



## **2017 ANNUAL REPORT**

**Prepared By: Catherine Hilge, Secretary**

**November 2017**

**Oshawa Garden Club  
Annual General Meeting  
November 13, 2017  
LVIV Hall, 38 Lviv Blvd.,  
Oshawa, Ontario**

**AGENDA**

**Call to Order**

**O Canada**

**Oshawa Garden Club Pledge**

**Quorum**

**Minutes of 2016 Annual General Meeting**

**President's Remarks**

**Life Membership**

**Secretary's Report**

**Treasurer's Report**

**Financial Reviewers Report**

**Nominations Report**

**Introduction of OHA District 17 Director  
Rick Caustens**

**Elections**

**Installation of Officers**

**Incoming President's Remarks**

**Motion to amend the By Laws  
(see following page for details)**

**Adjournment of Business Meeting**

**Speaker: Vida Ycas-Abell**

### **Addition to our Bylaws**

Our parent body, the Ontario Horticultural Association has asked that all member organizations ensure that they have a section of their bylaws that provides for the indemnification of their directors. This ensures that Director Insurance is in place to cover any expenses that might arise in defending our Directors, individually or as a group, against litigation that arises from their actions or lack of actions with regard to Board responsibility, provided that that they have acted in good faith and according to our bylaws and traditions.

The OGC has provided this kind of coverage, at the club's expense, for many years now. As there was no provision for this coverage in our bylaws, this proposed addition to the bylaws will provide a basis for the continued provision of this coverage. The wording of the proposed bylaw addition is based on wording provided by the OHA. Additional reference material sourced from a local advisor has been added for clarity for Directors and describes what constitutes due diligence and acting in good faith.

Merle Cole for the OGC Board.

### **ARTICLE 5 Board of Directors**

**5.11** Every Director and Officer of the Association and his or her heirs, executors and administrators respectively shall from time to time, and at all times, be indemnified and saved harmless out of the funds of the Oshawa Garden Club, only from and against:

- a) all costs, charges and expenses whatsoever such Director or Officer sustains or incurs in or about any action, suit or proceeding that is brought, commences or prosecuted against him or her for or in respect of any deed, act, matter or thing whatsoever made, done or committed by him or her, in or about the execution of the duties of his or her office;
- b) all other costs, charges and expenses he or she sustains or incurs in or about or in relation to the affairs of the Association; except such costs, charges and expenses as are occasioned by his or her own negligence or default, or failure to act honestly and in good faith with a view to the best interests of the Oshawa Garden Club.
- c) as directed by their directors, the Oshawa Garden Club will purchase and maintain annual insurance to cover all Directors in good standing against any liability incurred by the Director or Officer, in their capacity as a Director or Officer of the Oshawa Garden Club, except where the liability relates to the person's failure to act honestly and in good faith with a view to the best interests of the Oshawa Garden Club. (see reference next page)

**Reference Note:**

**Standard of Care and Liability**

Every Director and Officer in exercising his or her powers and discharging his or her duties to the Corporation shall:

- I. act honestly and in good faith with a view to the best interests of the Corporation; and
- II. exercise the care, diligence and skill that a reasonably prudent person would exercise in comparable circumstances.

Every Director and Officer shall comply with the Act and the regulations and the Oshawa Garden Club's Letters Patent and Bylaws.

A Director is not liable and has complied with his or her duties if the Director exercised the care, diligence and skill that a reasonably prudent person would have exercised in comparable circumstances, including reliance in good faith on:

- i. financial statements of the Corporation represented to him or her by an Officer of the Corporation or in a report of the auditor/reviewers of the Corporation to present fairly the financial position of the Corporation in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
- ii. an interim or other financial report of the Corporation represented to him or her by an Officer of the Corporation to present fairly the financial position of the Corporation in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
- iii. a report or advice of an Officer or employee of the Corporation, if it is reasonable in the circumstances to rely on the report or advice;
- iv. a report of a lawyer, accountant, engineer, appraiser or other person whose profession lends credibility to a statement made by them.

