

Omeme & District Horticultural Society



President: Heather Grassie
705-328-0342

Newsletter

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<http://www.omemeblooms.ca>



Secretary: Barb Morrison
705-745-8738

Our August Meeting

On August 19th, we met at the Omeme Curling Club for our 74th Annual Flower & Vegetable Show. This was a combined show for both our adult and youth members. As usual, we filled two thirds of that huge, lower area with flowers and produce grown in our gardens. It was a pretty impressive sight! 214 entries in the adult section and 63 youth entries filled the hall. Yes! That is impressive. I wonder how many arms Christa twisted this time. LOL. Christa's Show Report and Heather's Youth Report are on page 4.

The speaker for the evening was Kerry Hackett, who kindly filled in when Jill Cockerell was unable to attend. Kerry has been a practitioner of herbal medicine for almost 2 decades. She presented an informative and entertaining presentation of: "10 Essential Herbs, Growing, Using and & Enjoying". (Kerry explained that these were her current favourites! They might change tomorrow since there were so many useful herbs out there.) Kerry's information was practical and she showed that not only did herbs add to your garden colour, but they could be used in many practical ways. Kerry finished with a question session. It was an evening enjoyed by all.



A huge thank you to Christa's team and everyone else who helped with set up, and especially those who stayed to help clean up! You are SO appreciated!

Visit <http://www.gardenontario.org/> for OHA news and gardening articles or 'Societies' then 'District' then 'District 4' for District happenings District 4 Newsletters

Sept 16th - Dianne & Gary Westlake

Aging With Our Gardens, Gracefully: Will Our Gardens Ever Be Finished?



Dianne and Gary are no strangers to speaking in Omeme. (in fact they are Omeme members). They are noted for their humorous, but informative talks. You may remember "Thinking outside the Planter Box" and "Garden Art for Cheapskates" to mention a couple that they have done for our group.

The Westlakes are both Master Gardeners, living in Peterborough. They have beautiful gardens which are often on garden tours. They currently travel all over the province sharing their knowledge and garden humour. This is a new talk for Dianne and Gary - one Gary volunteered to do for us when I was lamenting about not being able to get a speaker that I had heard at another society - speaking on this topic of changing gardens. It was a topic that is so meaningful to all of us as we age. Thank you Gary for stepping in once again!

Don't miss this evening of fun! Come and bring some friends.

The competitions for this month:
Design: "Cornucopia"
Photography: "Maple Leaf Forever"
See pgs 12 & 13 of Yearbook



107th Annual OHA Convention -

Thunder Bay:

Delegates from societies all over Ontario met in Thunder Bay. District 4 had 12 members in attendance, 4 of which were from Omemee. (or 6 if you count Dianne and Gary who belong to several societies). We were well represented!

The theme of the convention was "Up North and Down to Earth". From beginning to end, our delegates had a wonderful time. From the time we stepped off the plane until we left on Sunday, we always felt welcome! The hotel staff were friendly and helpful. The convention organizers had the hotel decorated beautifully. Our only complaint was that there was no way to turn down the AC in the main hall, so out came the sweaters, shawls and even jackets.

Over the next 3 days, we attended business sessions, and heard committee reports each morning. In the afternoon we had the choice of 11 seminars, and 5 bus trips to keep us busy. On Friday night there was a BBQ where we were entertained by local groups. On Saturday night we attended the 'Gala Banquet'. The food was great and the company better! The dinner was followed by the awards presentations. The highlight of the evening was when Dianne and Gary Westlake won the Silver Medal for outstanding work in the advancement of horticulture. This is the OHA's highest award! Congratulations Dianne and Gary! We are so proud of you.

The 2nd highlight of the convention was that our website Omemee Blooms won 2nd prize, over all of the society websites (in one of two categories) in Ontario. Congrats to Kim for this achievement and for all of her hard work on our site.

On Sunday, President John Sellars turned over the chain of office to the incoming President James Graham. In James' speech to the delegates he asked us all to work on increasing our membership.

On that note, we flew home, tired but glad that we had had such a wonderful three days. For more detail on the Convention, please read the many articles and see the photos in the current issue of the Trillium newsletter.

http://www.gardenontario.org/docs/trillium_news_2013_03-fall.pdf



Thunder Bay Convention delegates from District 4



Gary & Dianne Westlake, Silver Medal Winners with District President Rose and OHA President John

GREEN TEAM REPORT

The Green Team has had another busy gardening season working around the weather, which sometimes refused to cooperate. We are happy to see our regular volunteers but we would welcome any new volunteers to help in the gardens.

We maintained our usual gardens; Coronation Hall, LCBO, Bill's Pizza, Curling Arena, Fire Hall, Omemee Legion, Skateboard Park, Marina, and 2 sign beds- which is 10 flower beds in total.

A mini renovation of the Skateboard Park has been completed with the stone, commemorating the location of the Omemee High School which was destroyed by fire a number of years ago, being raised and given the focal point in the garden. Fresh plantings and mulch completed this project.

