

140<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting  
*The Stratford and District Horticultural Society*  
Since 1878

*"to plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow"*



Pictured above are our very own "Believe in Tomorrow" Irises

**2018 AGM Agenda**

Call to Order  
Approval of Agenda  
Introduction of Special Guests  
Presentations  
Approval of the 2017 AGM Minutes  
Reports  
Auditors  
Committee Reports  
Boards Remarks  
Approval of the Actions and Decisions of the Officers  
Nominating Committee Report  
Election and Installation of Officers

**Contents**

Page 2 AGM message from the Board  
Page 3 Churchill Circle Gardens  
Page 4 Gardens  
Page 5 More Gardens and Membership Report  
Page 6 Committee Reports  
Page 7 More Committees  
Page 8 Workshops and Bus Trips  
Page 9 2019 Events and Greenweek  
Page 10 Nominating Committee  
Page 11 Publicity Committee  
Page 12 + 13 140th Events  
Page 14 20 Questions  
Audit  
Photo Credits to: Doug Reberg, Amanda Ryan, and  
Anu Macintosh-Murray



## AGM message from the Board

Happy 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary SDHS! This has been a milestone worthy of celebration and celebrate we did!

With the encouragement of the Ontario Horticultural Association, OHA, we have re-branded ourselves as Garden Stratford. Of course, we are still known as Stratford & District Horticultural Society and our connections with District 10 and the OHA is an integral part of our existence. It is just a more self-explanatory handle!

The 140<sup>th</sup> committee has been hard at work for over two years planning events to mark this occasion. I hope many of you were able to visit or join the celebration at the re-dedication of the new Father Corcoran Memorial Iris Garden in early June. Well done iris bed captain, Marg O'Reilly and her hard working committee! The Gallery Stratford also honoured our anniversary with a month long exhibition of Botanical works of art. Koodos goes to Doug Reberg for his part in organizing this "must see" community event.

The four counties of Elgin, Oxford, Middlesex and Perth, and one society in Grand Bend are banded together to form District 10. There are 22 Horticultural Societies in D-10 and on a rotating basis, every 4 years, each county has representation on the District Board of Directors. It was our turn to provide an assistant director for Perth County and at the past April AGM Bernice Barratt accepted that position of service.

District 10 will be hosting the OHA Convention for all of Ontario in 2020 so there is much excitement and planning already underway. More on that later!

SDHS has been operating without a president for the past year. Board members have graciously stepped up and shared presidential duties by taking turns chairing board meetings and general meetings. Together we have discovered our strengths and weaknesses; but together we have also been supporting each other and completing projects. A board cannot do all the required and expected tasks without the support of you, our members. Many of us learn by doing and we are all volunteers together. Volunteering for a task does not mean it is a lifelong commitment but an opportunity to try something different. You can learn new skills and get to know your fellow members as more than just a face you see once a month! Seriously consider where you can get involved with SDHS in 2019.

Respectfully submitted, Bernice Barratt

### Catherine East Garden

The Stratford Horticulture Society maintains the Catherine East Memorial garden located on John Street between the railroad bridge and the river. This garden was planted in 2007 with over 30 species of trees and shrubs. It has flourished well with some minor pruning and attention. It is time however to take a few years and apply some more aggressive pruning to let air through and prune to showcase the many diverse species.

We are looking for volunteers to help in this rewarding exercise. We will be working under the guidance of a local expert. Our expectation is that we will have a small cleanup this fall of dead materials and then several sessions in early spring before budding followed by light pruning of spring budding trees thereafter. Pruning sessions will be limited to 2 hours.

This is a great opportunity to learn, contribute, and be involved in a team on an important project. Once the team is identified we will determine exact timing.

Please contact Susan Kurtz or Owen Switzer with questions or interest.





### CHURCHILL CIRCLE Q1

The garden had a great show of colour all season from the spring bulbs to the fall chrysanthemums. This included Elephant Head amaranths, nasturtiums, irises, French marigolds, fall crocuses, and snapdragons. The bronze fennel was a prolific seeder which resulted in many of them in various sizes and we found 5 swallow tail caterpillars munching on them. Q1 was the first quadrant we rehabilitated and now has a considerable amount of material that will be available for the plant sale in the spring.

