

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

AGENDA

Call to Order

O Canada

Oshawa Garden Club Pledge

Quorum

Minutes of 2015 Annual General Meeting

President's Remarks

Oshawa Garden Club "Real Digger" Award

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 Article 5, 5.2 of the Oshawa Garden Club Constitution

(See following page for details)

Adjournment of Business Meeting

Speaker: Noelle Rees – Winter Containers

Motion to Amend Article 5, 5.2 of the Oshawa Garden Club Constitution

Notice of Amendment to the Oshawa Garden Club Constitution

It is important that all facets of the Oshawa Garden Club Constitution are met by the Board of Directors. Finding volunteers to fill all the positions presently listed for the Board of Directors is becoming increasingly difficult. It is the opinion of the Executive and the Directors that the Resolution noted below will help ensure that all the necessary positions are filled and there is compliance to all aspects of the Constitution.

Resolution to be Voted Upon at 2016 Oshawa Garden Club AGM

Be it resolved that: Article 5, 5.2 be amended as follows:

Current wording:

5.2 The Board of Directors, herein called the Board, is composed of the Executive, consisting of the President, Past-President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, and ten elected Directors.

Amended wording:

5.2 The Board of Directors, herein called the Board is composed of the Executive (consisting of the President, Past-President, First Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) and a minimum of eight (8) to a maximum of ten (10) elected Directors.

Rationale:

1. The role of the Second Vice President in an official capacity is rarely required and people are reluctant to fill the position because it infers that they would be willing to move up the executive chain. The Board believes that removal of the position of the Second Vice President will not reduce the strength and effectiveness of the Board.
2. Allowing for some flexibility in the number of elected Directors will ensure that the Constitution is being adhered to as written, even when a wide range of candidates is not available.

Oshawa Garden Club
Annual General Meeting Minutes
November 9, 2015, 7:30 p.m.
LVIV Hall, 38 Lviv Blvd., Oshawa

Guests: Elaine Davidson, District 17 Director Secretary: Catherine Hilge

Call to Order

President, Gloria McRae called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

O Canada

Oshawa Garden Club Pledge

“Wear A Poppy and Remember us on November 11th”- a reflection on the poppy for remembrance

Quorum:

Gloria McRae confirmed that quorum was met.

Gloria welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the bakers for the evening treats and the crafters for bringing their art for the craft sale.

Reading and Approval of the 2014 Annual General Meeting Minutes:

Gloria read the minutes.

Motion to approve the 2014 AGM Minutes made by George McCormack and seconded by Sandy Allin. All in favour. Carried.

President’s Remarks:

Gloria thanked the board and the members for their support over the past year. She commented that she had gained a real appreciation for all the club does. She stated that she was proud of the members of the board and committees and the work they do on behalf of the club. She said that being President gave her an opportunity to network with other clubs in District 17 and that the OHA is a dynamic organization. We should be proud of how we are moving ahead in our area, the province and our country. Gloria also told the audience that she was very pleased we have a full slate of hard working directors.

Oshawa Garden Club “Real Digger Award”

Gloria McRae advised the audience that this year there is a new award which has been 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 chair or co chair.

After some thought it was decided that the person who best fit the criteria this year is Barb North. Barb has been on the Board for more than 5 years. She has participated on the phone committee, the plant sale as a co-chair; it is due to Barb that we have a partnership with the City of Oshawa for the plant sale. Barb also took on the project of cleaning up the gardens at the Humane Society.

A thank you to the Bryson’s, and Garry Lucas for their assistance at the Humane Society.

Reports:

Secretary's Report: Catherine Hilge thanked the board for the opportunity to be a part of the board. She commented that it has given her a real appreciation of the work of the club and encouraged others to get involved. 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 2014 Secretary's Report made by Robin Burns and seconded by Beverly Kilburn. All in favour. Carried.

Treasurer's Report: Iris Lucas presented the Club's 2014 Financial Report. Iris thanked the Financial Reviewers Luba Samochin and Laurie Beier for their diligent work. There were no questions. Iris also advised the audience that Laurie Beier had resigned her position as auditor that morning and therefore we are looking for a second auditor. Elaine Davidson advised that we must have two auditors in place by December 31st.