The LCBO bed was given a major renovation, removing aggressive creeping thyme, dividing prickly pear cactus, adding new zeriscape plantings, and decorative accent rocks. Watch this bed for an addition of an artisan made obelisk to be installed the end of September.

Thank you to everyone who was able to give some volunteer time in the gardens so far this year. Watch your email for future gardening dates.

Joanne & Aron, 'Team Leaders'



In Memory of Long Time Friends

Sadly, we have lost two of our long time Life Members this summer. - Marianne Taylor and Lil Edgerton.



Marianne Taylor (2007) shown with our Youth Award dedicated in her name in recognition of the approximate 24 years that she spent working with our Junior Gardener Program. Marianne, passed away in July 2013. She dedicated 38 years (that we know of) to our Horticultural Society.



Lil Edgerton, passed away peacefully in August, 2013. Here she is pictured receiving her keeper mug for winning the Zufelt Trophy in 2008. (Her daughter reported that she used that mug every day!) Lil was a member for over 48 years. She served as President from 1975 - 77 and was on the Executive for several years. Her great love was acting as Show Chair for many years.

*To live in hearts we leave behind
Is not to die.*

~Thomas Campbell, Hallowed Ground

Tulip Bulb Sales

The Omeme and District Horticultural Society are selling tulip bulbs to raise money for our 2014 75th Anniversary. The tulips will be delivered for the end of September. There are 3 beautiful unusual varieties available at \$10.00 a pkg for 10 bulbs. Please check your July/August newsletter for description of bulbs. Order forms will be available at the meetings or by contacting Joanne Windrem at jwindrem3@gmail.com or Gaynor McMullen at gaynor@izoom.net .

OHA DISTRICT 4 SEMINAR ARCHIVAL WORKSHOP

Heather Grassie and Joanne Windrem attended the District 4 Archival workshop held in Grafton on Wed August 12th 2013 at 1pm. Heather and Joanne are always ready for a road trip and this was no exception. Before the workshop we visited interesting, quaint, eclectic shops in Brighton, Colborne and Grafton. We think they were all worthy of another day trip. But back to the archival seminar.

Joan Tooke of the Port Hope Horticultural Society gave this workshop. She had many excellent points on ways to preserve, and store your archival material, as well as what should be stored, and where they should be stored. After the seminar we were invited to a BBQ at District 4 President Rose Odell's home. We enjoyed BBQ corn on the cob, chicken and sausage on a bun and salads. "Damn Good Cookies" and Laura Bush's Cowboy Cookies were a great finish to the meal. See Heather for the recipe - excellent.

Joanne Windrem

A Tour of Royal Gardens:

On August 28th, our members were invited to attend a unique garden tour. Ella and Milburn Jones, two of our Senior Life Members are now living in one of the 'Independent Garden Homes' at Royal Gardens. When they kindly asked us if we would be interested in touring the gardens surrounding these homes, we were delighted! Many of these garden plots are maintained by the resident owners, with the help of the staff gardener. They do as much or as little as they wish. Residents help choose what they want to grow and then staff members try to find those plants. We were amazed at the variety in the various gardens, all linked and lining the pathways in front of the homes. There were annuals, perennials, shrubs, veggies and garden art chosen by the owners. Each section of the floral border, reflected the personality and gardening style of the owners. Some had more flowers, others, more vegetables. We spoke to many of the residents as they came out to greet Milburn & Ella's gardening friends! Each person told us about how much they enjoyed being able to carry on their love of

gardening in a retirement setting! We ended with a tour of the main building and then as a surprise, we helped Milburn celebrate a special birthday! What a great day! Happy Birthday Milburn!



FIRE HALL BED PROJECT

Our major project this year was the Fire Hall bed. We thank the City of Kawartha Lakes who used beautification grant money to fund this project. Our original plan had the City doing this project but they gave the Omemee Horticultural Society control of the project as they were very pleased with our past projects at the Coronation Hall, Omemee Legion, and sign beds to name a few. We hired the contractors, James Hubbert Construction and Justin Windrem, who had volunteered their work for past projects and we were very pleased with their knowledge, professionalism, and the finished project. The armour stone was hand picked and transported to the site by the contractors so they could have the colour and shape they desired for the retaining wall. After many hours (days), of preparation work, it was wonderful to see the first stone put in place. During the project we had many positive comments and people happy to see another beautification project being completed -especially the firemen themselves. Once the contractors finished their project, even power washing dust from stone and periphery of flower bed, the Green Team moved in to plant a variety of perennials both new and recycled and finally to mulch the bed. The placing of the fireman's boots and decorative cement plaque with the fireman's crest put the finishing touches to a beautiful flowerbed. Many thanks to all volunteers on the Green Team.
Aron and Joanne, Gardens Chairs

August Flower Show Adult Report

I want to thank all the wonderful volunteers who helped with the set-up, clean up and for the food donations, and most of all the participants, who made this once again a great, successful event. A couple of newcomers were amazed at the size of the show! When you belong to the club, it is YOUR show and even though not every item can win, your contribution is needed to expand the visual impact when one enters the room. So you can be as proud of your contribution as the next person and I'm as happy with Droopy Daisy as with Judges's Choice. How about glancing at the November Photo Show requirements right now to see if one of your pictures meets the category? We would love to see some new perspectives!