Louise Spandler was instrumental in the rehab of the Churchill circle beds and was captain of Q1. She has found it necessary to step down from this position. I would like to thank Louise for all the effort and ideas she has contributed to make this garden as successful as it is.

Respectfully,  
Mike Matthews

### CHURCHILL CIRCLE Q2

This year in Q2 I concentrated on coordinating the quadrant with the opposite quadrant, Q4. In these two quadrants we try to share the same colour scheme and a lot of the same plants. I strive for colour throughout the quadrant from spring to fall, so that there is always something to catch the eye as people walk or drive past. The spring tulips and summer snap dragons throughout the whole bed help to unify the four quadrants.

Felicity Sutcliffe

### CHURCHILL CIRCLE Q4

It is a pleasure to work in the Churchill Circle garden. This year we welcomed Barb LaFlamme to our quadrant 4 team of Mike Matthews, Ron Nichol and Nancy Burnett. Thanks to Hort Society members who helped with spreading mulch and planting annuals, snapdragons and purslane, this spring.

We replaced 2 Buddleia and 2 Scabiosa that didn't make it through last winter. The new Buddleias are a dwarf variety 'Glass Slippers' from the Monarch series. Other plant additions this year included: Hyssop Officinalis, Roman Chamomile, Salvia de la Pradera, Veronica Longifolia 'First Love', Dianthus 'Bumbleberry Pie', and Dianthus 'Bath's Pink'. Also, we received a donation of Milkweed 'Ice Ballet' from Barb Hacking. For autumn colour, we added Chrysanthemums and Colchicum.

Lavender responded well to spring pruning and bloom was prolific. Portulaca from 2017 self-seeded and was transplanted to the centre section as an edging. The Echinacea, from Richard Blackburn's garden, Buddleia, Joe Pye Weed, Salvia nemorosa 'Blue Hill', Catmint 'Walker's Low' and the Hyssop Officinalis attracted pollinators and monarch butterflies to the garden.

Ron and Nancy Nichol



## EXHIBIT AND FLORAL DESIGN

2018 has been an exciting year for exhibit and floral design. In May and June 10 members attended a 5 week Basic Design course taught by Charmian Patrick from the K-W Garden Club. Charmian is an accomplished GCO design and horticulture judge as well as an amazing instructor. She was such an encouragement to everyone that we are considering beginning a "Designers' Club" (The name is subject to change!)

Our September flower Show was a huge success with 18 participants, 10 of whom were first time exhibitors and 2 were first timers last year! There were a total of 71 entries with 54 horticultural and 17 designs. A number of people expressed that they were not interested in winning ribbons but just wanted to show what grew in their gardens! That's the spirit that encourages other gardeners! We can all learn together how to improve our skills in growing, showing and designing. Being a competition, as outlined by the OHA, we did have a judge and ribbons were earned. Awards of \$20 were presented to the following: Doug Reberg for Judge's choice in horticulture, Jinny Macdonald for Judge's choice in design, Jim Fitzgerald for the President's choice in Design, and Cobe Giroux won for most points in the show with a total of 38 points. Nancy Lupton came in as a close second with 36 points.

Thanks to all 18 of our exhibitors who made "140, Let's Celebrate" such a successful vegetable and flower show!

Bernice Barratt, chair

## PROGRAM

Our final speaker of 2017 shared about Garden Styles in the Victorian Era when our SDHS began in 1878. We are bookending that talk with Scott Wishart sharing A Snapshot of Stratford Garden Styles in 2018, 140 years later! Many topics were covered this year from a pictorial visit to the Bruce Botanical Food Garden to practical instructions on growing sprouts and micro greens on a kitchen counter during the winter months. We were also encouraged to try growing a bonsai tree, miniature gardens suitable for a windowsill, practical advice on cultivating iris, garden designing from the ground up, and a history lesson sharing the GTR and CNR connection with Stratford and their participation and encouragement of horticulture.

Master Gardeners, who organize and lead the Garden Chat segment were again, a well received group of experts in our midst. Their informal information sharing is a very practical and welcome addition to our evenings and is enjoyed by many members. Our 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary year has been one of learning from the past and looking to future gardening challenges and joys. Thanks to all who have made this happen!

Bernice Barratt, Program Chair

## GARDEN FESTIVAL

The Stratford Garden Festival (SGF) was held March 1st, through 4th 2018. We created an attractive garden using many of the distinctive features associated with gardens C1878, our founding year in a display area over double the size of our usual display.

