



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

**April 27, 2024, 10:00 a.m.**

**Willow Bend Motel**

**177 Willow Street, Truro**

| #  | Item   |
|----|--|
| 1. | <p>Meeting called to order at 10:05</p> <p><b>Regrets:</b><br/>Melissa Weir, Glynis Thomas</p> <p><b>In attendance:</b><br/>Susan Hazelwood, Emily Loit, Lori Reid, Brenda Grasser, Deb Bowes-Lyon<br/>Sharon Bryson, Ginny Blayney, Kathryn Davidson, Beate Acker, Liz Hill<br/>(Floater!), Kathy d'Entremont, Emily Walker, Nancy MacCara,<br/>Geoff MacDonald, Anne Gratton, Pamela MacLean, Emily H (Visitor)</p> <p><b>Review Minutes</b> of Board of Directors Meeting – September 29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup>, 2023<br/>Kathy moved to accept the minutes as distributed. Kathryn Seconded.<br/>Motion carried.</p>   |
| 2. | <p>Old Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <b>Facebook Revenue</b> (Glynis) – Deb reported that the group has over 18 million people, 3 administrators and 3 moderators. The admins and moderators had a chat about generating revenue and the consensus was that it is more for businesses and that we not do this now.</li> <li>b) <b>Facebook Chats</b> (Deb) – this was not pursued because it is felt that chats are distracting and get easily out of hand.</li> <li>c) <b>Newsletter Puzzle</b> (Ginny/Emily) – Was tried in a couple of issues but the response was minimal so won't be pursued. Brenda had a couple of comments at a District meeting about the length of the newsletter from members who want printed copies. Brenda prints 1 copy and takes it to her club. The Board felt that the newsletter is great, and the length is fine.</li> <li>d) <b>NSAGC Bookmark</b> (Emily) – Emily had 1000 bookmarks printed at a cost of \$.10 each. She brought the remaining 500 and offered them to anyone who wanted them. Susan mentioned that she gives them to potential new members at the plant sales instead of existing members who already belong to the club.</li> <li>e) <b>NSAGC Planning</b> (Deb) – Items not due before April 1 or without a date will be discussed in September. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.1a.5 Survey was completed by Deb but no one else has seen it yet.</li> <li>1.1b.1 It was decided to include the District map in the Board Manual. Susan will provide a better map to Melissa.</li> <li>1.2b.2 The group met once and decided that we do not need any more or fewer committees.</li> <li>2.4 Media Kit is just a change to the Contact Us screen to include a section for the media. Ginny read the text from the screen.</li> <li>3.1 Brenda had difficulties converting from PowerPoint to the Mac equivalent. Since we decided that the NSAGC file format would be MS,</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |

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|----|---|
|    | <p>Deb will provide in PDF so that everyone can use no matter what software they are running. Deb clarified that the presentation can be used outside of the clubs.</p> <p>Susan moved for approval on Sections 1.1a.1, 1.1a.4, 1.1b.1, 2.4. Nancy seconded. Motion carried.</p>  |
| 3. | <p>New Business</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <b>Convention 2024 D7</b> (Kathryn) – 160 paid attendees to date. Absolute deadline is May 15 and May 1 for t-shirts. There are fewer speakers and more activities planned. Liz asked if we have a YouTube channel, and it was agreed to put it on a future agenda. Let Kathy know if clubs are bringing a banner or year book.</li> <li>b. <b>Board Member Handbook updates</b> (Deb for Melissa) – Deb reviewed Melissa’s document on the updates being done. Pamela noted that 3 years doesn’t work for the Historian position because the History is published every 5 years.</li> <li>c. <b>Succession Planning</b> (Deb) – Terms should be added to the Section 4a for the Secretary and Treasurer and Section 4c for the Committee Chairs. The start terms will be the year that the person started in the position.</li> </ol>  |
| 4. | <p>Reports Highlights (circulated prior to meeting)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Treasurer – We discussed the cost of plants vs income in the budget. Geoff suggested that the Sale of Surplus Plants would more realistically be \$4200 if we raise the price to \$4/plant. This means that we will budget to incur a loss of \$176.15. There was a discussion about how we can raise money. Beate and Brenda offered to create ideas for fundraising.</li> </ol> <p>Susan moved that the financial statements and Budget (as changed) be approved to be taken to the AGM. Nancy seconded.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b. Web Content Manager – Susan reviewed the Advisory Committee’s activities. We are going to: change the web site a bit so that it is easier to navigate and add an FAQ; add a print button to the form. Only one or 2 are interested using the Excel expense form so no more work will be done on it. It was decided that the Events Calendar should remain and that people use it. Susan needs updates to the events from everyone.</li> <li>c. Newsletter</li> <li>d. Facebook</li> <li>e. Plant Giveaway – Geoff realized that the numbers in his report are for 2023. As a result of our budget discussion, Geoff moved that the cost of the 2025 plants be increased to \$4. Pamela seconded. Contrary minded was Emily L. Motion carried.</li> <li>f. Photo Contest</li> <li>g. Historian – Pamela’s computer is not functioning so she has lost MS Word. Susan indicated that she needs the tool in order to create the History. Pamela needs to store emails from clubs, attachments, newsletters, previous year histories, etc. She needs info on the 2018</li> </ol> |

|    |  |
|----|--|
|    | <p>Pictou convention. Pamela moved that she spend \$80 for MS Office. Susan seconded. Motion carried.</p> <p>h. Awards – Kathy handed out 1 blank award form for each club and 1 spare for each district. She got great feedback on the fillable PDF certificate template. There will be a slide (s) at the convention listing all clubs and ages that responded with their anniversaries. We will decide on recognizing anniversaries going forward depending on the response.</p> <p>i. Nominations – The only open position is the new Membership Coordinator.</p> <p>j. District Directors – Each of the Directors chose highlights from their reports which were distributed before the meeting. Of special note is the District 3 meeting is on October 5, 1:00 – 4:00 at the Bible Hill Fire Hall.</p> <p>Motion made to accept all reports made by Kathryn. Seconded by Emily L. Motion Carried.</p>   |
| 5. | Next Meeting – September 27, 6:30 – 8:30 and September 28, 10:00 – 1:00.   |
| 6. | Adjournment – Pamela moved to adjourn at 2:55.   |
| 7. | <p>Action Items</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Susan will provide updated District map to Melissa.</li> <li>2. Melissa will include the District map in the Board Handbook.</li> <li>3. Deb will send the Presentation in PDF to Melissa for distribution to the Directors.</li> <li>4. Directors will send feedback to Melissa who will change the presentation based on the feedback.</li> <li>5. Susan will look for the Provincial Gardening Week Poster and send to Melissa for distribution.</li> <li>6. Melissa will include the YouTube Channel on a future agenda.</li> <li>7. Anne will send Pamela info on the 2018 Pictou Convention.</li> <li>8. Melissa will change the Historian term to 5 years.</li> <li>9. Susan, Geoff, Sharon, Pamela, Emily will send Melissa their position start year.</li> <li>10. Everyone will send their intentions to continue in their positions (or not) as of the 2024 AGM to Kathy ASAP.</li> <li>11. Beate and Brenda will bring fund raising ideas to the September meeting. Everyone should send them ideas for consideration.</li> <li>12. Geoff will send updated Plant Giveaway report to Melissa.</li> </ol> |

**Plant Giveaway Committee Report**  
**April 27, 2024 NSAGC Board of Directors Meeting**

At the September 2023 NSAGC board meeting, it was decided to select the Echnicecea Purpurea “Green Twister” flower as the annual plant giveaway selection. This was chosen from a list of five finalist perennials that were narrowed down based on feedback from all board members. Similar to last year, it was decided to purchase the same size flower, as it was a bit more mature and hardier than previous selections. It was also decided that we would order the same quantity as the previous year, 2700 which includes 2808 total plants, with 2700 guaranteed. The total estimated cost of the order would be approximately \$3,800, which factored in an early order 3% discount. It was decided to use the same cost as the previous year which was \$3.00 per plant for additional sales. It was also decided not to order tags this year, as this would be an additional cost of \$0.10 per plant and most felt they did not need this. Similar to last year, I will be providing all District Directors after care instructions to share with their clubs.

