

District 6 AGM - April 14, 2018
Hosted by St. George, Glen Morris, Lynden
South Dumfries Community Centre, St George

Shirley Steedman, President of the St George Garden Club called the meeting to order at 9:15am with the singing of O Canada. The anthem was followed by introduction of the Head Table, noting that Barb Bell would be handling the Secretary duties in Marie Decker's absence.

Mayor Ron Eddy, provided words of welcome to the OHA along with a thank you for everything the OHA Societies do for their communities. Shirley thanked Mayor Eddy for coming and invited District 6 Director Catherine McGill to take over the meeting at 9:25am.

1. Catherine thanked Shirley and asked Barb Bell to provide the Secretary's Minutes of the Fall 2017 Meeting. Barb advised that the Minutes had been sent out via email and posted on the website and asked if there were any errors or omissions in the minutes. Since there were no errors or omissions raised Barb requested a motion to approve the Minutes as presented. Lee Vanspronsen so moved, seconded by Carol Matheson, carried.
2. Catherine asked Bob Wilt, District 6 Treasurer to present the 2017 Financial Report. Bob advised that each Society package handed out this morning contained a copy of the 2017 Financial Report and asked that the attendees follow the presentation via the hardcopy if they were unable to see the screen. Bob reviewed the highlights for the year and after fielding a couple of questions from the floor, Bob asked that the Treasurer's Report for 2017 be accepted as presented, Mary Cameron so moved, seconded by Gord Roberts, carried.
3. Catherine introduced Rose Odell, President of the OHA for her welcome from the OHA. Rose covered a variety of topics ranging from her new home search, to pollinator gardens, to OHA Booklet revisions to the 2018 Convention. The list of topics follows:
 - Board make-up – 24 members, 19 District Directors, Past President, President, Secretary, Treasurer (2018 Treasurer is Jane Leonard from District 6)
 - Meet 3 times per year
 - Teleconferencing once a month through Bell Canada \$200/three hours, saving OHA a lot of money. Districts may want to look into this.
 - Past President Suzanne Hanna is heavily involved with new website development and the Pollinator project
 - New website will be introduced at convention – it was a huge project, 5 websites had been rolled into one to form the old one & didn't even have password for 2 of them
 - Rose is hopeful with the rollout that all Societies & Garden Clubs will get on board and update their sites
 - Pollinator Garden at Queens Park was delayed due to various permissions that were required in order to move forward – OHA now hopes to break ground in June 2018
 - Suzanne has been attending weekly meetings to make this happen

- Suzanne has also been asked to sit on the board of BeeCityCanada.org – go online and check out the site, great things are happening
 - OJES updates have been completed and the hope is to have it available at convention
 - STBI refund cheques are now available (Catherine has each Society's cheque today for pickup). This refund occurred as a result of the switch from the previous insurer to the Co-operators, with the old insurer the Treasurer Bonding was an extra charge, with Co-operators the Bonding was included but was collected and is therefore now being refunded
 - Making contact with OHA is easy it is the "[office](mailto:office@gardenontario.org)"@gardenontario.org no matter who you are trying to reach so for Rose it would be president@gardenontario.org or for Sharlene Desjardins, Awards Coordinator it would be awards@gardenontario.org or webmaster@gardenontario.org etc.
 - Rose advised that Convention is July 27-29th and suggested that we all attend, as there is much to do at convention. In addition to items already mentioned today, there is the Awards banquet, the various competitions, making new friends or simply catching up with old friends.
 - On a side note, Rose noted that we voted on motions today via a show of hands, she suggested that to help people get used to an understand voting at convention we may want to hand out Society proxy voting cards for our meetings and have the voting completed using the proxy to familiarize everyone with the process
 - To close Rose discussed OHA grants – the OHA has a variety of grants such as Pollinator, Seedy Saturday, etc. which Societies need to apply for – these will be included in the new OHA Awards Booklet currently being revised
4. Catherine advised that Rose would present an Award to Lynden Horticultural Society and asked the President to come forward. Unfortunately, Helen Bishop was unable to attend due to illness so Sue Traver, the 1st Vice President, accepted the Award for Lynden's 90th Anniversary from Rose.
5. Rose then moved on to Installation of the District 6 Executive first calling for nominations from the floor 3 times and receiving no nominations installed the following Slate for 2018.
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| Catherine McGill | - | District Director |
| Marie Decker | - | Secretary (absent) |
| Bob Wilt | - | Treasurer |
| Mel Osbourne | - | Assistant District Director |
| Jenny Blunt | - | Assistant District Director (absent) |
| Lianne Krane | - | Assistant District Director (absent) |
| Louise Hammond | - | Assistant District Director |
| Barb Bell | - | Assistant District Director |
6. Catherine welcomed Mel Osbourne back as an ADD and advised that Societies had been reshuffled with Mel's return. Since the computer portion of Catherine's presentation today was unavailable due to computer issues, the information will be delivered by email.