The defining structure for the display was an enclosed 20 x 10 white fence/gate/arbour built and painted by members. Within the structure was four rectangle and one round flower bed with uniform plantings per the Victorian period. Other period décor items were present like a tea set, garden hats, etc...Plantings included spruce, cyprus, boxwoods, various ferns, calla lilies, tulips, crocus, primrose, daffodils, baby tears and a custom urn insert. Attendance of the festival was steady over the four days and resulted in many favourable comments. Feedback from event attendees and members was extremely positive with lots of bookmarks for the plant tour, garden tour and garden guide being disbursed. We are grateful for the many, many member volunteers who helped to make this anniversary project a success.

Susan Kurtz



## GARDEN TOUR

Page 7

We are very grateful to all of the people who worked so hard to make the 2018 Garden Tour a success. Committee members, Volunteers and Garden Hosts all contributed for a team effort that resulted in a net profit of \$3,893.25.

We had good feedback about the new flags identifying the location of the gardens. People enjoyed the music played at the Event Garden. The homemade cookies (approximately 28 dozen) were much preferred to those purchased.

Approximately 300 tickets were sold, which is great considering the other activities available on July 1st and the extreme heat of the day. We already have secured potential gardens to visit for the 2019 tour which will be held July 7<sup>th</sup>.

I have resigned as Chair and wish to commend the talented and dedicated members of the committee who always supported me. It has been a pleasure to work with all of them. Members of the Committee were Stella Farwell, Leslye Glover, Louise Spandler, Felicity Sutcliffe, Ron Nichol, Shelly Meyers, Sharon McDonald, Larke Turnbull, and Jinny Macdonald.

Thank you to Mary Hoffman who has accepted the position of Chair for the 2019 tour. I will remain on the committee and I trust that everyone will give her their support as Chair of one of our major fund raisers.

Respectfully submitted,

Marg O'Reilly

## PLANT SALE

Sales on the day went well. We had excellent support from volunteers as well as particularly good publicity this year. There were articles in the paper, radio announcements, online free ads, and city wide signage. The new banners drew in drive-by customers. The demand for food plants including common herbs and vegetables was strong: oregano, sage, parsley, peppers, and tomatoes. Also on offer were 80 mature daylilies from Richard Blackburns garden which sold for \$5.00 each. About 12 were left over and went to member gardens to be kept over.

The Master Gardeners were kept VERY busy with questions. They had excellent materials on pollinator plants available. Recommend this be a topic at a garden chat/general meeting next year.

New members were specifically called to volunteer and several took up the challenge. In general, the day was much more social and educational with many garden discussions ongoing and chats over breakfast.

Volunteer hours added up to 353 for this years Plant Sale. Special Thanks go to the Committee of Alice Mainland, Cobe Giroux, Dorothy Van Esbroeck, Nancy Burnett, and Maureen Cocksedge. With Leslye Glover for the Master Gardeners and Doug Reberg, Owen Switzer, Mike Matthews, and Ron Nichols who coordinated the "garden digs".

Maureen Cocksedge



## 2018 Events, Workshops & Bus Trips: Alice Mainland

### Seedy Sunday - February 11<sup>th</sup> 2018:

We held a variety of activities including a marigold seed planting station for the youth and the young at heart to take home to watch grow, a station demonstrating tool sharpening methods, a Compost display covering the basics, a table issuing 2018 memberships and a table giving away a variety of perennial seeds.

Thank you, to our Volunteers: Mary Hoffman, Cobe Ciroux, Doug Reberg, Dennis Rawe, Nikkie Priestap, Amanda Ryan, Barry Krauter, Ron Nichol, Marg O'Reilly, Maureen & Don Cocksedge

### Pruning Workshop – April 11<sup>th</sup> 2018

Gord Piggott, our workshop leader along with several members of the Stratford master Gardner's, demonstrated fundamental methods to more than 20 participants at Katherine East Gardens.



Fairy Garden Workshop – May 16<sup>th</sup> 2018 - Sebringville Garden Center - Cancelled due to low registration

Bus Trip to Whistling Gardens – June 9<sup>th</sup> 2018 - Cancelled due to low registration

### Garden Photography Workshop – Aug 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> 2018

Amanda Ryan & Tina Dorrans ran two separate workshops on how to take pictures in your garden. Given the interest in this topic a second workshop was added. This was an exciting event helping us understand some tips & tricks on capturing the best shots in our gardens.



