



## Oakville Horticultural Society Newsletter September 2016

### **Marsha Gettas**

#### **"Costa Rica....Not Just the Beaches, Three Botanical Gardens"!**



This lecture features tropical plants which we grow outside during the summer but are house plants during our Canadian winters. Some are familiar, some perhaps new.

#### **Marsha Gettas, Etobicoke Master Gardeners:**

Marsha is a graduate from Ryerson's School of Fashion and has worked in national marketing & sales, and has commissioned design work for interior designers, movies, television and theatre.

She has taught design part-time at Ryerson University, OCAD University and The Haliburton School for the Arts for 25 years.

She has studied horticulture at University of Guelph and has been a member of the Etobicoke Master Gardeners for 11 years.

Her award winning gardens have been on "Thorough the Garden Gate" Toronto Botanical Garden Tour, Etobicoke Horticultural Society Tour, Ontario Rock Garden and Hardy Plant Society Tour; and, for many years, part of Toronto Open Gardens, a charitable tour.

In 2011, she was awarded "The Best Use of Plant Material" in the City of Toronto West District Garden Contest.

Marsha lectures on garden design, low maintenance, edibles, roses and tropics. In 2013/2014 she designed the Outdoor Classroom and Butterfly Garden for Robert Hornell Junior School and she designed and consulted for a Toronto Women's Shelter, Edible Garden.

She operates Marsha Gettas Design for garden planning, consultation advice and garden renewals.

#### **Mailing Address:**

Oakville Horticultural Society  
Box 69605, 109 Thomas Street  
Oakville, ON L6J 7R4

#### **General Information:**

[info.ohs@oakvillehort.org](mailto:info.ohs@oakvillehort.org)

#### **Co-Presidents:**

Marie Decker and  
Catherine Kavassalis  
[president.ohs@oakvillehort.org](mailto:president.ohs@oakvillehort.org)

#### **Secretary:**

Heather Reccord  
[secretary.ohs@oakvillehort.org](mailto:secretary.ohs@oakvillehort.org)

#### **Treasurer:**

Larry Urbanoski  
[treasurer@oakvillehort.org](mailto:treasurer@oakvillehort.org)

#### **Membership:**

Cathy Ryan  
[membership@oakvillehort.org](mailto:membership@oakvillehort.org)

#### **Newsletter:**

Myroslawa Lukiwsky  
[editor.ohs@oakvillehort.org](mailto:editor.ohs@oakvillehort.org)

#### **Webmaster:**

Wade Pitman  
[info.ohs@oakvillehort.org](mailto:info.ohs@oakvillehort.org)

#### **Plant Sale:**

Veronica Heiderich  
[plantsale.ohs@oakvillehort.org](mailto:plantsale.ohs@oakvillehort.org)

#### **Garden Tour:**

Paula Clayton  
[gardentour.ohs@oakvillehort.org](mailto:gardentour.ohs@oakvillehort.org)

#### **Junior Garden:**

Linda Tock  
[juniors.ohs@oakvillehort.org](mailto:juniors.ohs@oakvillehort.org)

#### **Website:**

<http://www.oakvillehort.org>

## Speaker's Corner

**Next Meeting: September 12, 2016 Location Change:**

**Joshua Creek Heritage Art Centre**

**1086 Burnhamthorpe Road East, 1 km East of Trafalgar on the South side.**

### **September**

**Flower Show Clerks:** Rob Welsh and Marie Decker

**Hospitality Volunteers:** : Florrie Abbess, John Raynor, Paula Clayton and Diane Burton.

**Set-up Volunteers:** John Raynor, Don Dusha, Wade Pitman, Mary Rose

## 110th OHA Convention , District 9, Waterloo

The Convention in Waterloo this summer was a great success and great fun. Congratulations to the District 19 members and Director Garry Brenner for a job well done!