After the meeting was complete, I placed the order for 2700 plants with our supplier, Jolly Farmer in Northampton, New Brunswick. An invoice in the amount of \$3,879.26 was sent to the NSAGC Treasurer who paid the invoice via Interac e-transfer. The plants will be delivered the last week of April to a member of my local Garden Club where we will sort out all orders by district and prepare them for delivery to the April board meeting in Truro.

In January 2024 the PDF order form and online order form were updated for the new plant selection on the NSAGC website. As in previous years, the sale was planned to be launched in mid-March after all NSAGC memberships assessments are finalized.

In early March, the NSAGC Treasurer sent me a list of total membership for 2024, which was 1784 members. With a total of 2808 plants available, this left 1024 plants available for sale. The sale itself was officially launched on March 18<sup>th</sup>. Sales started off very strong, in fact, several clubs were reaching out prior to the sale even opening. In future years, I will set a hard start date on the website, instead of using “mid-March” so that clubs are not ordering too early. The majority of sales came through online either using e-mail or the online order form. Only around 10% of orders came through the mail. Interac transfer was also a popular method of payment with about 70% of orders being paid using this method. One challenge with orders this year was the fact that several clubs did not coordinate ordering as one group and individual members were submitting orders, rather than ordering as a club.

Plants were officially sold out on April 9<sup>th</sup>. At present, there is a buffer of 13 plants remaining not sold, these are to make up for any possible duds, which in the past have been almost non-existent. I do have one club on hold to take these extra plants, which will mean a full sell out and should bring in revenue of \$3,072 against an expense of \$3,879.26 which results in an overall cost to the association of \$759.26. There has been several orders come in after sell out and we could have sold an additional 150 to 200 plants as of the date of this report. At sell out, I did ask the NSAGC Web Content Manager to update the website to confirm sales were now closed, I also updated the PDF order form to indicate this. I would still not recommend increasing plant order amounts in future years at this point, as there is still a risk of all plants not being sold which creates significantly more work for my role and costs for the association.

Respectfully submitted,

Geoff MacDonald, Chair, Plant Giveaway Committee

# NSAGC Awards Report

April 27, 2024

In 2024, the NSAGC Planning Committee has taken on the task of reviewing and amending Board job descriptions as well as processes and procedures.

The Awards role is fulfilled by the Past Chairperson and procedures have changed slightly.

In addition to certificates for Outstanding Member (Garden Club), Retiring Board Member, and for display of Yearbooks at convention, another category for Club Milestones has been created. The exact milestones to be recognized with a certificate has yet to be determined, but it has been suggested that 1, 10, 25, 50, and increments of 5 years beyond that will be highlighted on the website.

Tim Dittmer of True OnSite, our website developer, has created a fillable pdf award template for Outstanding Member of a Garden Club/Society. The template, along with instructions, has been sent to the District Directors so that they can produce certificates for their clubs, to be presented as decided by the clubs. I have purchased Certificate parchment to be used for this purpose. Each District Director will be supplied with enough sheets to print one certificate per year for each of their clubs.

For 2024, there are no retiring Board Members to be recognized.

Significant Anniversaries to be recognized:

- Pictou and Area GC: 85 Years (D2)
- Westville GC: 50 Years (D2)
- Chester GC: 85 Years (D6)
- Bridgewater GC: 75 Years (D6)
- Mahone Bay GC: 25 Years (D6)

Outstanding Member Awards:

Names to be supplied by District Directors

Yearbooks displayed at Convention 2024

## Names to be supplied by District Directors

It is my intention to have all award recipients announced at the NSAGC Convention in June. Please, if you haven't already, provide the names, clubs, and districts for this purpose.

Award Recipients will be recognized during the Banquet on June 8, 2024 and group photos taken.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy d'Entremont

Past Chairperson, Awards Chair

# **Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs**

## **Facebook Groups Report**

### **April 27, 2024**

The Association's Facebook group continues to be a valuable resource for the NSAGC, Clubs and group members. Since the last report (September 2023) we have had one notable incident where the NSAGC Executive were notified. This was resolved by communications with the member involved.

We are continuing to experience slow membership growth, adding 118 members since the last report. Membership presently stands at 15387.

At the April 2023 Board meeting a suggestion was made to consider ways of generating revenue from the group. Some research was carried out to this end. However, nothing suitable for a volunteer group was noted.

In February 2024 a new Facebook Group called NSAGC Seed/Plant Exchange was created. Its purpose was to provide a venue for members to trade seeds and plants. It currently has 62 members.

The Moderators continue to do a excellent job; monitoring posts, approving memberships and responding to member reported content. On behalf of the NSAGC Board I would like to again thank them for all their suggestions and efforts, which are keeping the FB group a safe and respectful place for the members.

#### Administrators:

Pamela MacLean

Deb Bowes-Lyon

Glynis Thomas

#### Moderators:

Laura Hansen

Tracy Monk

Cindy O'Leary

#### Recommendations:

None

Respectfully submitted

Deb Bowes-Lyon

Facebook Group Co-Administrator

NSAGC Historian report  
April 27th, 2023

I've received two boxes of old albums belonging to the historian. I hope to display these albums at convention 2024.

I've received some information from clubs in the fall and will retain these for a future report.

I attended district 3 Fall Rally "Growing our future" on October 14th 2023 at Carol's Corner Nova Scotia.

At this time I spoke to the group explaining what the historian does, what the job of the historian is and why it's important for the clubs to submit reports. At the rally I received paper reports from 10 clubs. While I do appreciate having the paper reports, ( I do find them easier to work with, but I'm old school) the digital reports are also important and will save time in compiling reports.

I discussed with Susan Hazelwood , the NSAGC Treasurer and webmaster methods of storage as my personal storage is limited. I believe we are going to look at obtaining a thumb drive that will work to keep the information on and to store it for use.

The report I received for the last 5 years from the previous historian contains grammar errors and some misinformation (ie the rules for the photo contest) which need to be fixed /adjusted. I hope to have this completed soon. I will have it distributed to the directors once it's complete.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pamela MacLean  
NSAGC Historian

## Newsletter Report for NSAGC Executive meeting—April 2024

Submitted by Emily Walker

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### Input from Clubs

I am pleased and encouraged to note that more and more clubs are submitting text and photos to the Scotia Gardener. This is reflected in the average page length during the last few years. Many submissions allow me to select just the best photos to accompany the text, rather than including everything!

|         | 2024 | 2023 | 2022 | 2021 | 2020 |
|---------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Winter  | 35   | 27   | 29   | 20   | 23   |
| Spring  |      | 27   | 24   | 23   |      |
| Summer  |      | 26   | 30   | 29   |      |
| Fall    |      | 30   | 23   | 24   | 20   |
|         | 35*  | 110  | 106  | 96   | 43   |
| Average |      | 27.5 | 26.5 | 24   | 21.5 |

\*complete data unavailable till later this year

### Directors

Thank you for your continued work asking for submissions from your clubs and then circulating the newsletter to them for their reading pleasure and information.

