



Preserving, promoting, and developing Wellington North's unique cultural resources to build a vibrant community and a prosperous economy.

CULTURAL MOMENT FOR MARCH 6TH CELEBRATES W.N. HORTICULTURAL SOCIETIES

The Horticultural Societies or Garden Clubs in Ontario have been in existence for about 200 years. They bring people together who believe in the benefit of plants and trees in the community.

The first Ontario club was formed in Toronto in 1834. The Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA) was formed in 1906, separating it from the Ontario Agricultural Association. Limited funding for local Societies is provided by the provincial government and members pay an annual membership fee to their local Society out of which a fee is paid to the Provincial organization (OHA) and to the District Board which represents societies at the provincial level.



The District Board arranges regular meetings for all of their societies, with speakers and a business agenda. There is also an annual provincial convention hosted by different Districts each year. Three hundred or more members from around Ontario attend at their own cost.

In Ontario there are 19 Districts each with multiple societies. Arthur District Horticultural Society (ADHS) and Mount Forest Horticultural Society (MFHS) are two of the 14 Societies in District 7 of the OHA. Arthur's club was chartered in 1918 and officially began in 1919. Mount Forest's Society

celebrates 1953 as a start date although there was a group for 55 years prior to World War II

MFHS's 61 members are responsible for four main town entrance beds as well as Roy Grant Park (planters and flower bed), Murphy Park (3 flower beds plus a new native planting project around the platform currently in progress), Ruth Barker Memorial Rose Garden and a Spring cleanup/maintenance at the Sports Complex.



ADHS's 25 members maintain the two raised planting beds and the bed around the mural billboard in Cenotaph Park, as well as the raised beds at the north and south entries to town, two flower beds at the Post Office and the ten black concrete planters that appear every summer on downtown corners.

In 2021, these two Societies donated in Mount Forest, 787 hours and in Arthur, 450 hours to help keep our downtowns beautiful. A green downtown is a successful downtown! Our thanks go to the members of the two groups in Wellington North

Submitted by Doris Cassan, Wellington North Cultural Roundtable