### Vegetable Seed Collection Workshop – September 10<sup>th</sup> 2018

This workshop was sponsored by the Local with an invitation to the Hort. Society and the Community to hear Judy Newman from Seeds of Diversity talk about how to grow collect & store vegetable seed. This was a well-attended event by the community along with a number of our members as well.





### Perennial Seed Collection Methods – September 16<sup>th</sup> 2018

Maureen Cocksedge led a small but interested group from the Hort. Society and the Local on, identifying and collected perennial seeds. Our workshop was held at the Butterfly garden by the Art Gallery and then in Maureen's own back yard.

On September 30<sup>th</sup> and October 07<sup>th</sup> we were to hold two seed collection events. All seeds collected would go to restock the Public Libraries, Seed Library with annual flowers or Vegetable seeds and Perennial seeds to share with members and give away at next year's Seedy Sunday event at the Local. We also asked gardeners to collect seeds from their backyard and bring to our October general meeting.

Unfortunately the collection events were postponed due to rain however the time was spend exploring the Shakespearean and Churchill Circle gardens identifying seeds to collect once things dry up.



If our members have any seeds to share please email [amainland@quadro.net](mailto:amainland@quadro.net) for pick arrangements.

### Potential 2019 Event Schedule

February:	Tour cannabis factory in Stratford (tentative)
February:	Seedy Sunday at the Local (Confirmed)
March:	Seed starting & Propagation at the Local (Tentative)
April	Pruning Workshop (Tentative)
June:	Bus Trip with Cherry Bus Lines at 20% off list price (Tentative)
August:	Potential: Pucks Plenty: Foraging Tour - \$35/person (non-refundable)
Sept/Oct:	Seed collection with the Local

### Greenweek 2018

We simplified our display at the Stratford Mall this year believing that shoppers did not want to spend time reading text, we gave them garden pictures – very good ones thanks to the several members who contributed photographs. These were presented on a neatly folding, five sided, 10 panel, display. We were appropriately placed by the painted barrel display which must have brightened the day for everyone. We hope to give members many opportunities to exercise their cameras.

... Dennis Rawe

## **Nominating Committee**

10

The 2018 nominating committee (Marg O'Reilly, Karen Van Baren, Owen Switzer, Doug Reberg) met several times in August.

These Board members will return to serve in 2019:

Mike Matthews (Past President)  
Karen Van Baren (Treasurer)  
Owen Switzer (Secretary)  
Doug Reberg  
Sheila Love-Phillips  
Bernice Barratt  
Dennis Rawe  
Susan Kurtz  
Alice Mainland

Maureen Cocksedge

Two new members will join the Board in 2019:

Dorothy Van Esbroeck  
Barry Krauter

Two Board members will not continue in 2019:

Marg O'Reilly  
Michael Murray (Michael will continue to serve as Corresponding Secretary)

We have no nominee for President, so the office of Vice President will also be vacant. The Nominating Committee recommended that individual Board members accept responsibility for specific tasks specified in the job descriptions for President and Vice President. (e.g., creating and approving agendas for monthly and annual meetings of The Society.

## **Publicity Committee**

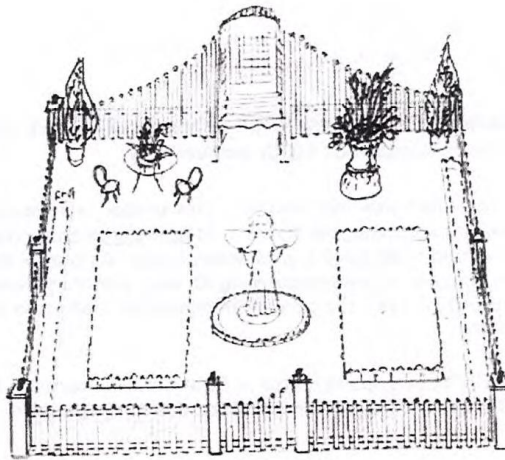
The Society recognizes the importance of maintaining a public profile, and we publicize our activities in various ways:

**Special Events.** We distribute publicity materials (primarily bookmarks and posters) for special events such as the Plant Sale and Garden Tour. We have enjoyed consistently strong attendance at those events. One of our main venues for distributing those materials is the Spring Garden Festival, where the Society is represented by a display garden. The Society's display for the 2018 Festival was a Victorian Garden, designed and constructed by Dennis Rawe and Susan Kurtz.