### Ads

The newsletter attracts a trickle of advertising each year. The past issue contained three advertisements which netted the NSAGC \$150.

### Convention

Thanks to the Yarmouth team for early submission of the information about the convention being held in their region in June.

# Nomination Committee Report

April 27, 2024

Nominations for open Board positions will be presented and voted on at the AGM on June 8, 2024.

Currently, there are two District Directors on the Board who joined our ranks after the 2023 AGM: Emily Liot of District 6, South Shore, and Beate Acker of District 3, Central North. At this AGM, delegates will vote to approve their nominations.

It has been determined that a new Board position be developed to relieve some of the workload carried by the Treasurer. The new role is Membership Coordinator with its own job description and responsibilities.

To date, there have been no NSAGC member applicants or nominees to fulfill these duties. Please encourage your clubs to nominate an individual they feel would have the skills required to take on this role. Sometimes, it is as easy as asking a person directly if they would like to participate.

There are no Board Members who have indicated that they will be stepping down.

At present, the slate of officers for the NSAGC Board are as follows:

- Chairperson; Deb Bowes-Lyon
- Vice Chairperson; Ginny Blayney
- Past Chairperson (Awards and Nominations); Kathy d'Entremont
- Secretary; Melissa Weir
- Treasurer; Susan Hazelwood
- Website Content Manager; Susan Hazelwood
- Historian; Pamela MacLean
- Scotia Gardener Newsletter; Emily Walker
- Photo Contest; Sharon Bryson
- Plant Giveaway; Geoff MacDonald
- Membership Coordinator; VACANT

Directors:

- District 1, Cape Breton; Glynis Thomas
- District 2, Eastern; Anne Gratton
- District 3, Central North; Beate Acker (acting)
- District 3, Central South; Brenda Grasser
- District 4, Halifax; Nancy MacCara
- District 5, Valley; Lori Reid
- District 6, South Shore; Emily Liot (acting)
- District 7, Western; Kathryn Davidson

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy d'Entremont

Past Chairperson, Nomination Committee Chair

## **2024 NSAGC Convention Report**

**Hosted by Western District #7**

**April 2024**

Submitted by Kathryn Davidson, Convention Committee Chairperson

Planning for the 2024 Convention began back in July 2023.

Stacey Stenabaugh and Kathryn Davidson were Co-Chairs. As of September 2023 – Stacey stepped down as Co-Chair and from the Committee.

All 8 clubs are represented on the Committee – some clubs having more than 1 active participant.

To date (as of April 17<sup>th</sup>) we have 150 paid attendees with 1 unpaid registrant

There will be 1 Keynote Speaker on Friday Night after the opening ceremonies.

There will be 1 Keynote Speaker on Saturday night following the Banquet Dinner.

There are 3 Guest Speakers during Saturday. 2 will be in the morning and 1 in the afternoon.

On Saturday afternoon, following the Guest Speaker – Deb Bowes-Lyon will host a Workshop for anyone to attend. This is intended to have attendees actively participate in question/answers and share their concerns/wins about gardening and their clubs.

## **Friday June 7<sup>th</sup>**

Hosting 2 workshops. Floral painting workshop to be held at the Yarmouth Library (18 registrants signed up) and Create a Garden Journal (11 registrants signed up).

At night there will be evening entertainment with The Yarmouth Shantymen and light nibblies and Cash bar.

Town of Yarmouth Walking Tour – hosted by David Sollows

Friday Night opening ceremonies include a short welcome speech from Mayor Pam Mood and will also include a 10 minute 1<sup>st</sup> Nations Youth Drummers ensemble – in keeping with our theme of “Back to our Roots”.

## **Saturday**

AGM followed by 2 guest speakers, then lunch followed by 1 guest speaker and open Workshop.

Attendees can also take part in another Yarmouth Walking Tour, if they do not wish to attend the Open Workshop.

The convention committee want the attendees to actively participate at the convention – that is why we have reduced the guest speakers and included the workshop instead and also the walking tours. We want people to have fun and mix and mingle as much as possible.

Floral Competition theme as Back to our Roots. All entries will be fully displayed within the Ballroom. Ballot entry will be included inside the Goodie Bag.

Each of the 8 Western District 7 Clubs are responsible for providing approximately 30 - 6” potted plants – can be inside or outside plants. Each registrant will receive a plant. Any extra plants will be sold off throughout the convention.

Saturday night banquet will be followed by Keynote Speaker and that will be followed by our Kitchen Party themed entertainment with light nibblies and a Cash Bar.

8 vendors have registered to attend with a great mix of plants, woodcrafts, and glass crafts.

An information table will be setup to provide registrants with information on the Convention, and/or places to visit, while in the Southwest region of NS.

There will be a Silent Auction, 50/50 draw and also a Raffle for registrants to purchase tickets on.

Each registrant will receive a Goodie Bag with lots of items included within.

The Convention has been actively promoted on the NSAGC Website and on the NSAGC facebook page, as well as within the Western District Garden Clubs.

Also, Yarmouth and Acadian Shores Tourism Association is actively promoting our Convention on their website with a direct link to the convention registration pages.

Additionally, Hughstin Grimshaw-Surette (one of our guest speakers) will be promoting our Convention on his website as well.

It promises to be an informative and fun-filled event.

## **Photo Contest Report – April 27, 2024 Board Meeting**

**Sharon Bryson**

The 2024 Photo Contest information was added to the NSAGC website after the last update of the Rules and Classes.

There were small changes in the Rules and Classes to include one or two clarifications on the number of images per person per class and the naming of image files.

There has been good exposure via the Scotia Gardener and the NSAGC Facebook page in the time leading up to the April, 2024 deadline. Reminders were also sent to District Directors to be forwarded to their clubs.

The NSAGC website reflected a more direct link to The Photo Contest which was good.

Submissions in 2024 have been very slow at the time of this report preparation, in spite of many reminders.

All entries are organized on the NSAGC Google Documents site and are easily shared with the judges. They also exist on my computer.

Jeffrey Parker and Anne Louise MacDonald will be judging the submissions.

The slideshow for the Convention will be completed and forwarded to someone (Kathryn Davidson perhaps) for use at the 2024 Convention. I will prepare a summary of the winners with their information for the Awards Ceremony.

The images will ultimately be displayed on the NSAGC website.

## **Treasurer's Report For April 2024 Board Meeting**

### **Financial Statements Audit**

Audits of the financial statements were performed by Kathy d'Entremont and Geoff MacDonald. They were provided with the Balance Sheet, P&L Statement, cheque register, Tags & Seals register, deposit register and Quicken transaction lists. The audit went very well. There were a couple of minor posting errors found and a few suggestions to carry forward.