### Competitions:

District 6 did well in the competitions! Mary Rose and Wade Pitman won several ribbons in the **photography competition** and Wade won the "Best in Show" ( see figure 1.) for Class 7, "Patterns in Black & White". Wade also won a second, third and honorable mention for "Monet's Garden", "Your Grand River" and "Woodland Landscape". Mary pulled in two seconds and two thirds for "Wilmot Rose", "Wellesley Hollyhocks" and "Fantastic Ferns".

In the **Flower Show**, District 6 had only 3 entrants but they represented our district in fine fashion. Lil Taggart from Georgetown HS, in the design division: 2nd for an abstract design - "My Cell Phone Died" and 2nd for a small design "Plain Folk". Sandra Williamson from Georgetown HS , in the design division: 1st for a design entitled "Pioneers Memorial Tower" 2nd for a parallel design "The Steeples of Cambridge" Honourable Mention for an abstract design "My Cell Phone Died".

Marie Decker from Oakville HS in the **Horticulture division**: 1st for Rose in a Bowl "Red Intuition" 2nd for a foliage collection, 3rd for a herb collection.

In the **Special Exhibits division**: 1st for a dish garden "The River Runs Dry" (see figure 3).

In the **Design division**: 1st for a pave "Quilting Time" (see figure 2), 3rd for the parallel "The Steeples of Cambridge", Honourable Mention for abstract "My Cell Phone Died"

Best in **Show, Design** was won by Heinke Thiessen from our neighbouring club, Credit Valley, in Mississauga, for abstract design "My Cell Phone Died". (see figure 4)

**Congratulations to all District 6 entrants.**



Figure 1. Wade Pitman, Best in Photography Show, "Patterns in Black & White"



Figure 2. Marie Decker 1st, Design Class "Quilting Time", a pave.



*All gardening is landscape painting,' said Alexander Pope*



# 110th OHA Convention, District 9, Waterloo

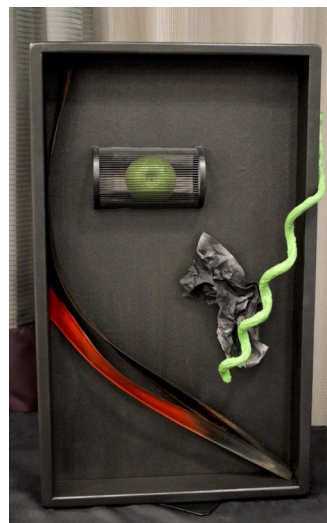
## On the Business side:



3. Marie Decker, 1st, Special Exhibits, a dish garden, "A River Runs Dry".



Figure 4. Heinke Thiessen, Credit Valley, Best in Show, Design, abstract "My Cell Phone Died" →



## The President's Remarks

Although there were 29 resolutions to be voted on, they all revolved around two issues.

The first was the **change where the Board of Directors of the OHA** was altered to remove "a member of the Past-Presidents Council" and add one representative from each OHA regional area. Following this was the motion that clarified the Officers of the OHA Association as:

President, Immediate Past President, Secretary, Treasurer and two Directors, one from each Identified region of the province.

(The Regions are identified as:

1. The South-west region including Districts 5,6,7,8,9,10,11,15,17, and 19.
2. The North-east region including Districts 1,2,3,4,12,13,14,16, and 18. Any OHA District Director may offer to serve in this position and are subsequently elected by their peers.)

**The rationale for this motion:** because the secretary and treasurer had been previously altered to be hired positions, they no longer have voting rights on the Board. The addition of two regional representatives brings the total voting members to 5 which is more representative. The member of the Past-Presidents council was removed to allow more current representation from two regional representatives.

The second issue was the **removal of the Executive Council**.

**The rationale for this motion:** By including the two Directors noted in the previous motion, the Executive Council became redundant.

All other motions revolved around renumbering the By-laws and bringing the wording into agreement with that used in the rest of the Constitution and By-laws.

Other amendments clarified the terms of office, the hiring of the secretary and treasurer, voting rights and the process for providing coverage for a Board Member or Past President who has to step down for any reason. All 29 amendments were passed.