**Newspaper column.** Doug Reberg writes a monthly column for *Stratford Beacon Herald*. The column (*Gardens, Gardeners and Gardening*) covers a wide range of topics, always with mention of Society activities and events.

**New logos and banners.** The Society now has a number of "Teardrop" banners and a large retractable sign for display at Society events and functions. In the first year, the banners and designs have had extensive use such as identifying locations for the July Garden Tour





Drawing by

Dennis Rawe

Society members greeted visitors with bookmarks advertising the Plant Sale and the Garden Tour. Many visitors to those events mentioned having used information from bookmarks as reminders.

**Other publicity outlets.** Radio and television stations as well as newspapers all have free "bulletin boards" for posting notifications of special events. The Society makes extensive use of those services.

We invited Stratford's hospitality services to publicize our activities. For example, this spring we established contact with *Stratford and Area Bed and Breakfast Association* providing posters and bookmarks for SABBA members to offer to their guests.

*Garden Making* is a monthly online publication providing extensive information about garden attractions and events across Canada. Some events celebrating the 140th anniversary of The Society's founding were featured recently in *Garden Making*.



### Stratford promotes local gardens to visitors

To celebrate its 140th anniversary, the Stratford and District Horticultural Society is promoting local public gardens in the town in southwestern Ontario.

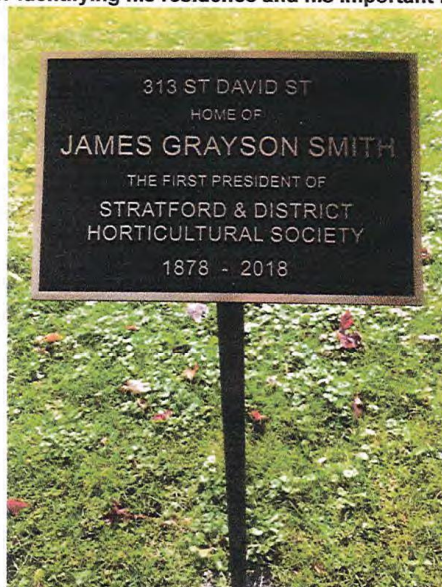
Read: [Stratford promotes local gardens to visitors](#)

**Stratford and District Horticultural Society** was established in 1878, and we have arranged several special projects and events to celebrate our 140th anniversary.

**Rt. Rev. W. T. Corcoran Memorial Iris Garden.** This garden is a special project for The Society. Rev. Corcoran was a remarkable figure in Stratford gardening history, a Roman Catholic Priest who grew and hybridized a great many irises. As part of the 140th celebration, The Society established an iris garden commemorating Rt. Rev. Corcoran's role in Stratford's horticultural history. Now in just its second year, the garden (designed by Trails End Iris) is already a showcase for many unusual iris varieties.

**Canada Day Parade.** The Society participates in Stratford's Celebration by constructing a float for the Canada Day Parade. This year's float commemorated the Society's 140th anniversary as well as Canada's 151st.

**J. Grayson Smith Marker.** J. Grayson Smith was the Society's first president. The Society commissioned a marker identifying his residence and his important role in founding the Society.



**Edible Forest.** The Society often collaborates with The Local Community Food Centre, an important resource for many Stratford residents. One of the services provided by The Local is a community garden. The Society's donation to The Local will create an "edible forest" of 140 trees and shrubs near the community gardens. Significant drainage problems in the intended site have made it inadvisable to plant the forest this year, so we look forward to having it to celebrate the Society's 141st anniversary next year.

**Dutch Memorial.** One of Stratford's public gardens in which The Society has a major role is the Dutch Memorial Garden, commemorating Canada's assistance to Holland when it was occupied by Germany for several years of World War II. Relatively few people seem to know that Stratford provided facilities for the training of over 2,000 Dutch troops, and that the memorial and the annual blooming of tulips and other flowers planted by the Horticultural Society commemorates those events. The Society has commissioned a historical marker that will provide about the connection between Stratford and Holland.