### **Financial Statements Notes**

1. Garden Club and Affiliated Club dues increased this year by 120 members even though 2 Garden Clubs and 1 Affiliate chose not to renew their memberships and we raised our dues to \$5 per club/affiliate member. We welcomed Upper Vaughan Garden Club as a new member, and they increased their membership from 20 to 38 during the renewal timeframe!
2. The Meeting Expenses were about one third less this year compared to last year since we decided to hold our September Executive and Board meetings via Zoom. The September meetings were very productive, and this should be considered for one of the Executive/Board meetings each year. We had many meetings from October to March because of the 2024/2025 Plan and these were conducted on Zoom as well. The cost of the personal Zoom account was expensed to the Meeting Expenses.
3. Insurance includes \$1360 for 2024 and \$1349 for 2023, which was paid late in May last year. The insurance expense is therefore doubled under Operating Expenses.
4. The Overall Total would be +\$80.03 if not for the extra insurance payment.
5. District 2 is hosting the 2025 convention and requested their \$1,000 loan in February. As a result, the Convention Loan Due from Host District on the balance sheet is doubled what it normally is.

### **Budget Notes**

1. The budget assumes that we will have one set of Executive/Board meetings via Zoom.
2. The budget is projected to not have a deficit balance.

### **Tags & Seals**

There were 3 orders for Tags & Seals in 2023/2024.

### **Assessment Letter and Form**

The Board spent considerable time at the April 2023 Board meeting discussing how to improve the membership renewal process. All suggestions were incorporated into the form and letter for the 2024/2025 year. Despite the changes, this year was the worst in many years in terms of time required to get renewals in and processed:

- There were 6 renewals before February 1, 42 in February and 4 after March 1 deadline.

- One club did not send in a form after several attempts to contact them, so the 2023 form was used and they were notified that this would be the only year we would be using a previous form.
- One money order was sent to me personally (I had no idea what to do with a money order so had to spend time figuring that out).
- One club e-transferred their fees to my personal email address.

***There has been a suggestion that we offer an “early bird” discount or a late fee after a certain date. Is this something that we might want to consider?***

On a positive note, of the 52 clubs, 50% or 26 paid by e-transfer. 25 of the 26 cheques were able to be deposited via the RBC phone app which allows photos of the cheques to be taken and deposits to be done at home instead of going to the bank. From now on, the deposit register will not be used unless absolutely necessary.

I recommended that a new Board position be added – the Membership Coordinator. 16 of the 18 board members voted on this via email and all were in favour. The Membership Coordinator will focus on Membership Renewals, leaving the Treasurer to focus on financial reconciliations, reporting and money related follow-ups. This new position will also work on seeing if existing non-NSAGC member clubs in the province are interested in joining our organization and contacting local community organizations to generate interest in forming clubs.

***Submitted by Susan Hazelwood***

| <b>Balance Sheet</b>            |  |                  |                  |
|---------------------------------|--|------------------|------------------|
| Year End 2023-2024              |  |                  |                  |
|                                 |  | <b>2023/2024</b> | <b>2022/2023</b> |
| <b>ASSETS</b>                   |  |                  |                  |
|                                 | <b>Bank Accounts</b>                                   |                  |                  |
|                                 | Chequing   | 9128.06          | 7269.73          |
|                                 | Savings  | 7834.36          | 6921.66          |
|                                 | <b>TOTAL Bank Accounts</b>                             | <b>16962.42</b>  | <b>14191.39</b>  |
|                                 | <b>Other Assets</b>                                    |                  |                  |
|                                 | Convention Loan Due from Host District                 | 2000.00          | 1000.00          |
|                                 | Tags & Seals Inventory                                 | 672.70           | 709.29           |
|                                 | <b>TOTAL Other Assets</b>                              | <b>2672.70</b>   | <b>1709.29</b>   |
|                                 |  |                  |                  |
|                                 | <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>                                    | <b>19635.12</b>  | <b>15900.68</b>  |
|                                 |  |                  |                  |
| <b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b> |  |                  |                  |
|                                 | <b>LIABILITIES</b>                                     |                  |                  |
|                                 | Dues - Affiliates                                      | 0.00             | 0.00             |
|                                 | Dues - Garden Clubs                                    | 0.00             | 0.00             |
|                                 | <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>                               | <b>0.00</b>      | <b>0.00</b>      |
|                                 |  |                  |                  |
|                                 | <b>EQUITY</b>  | <b>19635.12</b>  | <b>15900.68</b>  |
|                                 |  |                  |                  |
|                                 | <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>                  | <b>19635.12</b>  | <b>15900.68</b>  |
|                                 |  |                  |                  |
| <b>Note 1</b>                   | Includes D7 Loan and D2 Loan which was requested early |                  |                  |

## Profit & Loss Statement

Year End 2023-2024

| INCOME                                 | 2023/2024      | 2022/2023       | 2023/2024<br>Notes |
|--|----------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| <b>Income from Sales</b>               |                |                 |                    |
| Newsletter Advertising                 | 100.00         | 150.00          |                    |
| Sales of Surplus Plants                | 4648.00        | 2877.00         | Note 1             |
| Sales of Tags & Seals                  | 58.00          | 55.93           | Note 2             |
| <b>TOTAL Income from Sales</b>         | <b>4806.00</b> | <b>3082.93</b>  |                    |
| <b>Income from Other Sources</b>       |                |                 |                    |
| Affiliated Garden Clubs Dues           | 150.00         | 250.00          |                    |
| Garden Clubs Dues                      | 3880.00        | 7407.00         |                    |
| Interest                               | 181.70         | 83.70           |                    |
| <b>TOTAL Income from Other Sources</b> | <b>4211.70</b> | <b>7740.70</b>  |                    |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                    | <b>9017.70</b> | <b>10823.63</b> |                    |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>                        |                |                 |                    |
| <b>General Expenses</b>                |                |                 |                    |
| Awards                                 | 150.00         | 380.80          |                    |
| Newsletter                             | 0.00           | 0.00            |                    |
| Photo Contest                          | 175.00         | 250.00          |                    |
| Plant Giveaway                         | 3907.06        | 3689.42         |                    |
| <b>TOTAL General Expenses</b>          | <b>4232.06</b> | <b>4320.22</b>  |                    |
| <b>Meeting Expenses</b>                |                |                 |                    |
| Board Meetings                         | 1201.42        | 2716.70         |                    |
| Board Members                          | 744.02         | 2682.27         |                    |
| <b>TOTAL Meeting Expenses</b>          | <b>1945.44</b> | <b>5398.97</b>  |                    |
| <b>Operating Expenses</b>              |                |                 |                    |
| Bank Fees                              | 86.10          | 68.96           |                    |
| Incidentals (postal, printing, etc.)   | 149.28         | 354.52          | Note 2             |
| Insurance                              | 2709.00        | 1338.00         | Note 3             |
| Joint Stocks Membership                | 31.15          | 31.15           |                    |
| Web Site                               | 1133.64        | 2576.00         |                    |
| <b>TOTAL Operating Expenses</b>        | <b>4109.17</b> | <b>4368.63</b>  |                    |

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|                       |                 |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>TOTAL Expenses</b> | <b>10286.67</b> | <b>14087.82</b> |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|

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|                      |                 |                 |               |
|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| <b>OVERALL TOTAL</b> | <b>-1268.97</b> | <b>-3264.19</b> | <b>Note 4</b> |
|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|

