues are available. Initially exclusive to members, the issues eventually transit on to the public domain after a designated period. Our “Style & Submission Guide,” also available on the website, provides tips and guidelines for anyone thinking of submitting a piece of writing. New writers are always welcome!



Thank you to anyone who has provided feedback on this year’s issues! It’s always great to be able to share the positive comments with the Dibbler team. Thank you to everyone who reads *The Dibbler*! It makes our efforts feel worthwhile and provides our authors with an appreciative audience.



OHS COMMUNICATIONS REPORTS 2025 (CONT'D)

OHS Website Refresh

Project Team: Jean Carr | Sheila Carey | Maria Nicoll | DJ Smith | Janet Sullivan | John Waddington

The Ottawa Horticultural Society undertook an extensive website refresh in 2025, a project that touched every corner of our digital presence. The process began with a thoughtful review and analysis of gaps and improvement needs, prepared by John Waddington and presented to the Board for consideration. From there, the urgent priority was clear: updating and organizing our membership data in time for the upcoming membership drive.

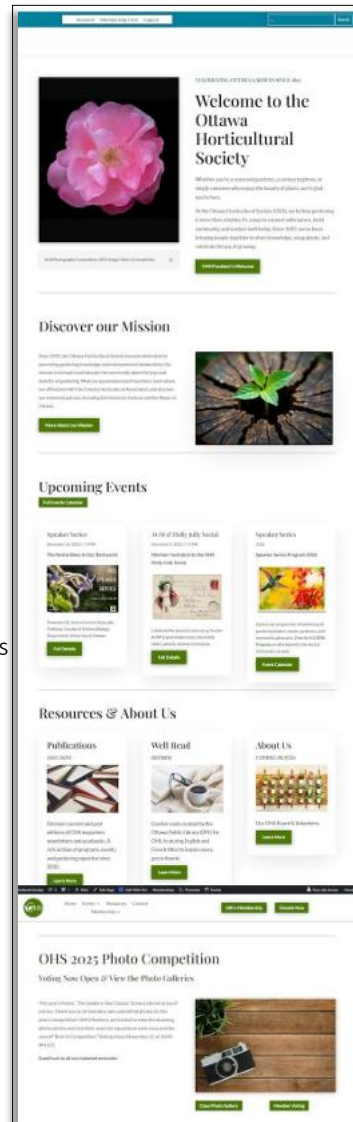
With only the summer months to untangle records, create a strategy, and implement a way forward, the web refresh team worked tirelessly to capture, verify, and migrate the membership list into a new WordPress plugin, Paid Memberships Pro (PMPPro)⁵. For over 20 years, DJ Smith had single-handedly managed the membership data on an older database system, and with her retirement from membership management, the need for a system update became clear.

Countless checks, reviews, and verifications were made before the data was installed. Sheila Carey and Janet Sullivan diligently reviewed and sanitized membership data, playing a crucial role in transitioning the heavily manual records from the previous system to the new, modern platform. Implementing the new system would have been impossible without their dedication. Jean Carr provided steady guidance and leadership throughout, and thanks to Jean's ingenuity with PMPPro, we now have a modernized member database that allows members to access digital membership cards and track their membership accounts online.

At the same time, the team was training a newcomer to WordPress and Divi 5, navigating both progress and setbacks, including moments of data loss or accidental deletions, on the staging and live sites. Each iteration refined what members and the public would see, with careful attention to formatting and style standards to ensure a professional, consistent look thanks to Maria Nicoll's diligence.

Behind the scenes, the team also addressed hosting reliability, uncovering an overabundance of backups that had slowed the original site and caused technical issues. A thorough house cleaning restored stability and performance.

This refresh was not only a technical achievement but a milestone for OHS, modernizing our website and strengthening its foundation for future engagement. We extend our gratitude to the OHS Web Refresh Team, Jean Carr, Sheila Carey, DJ Smith, Janet Sullivan, Maria Nicoll and John Waddington, for their dedication and perseverance in bringing this transformation to life.



⁵ PMPPro (Paid Memberships Pro) is an open-source WordPress plugin that allows organizations to create and manage membership sites, offering tiered subscriptions, restricted content access, and recurring payments.



