

The Greenleaf Newsletter

Oshawa Garden Club



August/
September
2025

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Cover photo by Rose Mary Mason

Submission deadline
for Nov/Dec
newsletter: October
15



The Oshawa Garden Club (OGC) is an active member of District 17 of the Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA)



President's Message

I hope everyone is staying cool in this hot, hot summer and that you have devised ways to keep your plants alive. It's an uphill battle at the time I'm writing this. I also hope you have taken time to enjoy the members gardens that we've been able to visit this year. What a talented and enthusiastic bunch of gardeners you are!

Please check out Rose Mary's important message on the upcoming membership fees. Many clubs across Ontario are having to do this.

I'm looking forward to our meeting on September 8, when we have Master Gardener Gini Sage talking to us about 'shrubs for all seasons'. I found out early in my gardening life the importance of a garden for all seasons when one of my young children commented that my roses looked like dead sticks in the winter! (That was my flower preference when I first started.) I soon learnt to change my ways and found a wonderful book about gardens for the whole year. That was in the prehistoric times before the internet.

Over the summer, the budget committee met and I'm happy to report that the club is solvent and looking forward to a great year coming up. We will be doing some small fund raising events to go towards our 100th anniversary in 2031, so look out for an upcoming chili sampling meeting in the fall. Proceeds from the bulb sale will go towards that too.

Enjoy the rest of your summer.

*Jill Snape,
Oshawa Garden Club President*

The Greenleaf Newsletter

Oshawa Garden
Club

The Greenleaf is a newsletter of the Oshawa Garden Club.

President:
Jill Snape

Newsletter Editor:
Cecile Willert

Regular meetings:
38 Lviv Blvd, Oshawa
Doors open at 7:00 pm
Meetings start 7:30 pm

Winter meetings on
Zoom (Jan/Feb/Mar)

E-mail address:
info@oshawagardenclub.ca

Web address:
oshawagardenclub.ca

Facebook:
"Friends of the
Oshawa Garden Club"

Photo (bottom left) by
Rose Mary Mason



Upcoming Meetings and Events:

Monday September 8, **Shrubs for All Seasons**, Gini Sage, Durham Master Gardeners, 7:30 p.m. at LVIV Hall, doors open at 7.

The focus of this talk is using shrubs in your landscape for colour and seasonal interest, including a brief overview of design. A selection of flowering shrubs and shrubs with colourful foliage or woody stems will be discussed, along with the newest offerings available for planting in this area.

Monday October 20, **An Engineer's Approach to Houseplant Care**, Darryl Cheng, 7:30 p.m. at LVIV Hall, doors open at 7.

Monday November 10, **Oshawa Garden Club AGM**

Did you know?

By Rose Mary Mason

The Oshawa Centre has rooftop beehives, home to 90,000 bees producing up to 15 kg of honey each year. In collaboration with Alvéole the hives support urban biodiversity.

- A honeybee can fly 30 kms/hour
- It takes 2 million flower visits to make .5kg of honey
- A honeybee worker only makes 1/12 th of a teaspoon of honey in her lifetime.

Also on the roof is an urban farm growing vegetables, herbs and edible flowers. Over 300 lbs of food was harvested in 2024 and donated to local food banks. In partnership with MicroHabitat, the garden absorbed almost 124 kg of carbon dioxide according to the Oshawa Centre website.

Blooming Boulevards Webinars

<https://www.bloomingboulevards.org/book-online>

Saturdays at 10:00 a.m.

- September 6 Four Season Beauty and Diversity
- September 13 It's Easy! Seed Saving 101
- September 20 Growing Native Plants from Seed
- October 25 Winter Sowing



Photo by Christy Spear



Membership Fees

After many years without an increase, the Oshawa Garden Club Board has approved new membership rates for 2026. Expenses have risen, including rent, OHA fees, insurance and speaker costs resulting in the following:

- Individual \$25
- Family \$40

Benefits of membership include 10 meetings a year, three on-line and seven in-person. Meetings offer great speakers on current horticultural topics, fun door prizes, helpful workshops, a give-away table, delicious refreshments, information tables and social experiences.

Only members are eligible for discounts at garden centres, Sharing Gardens, Bus Trips, special events/giveaways and the Greenleaf, as well as volunteer opportunities working/learning in local gardens and invitations to District 17 or OHA conventions.

Promoting an interest in all things Green, the membership campaign for 2026 will begin at our AGM on November 10, 2025.

Photos (left) by Christy Spear

Plants Always Win Podcast

Check out this podcast by horticultural tech Sean Patchett and master gardener Erin Alladin. *Plants Always Win* fills the information gap for curious and ecologically conscious home gardeners in Ontario.

<https://www.plantsalwayswin.com>

OHA Updates

Competitions at Upcoming Conventions

The OHA Competitions Committee is looking forward to seeing your entries in the various competitions at the 2026 Convention in Oshawa. There will be a splendid Flower Show, a Youth Competition to showcase the creativity of young gardeners, a Photography Competition (hopefully you are all busy snapping pictures to enter!), a Creative Writing Competition, and an Arts Competition. The schedules for some of these are already on the Garden Ontario website and the rest will follow soon.

In 2027 there will be a virtual AGM and no opportunity for in person competitions. So that our members can continue the wonderful enthusiasm for sharing their many talents, we would like to hold Virtual Competitions that year. A virtual format for a flower show, for example, could make it easier and more convenient for more members to enter, from all corners of our beautiful province.