**Note 1** Includes April 2023 and up to March 31, 2024

**Note 2** 2023 Tags & Seals Postage recorded under Incidentals

**Note 3** Includes \$1360 for 2024 and \$1349 for 2023 (paid late in May 2023)

**Note 4** Would be +\$80.03 if insurance for 2023 paid on time

## Budget 2024/2025

|  | 2024/2025<br>Budget | 2023/2024<br>Actuals | 2024/2025<br>Budget<br>Notes |
|--|---------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>INCOME</b>                          |                     |                      |                              |
| <b>Income from Sales</b>               |                     |                      |                              |
| Newsletter Advertising                 | 150.00              | 100.00               |                              |
| Sales of Surplus Plants                | 4500.00             | 4648.00              |                              |
| Sales of Tags & Seals                  | 60.00               | 58.00                |                              |
| <b>TOTAL Income from Sales</b>         | <b>4710.00</b>      | <b>4806.00</b>       |                              |
| <b>Income from Other Sources</b>       |                     |                      |                              |
| Affiliated Garden Clubs Dues           | 150.00              | 150.00               |                              |
| Garden Clubs Dues                      | 3900.00             | 3880.00              |                              |
| Interest                               | 185.00              | 181.70               |                              |
| <b>TOTAL Income from Other Sources</b> | <b>4235.00</b>      | <b>4211.70</b>       |                              |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                    | <b>8945.00</b>      | <b>9017.70</b>       |                              |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>                        |                     |                      |                              |
| <b>General Expenses</b>                |                     |                      |                              |
| Awards                                 | 0.00                | 150.00               | <b>Note 1</b>                |
| Newsletter                             | 0.00                | 0.00                 |                              |
| Photo Contest                          | 175.00              | 175.00               |                              |
| Plant Giveaway                         | 4200.00             | 3907.06              |                              |
| <b>TOTAL General Expenses</b>          | <b>4375.00</b>      | <b>4232.06</b>       |                              |
| <b>Meeting Expenses</b>                |                     |                      |                              |
| Board Meetings                         | 800.00              | 1201.42              | <b>Notes 2,<br/>3</b>        |
| Board Members                          | 800.00              | 744.02               |                              |
| <b>TOTAL Meeting Expenses</b>          | <b>1600.00</b>      | <b>1945.44</b>       |                              |
| <b>Operating Expenses</b>              |                     |                      |                              |
| Bank Fees                              | 90.00               | 86.10                |                              |
| Incidentals (postal, printing, etc.)   | 125.00              | 149.28               |                              |
| Insurance                              | 1400.00             | 2709.00              | <b>Note 4</b>                |
| Joint Stocks Membership                | 31.15               | 31.15                |                              |

|                                 |                |                 |
|---------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Web Site                        | 1200.00        | 1133.64         |
| <b>TOTAL Operating Expenses</b> | <b>2846.15</b> | <b>4109.17</b>  |
|                                 | <hr/>          |                 |
| <b>TOTAL Expenses</b>           | <b>8821.15</b> | <b>10286.67</b> |
|                                 | <hr/>          |                 |
| <b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>            | <b>123.85</b>  | <b>-1268.97</b> |

- Note 1      No retiring Board Members
- Note 2      Fewer Board Members staying overnight at the Willowbend
- Note 3      Assumes 1 in-person Executive and Board Meeting and 1 via Zoom
- Note 4      2025 Insurance will be paid by March 31

## **NSAGC.COM Web Site Report For April 27, 2024 Board Meeting**

The web site remains stable and used. I regularly get requests to add to the Resources pages from NSAGC members and other sources. I also continue to receive updates to the nurseries, garden clubs and events and occasionally corrections to other info on the site.

The following updates have been made to the site since September 2023.

- September 2024 Board minutes
- Fall and Winter 2023 Scotia Gardeners
- Convention Program, Registration Form, Floral Art Competition and Speakers/Entertainer Bios under Save the Date and Documents & Forms
- Added a new box under Save the Date for easy access to the Photo Contest page
- Added a Media Requests section to the Contact Us page
- Updated the Events Calendar and Garden Clubs map with info from the Renewal forms
- Continue to update the Events Calendar with plants sales and other club activities as requested by the clubs and as I see them on Facebook
- Added provincial Seed Companies to the Garden Clubs map (if you know of more, please send them along)
- Updated the Insurance Coverage form.
- Added the 2024 Plant Giveaway PDF and online forms
- Added new resources under Gardening Related Resources

I check the emails from the Contact Us page every 2 days. From September 2023 to March 31, 2024 there were emails almost every second day with requests on a wide variety of topics.

The Web Site Advisory Committee met for the first time in March. We reviewed the list of suggestions for the web site received since it went live 2 years ago and that needed discussion. We updated the list and I took it to True inSite for implementation suggestions and costs. We will meet again in May to review the costs and decide which of the items should be implemented. Any items with costs will be brought to the Board for approval.

***Submitted by Susan Hazelwood***

## District 6

April 2024

Unfortunately, Chester Basin Garden Club had to fold as their membership was down and the remaining members opted not to continue as there were no volunteers to create an executive.

Chester Garden Club is continuing strongly with their Vice-President taking over the President's duties. They are planning several activities to celebrate their 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary including Garden Tours, Reception and Tea and a roster of independent Walking Tours in Chester. Their plant sale will be on May 25<sup>th</sup> followed by a social in the Cove Garden on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mahone Bay Garden Club has a full Executive with 65 members, a good proportion attending meetings with speakers and many enjoying the summer expeditions that take the group far and wide. They always have a great pot-luck Christmas party and fall plant exchange. Their dried flower arranging workshop was well attended and they anticipate a successful Plant Sale on June 1<sup>st</sup>. They are planning for the Regional Zone 6 meeting to take place next year.

Lunenburg Garden Club has 35 members with a very devoted core group taking on the gardens at the Fisherman's Memorial Hospital. They have applied for a grant to help pay for this significant project. Their monthly meetings have interesting speakers with 20-25 in attendance. They had a well attended Wine and Cheese at Christmastime as well as creating seasonal flower arrangements for shut-ins. They look forward to many summer outings. They will have a plant sale in May.

Bridgewater has a full executive with 45 members with 25-30 attending meetings where flower arrangements produced by members given a theme are judged by the group. Sadly, the Regional Conference had to be cancelled due to the hurricane, but the group was able to set up an impromptu flower arranging workshop using materials purchased for the meeting, thereby cutting their losses. They will be celebrating their 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a tea and modified flower show. The group enjoyed a seasonal chili dinner together and have arranged an Ikebana workshop. This might become the theme for the tea to be held in June. The plant sale will take place on May 25<sup>th</sup>.

Liverpool has been thriving this year with increased membership of 41. With a full executive, they have established many committees that have been active in creating a vibrant club. Their meetings are always well-attended. They had their Christmas dinner and wreath making workshop. In May, they will be holding a seed and plant exchange. They will have their spring plant sale on June 1<sup>st</sup>. The programming committee is working on several tours to run this summer. Last year they participated in the Dogwood Festival- it will be held again in 2025. They enjoy the Newsletter and the NSAGC plant giveaway.

Shelburne Garden Club has 45 members with about half attending meetings. They have a full executive roster. They hosted a Climate Change meeting that was particularly significant after the major fires they had to contend with in the fall. They have received a grant from the town. A summer highlight is the Lockport Garden Tour. They are hoping that the plant give away will be more efficient with better plant delivery and quality.

Respectfully submitted: Emily Liot



## District 2- Eastern Report, April 2024

There are five clubs in District 2; Antigonish, Lismore, Pictou, Westville and St Marys. Club reports are attached.