Mel was congratulated for his upcoming (May 16, 2018), "Lifetime Achievement Award" for outstanding volunteerism in the County of Brant (basically Paris.)

7. Catherine thanked Rose and re-iterated that she has the STBI cheques available for pick up today, each Society will need to make arrangements for pick up at a later date if their cheque is not picked up today.
8. District Director, Catherine McGill, sent a clipboard around for Societies to sign up to host events in 2019 & beyond.
9. Catherine confirmed that the 2018 Fall Breakfast meeting is Sept 29th in Paris
10. The 2018 Fall Dinner will be held at Gage Park on **Sunday** November 4th during the Mum Show. The Fall Dinner can still be a hosted event this year, if a Society (perhaps a small Society) would like to take it on, as the venue is already booked.
11. Catherine advised GardenOntario week for 2018 will be June 10th – 18th and this event is now in its 4th year. If you are having an event for GardenOntario week let OHA know to be included in their advertising
12. Use Facebook! Some Societies are already using Facebook, Both District 6 and the OHA have Facebook pages, it is a good tool to reach out and also to provide feedback. If you see something on Facebook like it, the more likes a good product gets the more it is sent out and therefore spreads the word. Rose also suggested that Societies send her a "friend" request and she will like you.
13. Catherine advised that if we need to arrange for insurance for our events the email address is insurance@gardenontario.org. There is a section on the website, which outlines our insurance and has the various forms available. Basically, our insurance is in place to cover regular Society meetings, we need to take out additional insurance when non-members are included in our events such as garden tours, plant sales, parades, etc. Err on the side of caution and get a permit it does not cost us anything it is the safest bet or get in touch with Shawn LaPalm.
14. 50/50 Draws, door prizes, raffles are technically all “lotteries” and subject to OLG rules and regulations, therefore we need to change our approach and refer to these types of activities as “Sharing the Wealth”. This is a serious issue as the OLG can seize equipment, issue fines, penalties, etc. so we need to adopt this right away.
15. Catherine issued a challenge to all Societies and their members to reduce plastic usage in 2018. Again, due to our computer issues today, Catherine’s presentation was unavailable but she provided a couple of examples of the seriousness of the issue, i.e. a Sperm whale recently washed ashore that had died because it’s stomach was full of plastic that its body could not process and many of us have seen the picture of the deformed turtle because it was caught in a six pack plastic holder that it couldn’t get out of. Suggestions:

- Bring your own mug to meetings
- You can now purchase metal, re-useable straws and take them with you in place of plastic ones
- Use beeswax wrap instead of saran wrap which is not recyclable – you can get beeswax wrap lots of places now
- Take your own mesh bags to the grocery store and put your produce in them instead of the plastic bags the store provides
- The list goes on and on; there is lots we can do we just need to do it!

16. Margaret Larson was unfortunately unable to attend to today due to the weather and this agenda item was therefore not addressed

17. Catherine thanked the Glen Morris Flower Show Committee for their excellent job and asked Nancy McComb, Flower Show Chair, to announce the Flower Show results:

- There were 14 entrants in the Design Division of the Show, 35 entrants in the Horticulture Division and 1 entrant in the Special Division
- Irene Heltner of Brantford won the Best Design and a \$50 prize
- Mary Cameron of Burlington won for Horticulture Division and received a \$50 prize

Other Business:

This year's increase in membership challenge was won by Flamborough Horticultural Society who increased their membership from 77 to 112 and increase of 45%. Ways to increase membership can be items like the Welcome Wagon, if your area has one, canvassing new home building areas, if not watch for sold signs and just give new owners an invite as a way to meet their community.

Catherine has a few remaining licence plate holders available at a cost of \$10 get in touch with her if you or anyone you know wants one.

Photo Releases are required now for anyone who appears in a picture you post or publish. Haldimand has added a "tick" box on their membership card for their members to provide permission for their photo to be used. Another method could be to put some type of sticker on the nametags for those who have not provided permission, that way if you see the sticker you know you cannot use the photo. Please do not submit any photos to Cat (or anyone else) if you do not have the proper permissions in place.

Catherine advised that our Agenda for the AGM portion of the meeting was now complete and requested a motion to adjourn, so moved by Mel Osborne, seconded by Gord Roberts at 10:30 am.

The AGM was followed by a refreshment break after which Susan Suter presented "How to Grow Flower Show Exhibitors". This presentation will be repeated at the 2018 OHA Convention if you missed this one.

Catherine was asked to auction four flower arrangements from the presentation. She then thanked all the hosts, thanked everyone for braving the weather and wished them a safe drive home.

The meeting ended at 12:00 noon.