OHS COMMUNICATIONS REPORTS 2025 (CONT'D)

OHS Publicity 2025

Convenor: Tuula Talvila | Committee members: Elizabeth Moore | Communications Intern: Leia Fourney

Publicity for OHS events and activities continues to be primarily online. This includes our Facebook page, and online event calendars hosted by the Ontario Horticultural Association and GardeningCalendar.ca, for which we have a paid membership for event coordinators. Events are occasionally also shared in an email newsletter from the local chapter of Canadian Organic Growers, for events that may be of interest to their members.

For the May Plant Auction & Sale, print posters were again put up in the neighbourhoods surrounding Tom Brown Arena where the auction was held. Thank you to Blaine Marchand for all his work on this.

Our following on Facebook continues to grow, with 672 followers as of the beginning of December (up from 563 at the same time last year). Postings of our events and other news are shared with other Ottawa-area Facebook groups such as Gardeners of Ottawa, Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton, and Edible Ottawa Gardens. Information about membership with a link to the website for joining is shared periodically, especially at the start of the membership year.

Carleton University journalism student Leia Fourney volunteered to help Tuula with the Facebook page over the summer and has continued in this role as the OHS Communications Intern (see page 54).

The banner on the Facebook page for 2025 was Cristina Crochetère's photo, "Spruce Starting to Bloom," the winner of the People's Choice Award from the 2024 photo competition. For 2026, the banner is Paula Brown's photo "Single Bleeding Heart," winner of the 2025 photo competition's People's Choice award as announced at the December 2025 AGM.



OHS Grapevine

E-Newsletter Coordinator: Janet Sullivan

Grapevine emails continue to be sent every second Wednesday, from September through to June of the following year, with additional mailings for the release of each edition of *The Dibbler* magazine, and reminders before monthly meetings. The summer months also see special Grapevine emails concerning garden tours.

The Grapevine has proved to be a useful tool to keep members informed on Society news and event information. If you have any comments or questions, please feel free to email the editor, Janet Sullivan, at ohsgrapevine2@gmail.com.



OHS COMMUNICATIONS REPORTS 2025 (CONT'D)

2025-26 Communications Intern – Leia Fourney

Coordinators: Julianne Labreche | Maria Nicoll | Tuula Talvila

After assisting with the OHS Facebook page over the summer, Carleton University journalism student Leia Fourney (daughter of OHS Board member Cecilia Lee) approached Tuula Talvila (Publicity Coordinator) to explore taking on a larger role in OHS communications. Following discussions with President Julianne Labreche and Maria Nicoll (Webmaster and Yearbook Editor), a Communications Internship position was created for Leia, aligned with the requirements of her fourth-year journalism program.

Beginning in September 2025, Leia assumed the primary administrative role for the OHS Facebook page, posting monthly updates about upcoming events and activities. She has also attended meetings to take photographs for our records and to share online. For the Fall 2025 issue of *The Dibbler*, Leia contributed early proofreading support, and we look forward to her deeper involvement in the Spring 2026 edition.

Leia has made valuable contributions to the OHS website through a complex project indexing past and current newsletters dating back to 2010. This detailed resource will be available on our refreshed website in 2026. OHS volunteers also appreciated Leia's enthusiasm and teamwork at the Ottawa Food Bank's Community Harvest Farm, where her skills in washing and packing harvested leaf lettuce were put to good use. In addition, she has generously volunteered as a photographer at OHS events, including the 2025 AGM.



OHS AND THE ONTARIO HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION (OHA) 2025

Representatives: Julianne Labreche | Larry Chamney

OHA Convention, AGM and News: The Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA) held its 2025 Annual General Meeting in two phases: the initial session on July 19, 2025, followed by a continuation on November 22, 2025, conducted virtually via WebEx to accommodate province-wide participation.

Key Themes and Updates: Governance and Representation: Each affiliated society and club was invited to send voting or nonvoting delegates. Proxy forms from the July meeting remained valid for November, with the option to submit updated forms.