The club members enjoyed the fall district rally hosted by Lismore District Garden club in October, and enjoyed this time to share garden topics. The five clubs have been meeting the past few months with the Convention 2025 planning committee, and happy to report the venue is St Frances-Xavier (St FX), in Antigonish for June 2025. District 2 have atleast half dozen confirmed registration and we look forward to attend Yarmouth June 7-9.

Respectfully submitted, Anne Gratton, Director District 2

## Antigonish Garden Club April 2024 Report

The Antigonish Garden Club meets on the third Monday of the month at The John Paul Center in

Antigonish. We currently have ~53 members.

Chair -

Treasurer - Mary Campbell

Secretary/Communications - Sharon Bryson

We are currently trying to attract 3 members to serve on our Executive Committee.

We held a special 40 th Anniversary Meeting in October, a Christmas craft night in November and

had our Seasonal Tea in December.

We observed a winter recess, regular meetings resumed in March with speaker Sharon Bryson.

The topic was “Pollinator Friendly Plants”. There was also a member to member Seed Swap.

Several members attended and participated in the Horticulture Therapy Week event at the

Antigonish Library.

April meeting was a Panel Discussion organized by Leona English, "Successes and Failures with

Vegetables and Flowers".

The May meeting will feature Herbalist Kim Curry from Harbour Moon Botanicals.

Our annual Plant Sale is planned for Saturday, June 1 at The John Paul Center.

Plans are being made for the annual BBQ/Potluck held each June, hosted by a member.

Most summer gatherings will be offsite to enjoy the gardens of our members and others.

The Antigonish Garden Club is hosting the District 2 Fall Rally in 2024. Plans are well underway

for that event Saturday, October 19 at the Arisaig Community Hall.

We are also involved in the planning of the 2025 NSAGC Convention which will be in Antigonish.

Lismore District Garden Club report, April 2024

The Lismore District Garden has much to report since last report Sept 2023. The fall rally for District 2 was held Sat Oct 14, 2023 at the Lismore Community Center; the theme "Gardening By The Sea". Lismore club celebrated 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary! 1998-2023. Congratulations! Two charter members are still active club members. Don Butler was pleased to have guest Deb Bowes-Lyon, President NSAGC. Speakers on Composting, herbs, and flower arranging were enjoyed, as well as lunch "Harvest from the Sea" fish chowder.

The March meeting heard Marie Lennox of West River Greenhouses on starting seedlings; 'tis the season. The club will attend workshop to make planter. The Lismore Community Yard sale is May 27, and club will be selling plants.

The executive is President Don Butler, Vice President Don Jefferies, Secretary/ treasurer Joanne MacDonald. Don Butler is active on Convention 2025 planning committee.

#### Westville and Area Gardening Club report for April 2024

Executive President Mary Kay MacKinnon & Secretary Clarrie MacKinnon are long time active members of the club, keeping members informed with Facebook page and excellent meetings. Since last report fall 2023, the club held Christmas party for members plus One/ significant other, with Chinese food, pizza & lots more! The club is working on 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations for 2024, formed 1974, one project is reactivation of community garden began many years ago but fell unattended. The Westville United Church has a food program at Duggan School and assist families with food in the area, and wants to partner with our club on the community garden. Kelly Timmons teaches an Agriculture Course at Northumberland Regional High School, wants to expand into the community involvement with both she and students to help in community garden.

Westville club & Town of Westville received grant from TREES CANADA for fruit trees for the community Garden. Next meeting Tues April 16. All welcome.

## **Director's Report April, 2024**

### **Central South District 3**

Overall, I feel the clubs are active and doing well. Most are busy getting ready for their annual plant sales. Issues that keep coming up are how to attract new younger members. Currently Beate & I are working on an updated speakers list for District 3 North and South. Club membership in District 3 South is maintaining their membership with some increases. The Stewiacke Valley GC, Musquodoboit Valley Weeders and the Stewiacke Club hosted a successful Fall Rally held at Carroll's Corners in October 2023. It was well attended and enjoyed by all.

#### **Stewiacke Garden Club**

This Club is an active Club reporting an increase in membership this year. They have interesting speakers and often invite surrounding clubs.

Their Club has recently partnered with the Town of Stewiacke and other benefactors to create a Community Garden. They are building 20 raised beds for vegetable gardening which will be used locally, and a portion of the fresh produce will be donated to a local Food Bank. Many people in the town have taken an interest in the project and this also helped to increase their membership. They hope that the gardens will open in June. This club is also part of the group working on a Trees Canada Grant. I have attended many of their meetings this past year.

#### **Stewiacke Valley Garden Club**

The Stewiacke Valley GC actively takes part in many fund raising activities. The Club Donates an annual Bursary to a student attending Dalhousie University in Truro who is enrolled in Horticulture. They also donate to the Colchester Food Bank and provide plants and materials for local gardens. The Club maintains the garden outside the local Co op and will be taking on new local gardening projects this year as well. This club is currently working on funding from Trees Canada for the Community Park in Upper Stewiacke. There have been a variety of interesting speakers since October. It is strong club, maintaining their membership, with new younger members joining. It is their 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year. I am the secretary for this club.

#### **Musquodoboit Valley Weeders**

They have not had any meetings since the fall of 2023. They are hoping new community volunteers will come out assist with the Cornerstone Park which is home to the largest Hummingbird Structure in Canada. They also still organize and run the Halifax County Exhibition Flower Show.

## **Country Garden ( Elmsdale & Area )**

This Club is quite active and hosted many interesting speakers over the year. Their membership is steady, and some members are involved with the Elmsdale Beautification Group. They are helping to maintain the Community Garden in Elmsdale and gardens alongside the Riverview United Church. Recently they have joined a group in our District to apply for a grant from Trees Canadas to help with a project that involves reviving a community garden in Lance. I was able to visit their club and give a "Directors Presentation"

## **Hants North Late Bloomers**

The Hants North Late Bloomers were active for November and December. The honoured Elizabeth Hill for her contributions to District 3 as Director for over 7 years. They help with the Plant Give Away as Geoff MacDonald is also a member of their Club. Their Club will mark their 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year. I had the chance of visiting with them at their Christmas Party in December. It was most enjoyable and fun. They are a very active club and are maintaining their membership.

## **Village Garden Club ( East Gore & Area )**

The Village Garden Club has 33 active members and one honorary member. They have had a variety of speakers over 5 meetings. They are tending community gardens in West Gore and the Rawdon gold Mines Seniors Centre. They donate to the Hants Food Bank. I had the opportunity to attend one of their meetings last fall. It was a very enjoyable evening.

Respectfully Submitted

Brenda Grasser

Central South District 3 Director

#### District 4 Quarterly Report Bedford Horticultural:

The Club has a total of 30 members. They will celebrate their 74th Anniversary this month. This is the second year President Donna Burris has held the position and she has been asking for the past three months for a replacement. So far no one has volunteered so I don't know what will happen to the Club. She has been doing three positions for the past two years (Publicity, Program and President) and she burning out. Dartmouth Horticultural: DHS was able to begin their 66th year by returning to their old location at St. Vincent De Paul Church Hall in Dartmouth. They are experiencing new energy brought to the Executive team with four new members: President – Jennifer McNeil Programming - Makayla Cole Secretary (shared position) - Cathy Fox and Donna Comeau New President Jennifer McNeil is a fairly new gardener with a focus on flower production for market bouquets. The past interim President- Avis Faulkner has been a wonderful support in sharing her wisdom with Jennifer on her start up. . With new leadership comes new ideas and they are planning on expanding their online presence by adding Instagram alongside Facebook for greater community awareness. They have also digitized our logo and will be using it to brand their signage for public events. They have held a couple of Seed Exchanges at their last couple of Meetings and are currently in planning stage for their Annual Plant Sale on June 22<sup>nd</sup>

Fall River Garden Club: The past year has been a busy one for the Club. Their Club has worked on having a large Monarch Butterfly sculpture placed in their Community park, working hand in hand with Artist . They have been fortunate to have increased their membership again this year. They have also been busy with preparing for their Annual Plant sale in May which is very important to their members because of what they use their money for - Dalhousie University Dept. of Agriculture Bursary along with other projects and gardens they support. They will be hosting the District 4 Rally this coming Fall. It's wonderful to see the engagement with their Community through Gardening and Beautification.