No Director or Officer shall be liable for:

- i. the acts, receipts, neglects or defaults of any other Director, Officer, employee, or for joining in any receipt or other act for conformity;
- ii. any loss, damage or expense happening to the Corporation through the insufficiency or deficiency of title to any property acquired for or on behalf of the Corporation;
- iii. the insufficiency or deficiency of any security in or upon which any of the monies of the Corporation shall be invested;
- iv. any loss or damage arising from the bankruptcy, insolvency or tortious acts of any person with whom any of the monies, securities or effects of the Corporation shall be deposited;
- v. any loss occasioned by any error of judgment or oversight on his part;
- vi. any other loss, damage or misfortune, whatever which shall happen in the execution of the duties of his office or in relation thereto, unless the same are occasioned by his own willful neglect or default;

provided that nothing herein shall relieve any Director or Officer from the duty to act in accordance with the Act or from liability for any breach thereof.

**Oshawa Garden Club  
Annual General Meeting Minutes  
November 14, 2016, 7:30 p.m.  
LVIV Hall, 38 Blvd., Oshawa**

**Guests:** Rick Caustens, District 17 Director      Kathy Allam, District 17 Assistant Director  
**Secretary:** Catherine Hilge

**Call to Order**

President, Debi Foster called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**O Canada**

**Oshawa Garden Club Pledge**

**Quorum:**

Nadia Bilyk confirmed that quorum was met.

Debi welcomed everyone to the meeting. Debi also announced that unfortunately the guest speaker had cancelled at the last minute; however, there would still be a presentation by a few of the board members.

**Reading and Approval of the 2015 Annual General Meeting Minutes:**

Debi gave everyone an opportunity to read the minutes.

**Motion to approve the 2015 AGM Minutes made by Merle Cole and seconded by John Windatt. All in favour. Carried.**

**President's Remarks:**

Debi thanked the board and the members for their support over the past year. She stated that she was proud of the members of the board and committees and the work they do on behalf of the club. Members are always available to assist with the various projects the club takes on. Debi also advised that we have a full slate of directors for the coming year. Leaving are Barb North, Penny Tracy and Heather Miller. Debi thanked them for their years of service to the board and the garden club.

**Oshawa Garden Club "Real Digger Award"**

Gloria McRae reminded the club that as of last year there is a new award named the "real digger award". The award is an engraved trowel. The criteria for the award:

Must be active for at least 5 years.

Must have volunteered in different areas across the club.

Must have taken on a leadership role on the board, as a Committee chair or co chair.

This year the award is being presented to Penny Tracy. Penny has been a member of the club for 8 years, the last 4 years on the board. She has participated on the phone committee, as well has organized the phone committee, she has been responsible for publicity for the meetings and the events. Penny has helped with the Christmas and Strawberry socials, the plant sale and gardened at the Humane Society. Penny has now moved and is helping one of her new neighbours with their garden. Thank you, Penny, you will be missed.

In addition, Barb North who won this award last year is moving and Heather Miller is leaving the board.

## **Reports:**

**Secretary's Report:** Catherine Hilge thanked the board for the opportunity to be a part of the board. Catherine said the Secretary's Report is the Annual Report handout received by the meeting attendees. It contains the Minutes of the previous AGM, the Financial Report for the past year and summaries of club activities submitted by each Committee Chair. Catherine thanked the board and committee chairs for submitting their reports to her.

**Motion to approve the 2015 Secretary's Report made by Nadia Bilyk and seconded by Cathy Brown. All in favour. Carried.**

**Treasurer's Report:** Iris Lucas explained that the report is the final two pages in the handout received tonight. The first page shows income, our budget and expenses. The second page shows our net worth and our Bank Balance on August 31, 2016 of \$25,738.88. Iris clarified two items.

1. Plant sale – In addition to the \$2190.55 shown in the report there is an additional \$759.25 (\$655.00 from the driveway and \$104.25 from the September meeting sale) which was deposited after August 31, 2016.

2. There was \$5000.00 budgeted but not spent. This is for the day lily garden. This amount will be carried forward to the next budget year.

