



**Ontario Horticultural Association District 9
Fall Forum
Saturday, September 28th, 2024**



The meeting was called to order by Assistant Director and President of the Welland Horticultural Society, Lisa DeYoung, who welcomed everyone present and members sang a lovely rendition of O Canada .

Lisa welcomed Deputy Mayor Bonnie Fokkens of the Town of Welland. Mayor Fokkens welcomed everyone to Welland and to the Fall Forum on behalf of the Mayor and Council. She noted that the Fall Forum is a meeting to renew friendships and discuss gardening both successes and problems etc. “Gardening is a Form of Art” and the dedication to the art of horticulture was commended.

Breakfast was provided by members of the Welland Horticultural Society with lunch provided by the Fonthill Legion.

Minutes of the Fall Forum October 28th, 2023

MOTION: that the minutes from the Fall Forum of October 28th, 2023 be approved.

Moved by Debbie Eggleton and seconded by Teresa Kovach. The motion passed.

Roll Call of District Societies

		TOTAL Fall/Spring
Recording Secretary, Maggie Corner took the roll call		
Dunnville Horticultural Society	3	9
Fort Erie Horticultural Society	0	0
Grimsby Garden Club	1	2
Lincoln Garden & Horticultural Society	2	5
Niagara Falls Horticultural Society	7	32
Niagara-on-the-Lake Horticultural Society	0	3
Pelham Horticultural Society	20	34
Port Colborne Horticultural Society	8	14
Ridgeway & District Horticultural Society	3	6
Garden City Gardeners Horticultural Society	3	10
Smithville Horticultural Society	0	0
Thorold Horticultural Society	5	13
Welland Horticultural Society	21	31
TOTAL	72	158

Note from District Director

Lisa read out a short note from Leslie Daniels who thanked all the members of the Welland Horticultural Society and District 9 for all the work in putting together the Fall Forum of 2024.

Treasurer's Report

Tami Lyons reported that of August 31st, 2024 District 9 had \$13,604.78 in funds. The Spring AGM raised \$947.00 which was split between the host society Niagara Falls and District 9 , \$473.50 each.

Old/New Business

OHA Convention, Guelph, Ontario

Lisa De Young attended the OHA Convention. The event was hosted by Districts 7 and 8. There was some wonderful representation from District 9 in the different competitions. There were entries in the art, different publications and photography.

Congratulations to Deena Errampalli from Grimsby Garden Club, Laura Masterson from Pelham Garden Club, and the Pelham Garden Club and Welland Horticultural Society on their wins.

At a convention you have the opportunity to enjoy different tours and seminars. The items highlighted were the new OHA Family Scholarship along with the Veggie Garden Journal.

Unfortunately the OHA lost money \$64,629 in 2023. Cost cutting measures have been introduced.

The Resolutions that were passed were mostly fine tuning the wording of the Constitution along with an association fee increase.

The association fees that we pay to the OHA will be going up \$0.50 per year for 2025, 2026, 2027, and 2028. Currently, we pay \$4 per member.

These association fees help the OHA function. The OHA does not get any government funding and needs our support.

The next OHA General Meeting is on July 19th, 2025. This will be a business meeting only held virtually, but still requires a quorum.

The total number of volunteer hours from all districts of the OHA in 2023 was 458,250.

The total members of societies in the OHA in 2023 was 264

The total number of members in the societies was 26,267.

The OHA discounts available to members are a 10% discount from Dubois Agrinovation, and discounts from Co-operators Insurance and through Co-operators, Duuo – vendor insurance.

D9 Logo Contest. Open all District 9 Society Members and their Families.

The logo must include the words District 9 Ontario Horticultural Association.

The creator of the Winning Entry receives \$100 and the winner's home society wins \$100

Entries are to be submitted to Lisa at d9lisa@gmail.com, by Feb. 28, 2025

The winner will be announced at the Spring AGM in 2025.

There will be a President's meeting on November 2nd in Thorold, open to all Executive members.

Speaker: John Robertson

Natural Insecticide Control

John highlighted the start of his beneficial insect company which was started by his mum and a parasitic wasps and is now run by John and his sister. The company uses nature to combat nature, and produces nematodes for lawns which can kill the grub of the Japanese Beetle.

Bees

There are approximately 420 species of bees in Ontario. Some of which have been domesticated.

There are 15 types of bumblebee in Southern Ontario.

13,000 years ago people raided bees for honey. The Egyptians then built hives. In the 1800's there came the realization that bees pollinate plants.

Leaf Cutter bees are mainly used on Alfafa crops in Saskatchewan, Alberta and Manitoba.

Mason bees are the first bees to hatch in the spring, they have no queen, no honey and no body stripes. Mason bee houses need a south/south-east location, they must not swing, the tubes/reeds have to be cleaned annually, they must be blocked at one end and the tubes must be approx. 6" x 5/16" and cut to different lengths. This enables the bees to find their own tube.

For reed tubes it is recommended using phragmites, this plant is extremely invasive but the reeds are perfect for the bees.

The use of rocks in a bird bath is good so insects can drink without drowning.

Please do not use neonicotinoides on your plants.

A question and answer session followed.

Lisa DeYoung thanked John for his informative presentation.

Pelham Garden Club won the coveted Eloise Schumacher Award.

This award is given to the Society that has the highest combined attendance at both the Spring Annual Meeting and Fall Forum.

The Flower and Photo Show prizes were awarded. There were 24 entrants with a total of 144 entries. Congratulations to all.

Speaker Sean Braba

Urban Nature Store

Wild birds can be fed all year around but especially in the winter.

Sean highlighted the keys to attracting birds to your backyard.

Provide shelter/safety through planting evergreens and put stickers on your windows to stop birds flying into them

Please use the correct/best food you can, sunflower seeds and peanuts are best. Avoid fillers in your purchase of bird seed, use sunflower, safflowers seeds and suet.

Different types of feeders were highlighted including suet feeders.

Some birds like specific foods, i.e. Baltimore Orioles like grape jelly, grapes, blueberries etc.

Water is vital in summer and winter

For nesting choose a bird box with the hole at the front top, for roosting the hole should be at the front bottom.

A question and answer session followed.

Lisa thanked Sean for his informative presentation.

The stained glass "Indigenous Radiance - A sunflowers tale" draw was held with the beautiful piece of art going to Hazel Soady-Easton. Congratulations.

A big thank you to Tami Lyons for designing and making the piece and for raising funds for District 9.

The penny sale prizes were then raffled off.

The meeting adjourned .

Respectfully submitted by Maggie Corner