St. Margaret's Bay Garden Club: St. Margaret's Bay Gardening Club volunteers had a busy spring, preparing for their Seedy Saturday. Under the leadership of Claudy Levy, they booked speakers, secured vendors and marketed the event which was held on March 23rd. in Upper Tantallon. During their venue they welcomed over 400 visitors! The visitors attended presentations and shopped for seeds, vermicomposting equipment, seaweed compost and more. Over 30 volunteers made their day a success. For the first time, they sought corporate sponsorship and weren't disappointed ! Local companies supported them including Danielle Barkhouse, MLA and Councillor Pam Lovelace as advertisers. Their Annual Plant Sale is being held on June 8th 2024 - same weekend as Convention.

Prospect Garden Club: A Club that had started as a small group with the Club being very casual has grown under the auspices of Tara Moore. She came from a Club in the Valley area and made it clear she was having a casual setting for the Club. Their setup appears to be working for them. They have grown 110% in size, and their members are learning and sharing gardening practices each month along with taking trips to gardens and centres. Eastern Shore Garden Club: The Club currently has 58 members and also has a new President; Stephanie Hazelden, who was in a working training role last year with two mentors - the outgoing Presidents. They are still sorting out some of the Executive and Volunteer positions. Plans are underway for the May 25th Annual Plant Sale. The Club will celebrate their 25th Anniversary this year in September.

Hammond Plains Garden Club: The Club has dropped a few members however continues to role along - They are still meeting each month with guest speakers in attendance. They utilize their website page with all events posted for their members - and information for potential new members. They are currently getting ready for their May Plant Exchange

**District 5 Director Report  
April, 2024**

District 5 clubs for the most part scale their activities back thru the late fall and winter months. All clubs I have had contact with are looking forward to meetings and events in the upcoming months. Both Valley Gardeners and Mt Denson have reported new Executive, which is good to hear as its difficult to get members to either agree to be nominated or volunteer for Executive positions. We are looking forward to getting together on Saturday, April 20 for the District 5 meeting, hosted by Valley Gardeners.

As Director, the main difficulty seems to be getting replies back on emails. Its so very frustrating to chase people for information. The only thing, I guess, that can be done is to give them lots of notice and hold fast to a hard deadline date.

I am looking forward to meeting members at the District meeting and hoping to attend meetings and events through the upcoming months.

Respectfully submitted  
Lori Reid  
District 5 Director

**Charing Cross Garden Club**

Charing Cross Garden Club has 10 regular members and one Honorary member.

We meet February (our Annual General meeting) to December. In early Spring we have plant sales which are held at the Bandstand and we attend the District meeting.

Gardens are cleared and planted throughout the Community at the Post Office, New Ross Welcome Sign and 22 hanging baskets are hung in the Village. The baskets are watered daily.

In August a guest speaker Susan Larder held a program on flower arranging. We have a Flower show in August at the Fair grounds during the New Ross Fair. In the Fall we travelled to Canning to view a private garden and lunched at Dickie Baxter's Restaurant.

November a wreath was laid for Remembrance Day. We decorated the Bandstand for the Christmas Festival and entered a Christmas tree decorating Contest held at Ross Farm Museum.

Christmas outing was at Wheaton's in Berwick and we dined at their restaurant. Good time was had by all.

Plans are in the works for our 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

**NSAGC Haliburton Garden Club  
2023 Annual Report**

The Haliburton Garden Club has had a successful 2023. We have found a permanent meeting place at the Brooklyn Rink, which they are letting us use for free in exchange we will plant a garden at the rink entrance when the road work is finished.

Our meeting is always the last Monday of every month at 6pm with the exception of December. This has been a constant in our history or at least for the last twenty years that I have been a member making it easy to remember: every year when you get your new calendar you can draw a flower on the last Monday of each month except December in that space draw yourself a snowflake and smile.

We applied and received a grant which was used to purchase our own garden tools. We have several gardens in the West Hants area including local parks and nursing homes which we maintain. We also hosted workshops in the area.

Last April our club hosted the District #5 Meeting which was a busy but wonderful event. It is always a happy time when gardeners spend time together knowing we all have the same love and interest. It was a day of meeting fellow gardeners, listening to informative presenters and buying a few plants and seeds to take home with us.

April was also our "Annual Plant Sale" which was held at the local Brooklyn Village Garden Center. There were buyers waiting for us to unload our vehicles at 7am..

The club members decided that they would like to go on a bus tour of gardens and garden centers on the Eastern shore and Hammond Plains areas. Everyone had a great day and bought a few new plants to take home.

It was also a club decision to create a new event for our members to take part in. We pick a member that is having a hard time maintaining their gardens and we do a spring cleanup for them, 2023 was our first year and it was greatly appreciated by the recipient.

The Haliburton Garden Club is happy to say we have increased our numbers from a few years ago only having 4 members to today having 33 members.

Thanks for the chance to sit back and brag about the loyal members we now have in the Haliburton Garden Club

Respectively submitted

Marie Harvey President

**Club Report  
Mount Denson Garden Club  
April 2024**

Our club activities generally slow down during the late fall and winter months.

During our monthly meeting in October 2023, we welcomed Su Hirtle from Hosta la Vista Nursery as she discussed with our members her new business, and the bulbs they deliver. For Halloween, some of our members represented the club at the Spooktacular Farmers Market, selling houseplants and supplying popcorn to market-goers.

In November, we joined 2 local garden clubs on a tour of the Avon Valley Poinsettia greenhouses. December brought us together for a Holiday Planter workshop, followed by our annual Christmas party.

We next got together in February for a Potluck luncheon and then resumed our monthly meetings in March.

At our AGM in April, 3 Executive positions were filled: Beth Sanford is now our President, Mike Campbell our Vice-President, and Christine Hooper has assumed the role of Secretary.

The club is busy planning our annual spring plant sale in June, selling tickets for our annual bursary award, and getting ready for the District Meeting in 2025. In addition, we are all looking forward to numerous workshops and garden tours.

As always there are times when it is difficult to recruit volunteers for projects. Currently, we have 48 Members, 1 Youth Member, and 3 Honorary Members.

Beth Sanford  
President

**Upper Vaughan Garden Club  
1015 Hwy 14, Upper Vaughan  
Activity Report – April 14, 2024**

Despite being a newly formed club in Dec of 23', we have been very active with member recruitment and event planning. Our club currently hosts a diverse group of 38 energetic and inspiring gardeners from around the community. We secured a meeting place at the historic little red schoolhouse in Upper Vaughan. Our Treasurer Debie Innes got us a club email address and bank account set up and we're able to accept and send E-transfers.