Iris thanked the Financial Reviewers Luba Samochin and Bev Kilburn for their diligent work. There were no questions.

**Motion to approve the Treasurer's report made by Robin Burns and seconded by Carolyn Adams. All in favour. Carried.**

## **Financial Reviewers' Report:**

Bev Kilburn reported on the financial report. She noted that the accounts are well organized and therefore made the audit easy to complete. Bev thanked Iris for making Luba's and her jobs easy.

## **Nominations Report**

### **Introduction of OHA District 17 Director**

Debi introduced Rick Caustens, Director of District 17 and Kathy Allam, Assistant Director of District 17. The proceedings were handed to the D17 Director Rick Caustens. Kathy Allam (D17 Assistant Director) listed the 2015-2016 Nominees as they came to the front to be introduced to the membership.

### **Conducting Elections**

Rick asked if anyone there is anyone who would stand for the position of President?" Hearing none, Robin Burns was declared President elect and came forward and was installed for 2016 - 2017.

### **Installation of Officers**

Rick asked once for any nominees for the position of Director from the floor and there were none. The nominated Directors were declared and asked to come forward as well as the secretary Catherine Hilge, and treasurer Iris Lucas. They pledged to follow the rules and guidelines from the OHA and the OGC Constitution and were thereby installed for one year. He offered congratulations to the Oshawa Garden Club for the year ahead.

Rick brought greetings from Susan Hanna, OHA President. He advised there are 27000 members. He said the focus is on Garden Ontario week. He asked the club to let them know if we are doing anything for that week. He also spoke about pollinators dying. The OHA is working on developing a pollinator initiative. There will be information on line. Rick invited members to attend the convention next in Richmond Hill from July 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Officers Elected and Installed**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Status</b>
President	Robin Burns	Acclaimed
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Merle Cole	Acclaimed
Director	Margaret Woolsey	Acclaimed
Director	Nadia Bilyk	Acclaimed
Director	Malcolm Brown	Acclaimed
Director	Cathy Brown	Acclaimed
Director	Monica Kachel	Acclaimed
Director	Jan Kerr	Acclaimed
Director	Janice McRae	Acclaimed
Director	Susan Crase	Acclaimed
Director	Jill Snape	Acclaimed
Director	Gloria McRae	Acclaimed
Secretary	Catherine Hilge	Appointed
Treasurer	Iris Lucas	Appointed
Financial Reviewer	Bev Kilburn	Appointed
Financial Reviewer	Luba Samochin	Appointed

**Incoming President's Remarks**

Robin thanked the club for the support and indicated that she is looking forward to working with the board.

Robin explained about the last minute cancellations of the guest speaker and advised that Merle had put together a presentation on Pinterest, she and Debi will be doing a presentation on winter planters, and Catherine had done a bulletin board presentation in ideas for Christmas decoration.

Robin thanked the members for jumping in at the last minute to assist.

**AGM Adjournment 8:05 p.m.**

**Motion to adjourn made by Karen Adams and seconded by Heather Miller.**

**All in favour. Carried.**

## **Presidents Report**

With the help of our friendly and knowledgeable Board Members and Volunteers we assure that your OGC meetings are relaxed, welcoming and informative with relevant and interesting speakers, events, sales and outings. There are so many facets to the world of Gardening and we want you to learn, enjoy and share with us as we strive to fulfill our mission of promoting interest in horticulture

My first year as President has been eye-opening to all the tasks that are completed by our Board Members and so many Volunteers in our organization, most working behind the scenes, all with the goal of making our Oshawa Garden Club the best it can be for you, our members. This year we changed a few things up, and initiated some new projects all with much success. Meanwhile we remain true to the roots of our organization.

The Oshawa Garden Club is a fun group that is supportive, respectful and considerate. I am honoured to be part of such a dynamic board and wonderful organization.