Motion to approve the Treasurer's report made by Carolyn Adams and seconded by Linda Cole. All in favour. Carried.

Financial Reviewers' Report:

Luba Samochin reported that the audit took about 1 ½ hours to complete and went so quickly in part because of careful and accurate record keeping by the members. Luba thanked Iris for being so well organized and making their job easy. Luba advised that the forms are being completed fairly well and that the club is doing well thanks to the members.

Nominations Report

Gloria listed the 2015-2016 Nominees as they came to the front to be introduced to the membership.

Introduction of OHA District 17 Director

The proceedings were handed to the D17 Director Elaine Davidson.

Conducting Elections

Elaine advised that the installation officer is only required to ask the question once for nominations in addition to names put forward. Is there anyone else who would stand for the position of President?" Elaine did so and there were no nominations from the floor. Debi Foster was declared President elect and came forward and was installed for 2015 - 2016.

Installation of Officers

Elaine Davidson asked once if any nominees for the position of Director from the floor and there were none. The nominated Directors were declared and asked to come forward. They pledged to follow the rules and guidelines from the OHA and the OGC Constitution and were thereby installed for one year. She offered congratulations to the Oshawa Garden Club for the year ahead. Elaine Davidson then asked the secretary, Catherine Hilge, treasurer, Iris Lucas, and auditor Luba Samochin to come to the front so that they could be recognized by the club.

Elaine Davidson advised that this is her last year doing this job. The convention next year is in Waterloo, and stated that it will be even better than the convention this year. She encouraged members to attend, hear the speakers and learn about the OHA. The convention is held in July.

Officers Elected and Installed

Position	Name	Status
President	Debi Foster	Acclaimed
1 st Vice President	Robin Burns	Acclaimed
2 nd Vice President	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	Heather Miller	Acclaimed
Director	Barb North	Acclaimed
Director	Merle Cole	Acclaimed
Director	Penny Tracy	Acclaimed
Secretary	Catherine Hilge	Appointed
Treasurer	Iris Lucas	Appointed
Financial Reviewer	Vacant	To be appointed.
Financial Reviewer	Luba Samochin	Appointed

Incoming President's Remarks

Debi said that she was pleased to welcome all the members to the Board. Debi clarified that she is back for one year. She stated that she was looking forward to the coming year and invited other members to take part whenever possible. Debi advised if anyone is interested in volunteering for anything to speak to her.

AGM Adjournment 8:20 p.m.

Motion to adjourn made by Patti Becker and seconded by George McCormack.

All in favour. Carried.

President's Report – The Year in Review

It has been my pleasure to fill this role for this past year (and the prior two years that I held the position). It has provided me the opportunity to challenge myself, pushing that wee bit beyond my comfort zone. That is a good thing because I believe that it has helped me blossom in new ways. It has allowed me to get to know more of the garden club members and other people from related community organizations, growing friendships along the way.

It has been a busy year for the club. The Therapeutic Gardening group headed by Ann Couch worked with more residents at Hillsdale Estates, nineteen members came out to tend the gardens at Hearth Place throughout the summer, we helped over 130 children plant seeds at the Rose of Durham Picnic and we held a successful Plant Sale. Kaitlin Lawrence was our third scholarship recipient for her achievements in the Horticulture Technician program at Durham College. Our members were entertained with excellent speakers, a garden tour of members and neighbours gardens, organized by Jill and Nadia, a Christmas Social and a Strawberry Social.

Along with the fun, there was business to be attended to. Eighteen of our members attended the District 17 Annual General meeting in Whitby graciously hosted by the Brooklin Horticultural Society. The Ontario Horticultural Association's Annual Meeting was held in Kitchener during July. Attending this meeting allows us to remain informed about what is new and exciting at our overseeing body. I was very glad to have 4 of the Executive members join me.

I was so pleased to be able to welcome back Jim Cook as our webmaster. He jumped back in without missing a beat and the website is "amazing" again. I am also excited to announce that there will be new board members providing direction to the club. They have interesting gardening and personal experiences and I look forward to their input and ideas.