***Looking for interesting public gardens to feature in the newsletter, please forward your suggestions to:***

***[editor.ohs@oakvillehort.org](mailto:editor.ohs@oakvillehort.org) attention: Myroslawa***



## 110th OHA Convention, District 9, Waterloo

### Education

What did we learn:

Lester B. Frentz: Square pots are 22% more efficient for growing and propagating than round pots. Every plant has a preferred time of year for best propagation.

Scott MacIvor - Toronto has 364 species of bees, 98% of which are native, 75 % are ground nesters. Bees look for yeast as well as nectar. Mother nature has designed plants so that bees cannot actually enter a flower they cannot pollinate. 80% of flowering crops require pollinators. You can help by leaving hollow stems standing in the garden for larvae and over-wintering bees. Don't mulch as cavity nesting bees cannot exit the mulch in the spring and die. Bees see the colour red as black. (How did they figure that out???). Bees buzz to cause the pollen to drop off the plant onto their bodies. Wow!

The Grand River, flowing from Dunnville all the way to Lake Erie, was seriously polluted in 1934 when the Grand River Commission and Authority was developed to rehabilitate the river. They have since cleaned up their river to the point where all cities along the Grand draw a large portion of their drinking water from the river (Brantford takes 100% from the river). The Commission is now in the forefront of assisting others in the fight to clean up lake and rivers.

Myra Takasaki: Ikebana, Shofu Shokati design represents the spirit and natural characteristic of the plants used to create their arrangements.

Jim Mabee: Did you know that you can tell an old cucumber by its smell or that the best peppers have thick skin?

Pat Rettinger told an awesome story of the greening of an inner city Waterloo school where they have developed an horticultural program that supports itself selling fresh produce, floral designs in a floral design shop and plants and shrubs in a greenhouse. They have also provided beautiful spaces at the school, the hospital and in the community for students, patients and community members to spend leisure time.

You can keep chickens in your backyard in Waterloo but not in Kitchener, so the school sells eggs as well as goat cheese from their goat herd.

**HOORAY! HOORAY!**

Oakville Horticultural Society's 'Garden for Life' at the Anderson Parkette has received international attention. This summer, its designer, Sean James, received the prestigious 2016 Honor Award for Landscape Design from the Perennial Plant Association (PPA). The PPA is a North American trade association for garden designers and landscape architects, horticultural educators and nursery owners. To have our garden selected as a North American archetype for sustainable gardening is quite an achievement. Congratulations Sean and all our members who made this garden possible.

Our 'Garden for Life' is cared for by our membership. We are 'Park Ambassadors'.

Margaret Jeffery, Chair of our Community Gardens Committee, supervises the maintenance of the park ensuring the garden is weeded, watered and garbage removed through out the year. If you are able to join in the care for this park, please contact Margaret.





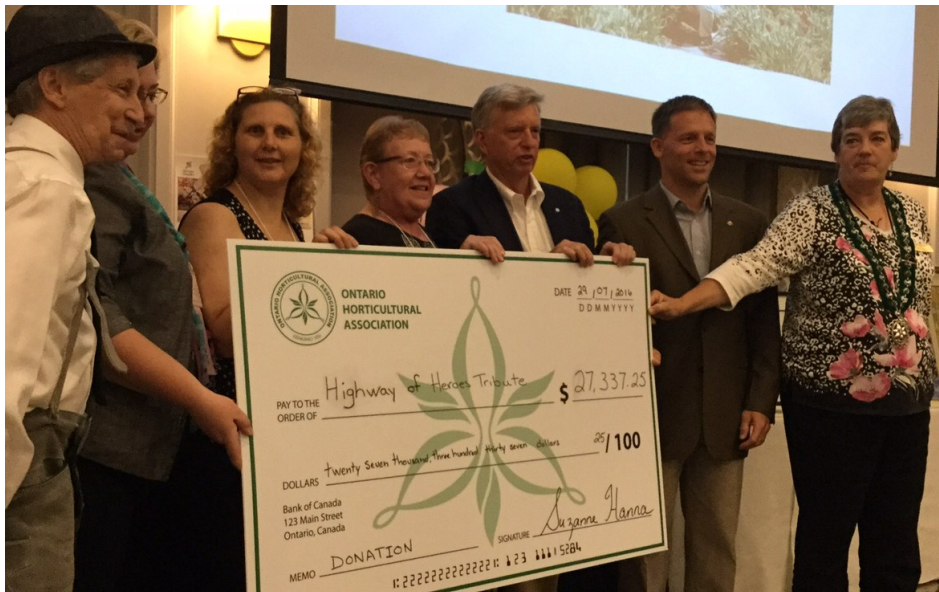
# 110th OHA Convention, District 9, Waterloo