Robin Burns

## **CLUB ACTIVITIES**

### **Membership**

We ended the year with 192 members, including 2 Life Members. In October we continued with the "Bring a Guest for Free" to the meeting. The OGC board coordinated a points system to recognize the contributions of active club members. Points are accumulated for a variety of activities and may result in the awarding of a Life Membership for these participants. A wonderful way to recognize the dedicated work of our many members.

Nadia Bilyk

### **Website**

The OGC website has been seeing more visitors this past year – a whopping 38% overall to date due in part to the wonderful work done by Sherry on the Greenleaf Newsletter. The Greenleaf page is the top hit with visitors to the site month after month with the Membership page and the Garden Journal coming second and third.

The 2017 summer and fall months saw a huge increase in interest throughout the site – in the plus 100% range over 2016. This could be due to people looking for garden information available in our Journal, folks catching up on past issues of the Greenleaf and those looking for membership documents.

The website has gone through a few changes in how information is shown. The current layout allows for seasonal changes to the banner and the new addition of the Greenleaf Newsletter entry on the menu bar will assist those people interested in the top page on the site. We're looking forward to 2018 visits and we're always open to ideas about how we can improve the site.

Jim Cook, Webmaster



### **The Greenleaf**

The newsletter is created on Blogger.com and can be read on any device with an internet connection at [www.oshawagardenclub.ca](http://www.oshawagardenclub.ca). A few members request a hard copy and we print 15 copies per month. My goal for now is to cut down the words as gardening information is amazing and endless, but time to read is short. Thank you to President Robin for her monthly message. Thank you to Merle Cole for his photos and interviews. Thank you for all the volunteer hours donated by our reliable, tech-smart webmaster Jim Cook. Feedback is welcome at [www.greenleaf@oshawagardenclub.ca](mailto:www.greenleaf@oshawagardenclub.ca)  
Sherry Shrives, Editor

### **Durham College Scholarship**

The Oshawa Garden Club is a founding Scholarship Sponsor of the Durham College Horticulture Technician Program. Now in its 5th year at the Whitby Campus, this two year program is part of the College's Food to Fork Vision. The Oshawa Garden Club provides a \$500 Scholarship to the second place student. Our 2016 Scholarship Winner was Kathryn Taylor.

### **Day Lily Garden Project at Oshawa Valley Botanical Gardens**

The donation of Day Lilies from the "We're in the Hayfield Now" collection was healed into the Day Lily Garden at OVBG in the early summer with the assistance of a number of the Oshawa Garden Club members. The design of the garden is in the shape of a daylily and additions in 2018 include a shade structure and additional plantings to enhance the garden. The Oshawa Garden Club designated \$5,000 from the estate of former member Lisa Jewtuscka for this project.

### **Bakers**

Thank you to all the volunteers who provide us with delicious treats at every meeting. Thank you to Janey Dubrowsky and Gloria Tepfenhart for their hard work coordinating the bakers to ensure we have treats at every meeting.

### **Door Prizes**

Once again, this year Anne Sewell has done an amazing job of providing a variety of door prizes at each meeting. Thank you, Anne.

### **Hospitality**

Tea and Coffee Monica Holkema has done a great job preparing the coffee and donating the tea for our meetings. Thank you.

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### **Strawberry Social**

A good time was had by all at our annual Strawberry Social which was held on Monday June 12, 2017. This year 135 guests attended our event which was free for members and \$5 for their guests.

Our program included a slide show prepared by Merle Cole, several raffles with prizes generously donated by our members, G.L. Roberts C.V.I., Artists in the Garden, and several garden centres. An entertaining presentation on succulents was delivered by Paul Zammit (Nancy Eaton Director of Horticulture at the Toronto Botanical Garden).

Several guests were the recipients of the table arrangements and two lucky guests took home beautiful floral arrangements made by Nadia Bilyk.

The committee of Cathy Brown, Monika Kachel, Jan Kerr, Gloria McRae, Janice McRae, and Margaret Woolsey would like to thank our guests for joining us for an entertaining evening. We'd also like to acknowledge the hard work of our volunteers who helped set up, hull berries, serve, and clean up. Thank you so much.