Christa Marton, Show Chair

Adult Show Results:

There were 214 entries from 17 participants in 66 categories. Best in Show Speciman - Aron Muscutt for Roses arranged with own foliage. Best Vegetable - Eila Marton for 3 or more Herbs. Best Design - Diane Webber for 'Snow White'

Kim Gunn, Statistics Manager

Junior Garden Club 2013 Report

There were 27 children registered in the Junior Garden Club, - 6 Sprouts, 10 Seedlings, 5 Buds and 6 Bloomers. (K to Grade 8)

These boys and girls represent 16 families. Also, there were 13 beginning and 14 returning gardeners in this group.

The leaders **Linda Jenkins** and **Heather Grassie** were pleased to visit 14 gardens at 7 locations this year and left a butterfly marker at each garden.

Ten Junior Gardeners, 3 boys and 7 girls brought in flowers, vegetables, planters, crafts and novelties in the annual August Flower and Vegetable Show. \$91.50 was given out in prize money at the show for the 63 entries the juniors brought in.

Also at the August Award Ceremony, Trophies and plaques were presented to the following juniors. Their names are engraved on the metal plates and they each received a take home memento.

Class C-(BUDS) **Rileigh Darling** won 2 awards the Best Garden and the Most Points in the Show.

Class D-(BLOOMERS) **Trevor Kennedy** won the Best Garden and **Erik Darling** won the Most Points in the Show.

Taylor Drake won the Rikki Brannigan Award for an amazing effort.

Best in Show- Class B **Amber Gunn** (castle craft) Class D **Taylor Drake** (cucumber)

Judge's Choice-Class B **Kyle Darling** (garden stake)

Class D **Trevor Kennedy** (Zinnias)

The Junior Garden Club will meet for the last event on Sat. Oct. 21, 2013.

Another great summer of growing things!



The Village Planters:

The planters have continued to be very impressive this year and the cannas certainly made a statement that could not be ignored! It has been a relatively good year for watering. We had a few weeks of hot humid weather where the village merchants struggled to keep them watered and healthy. We thank all who helped, for their dedication! We also thank Mother Nature for helping out on occasion! It has certainly made the main street more beautiful. This week, we cut back some of the not so healthy annuals and replaced them with fall mums. The main street is now ready ready for autumn!



District 4 OHA Fall Seminar:

The 2013 Fall Seminar for District 4 is being hosted by Cramahé H.S. on Oct. 26th, 2013 at the Keeler Centre, Colborne. Your registration of \$20 covers, a soup & sandwich lunch, rental of the building, and cost of the speaker. The guest speaker will be Malcolm Geast -whose interest in local history determines his topic - "OHA Roots/Routes. The entire day will reflect this historical theme. Societies are asked to create a display reflecting some aspect of their society's history. During the morning session, Each society will present a short, timed explanation of one significant item in their display. A big people's "Show & Tell" :)

The Fall Seminar always holds a judged competition. This year's categories are as follows:

A. **DESIGN:**

1. Tussy Mussy – 5" diameter
2. Reflections of the Past
3. Granny's Quilt – in an 8" pan

B. **HOUSE PLANTS**

4. Potted Plant – flowering
5. Potted Plant – non flowering

C. **PHOTOGRAPHS**

6. Local Historical Landmark that your society beautifies
7. Photo Highlighting your Society's Flower
8. Everything Old is New Again

If you are interested in attending this fun filled day, please contact Heather Grassie.

Greetings from Our Pres.....



The word "Back" seems to be used a lot in September. Kids go "Back to School", people move "Back home" from their cottages, we try to get "Back on Track" with our routines and soon we will even turn the clocks "Back". The plants in the gardens even go "Back" to their pre-blooming days and soon the gardeners will have to be "Back in the house" after many beautiful days outdoors.

We welcome all our Horticultural members "Back to our General Meeting" on Mon. Sept. 21st. Since we can't work outside during the darkness we can do the next best thing, spend time with other gardeners at the meeting, getting caught up with each other. Our guests speakers, Dianne & Gary Westlake, no matter what topic they choose, are always educational, delightful and entertaining.

As the works lessens in the gardens we are still busy planning events, shopping trips, workshops and outings. Look for information in 3 places: e-mails, the newsletter or on the website. We can put you "Back to Work in the Garden" to plant the special tulips we have ordered, to bloom for our 75th anniversary in 2014. Meanwhile, I'm going "Back Outside" to enjoy the sun. See you soon.

Heather



The beautiful new Firehall Garden. Thank you to all who helped in any way.