## Update from the OHA:

1. The new Judging and Exhibiting booklet should be finished in 2017.
2. Volunteer hours: 511, 604, 18, 318 from the Board. This is down 11, 000 from 2014.
3. The website is now in Stage 2 of the revamp (the public face of the web site). It will be ready this fall, will be easier to use, and will include an FAQ section. Stage 3, still to come is the revamp of the back side of the site.
4. Wilma Wood of Thunder Bay has been appointed to serve as Past President for the next year as Jeff Blackadar is unable to fill this position. Suzanne Hanna (President) and Rose O'Dell (Vice President) will both continue on one more year in their respective positions so they can complete the work they have started with the OHA Constitution and by-laws.

### Highway of Heroes

5. The OHA President, Suzanne Hanna presented a cheque for \$27,337.25 (with more money still to come) to The Highway of Heroes for tree planting ([www.horhtribubte.ca](http://www.horhtribubte.ca)). (See Figure 5.) Oakville's name was listed on the donor board on display at the convention.
6. Next year's convention is close to home in District 5 at the Sheridan Parkway North Hotel, Suites & Convention Centre in Richmond Hill. The flower show chaired by our good friends Ursula Eley and Michael Erdman. Plan to attend next year and enter often! Ursula and Michael are depending on us to return the favour they did for us at the 2015 OHA Convention Flower Show. **Save the dates: July 21-23, 2017.**



Gary Brenner, District 19 DD, Kelly Taylor (hidden) OHA secretary, Mary Donnelly, OHA treasurer, Rose O'Dell, OHA Vice President, Mark Cullen, Highway of heroes Representative, Suzanne Hanna, OHA President.



*If you think you are too small to be effective, you have never been in bed with a mosquito. ~Betty Reese*



# Kylemore Abbey and Victorian Walled Gardens

## Connemara, Ireland

in the garden of....

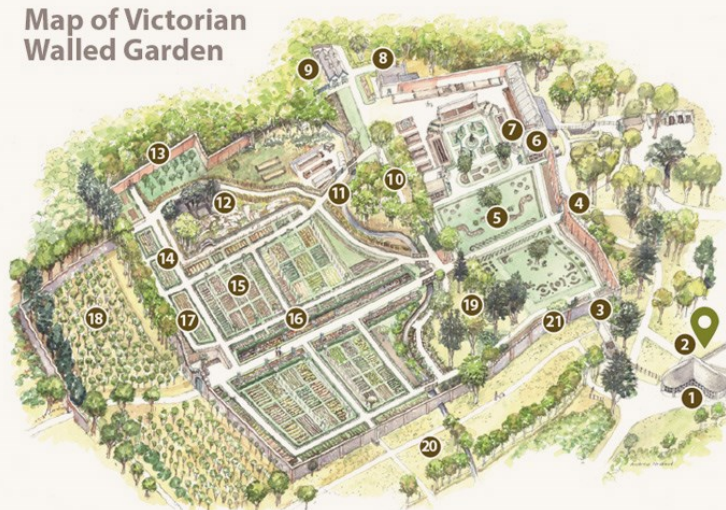


**Kylemore Abbey** The estate was original built in 1867 by Mitchell Henry and comprised 13,000 acres. The Kylemore Castle originally included a Neo-Gothic style Church, extensive gardens and two glass buildings for greenery among 20 other building for gardening. In 1920, the Benedictine Nuns purchased the Kylemore Castle for reportedly 45,000 pounds. Kylemore Castle thus became the Kylemore Abbey and the sisters started an international boarding school for girls which continued up until 2009. The acreage the Benedictine Nuns bought was 10,000 acres which they have re-