Sadly we have said good-bye to members too. In May, life member Mildred Field passed away. Her daughter described how much enjoyment sharing our newsletter brought to them over the past few years. Directors Penny Tracy and Barb North have moved away from Oshawa, while Heather Miller is stepping down. They were very active members and their warm smiles and helping hands will be greatly missed.

Our members are ambassadors for the club. They contribute to many activities throughout the community. Within the club, the following are a few of the many who help to make the club such a success. Bob Kerr helps set up the audio visual equipment so you can hear the speakers and see their presentations. Maria's and Faye's work at the plant table provided unique, bargain priced plants and seeds to our members. The bakers organized by Margaret Woolsey and Marilyn Bilsky provided goodies to munch while drinking coffee and tea made by Diene Oegema and Penny Tracy. Pat Aasen sent out the eblasts to let you know about all these different events. Sherry Shrives has provided us with interesting articles and gardening information in the Greenleaf which is also posted on the website. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Catherine Hilge our Secretary, Iris Lucas the club's Treasurer and our two financial reviewers Bev Kilburn and Luba Samochin for all their help and support throughout the year. The Directors have been absolutely amazing to work with over the past year. They have been extremely supportive and incredibly hard working. It has been a true pleasure to have been able to work with such thoughtful and generous people. They are a major reason the club has been so successful.

A huge thank you to everyone!

Respectfully,

Debi Foster

CLUB ACTIVITIES

Strawberry Social

A good time was had by all at our annual Strawberry Social which was held on Monday June 6, 2016. This year, we sold 79 tickets to members and their guests.

This year's activities included a nature quiz, several raffles with prizes generously donated by club members, G.L. Roberts C.V.I., Artists in the Garden, and several garden centres.

Ten of our guests were the recipients of the table arrangements and one lucky guest won the draw for a beautiful floral arrangement made by Nadia Bilyk.

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

Cathy Brown and Gloria McRae, Co-chairs

Christmas Social

Ninety three members and guests were welcomed to the 2015 Sweet and Savory Pot Luck by the President Debi Foster.

The tables looked festive with poinsettias and beautiful arrangements made by Vida.

The treats were delicious and plentiful.

While we had no entertainment, we played two "Reindeer Games" which brought on a lot of laughter and friendly competition.

The table decorations were awarded as prizes.

The Winter basket was won by Penny Love.

The 50/50 draw was won by Vida Ycas-Abell and in the spirit of the season; the portion which usually goes to the club was donated to the Settlement House instead.

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, Chair

Garden Tour

We had an amazing afternoon in August, visiting 8 gardens in Oshawa and Whitby. 25 members participated. At the last garden we enjoyed refreshments and pleasant conversation.

Nadia Bilyk, Chair

Plant Sale Publicity Committee Report

Our Plant Sale took place at the South Oshawa Community Centre on May 28, 2016. Once again our industrious Plant Sale Committee along with our Community Partners: OEAC, City of Oshawa, Foodland, Oshawa Public Library, G. L. Roberts C.V.I., Durham Master Gardeners and Foodland have worked hard to publicize the sale. Also, thank you to all of our members who placed Plant Sale signs on their lawns. These combined efforts made our major fundraiser a success. The Plant Sale Committee members were Barb North, Heather Miller, Garry Lucas, Gloria McRae, Robin Burns, Janice McRae, Monika Kachel, Merle Cole and Penny Tracy.

Gloria McRae and Barb North Co Chairs

Bakers

Marilyn Bilsky and Margaret Woolsey worked together to coordinate the bakers for the first portion of the year. Janey Dubrowsky and Gloria Tepfenhart took over the roles in September. Thank you to these generous volunteers and all those who baked cookies for us throughout the year. Your delicious goodies are enjoyed by all.

Day Lily Garden Project

As is often the case when dealing with municipal projects and budgets time moves slowly and the Day Lily Garden is no exception. The project which would see a garden of Day Lilies from the "We're in the Hayfield Now" collection has been approved and the hardscaping is to be completed this fall. In the meantime the plants have been grown in size and will be good sized specimens when healed in to the new garden in the spring of 2017. The gardens reflect the shape of a daylily and will have a shade structure at the centre. The club has allocated \$5000 from the estate of former member Lisa Jewtuschkka for this project.

Door Prizes

Anne Sewell provided an interesting variety of items for door prizes throughout the year.