We have planned 2 major fundraisers. We obtained a lottery license and members have actively been selling tickets for a draw to take place June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Prizes include a Japanese Maple, David Austin Rose Bush and a Rose of Sharon. Our Goal is to raise \$500 but we have easily surpassed that at present. Our 2<sup>nd</sup> fundraiser is our club plant sale on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. It will be held the same day as the Upper Vaughan Community Yard Sale. We also applied for a municipal operating grant.

We have had 3 guest speakers. Mark Kehoe – Nursery Stock Production, Nancy Maxner – Pruning and Jennifer Chandler – Mushrooms and Wildflowers.

Approval has been obtained to donate and maintain 3 community gardens. One at the Upper Vaughan Baptist Church, one at the Vaughan Cemetery, and one at the Upper Vaughan Community Hall.

Our first field trip is planned for May 4<sup>th</sup>. Baldwin Nurseries in Falmouth is welcoming us, along with the Mt Denson Garden club for a talk and tour.

Members were able to take advantage of a group Nursery Stock buy we organized where they could buy a selection of trees, shrubs and roses at wholesale cost. We also negotiated a group buy for garden soil truck load deliveries from a local supplier.

A Facebook page was created for members to share club discussions and garden related posts and pictures.

All in all, the UVGC is off to a great start and that's not only due to the fact it's been blessed with some engaged club members, but also because we have had an endless amount of support from our district coordinator Lori Reid. Lori has been right there with us every step of the way as we came together as a club and learned to navigate the NSAGC events and deadlines. We are looking forward to spring and also hoping to grow our membership in 2024.

**Valley Gardeners Club Report  
April 10, 2024**

At the November AGM, two long-serving members stepped down from the Executive to allow a couple of newer members the opportunity to serve. Janet Alsop served as Communications Chair for six (6) years, and Lorraine Miner served as Treasurer for five (years). We thanked them for their service and dedication. Our Communications Chair is Karen Marsh, and Susan Taylor is our Treasurer. The position of Vice President remains open at this time.

The Valley Gardeners Club voted Janet Alsop as Outstanding Member. Her contributions to the Club have been numerous. During the pandemic, Janet contacted current and interested members and also posted on our Facebook page to keep the lines of communication open when we were not able to gather. She also ensured new members were able to have a say in the future direction of the Club when we were finally able to gather again. Janet also stayed on the Executive as Communications Chair when no other volunteers came forward, and she has a strong commitment to seeing the Club not only

survive, but thrive. In recent years Janet has also been very active with the plant sales (volunteering in 2023 and organizing it in 2022), and she is a volunteer on the District 5 Meeting sub-committee.

While the past year was one of rebuilding and reconnecting, this one has been one of growth. Some members have left the Club, as they do, but we have seen a number of new members join. At one meeting recently we had six new members join. At the same time, the membership is evolving. There is an energy and excitement that I have not seen since I joined the Club three years ago, and even long-time members are commenting on it. This winter we had a couple of last minute speaker cancellations, but still had a good turnout for the meetings. We were able to pivot and open up conversations amongst the group, both as a whole, and in smaller break-out groups. A number of people approached me afterwards and mentioned how much they enjoyed those conversations.

Our March speaker was John Cummings, a Gaspereau Mountain herbalist, who spoke to us about his farm, growing and protecting native medicinal plants, and his work at Sage Mountain Herbal Center in Vermont. It was very well attended, and we had to scramble to find extra chairs to accommodate everyone.

At our April meeting we welcomed one of the VGC student bursary recipients from Kingstec College (NSCC). Will Norris spoke to us about his studies and work placements, and showed examples of his hardscaping work and small hardscape installations. He recently started his own business, Norwood Horticulture, and is gearing up for business late spring/early summer, once his studies are over.

It is proving to be a busy spring for the Club. This weekend we are taking part in Seedy Saturday at the Wolfville Farmer's Market. We have a dedicated team of volunteers working on the District 5 Meeting, which will be held on April 20 at the Valley Community Learning Association in Kentville, and on May 18 we will be holding our annual plant sale at the New Minas Firehall.

The VGC currently has 56 paid members, and 9 life members.

Warm regards,

Pat Mora  
President, Valley Gardeners Club

## **2024 NSAGC Convention Report**

**Hosted by Western District #7**

**April 2024**

Submitted by Kathryn Davidson, Convention Committee Chairperson

Planning for the 2024 Convention began back in July 2023.

Stacey Stenabaugh and Kathryn Davidson were Co-Chairs. As of September 2023 – Stacey stepped down as Co-Chair and from the Committee.

All 8 clubs are represented on the Committee – some clubs having more than 1 active participant.

To date (as of April 17<sup>th</sup>) we have 150 paid attendees with 1 unpaid registrant

There will be 1 Keynote Speaker on Friday Night after the opening ceremonies.

There will be 1 Keynote Speaker on Saturday night following the Banquet Dinner.

There are 3 Guest Speakers during Saturday. 2 will be in the morning and 1 in the afternoon.

On Saturday afternoon, following the Guest Speaker – Deb Bowes-Lyon will host a Workshop for anyone to attend. This is intended to have attendees actively participate in question/answers and share their concerns/wins about gardening and their clubs.

## **Friday June 7<sup>th</sup>**

Hosting 2 workshops. Floral painting workshop to be held at the Yarmouth Library (18 registrants signed up) and Create a Garden Journal (11 registrants signed up).

At night there will be evening entertainment with The Yarmouth Shantymen and light nibblies and Cash bar.

Town of Yarmouth Walking Tour – hosted by David Sollows

Friday Night opening ceremonies include a short welcome speech from Mayor Pam Mood and will also include a 10 minute 1<sup>st</sup> Nations Youth Drummers ensemble – in keeping with our theme of “Back to our Roots”.

## **Saturday**

AGM followed by 2 guest speakers, then lunch followed by 1 guest speaker and open Workshop.

Attendees can also take part in another Yarmouth Walking Tour, if they do not wish to attend the Open Workshop.

The convention committee want the attendees to actively participate at the convention – that is why we have reduced the guest speakers and included the workshop instead and also the walking tours. We want people to have fun and mix and mingle as much as possible.

Floral Competition theme as Back to our Roots. All entries will be fully displayed within the Ballroom. Ballot entry will be included inside the Goodie Bag.

Each of the 8 Western District 7 Clubs are responsible for providing approximately 30 - 6” potted plants – can be inside or outside plants. Each registrant will receive a plant. Any extra plants will be sold off throughout the convention.

Saturday night banquet will be followed by Keynote Speaker and that will be followed by our Kitchen Party themed entertainment with light nibblies and a Cash Bar.

8 vendors have registered to attend with a great mix of plants, woodcrafts, and glass crafts.

An information table will be setup to provide registrants with information on the Convention, and/or places to visit, while in the Southwest region of NS.

There will be a Silent Auction, 50/50 draw and also a Raffle for registrants to purchase tickets on.

Each registrant will receive a Goodie Bag with lots of items included within.

The Convention has been actively promoted on the NSAGC Website and on the NSAGC facebook page, as well as within the Western District Garden Clubs.

Also, Yarmouth and Acadian Shores Tourism Association is actively promoting our Convention on their website with a direct link to the convention registration pages.

Additionally, Hughstin Grimshaw-Surette (one of our guest speakers) will be promoting our Convention on his website as well.

It promises to be an informative and fun-filled event.