Resolutions and Reports: The AGM included the presentation of 2024 financial statements, nomination reports, and resolutions aimed at strengthening organizational transparency and member engagement.

Conservation and Education Focus: The OHA reaffirmed its commitment to environmental stewardship, with discussions around expanding educational outreach and supporting local conservation initiatives, aligning closely with OHS's own community outreach mission.

Digital Accessibility: The virtual format allowed broader access, encouraging participation from Societies across Ontario's 19 districts, representing over 260 horticultural organizations and 26,000 members.

Looking Ahead: The AGM emphasized collaboration, continuity, and innovation in horticultural programming. Societies were encouraged to share best practices and explore new ways to engage members and the public.



OHS PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION REPORT 2025

Convenor: Larry Chamney

Photography Competition 2025



The theme of the 2025 competition was “The Garden is Your Canvas.” Artists across the centuries have used floral paintings to celebrate the beauty of nature, gardens, and flowers. This year, OHS gardeners were challenged to create and share digital “paintings” that captured the artistic beauty of gardens.

There were seven main classes:

(1) Red for Canada; (2) Art in the Garden; (3) Harvest Time; (4) Aquatopia; (5) Spring Blossoms; (6) Voluptuous Vistas; (7) Floral Masterpiece; (8A) Youth: A photo that fits the theme of any of the 7 main Classes; and (8B) Youth (Ages 14–17).

This year saw the introduction of a new Youth class. Across all categories, 14 gardener-photographers submitted 98 images.

The external judge was, once again, **Mark Dalpé**, an avid and accomplished photographer and qualified independent judge. He evaluated entries for first, second, and third place in each class and selected the overall Best in Competition image that demonstrated exemplary artistic and technical quality.

The People’s Choice voting was conducted online through Google Forms, giving members more time to view, reflect, and vote. Ballots were tabulated for first, second, and third place in each class, as well as for an overall Best in Competition winner.

The quality of the photos was outstanding this year, making voting correspondingly difficult. The winning images were revealed at the 2025 OHS AGM via a PowerPoint presentation and later posted on the OHS website.

The Judge’s Best in Competition award went to **Paula Brown** for her striking image *Single Bleeding Heart* (Class 5). The judge praised its excellent composition, detail, and balance. Members also selected Paula’s photo as the People’s Choice Best in Competition winner. Her image graces the cover of the 2026 OHS Yearbook and will be featured on the OHS Facebook page. Paula received \$25 and an 8”x10” framed photo for each of the two awards.

The winner of the Youth category was **Mat hieu Crochet ère** for his well-composed image of a red maple leaf on a stone. The judge noted that his photo would have been a contender in several of the main categories. Mat hieu received a \$10 prize and a 5”x7” framed photo of his image.

Congratulations to Paula, Mat hieu, and all the individual class winners. Special thanks to every participant for sharing their garden images with OHS members, and to all members who voted for their favourites.



OHS PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION WINNERS 2025

2025 JUDGE'S BEST IN COMPETITION AWARD

Paula Brown

2025 PEOPLE'S CHOICE BEST IN COMPETITION AWARD

Paula Brown



Judge's Comments:

"As noted in the comments on this image in its category, this photo stood out as a well-composed image and exemplified a high technical proficiency and artistic effort."

OHS PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION WINNERS 2025 (CONT'D)

CLASS 1 - RED FOR CANADA

Challenge: Your interpretation of red in the garden or in nature. Symbolizing passion, love and vitality, red flowers and foliage stand out with their bold and captivating hues and hold a special place in our Canadian hearts and gardens.

Location: Canada

Entries: 15

Judge's comments: "The winning entry best exemplified the category and is well composed, exposed and the post processing is not too heavy handed; the clear winner for this category."

2025 JUDGE'S BEST IN COMPETITION AWARDS - CLASS 1



Left to right: 1st Place — Paula Brown, *Lovely in Red*; 2nd Place — Cristina Crochetère, *Proud in Red*; 3rd Place — Janet Sullivan, *Just Red*.

2025 PEOPLE'S CHOICE BEST IN COMPETITION AWARDS - CLASS 1



Left to Right: 1st Place — Paula Brown, *Maple Leaves on the Snow*; 2nd Place — Paula Brown, *Lovely in Red*; 3rd Place — Cristina Crochetère, *Proud in Red*.