tained over the years. The Nuns started an international boarding school for girls which continued to operate up until 2009. Kylemore Abbey's Victorian Walled Garden is a breath taking oasis of ordered splendour in the wild Connemara Countryside. Originally developed along with the Castle in the late 1800s the Kylemore Garden boasted 21 heated glass houses and a work force of 40 gardeners. As the years passed the garden gradually fell into decline and by the 1990s it was completely overgrown with brambles and self seeded trees, hiding all traces of it's former glory. The Benedictine nuns began an extensive programme of restoration in 1995 and in the year 2000 the Garden was opened to the public. The Garden won the prestigious Europa Nostra Award in 2001 and continues to flourish. Run to strict heritage standards Kylemore's Walled Garden is surely the jewel in Connemara's Crown. The Garden comprises of roughly 6 acres and is divided in two by a natural mountain stream. The eastern half comprises of the flower or pleasure garden, glass houses and gardeners' houses, the kitchen garden makes up the other half of the garden and is predominantly given over to the growing of food.

The award-winning 6 acre Victorian Walled Garden was built by Mitchell Henry at the same time as the construction of Kylemore Castle between 1867 and 1871. The garden was one of the last walled gardens to be built during the Victorian period in Ireland and is the only walled garden constructed in bogland (peatland). The garden was so advanced for the time that it was compared in magnificence with Kew Gardens in London.

**Map of Victorian Walled Garden**



### Map Legend:

1. Tea House
2. Garden Tour Meeting Point (June to August)
3. Garden Entrance
4. Main Gate
5. Formal Flower Garden
6. Lime Kiln
7. Glasshouses
8. Bothy
9. Head Gardener's House
10. Woodland
11. Stream
12. Rockery
13. Nuttury
14. Herb Garden
15. Kitchen Garden
16. Herbaceous Border
17. Cut Flowers
18. Tree Sponsorship Area
19. Fernery
20. Wild Garden Walk
21. Shrub Border





## Volunteer Appreciation Tea and Garden Party

Volunteer Appreciation Tea and Garden Party was organized and hosted by Paula Clayton and Cathy Kavassalis on Monday August 15, 2016 from 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm. It was a beautiful day, well attended by many of the volunteers who admired the Clayton magnificent, inspirational garden and the wonderful animated discussions. Volunteers enjoyed the tea, sandwiches and desserts... especially the Amaretto Italian cake with the fresh blueberries and cream. Thank you to all the volunteers who make this a well-oiled, effective and giving organization.



## In Memory of Hank Rodenburg



We lost one of our lifetime members this summer . Hank Rodenburg was the Society treasurer, his wife Renate was the president back when my wife and I joined the Society. They were a great influence on many of us, Renate with her gentle guiding in our gardens and Hank with his dedication to preserving our natural areas. Hank was a founding member and president of oakvillegreen. He was also the first person I knew that had a true electric-assist bicycle. When I became OHS treasurer, I found the process very easy thanks to the guidelines that Hank had laid out. They moved to Chapel Hill, North Carolina but kept up to date with the society through

their many friends here and through the OHS newsletter. Each summer they would return for a visit telling us tales of gardening in the North Carolina heat and Hank's progress turning their home into an energy efficient, solar powered home. Sadly Renata passed in September 2012 and Hanks visits became less frequent. He did intend on coming up this summer until a heart attack interrupted his life. A dedicated husband family man, he will be missed greatly by his three children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. He will always be remembered for his passion for the environment. Remembered by Stu Gough