Durham College Scholarship

The Horticulture Technician Program is offered at the Whitby Campus, Durham College. The OGC is proud to present our third annual scholarship to Kaitlin Lawrence for her outstanding academic achievement. Kaitlin's love of horticulture comes from her mother, who is in charge of the greenhouses at Parkwood Estates. Kaitlin has helped out at the Parkwood gardens over the past two summers and may even have worked alongside some of the Club members who volunteer there. She is finishing her studies, and she is looking for a job. The club has presently committed to one more year which will be awarded this fall. We will be looking into continuing this award in future.

Hospitality- Tea and Coffee

Diene Oegema and Penny Tracey have looked after preparing the tea and coffee for the meetings as well as setting up the tables. They arrange the snacks provided by the members and make certain that there are milk, cream and sugar on hand. With Penny's departure, we are excited to announce that a brand new member Monica Holkema is taking on looking after the tea and coffee for use. Thank you for volunteering Monica!

Imagination Station

Val Foster challenged members with distinctive and interesting themes throughout the year. Arrangements were voted upon by the members and points were awarded for placement. At the end of the season Cynthia Hooper had accumulated the most points, followed by Debi Foster, Nina Kerr and Vida Ycas-Abell. Val has sadly left the club, but Vida has ably stepped in to provide us with new and unique challenges. She has already opened up the friendly competition with a monthly "Design Your Own" category. We look forward to the new year's ideas.

Logo Contest

With the change of the floral emblem for the club from a Rose to a Peony three years ago, it was time to consider a new logo that reflected the change. Rules for the logo contest were announced at the June meeting with a closing date at the end of August. When the deadline arrived, there were entries from only 3 people. The Board felt that the deadline should be extended until December 30th with voting to take place at the January 2017 meeting.

Meeting Communications and Publicity

Informing members and the public about special events and upcoming meetings involves a number of people. Pat Aasen sends out the e-mail communications. The Phone Committee was headed by Marilyn Bilsky last year; she worked with her team contacting those members who are not on the email list. Members of the phone committee were: Gail Haley, Mary McConkey, Anne Sewell, Deine Oegema, Vivian Roth, Shirley Fleming and Leslie Brooks. Penny Tracy coordinated this group for the last few years. Penny was also responsible for contacting local newspapers, radio and television programs as well as various websites that will publicize our events at no cost. Due to different deadlines much of this information has to be provided to these organizations a few months in advance. Regretfully, Penny has moved away and we wish her well in her new home, but we are very pleased to welcome Susan Crase who has stepped forward to take on these very important responsibilities.

Plant Table

Our Plant Table coordinators, Faye Gosling and Maria Thompson have once again outdone themselves. They have provided plants grown by Faye and Maria as well as specimens donated by members. They have also organized a fall Seed Exchange. The Big Giveaway which sees excess garden items donated by members so they can be re-used or repurposed by others was also very successful.

Re-Purposing Table

Over the past year, Barb North has incorporated more ideas on how to Re-Use and Re-Purpose items for the garden. There were also several challenges for members to participate and show their creativity. We are very sad to say good-bye to Barb as she moves west to spend time with her daughter. Barb contributed to the club in many ways and has left a large footprint. We are presently looking for someone to take over the Repurposing Table and set up 3 or 4 displays a year.

Rose of Durham Annual Picnic

The Oshawa Garden Club does not have a youth group, so to help promote gardening for children we participated in the Rose of Durham Picnic for a second year. Patti Becker and Debi Foster helped children and families plant seeds (zinnias, marigolds, and scarlet runner beans). A total of 136 pots were planted in the 4 hours of the picnic. There were a number of the participants who told us about the success of the seeds they planted the year before.