OHS PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION WINNERS 2025 (CONT'D)

CLASS 2 - ART IN THE GARDEN

Challenge: Photo of any artistic structure, sculpture, ornament, carving, topiary, wall, wood or stone art, or prop that complements or provides a focal point for a horticultural element. No people in images please.

Location: Open

Entries: 14

Judge's comments: "The winning entry is an excellent photographic illustration that could easily grace the cover of a decor magazine. The dramatic lighting and the effective display gives a pleasing warm emotive touch to the image. This was a strong contender for best overall; well done."

2025 JUDGE'S BEST IN COMPETITION AWARDS - CLASS 2



Left to right: 1st Place — Paula Brown, *Fairy Garden*; 2nd Place — Janet Sullivan, *My Bowl Overfloweth*; 3rd Place — Janet Kelly, *Turtle Parade* — Brookgreen Garden.

2025 PEOPLE'S CHOICE BEST IN COMPETITION AWARDS - CLASS 2



Left to right: 1st Place — Paula Brown, *Fairy Garden*; 2nd Place — Julianne Labreche, *Canadensis in Summer*; 3rd Place — Paula Brown, *Floral Teatime*.



OHS 2025 PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION WINNERS (CONT'D)

CLASS 3 - HARVEST TIME

Challenge: Show us your best edible garden harvest (*fruits, vegetables, edible flowers*). Can be an in-ground single item or collect on, a garden bed, an artfully posed harvest display or a mouth-watering salad or fruit plate ofering.

Location: National Capital Area

Entries: 6

Judge's comments: "The winning entry has a pleasing geometric layout. The cropping is a little asymmetrical but this image would work strongest with a more symmetrical crop; a square crop would likely also be a very strong cropping option. This image would have been a contender for best overall if not for that but it still wins the category easily; a very good entry."

2025 JUDGE'S BEST IN COMPETITION AWARDS - CLASS 3



Left to right: 1st Place — Paula Brown, *Harvest of the Berries*; 2nd Place — Paula Brown, *Summer Harvest Salad*; 3rd Place — Cristina Crochetère, *Nature's Nourishment*.

2025 PEOPLE'S CHOICE BEST IN COMPETITION AWARDS - CLASS 3



Left to right: 1st Place — Paula Brown, *Summer Harvest Salad*; 2nd Place — Paula Brown, *Harvest of the Berries*; 3rd Place — Julianne Labreche, *Summer Harvest*.



OHS PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION WINNERS 2025 (CONT'D)

CLASS 4 - AQUATOPIA

Challenge: Photo of a water feature (*natural or fabricated*) in the garden or in nature, and in which a hort cultural element is highlighted.

Locat on: Open

Entries: 19

Judge's comments: "The winning entry has a nice layered composi on though could have been focused a lit le bet er. It did the best job conveying the category theme of a water feature with the hort cultural context. Many of the other images were equally nice but didn't f t as well within the category requirements."

2025 JUDGE'S BEST IN COMPETITION AWARDS - CLASS 4



Left to right: 1st Place — Cynthia Sutclif e, *Waterlily Pads*; 2nd Place — Cristina Crochet ère, *A Bloom Ref ected*; 3rd Place — Larry Chamney, *Pond Lily*.

2025 PEOPLE'S CHOICE BEST IN COMPETITION AWARDS - CLASS 4



Left to right: 1st Place — Paula Brown, *Ref ected Beauty*; 2nd Place — Janet Sullivan, *The Fairy's Paddling Pool*; 3rd Place — Cynthia Sutclif e, *Waterlily Pads*.

OHS PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION WINNERS 2025 (CONT'D)

CLASS 5 - SPRING BLOSSOMS

Challenge: Close-up or full view of colourful Spring blossoms (*flowers, shrubs, trees*) that herald the awakening of our gardens.

Location: National Capital Area

Entries: 19

Judge's comments: "The winning entry has great composition and is exposed well. The subject is well focused and the background is not distracting. On my first time looking over the entries, I also knew it would be a strong contender for best overall; very well done."