*In the end, our society will be defined not by what we create, but by what we refuse to destroy. J.C. Sawhill (and one of Hank's favourite quotes)*



# Calendar of Events

September 10	<b>Niagara Parks Rooted in the Garden—Celebrating 80 Years of Growth</b>  To celebrate 80 years of growth Niagara Parks will be hosting several events on Saturday, September 10. <b>Community Partner Showcase (all visitors free of charge)</b> – 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. <u>Parkway Artist Guild</u> Art Show; Garden Club of Niagara Floral Show; <u>Landscape Ontario Golden Horseshoe</u> Industry Trade Show; Horticultural Community Showcase: <u>Master Gardeners of Niagara</u> Plant Sale and Plant Help Desk and Public Programming.
September 10	<b>Saving Seeds: It just makes sense</b> Saturday, September 10; 2 to 4 p.m. at RBG Centre. Fee: \$30 (Members 10% off) MAXIMUM 25. PRE-REGISTER BY SEPTEMBER  Saving your own vegetable seeds assures you'll have your favourites from year-to-year and save money as well. Linda Crago, from Tree and Twig Heirloom Vegetable Farm, guides you through information such as identifying the correct stage for seed harvesting, proper drying techniques, storage and viability. Take gardening to the next step and practice seed saving.
September 10	<b>Pollinator and Bird-Friendly Gardening from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.</b>  Join the <u>Etobicoke Master Gardeners</u> (EMG) at the <u>Humber Arboretum</u> for this free workshop on how to attract and support native wildlife in your yard. You'll learn about pollinators and their importance in our backyard ecology, get tips on how to identify some common birds in Ontario, and find out which plants and other features can turn your garden into a haven for the birds and the bees (and other pollinators). Where: <u>Humber Arboretum</u> (The Humber Arboretum is located at the back of Humber College's North Campus, 205 Humber College Blvd. Follow the road to the back; the entrance to the Arboretum is across from the green bubble building. The Centre for Urban Ecology is the glass building with the red door at the end of the path.)
September 10 & 11	<b>Hamilton and District Chrysanthemum and Dahlia Society's Annual Show and Bloom Auction</b>  Sept. 10; 12:30PM to 5:00PM   Sept. 11; 10:00AM - 3:30PM Enjoy the efforts and rewards of the area's chrysanthemum and dahlia gardeners with the HDCDS' 52nd Annual Show. The show's blooms are judged according to the American Dahlia Society's judging standards. There will be a bloom auction at 3 p.m. on Sunday, September 11.
Monday, September 12	<b>Monthly Meeting at Joshua Creek Heritage Art Centre</b>  Monthly meeting will be held once again at Joshua Creek Heritage Art Centre.
Saturday, September 24	<b>2016 District 6 Fall Breakfast Meeting</b>  8:30am-3 pm Meeting starts 9:30am; Royal Canadian Legion, 223 Nichol Street, Waterford; Hosted by Horticultural Societies of Norfolk, Delhi, Port Dover & Woodhouse, Simcoe, & Waterford. Info: <a href="mailto:husseyde@sympatico.ca">husseyde@sympatico.ca</a> or 519-582-4523
September 24 & 25	<b>Cambridge Orchid Show and Sale</b>  The 31st Annual Central Ontario Orchid Society Orchid Show and sale is happening September 24th (11:00 am-5:00 pm) and 25th (9:00 am-5:00 pm) at the Cambridge Hespeler Arena (640 Ellis Road Cambridge). Come out to see beautiful displays of orchids and purchase your very own to take home. Admission: \$6.00 per person



**Give a man a fish, he eats for a day. Teach him to fish, he eats for a lifetime.**  
**Teach him to garden and the whole neighborhood gets tomatoes. And squash. And cucumbers. And.....**  
**DeepSouthDish.com**