Website

We are so pleased to announce that Jim Cook returned as our Webmaster in March. Jim looks after the details of the website, and makes it awesome! He has added a feed to the Toronto Botanical Gardens Website, and has an excellent array of links to a wide variety of websites providing our members with even more information at their fingertips. Jim and Merle Cole have been working to get a Pinterest Board set up and add a little bit more zip to an already awesome website. The website provides us with the details of what is happening at the club and beyond, including information about membership in the club, meeting details, a calendar that shows club meeting dates, community workshops, upcoming workshops of horticultural interest in the community and details for club, D17 and OHA competitions. There is also a link to The Trillium which is the OHA quarterly newsletter and you can find the form to track your volunteer hours. Our club newsletter, the Greenleaf is also on the website. Sherry Shrives assembles a wealth of interesting information presented in a straight forward manner, infusing humour throughout. Merle's interviews let us get to know other garden club members even better. Club members are always welcome to submit articles for the Greenleaf or tell us about an interesting link they have found.

Hearth Place

Nineteen volunteers tended the Hearth Place gardens over the summer. Members of the group visited the gardens on 7 dates and spent a total of just over 80 hours planting, weeding and tidying up the beds at the front and side of the property and the contemplative garden at the back of the property. Next spring there are plans to have a pruning demonstration by the Durham Master Gardeners to help tame the shrubs. Thank you to: Patti B., Diane C., Roy C., Denise D., Bonnie G., Joan H., Ken L., Garry L., Gloria M., Janice M., Mary M., Sylvia M., Catherine O., LeeAnn R., Sherry S., and Jill Snape (and friend).

Therapeutic Gardening

The Oshawa Garden Club Therapeutic Gardening Project uses Horticultural as Therapy. This is a recognized form of therapy using plants, containers, soil, gardens and natural landscape to improve cognitive, physical, social, emotional and spiritual well-being, build self esteem and feelings of independence.

The Therapeutic Gardening Project was started in February of 2010 so is wrapping up its 7th year. There are 15 active volunteers and once a month we visit Hillsdale Estates, a long term care facility in Oshawa. The residents are engaged in projects using plants of various textures, colours, aromas, and tastes (herbs and veggies). This encourages them to socialize, have fun and make decisions in a safe, comfortable, relaxed setting while using their sense of Sight, Touch, Sound, Taste and Smell. Their senses are stimulated by the variety of plant materials, the use of containers made of glass, plastic, ceramic, clay, metal and by the different mediums of soil, water, sand, gravel, oasis. They choose from a variety of decorative ribbons, pine cones, holiday picks to enhance their creations. Each resident has a photo taken with one of their beautiful projects which is either put on the display board or put in their room with their colourful creation.

There is a small budget for the supplies however the OGC volunteers very kindly provide numerous plants, flowers, decorative items and the photos to supplement the projects.

A sincere THANK YOU to all the OGC Therapeutic Gardening volunteers, the members of the OGC and executive, and to Hillsdale's Alicia, Sheryl, Ryan, the 4th floor residents and their families for their support and encouragement in making this program so successful.

Ann Couch.

THE GREENLEAF

The newsletter format continues to be Blogger.com and the Greenleaf can be read on any device with an internet connection at www.oshawagardenclub.ca. We print 15 hard copies per month.

I continue to be uncertain as to what is worthy for the newsletter, but my priorities for now are Garden Ontario information, club news and events, and environmental issues of interest to gardeners. It is important to me to keep the Volunteers front and centre, because their generosity promotes our Club.

Thank you to President Debi for her fact-checking, photos, and monthly message.

Thank you to Merle Cole for his engaging member interviews. OGC is one of the largest garden clubs in Ontario and it isn't always possible to meet fellow members, but Merle addresses this with his insightful conversations. He contributes most of the photographs in the newsletter and all the laughs in the Special Edition April newsletter!

Thank you to Val Foster for correcting spelling and grammar.

Thank you to member Gwenny for her Guest Column in the May newsletter.

Thank you to our very knowledgeable webmaster Jim Cook, who makes it all happen. He readily donates his time, patience, and skill to keeping our website leading edge.

Feedback, suggestions, and comments are all welcome at www.greenleaf@oshawagardenclub.ca.

Sherry Shrives, Editor

Gift Baskets

Again this year we've had 2 beautiful gift baskets. The spring basket was won by Jeanette Dobroshinsky and Penny Love's name was drawn for the winter basket.

Thank you to all who helped make this year a success.

Jan Kerr

Speakers

Robin Burns, Speaker Co-ordinator

Our 2016 Speakers were selected based on the topics and speakers that have 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 of gardens and containers.

I am currently working on our 2017 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