**Cathy Brown, Chair**

### **Christmas Social**

Seventy-five members and guests were welcomed by President Robin Burns.

The hall looked festive, tables were decorated with poinsettias and Vida worked her magic again by creating twenty-four beautiful arrangements to decorate the food tables.

We played three Reindeer Games which were organized by Pat Aasen and Jan Kerr, people had fun and the lucky winners were able to take the poinsettias and the floral arrangements home.

The supplies for the games were donated by Pat and Jan and we thank them for it.

Karen Brown was the winner of the Winter Basket.

Joan Wilton was the lucky winner of the 50/50 draw, to help the less fortunate, we again donated the portion which usually goes to the club to Settlement House. The 50/50 amount plus additional donations came to \$160.00

Thank you to the members for attending and generously bringing food.

Thank you to the committee and the members who helped with the set up and take down.

What a wonderful way to end the year.

**Monika Kachel, Committee Chair**

**Plant Sale Publicity Committee Report**

Our Plant Sale took place at the South Oshawa Community Centre on May 27, 2017. Once again, our industrious Plant Sale Committee worked hard to publicize the sale by featuring Plant Sale information on our website and in the Greenleaf. Posters were distributed throughout the community. Merle's updated video was featured at meetings. News outlets and other Garden Clubs were sent information about the sale. Signs were distributed to our members prior to the sale. Thank you to all our members who placed Plant Sale signs on their lawns and Posters in their workplaces. These combined efforts made our major fundraiser a success. The Plant Sale Publicity Committee members were Gloria McRae, Heather Miller, Garry Lucas, Robin Burns, Janice McRae, Monika Kachel, Merle Cole, Debi Foster and Nadia Bilyk.

Gloria McRae

**OGC Annual Plant Sale**

Our annual plant sale was held on Sat. May 27, 2017. For the fifth time we partnered with G.L. Roberts High School and they had geraniums and seedlings in the sale as well as supplying student setup help. Robert Young with dahlias and Peter Keeping with clematis joined us as they have for many years.

I thank the many people who donated plants and others who assisted on potting and on sale day. Special note of Barb Day, a past member, for her generous donation of 40 different hosta varieties. Still have some left for next year and some Hayfield daylilies recently acquired. Again, I would be remiss if I did not thank the members of the committee who do all the presale organizing and publicity to ease my load. Finally, my wife Iris who tolerates the mess and loss of part of the driveway for the summer.

Financial summary:

Sat. May 27 sales .....	\$2531.40
Driveway sales.....	\$850.00
Total 2017 sales.....	\$3381.40
Expenses.....	\$ - 113.95
Total 2017 sale income .....	\$3267.45
From 2016 (late sales, fall meeting sale) .....	\$759.25
TOTAL DEPOSITED in 2017.....	\$4026.70

Garry Lucas, Plant Sale Co-Chairman

## **Photography**

Once again it has been my pleasure to capture some of the action around the Oshawa Garden Club and its meetings, outings and events, and to share those photos with club members through Green Leaf, the website, and through slideshows at the meetings. Thanks to all the members for smiling so nicely and putting up with my antics.

We also managed to squeeze in a few photo workshops or garden crawls that provided interested members with a chance to practice their photography skills, get some informal coaching and to capture some of the beautiful public gardens here in Oshawa. We had some fun outings that also provided opportunities to get to know each other better and to share our interests.

We had about a dozen participants in each of two workshops over the summer and I will look forward to opportunities to share some of their photos at upcoming meetings and events. It is my hope that we can find time to do a few more workshops in coming months. Thanks to Debi for her help and for the opportunity for participants to take part in the Bookmark contest.

It is my hope that more members will take part in the OHA photography exhibit and contest that will be part of the annual AGM and Convention to be held in July in Kingston. Please let me know if you would like to know more about how to take part.

Merle Cole

## **SPEAKERS**

Our 2017 Speakers presented a variety of topics that had been recommended by our members. I hope that they have inspired, informed and educated you on topics, tips and strategies to help you in your selection of plants, management of pests and design and adaptation of your gardens and containers.