2025 JUDGE'S BEST IN COMPETITION AWARDS - CLASS 5



Left to right: 1st Place — Paul Brown, *Single Bleeding Heart*; 2nd Place — Cynthia Sutcliffe, *Promise*; 3rd Place — Janet Sullivan, *Bedhead (Prairie Smoke)*.

2025 PEOPLE'S CHOICE BEST IN COMPETITION AWARDS - CLASS 5



Left to right: 1st Place — Paula Brown, *Single Bleeding Heart*; 2nd Place — Cristina Crochère, *Pinecone Forming*; 3rd Place — Cynthia Sutcliffe, *Dow's Lake*.



OHS PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION WINNERS 2025 (CONT'D)

CLASS 6 - VOLUPTUOUS VISTAS

Challenge: A colourful mixed garden bed, cot age garden, mass of blooms, or informal grouping of flowers and shrubs. No people in images please.

Locat on: Open

Entries: 13

Judge's comments: "The winning entry shows some care had been taken in the composit on to elevate the image beyond just a snapshot. The clear winner!"

2025 JUDGE'S BEST IN COMPETITION AWARDS - CLASS 6



Lef to right: 1st Place — Paula Brown, *My Happy Place*; 2nd Place — Janet Sullivan, *Voluptuous Vista — of Tulips*; 3rd Place — Paula Brown, *Colour Explosion*.

2025 PEOPLE'S CHOICE BEST IN COMPETITION AWARDS - CLASS 6



Lef to right: 1st Place — Paula Brown, *My Happy Place*; 2nd Place — Janet Kelly, *Brookgreen Garden*; 3rd Place — Paula Brown, *Colour Explosion*.

OHS PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION WINNERS 2025 (CONT'D)

CLASS 7 - FLORAL MASTERPIECE

Challenge: Photo of your favourite houseplant, flower arrangement in a vase, terrarium, or indoor/outdoor container planting in full bloom; one that would be the envy of a Renaissance Master!

Location: National Capital Area

Entries: 11

Judge's comments: "The winning entry has the best technical merit, being well composed and exposed. It also was well fitted to the category."

2025 JUDGE'S BEST IN COMPETITION AWARDS - CLASS 7



Left to right: 1st Place — Paula Brown, *Geometric Rose Bouquet*; 2nd Place — Paula Brown, *Teat me Blooms*; 3rd Place — Cynthia Sutcliffe, *The Joy of Yellows*.

2025 PEOPLE'S CHOICE BEST IN COMPETITION AWARDS - CLASS 7



Left to right: 1st Place — Paula Brown, *Teat me Blooms*; 2nd Place — Julianne Labreche, *Bouquet in My Garden*; 3rd Place — Paula Brown, *Geometric Rose Bouquet*.



OHS PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION WINNERS 2025 (CONT'D)

CLASS 8B - YOUTH (Ages 13-17) Any Theme That Fits Within Classes 1-7

Challenge: A photo that fits the theme of any of the 7 main Classes

Location: Canada

Entries: 1

Judge's comments: "Although the winning entry was the only entry, it is a very good photograph and would very likely have placed in the top 3 in a couple of the other main categories had it been entered there. Great composition, well exposed. Some care and thought was taken when composing the image; nice to see."

2025 JUDGE'S BEST IN COMPETITION AWARDS - CLASS 8B AND 2025 BEST IN PEOPLE'S CHOICE



1st Place — Mat hieu Crochet ère, 'Red for Canada'.

Note: Only 1 entry was submitted to the Youth Class.

OHS HOLLY JOLLY SOCIAL AND AGM

Planning Committee: Julianne Labreche | Tuula Talvila | Cindy Lyon | Maria Nicoll

The annual OHS holiday social, held in conjunction with our Annual General Meeting, was once again a joyful way to close out the year. Members gathered to reconnect, celebrate accomplishments, and enjoy a festive evening together.