**Guide to Public Gardens of Stratford.** Another commemoration of the Society's 140th anniversary is [stratfordgardens.com](http://stratfordgardens.com), a online guide to Stratford's gardens. The website features interactive maps to help visitors locate the gardens as well as photographs and other information about plantings and historical information. A grant from Stratford's Destination Animation Fund helped establish the site. Doug Reberg compiled information and wrote descriptions of the gardens. University of Waterloo student Ms. Jaimie Park designed and built the site.

The site was launched in August, 2017. It has been visited over 3,000 times in its first year.

**Exhibition of botanical art.** Gallery Stratford mounted a very fine exhibit of botanical art commemorating the Society's 140th anniversary.

The artists included Amanda McCavour (whose installation will feature 500 digitally embroidered poppies suspended from a gallery ceiling), Gerard Brender á Brandis (wood engravings of flowers from Shakespeare), Jane Tingley (digital media installation depicting human-plant relationships), and Silvia Bruni (glass painting collaborations between the artist and her baby daughter featuring Stratford parks and gardens,). Angela Brayham, Gallery Stratford's Director and Curator, assembled a great show of fine art that was very well attended.

Amanda McCavour's poppy display was just one of the attractions that brought many visitors back to the gallery for repeated visits.

## 20 Questions (for AGM mixer with a purpose)

14

I do this

I want to  
learn this

Collect signatures for as many questions as possible for a chance at a prize!

- #1 I grow vegetables, herbs, etc. \_\_\_\_\_
- #2 I grow flowers. \_\_\_\_\_
- #3 I am a container gardener. \_\_\_\_\_
- #4 I am a past board member. \_\_\_\_\_
- #5 I am a past president. \_\_\_\_\_
- #6 I have visited the RBG. \_\_\_\_\_
- #7 I visited the special 140<sup>th</sup> show at the Gallery. \_\_\_\_\_
- #8 I belong to a specific plant society. \_\_\_\_\_  
which one? \_\_\_\_\_
- #9 My favourite plant is ..... \_\_\_\_\_
- # 10 I grow cacti. \_\_\_\_\_
- #11 I grow orchids. \_\_\_\_\_
- #12 I grow clematis. \_\_\_\_\_
- #13 I save my own seeds. \_\_\_\_\_
- #14 I could use help with my garden. \_\_\_\_\_
- #15 I miss having a garden. \_\_\_\_\_
- #16 I attend or help out with the Garden Tour. \_\_\_\_\_
- #17 I volunteer at one of the community gardens. \_\_\_\_\_
- #18 Spring is my favourite time in the garden. \_\_\_\_\_
- #19 Summer is my favourite time in the garden. \_\_\_\_\_
- #20 Fall is my favourite time in the garden. \_\_\_\_\_





MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

**Audit Certificate**

(To be used if no audit report is supplied by outside auditors)

Society financial records must be audited for the protection of both the treasurer and the Society. One of the following must be submitted:

- a completed Audit Certificate with two signatures that are not executive officers or board members of the Society **or related to one another or the treasurer;**

or

- an Audit Report (not a Compilation, also known as, Notice to Reader) that has been completed by a professional firm (CA, CMA, CPA, CGA). Please send a copy of the Audit Report and retain the original for your files. This usually has only **one** signature.

**Note that Compilations, also known as Notice to Readers, will no longer be acceptable as formats for reviews. If your financial statements are in this format, please also supply the Audit Certificate as described above.**

We certify that the statements of receipts & disbursements and assets & liabilities of the ~~STRATFORD DISTRICT~~ HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY (Name of Society), for the fiscal year ended , are correct, and that our examination of the books and records of the Society included tests to ensure:

1. all cash receipts were correctly recorded;
2. all recorded vouchers were accurate and authentic;
3. all investment and similar assets which were reported actually exist.

Date Nov 15, 2018  
 Auditor / Financial Reviewer H. MACDONALD  
 Signature Heather Macdonald  
 Phone 519-273-7525

Date Nov 15, 2018  
 Auditor / Financial Reviewer S. MEYERS  
 Signature S. Meyers  
 Phone 519-273-1920

Any officer, director or auditor of an organization who makes a false statement in any report or information required under the Agricultural and Horticultural Organizations Act is guilty of an offence and on conviction is liable to a fine of not more than \$2000. R.S.O. 1990, c. A.9, s. 16