

President John's Spring(?) Message

Sometimes it is easy to become confused over whether it is winter or spring in our area. I am not in Florida, though I went to Key West before Christmas. Here, just north of Lake Ontario, this winter is trying to make up for last year's winter that wasn't, with fields of snow up to my knees. Then I look around me and see a giant double amaryllis that flowered in our living room last week. In the winter bulb storage, the calla lilies are starting to send up shoots, pruning of the apple trees has begun in this area, and seed catalogues are jamming up my mailbox.

This is a busy time of year for all of us. Annual reports are now in and your nominations for provincial awards and applications for tree and project grants are due by the end of February. New this year are the Community Garden Project grants of up to \$500. Check the website for details. Your orders for crocosmia will be delivered in the next month or so.

March and April are busy months for the OHA Board, which is made up of the executive officers and your directors. At its two-day March meeting the Board will receive reports on the activities of the past year which included the planting of a Bur Oak in each district last September in commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth. Bursaries were also granted to three graduate students working in areas of interest to the OHA, one of whom, Monica Parker, has since completed her doctorate. The Board will also select recipients of our major awards, deal with the budget, and conclude the plans for our AGM at the convention in Thunder Bay. Director Shirley Robson and her team have a wonderful programme planned on the theme *Up North and Down To Earth* from July 19 to 21. See the description on page 3.

In April the officers and a couple of directors will fan out across the province to attend eighteen District AGMS. These meetings provide the opportunity for the societies in your district to elect the person who will represent them as a director on the OHA Board. These visitors come bringing information and seeking to learn about your area, your needs, and your interests. Some of their journeys are long and involve over-night stays. If you can accommodate them, as some districts traditionally do, let them know. It gives them a chance to visit with individuals, make contacts, and avoid additional costs to the OHA.

I look forward to meeting you then, or seeing you in Thunder Bay.

**John Sellers,
OHA President**

➔ **The deadline for the Summer
Trillium has been moved up to
May 14, 2013.** ➔



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Now on GardenOntario.org

[All 2013 competition schedules and permission/release forms](#), as well as the [2014 Arts, Photography, Youth, and Creative Writing schedules and forms](#) are now available on GardenOntario.org.

Watch the website for news and registration details about this summer's OHA Convention in Thunder Bay.

Insurance Queries?

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