The room looked especially welcoming thanks to the beautiful floral arrangements created by Penka Matanska, a relatively new OHS member and expert gardener known through Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton (MGOC). We are grateful for her talent and contribution to the event. She not only created the



Top and Bottom: Beautiful tablescapes by Penka Matanska. **Photos by:** Leia Fourney.

arrangements but also transported them to St. Mark's. Her artistry added a warm, seasonal touch to the event.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who brought appetizers, desserts, and holiday treats to share. As always, we are deeply appreciative of Lynn Armstrong and her daughter Venice for their continued dedication in managing the drinks and helping the food tables look impeccable.

The evening featured decorated tables, awards, door prizes, and a look back at the highlights of the past year, along with recognition of some of our exceptional volunteers. We were also delighted to welcome a local holiday vendor, "Seconds Before Waking", offering handmade plant-themed jewellery and decorations. She kindly provided a small donation to the OHS. Thank you, Micaela Cook.

To add to the fun, two "Green Thumb" gift certificates were given away in a draw at the end of the evening. Tuula Talvila distributed tickets ensuring all members received a ticket.

Many hands helped make the event run smoothly, from setting up tables to tidying up afterward. Special thanks to Rob Brandon, Keith Crysler, John Waddington, Barry Wilson, Cecilia Lee and Leia Fourney, Amy Cervenak, Anna Kearns, and others who contributed their time and energy.

OHS Board member Dianne Kilpatrick was responsible for organizing the volunteer list for 2025, a big job. Thanks Dianne!



Top Row, Left to Right: Potluck sweet and savoury; OHS volunteer, Venice Armstrong; More potluck goodies; OHS volunteer, Barry Wilson. **Bottom Row, Left to Right:** Lynn Armstrong, OHS refreshment coordinator; Janet Sullivan at membership table; Paula Brown and Cecilia Lee; Jewelry display by vendor Micaela Cook (*Seconds before Waking*). **Photos by:** Leia Fourney.



OHS HOLLY JOLLY SOCIAL AND AGM

Finally, special thanks to our AGM planning committee who coordinated the event and assisted with setup as well as the cleanup. Special thanks to Julianne Labreche, Cindy Lyon, Maria Nicoll and Tuula Talvila. It was a truly wonderful way to wrap up the year and step into the season with gratitude and good cheer.

As we wrap up this year's edition, we leave you with a charming jingle from our wonderful Tuula - just the thing to warm your spirits through this winter and beyond.



*Oh, the weather outside is frightful
but my seeds are so delightful!
Planting them row by row,
~ Let 'em grow, let 'em grow, let 'em grow!*

*There are sprouts growing in the kitchen
'cause my green thumbs they are itchin'!
Plant lights in the basement glow...
~ Let 'em grow, let 'em grow, let 'em grow!*

*I've got salad greens on the way —
Got some lettuce and beets and kale —
They'll go in my lunch one day
Even through snow and gale!*

*So the snow now is really falling
And the ice it is appalling
But my greens are starting to show
~ Let 'em grow, let 'em grow, let 'em grow!*



OHS MEMBER DISCOUNTS AND SPONSORSHIP FOR 2025-2026









MEMBER DISCOUNTS FOR 2025-2026

Administrator: Cindy Ratle

Thank you to the garden vendors who generously offer **10%** of regularly priced plants to OHS members. We encourage you to support these businesses in return by choosing them for your gardening needs. New to our member discount list this year is Potter's Nurseries, Garden Centre and Landscaping located in Kingston, Ontario.

To receive your discount, simply present your OHS membership card before you begin your purchase.

(Currently the OHS membership card is printable with only your information on it. In the near future, participating vendors will also be listed on the back of your card for easy reference when you print it.)

	Vendor Name & Address	Vendor Phone #
	Artistic Landscape Designs Ltd 2079 Bank Place, Ottawa	613-733-8211
	Beyond the House* 144 Craig Street, Russell	613-445-5214
<i>*The discount applies to live plants in the greenhouse and nursery area of garden centre only. Indoor houseplants are excluded.</i>		
	Budd Gardens Perennials & Hostas 2832 Innes Road, Blackburn Hamlet	613-830-4326
	Green Thumb Garden Centre 17 Tristan Court, Nepean	613-228-0224
	Potter's Nurseries-Garden Centre and Landscaping 690 Golden Mile Road, Kingston	613-389-3333
	Richard Inchley Ponds & Aquaria 3964 Farmview Road, Box 192 Kinburn	613-852-2466
	Rideau Woodland Ramble 7210 Burrit's Rapids Road, Merickville	613-258-3797
	White House Perennials 594 Rae Road, Almonte	613-256-3406

Note: Member discounts align with the OHS membership year, running from September 1 of the current year to August 31 of the following year.