To help with planning such virtual competitions, we are asking you to let us know your interest in entering them. We are looking at a virtual flower show, a youth competition, a creative writing competition, and a photography competition.

Plans are under way to provide more information on photographing and submitting entries for a flower show and youth classes. The format for submitting photography and creative writing entries would be like that currently used for Conventions.

There would, of course, be prizes. Emailed certificates would be issued in place of the usual ribbons and rosettes. Winning entries could be viewed on the GardenOntario website.

We would ask you to complete the survey at the link below to let us know your interest in entering virtual OHA competitions in 2027.

<https://forms.gle/y44MfwL1AEMXAtxM9>

Thank you for taking the time to read this information and to respond to the survey. Your support means everything. If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact Ursula Eley at eley@rogers.com or 647-881-9401.



Volunteering at the OHA booth at the Royal Winter Fair, November 7 to 16, 2025

The OHA is looking for people to man their booth at the Royal Winter Fair for 5 or 6 hour shifts. Any member in good standing is welcome to take part. During the shift you will answer questions about the OHA and the different societies. Occasionally there is a general gardening question for you too. You may be asked to help people find the club/society which would be their closest society if they are not a member and wish to join. There is a binder provided with this information. There are decals and other giveaways for the children who walk by. A pass to the event is provided, which can be used at the event throughout the day. OHA will also reimburse you for up to \$20 travel costs and arrange parking. The GO train is convenient and stops right at the Exhibition grounds.

To sign up, just click on the links below and complete the information in the vacant time slot you would like to attend. The time slots are for two people so you might want to sign up with a friend from your club or meet people from other societies across southern Ontario which is interesting too.

Sign up to volunteer at OHA booth for the Royal Winter Fair here:

<https://shorturl.at/QT8Ku>

Then send an email to OHAD6D@gmail.com stating your name, shift, email and phone number to receive all the pertinent information.

COME CELEBRATE WITH US! - Gardening for Life, July 2026

Article by Debi Foster, District 17 President

Next summer the Ontario Horticultural Association Annual Meeting and Conference will be hosted by District 17 (which includes your club and the 11 other societies in Durham) and District 4 (our neighbours to the east) and will be held at Durham College in Oshawa from July 24th to 26th, 2026 (set-up will begin on July 25th).

The event is not just the opportunity to carry out the business of the OHA, there are excellent speakers, bus tours and competitions as part of the convention. There is a Silent Auction and vendors from the area are in attendance to share their wares. It is also an excellent opportunity to network with members from different Societies across the province and meet people with common interests.

The planning committee and I are hoping that you will take advantage of this opportunity to attend the

conference. There are a variety of ways which you could take part. You could attend as an OHA member through your Society/Club membership, you might be chosen to be a voting delegate for your club or you could participate as a volunteer.

I would like to suggest that volunteering for a minimum of 4 hours at the event is an excellent way to take part at a reduced rate. Then you will be able to register after the Early Bird deadline using the special Volunteer Registration Form. This form be posted on the OHA website and as of that time, you can register at the rate of 25% of the Early Bird rate. Please note - there is a cap of 80 people who can register at this rate. You can also choose not to volunteer and register at the Early Bird rate or pay the full registration after the early bird date which is usually a date in early June. The chart below explains the difference between each option.

What is the Difference?	Regular Rate	Early Bird Rate	Volunteer Rate (25% of Early Bird Rate)
Attend OHA Annual Meeting each morning?	Yes	Yes	Yes
Attend afternoon seminars?	Yes	Yes	Yes, if space is available
Purchase Tickets for Bus Tours?	Yes	Yes	Yes, if space is available
Purchase tickets for Convention Meals?	Yes	Yes	If available
Purchase tickets for Friday and/or Saturday evening events?	Yes	Yes	If available
Visit Competition Rooms?	Yes	Yes	Yes
Visit Vendors and Exhibits?	Yes	Yes	Yes

What types of tasks are involved in volunteering? There are a wide range of roles and responsibilities, and there may be some physical demand. We have done our best to describe each of the volunteer jobs, physical demands required in the role, preparation if any, the process or tasks and the times that volunteers are required for each. Set-up for the event begins on Thursday and the event itself runs all day Friday, all day Saturday and Sunday until mid-day followed by any required take down and tidy up.

Primary teams where help will be required (others may arise as planning moves along) are listed below. We require team leads for some of these groups and we will ensure anyone stepping into any role is well trained and comfortable in the position. Many hands make light work. 😊

- Registration Desk
- Information Desk
- Bus Tour Guides
- Meal Ticket Takers

- Speaker Assistants
- Decoration helpers
- Silent Auction (runners, set up etc.)
- Early Bird Prizes (runners)
- Entertainment Helpers
- Competition Helpers
- (Arts, Creative Writing, Publications, Youth)
- Vendor and Exhibitor Helpers
- Floating Volunteers
- Signage Placement
- Photographers

If you would like to help but are not able to attend the event, there are certainly ways you can do so prior to the event as well, so please reach out.

I do hope that you will consider being part of the 2026 OHA Annual Meeting and Conference. It is a wonderful way to get to know other gardeners from the area and beyond. Come learn and laugh along with us! If you have any questions please get in touch with Debi via email debifoster.1956@gmail.com.

Come Join Us!



Be part of the
FUN
next summer
as a volunteer
in Oshawa!

Please reach out to Debi Foster
debifoster.1956@gmail.com
for details

ONTARIO HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

2026 ANNUAL MEETING & CONVENTION

Hosts: Districts 4 & 17



GardenOntario™