I am currently working on our 2018 Guest Speakers based on the input from the OGC Board and club members along with visits to and information provided from other Garden and Horticultural Clubs.

It is my pleasure to work on the club's behalf to plan informative, enthusiastic and knowledgeable speakers for our learning, development and entertainment. Your feedback and suggestions are always welcome.

Robin Burns, Speaker Coordinator

### **Plant Table**

Faye Gosling continues to amaze us. She is joined this year by Sharon Henry. They provide plants grown by them as well as those donated by members. They organize a fall seed exchange as well as the Big Giveaway. These are gently, or unused items brought in by members so that they can be reused or repurposed. This is always a popular evening.

### **Rose of Durham Annual Picnic**

The morning weather was not optimal, and the crowds were lower than in past years, but Debi Foster, Patti Becker and Susan Crase helped with 129 plantings in ice cream cones. The use of ice cream cones instead of pots was a big hit with children and adults alike. The paper wrappers on the cones allowed identification of the planted seeds.

### **Greenhouse Tour**

A tour of the City of Oshawa Greenhouses was organized, and 15 people attended. Greenhouse staffers, Scott and Noelle provided the group with a plethora of details about the greenhouses and the City gardens. It was an extremely informative tour and others will be planned.

### **Hearth Place**

Over a period of 4 months, 10 gardeners helped keep the gardens at Hearth Place neat and tidy. They visited the gardens every 3 weeks and spent just under 60 hours weeding, trimming, pruning and transplanting.

Hearth Place plans to expand their facilities over the next few years and some of the gardens will change. We look forward to being a small part of this exciting development.

Thank you to all who participated: Roy and Diane C., Debi F., Sue L., Mary McC., Sylvia M., Teresa P., Lea Ann R., Anne S., and Jill S.

### **Christmas Craft Sale**

The unusually warm fall weather did not prevent Garden Club members from getting into the Christmas spirit at our annual craft sale.

We had seven club members selling a lovely selection of wares, including two new members. Thank you to Sharon Chessar (knitted items), Linda Cole (water colour paintings and prints), Monica Holkema (teas), Anne Labelle-Johnson (paintings and prints), Marie and Ellen Glass Art (stained and fused glass), Sharon McLaren (carved cypress knees), Sue Vanderkwaak and family (wood work) for making the evening such a success.

### **Gift Basket**

We had two gift baskets again this year. The winter basket was won by Karen Brown and the spring basket was won by Pat Currie.

Thank you to everyone for your support and making this successful again this year.

Jan Kerr

### **Meeting Communications, Publicity and Meeting Set Up**

Susan Crase has been responsible for communications, publicity and meeting set up. Along with a group of volunteers Susan has made sure all is ready when we arrive for meetings. In addition Susan sends out the meeting communications to the members. Susan also provides information to the various media outlets in the area.

### **Imagination Station**

Vida stepped in to replace Val Foster when she left, and has challenged members with interesting themes throughout the year. The monthly "Design Your Own" competition was introduced this year. Thank you Vida for taking on this responsibility.

### **Bus Tour**

With 51 tickets sold we enjoyed a wet start to our Bus Tour on June 22nd.

Our day began with a guided tour of the Field to Fork Business of the Durham College Horticulture and Culinary Programs at the Whitby campus. We then boarded our Coach Bus and headed to the hills of Mono Adjala Township for a personal tour of the gardens at the farm of Trish and Bill Symons. Trish and Bill also provided us with a number of indoor and outdoor seating areas to enjoy our lunch. Our next stop was Pathways to Perennials where Angie Mennen-Allen demonstrated a Summer Container Planting and a number of our group toured the garden centre grounds and made some purchases from the nursery and boutique. Our last stop was a tour of the amazing and unique gardens of Marion Jarvie. With refreshments, games and prizes along our route the day was enjoyed by all. My special thanks to committee members Nadia Bilyk, Margaret Woolsey and Debi Foster.

Income: \$2,550.00  
Expenses \$2,164.98  
Profit: \$385.02

Robin Burns