OHS MEMBERSHIP, GIFT MEMBERSHIPS (NEW) AND CONTACT LINKS

OHS Membership – A Renewed and Exciting Year Ahead

Membership in the Ottawa Horticultural Society is about more than a love of plants. It's about learning together, building connections, and contributing to our community.

OHS Membership Benefits

Membership comes with a range of valuable benefits, including:

- **Exclusive Events:** Members-only workshops, garden tours, and bus trips
- **Member Discounts:** Savings at participating retailers and vendors
- **Community Projects:** Opportunities to take part in meaningful gardening initiatives
- **Speaker Series:** Access to our monthly Speaker Series featuring expert guest speakers who share practical advice, fresh ideas, and inspiring perspectives on all aspects of gardening. Attend in person or online and enjoy learning with our vibrant OHS community.
- **Connections:** A welcoming network of fellow gardening enthusiasts
- **Competitions:** Entry into our photography competitions
- **Member Publications:** Access to *The Dibbler*, our biannual magazine filled with unique gardening articles and stunning member-contributed photos. Edited by Tuula Talvila, each issue is curated with care and creativity. The online edition is available in the Members' Section of the OHS website. (Note: Members wishing to contribute articles or photos are welcome to contact Tuula at tuula@hcf.ca.)

This year brings an exciting upgrade with the launch of our new Membership Module. Members now have access to a personalized Member Dashboard, making it easy to purchase or renew memberships, update profiles, check membership status, and even purchase a gift membership for the budding gardener in your life.

Membership remains an exceptional value at \$15 for individuals and \$20 for families. The membership year runs from September 1 to August 31, with the renewal campaign typically occurring from September through November. (Note: Late-season memberships purchased after June 1 are valid through to September in the following year.)

Our Membership Convenors, Sheila Carey and Janet Sullivan, are happy to assist and can be reached through otawahort.org/membership. They also attend monthly Program Speaker meetings whenever possible.

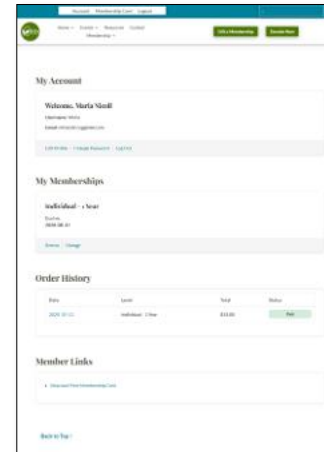
The new digital membership card allows members to print their proof of membership at any time and serves as verification for discounts at our partner garden centres. If you're unable to print the card from your smartphone, taking a screenshot is recommended so you can present it easily to participating vendors (See *list of participating vendors*, p. 67). Please note that the current web platform is unable to display vendor names on the back of the card, and therefore cannot print them on the reverse side.



OHS MEMBERSHIP, GIFT MEMBERSHIPS (NEW) AND LINKS (CONT'D)

Membership Dashboard

The new Member Dashboard enables members to keep their contact information up to date and provides an immediate view of their membership type and benefits. Key sections: My Account, My Membership, Order History, and Member Links, make it easy to edit a profile, change a password, renew a membership, and access additional resources.



Gift Memberships (NEW)

Introduced in December 2025, our new Gift Membership option makes it easy to share the joy of gardening with friends and family. Members can now purchase a one-year (or more) OHS membership for someone special. An ideal present for budding gardeners or anyone who would enjoy our events, discounts, and vibrant community.



OHS Contact Links

Current information on the OHS, as well as extensive resource material and links to other useful websites, is located on our [website](#). We also have communications engagement via social media, like [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#). Please follow us and spread the word!

On a regular basis, OHS members receive news and notices of upcoming meetings, events and programs, and activities via "The Grapevine," an e-mail service managed by Janet Sullivan. If you have information that should be included, please send it directly to ohsgrapevine2@gmail.com.

OHS Social Media and Web Links



<https://ottawahort.org/>



ottawahortweb@gmail.com



OHS MAILING AND MEETING LOCATIONS

Mailing Address:

Ottawa Horticultural Society
PO Box 8921 Stn 'T' Csc
Ottawa, ON K1G 3J2
Canada

Meeting Address:

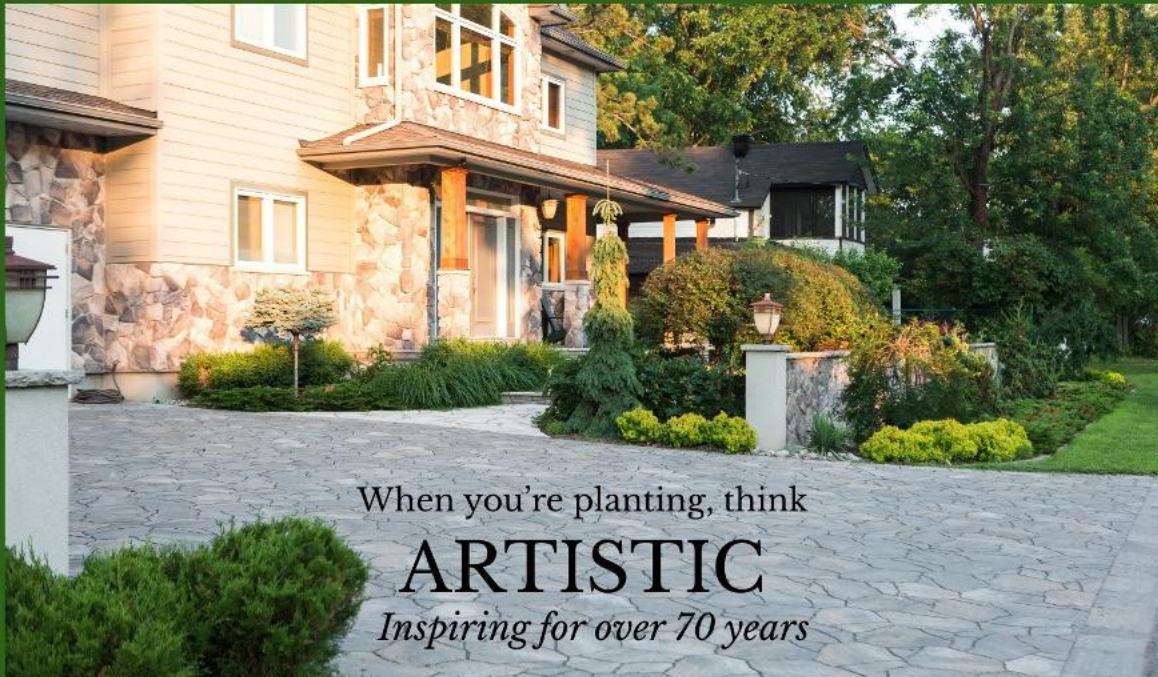
St. Mark's Anglican Church
(St. Mark's Church Hall)
1606 Fisher Avenue
Ottawa ON K2C 1X6



Meeting Information for OHS Members:

- Online presentations start at 7:30 pm and end at 8:30 pm. Also available to members via a special link sent through our e-newsletter, Grapevine. At a later date, members (and the public) can view the presentation at [OHS's YouTube channel](#).
- In person meetings, doors open at 7:00 pm for a social time, and guest speaker presentations start at 7:30 pm and run to 9:00 pm. No worries, if you cannot make it in person on a given night, presentations are recorded live and again, can be viewed at the [OHS's YouTube channel](#).
- In early 2025, the Speaker Series Program debuted a refreshed look and feel, and it continues to be one of the strongest features of OHS programming. Visit the OHS website [Events page](#) to explore the full 2026 Speaker Series lineup, filled with exciting and inspiring presentations.





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