



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING Minutes
April 26, 2025
10:00am
NSCC Truro Campus, 36 Arthur Street, Truro

Item	Notes
<p>Meeting called to order at 10:05</p> <p>Regrets:</p> <p>In attendance:</p> <p>Review Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting, September 27, 2025</p> <p>Motion made by Melissa to accept the minutes as recorded, seconded by Kathy d’Entremont.</p>	<p>Debbie Innes</p> <p>Deb Bowes Lyon Liz Hill Geoff MacDonald Beate Acker Anne Graton Emily Liot Sharon Bryson Nancy MacCara Brenda Grasser Lori Reid Melissa Weir Susan Hazelwood Kathryn Davidson Pamela MacLean Janet Rose Kathy d’Entremont Glynis Thomas Janet Patterson</p>
<p>Old Business</p> <p>a. NSAGC Handout Material Volunteers</p> <p>b. Invasive species policy</p> <p>c. NSAGC Planning</p>	<p>a) No volunteers. This item (2.7) will be dropped from the planning. <i>Kathryn makes a motion to remove item 2.7 from the strategic plan. Seconded by Susan. Motion carried.</i></p> <p>b) Deb provided background on how the idea of this policy came to be. Deb explained that the NSAGC is not an advocate of any topic. It is also not our role to tell clubs or members what they must support or not support. There was a decision at the executive meeting that we are not in support of being an advocate of invasive species. Regarding Facebook, moderators and admins will continue to have discretion over posts regarding invasive species the same as they do with any other “hot topics” that come up in posts and discussions. No further action on this matter is required.</p> <p>c) A lot was accomplished since 2023 when this plan began. A couple items are outstanding such as reviewing the board manual. The plan is that the board manual review will still happen soon. Second item not completed was regarding “Judges”, this item should carry over to the next plan. Discussion led to a talk about exhibitions and flower</p>

<p>d. Fundraising (Beate/Brenda)</p>	<p>shows, Susan suggested in next plan maybe we discuss a committee to create a connection between NSAGC and Provincial exhibitions. Pamela created a document of items on promoting Provincial Gardening Week, Deb will forward that email to Melissa who will create a document for the website. Melissa may submit an article to the newsletter regarding exhibitions.</p> <p>d) Beate and Brenda have been working on a plan for fundraising through a weekend getaway package. They have not had time to work on this since the last meeting. They are asking to either have more time, have someone come on to help them or is this issue dead in the water. Deb explained that it is too big of a job to put on the convention committee as had been suggested, as well the NSAGC does not need extra funds. Sharon suggested the 1000\$ loan for the convention be forgivable. Melissa reminded the board that we don't have plans that require big funds, we are in good financial standing, and that conventions are meant to be self-sufficient and pay for itself. Discussion was had surrounding people not being able to afford to go to convention and a fundraiser could pay for people to attend. Pamela reminded the board that conventions is held in a different area every year so people can attend it when it's in their area. Deb suggests this be put on the back burner for the time being, it is not something the association wants to undertake. Maybe directors could get together to discuss fundraising draws. Maybe there could be a club president workshop at convention to discuss fundraisers and membership.</p>
<p>New Business a. Convention 2025 D2</p>	<p>a) Issues that were happening are being resolved. Keynote speaker is Jessica Miller from Veteran Farm Project. On Friday night the speaker will be from the municipality. Sobey's is sponsoring the banquet. Battle of the gardeners is happening on Friday night as well. Numbers are starting to increase this</p>

<p>b. Audit Procedure</p> <p>c. District meeting difficulties</p> <p>d. New club formation process</p> <p>e. Membership Cards</p>	<p>week. Garden tours on Sunday.</p> <p>b) Geoff offered to prepare a procedure document at the last meeting. This has been done and circulated. <i>Geoff made a motion that the board accept this audit procedure as submitted and circulated. Seconded by Kathryn Davidson. All in favor, motion passed.</i></p> <p>c) Emily – District 6, hasn't met for 2 years for a district meeting. There was a year cancelled due to a hurricane and then low registration the following year. Emily is asking for guidance on how she can help make a successful district meeting happen. Susan suggested not putting it on a club, have the district plan it and host it centrally. It was suggested that D6 develop a district council. Survey club members to see what they would want to see at a district meeting.</p> <p>d) Beate is looking for feedback on new clubs joining or starting new clubs. Good discussion on tips and tricks for engaging clubs to join or starting new clubs. Deb created a new procedure for new clubs joining the NSAGC. She will circulate a draft of the procedure for comments, and it will go in the next board manual.</p> <p>e) Melissa is looking for approval to start the process of getting more membership cards created. Go ahead given.</p>
<p>Reports Highlights</p> <p>a. Treasurer</p>	<p>All reports were circulated before the meeting.</p> <p>Key Remarks:</p> <p>a) From audit: Second approval on expenses will be required moving forward. <i>Motion made that going forward a second member of the executive will approve all expenses via email. Seconded by Kathryn D. All in favor, motion passed.</i> Susan needs a new second cosigner for cheques since Emily has left, and Nancy will be leaving. She has asked for permission to decide on who this will be. Approval of the budget is needed so the budget can be taken to the AGM. 3 points of interest (1) lowered tags and seals budget due to less being sold in previous years (2) Affiliate dues will go down next year (3) Meeting costs will possibly be increased due to a</p>

<p>b. Web Content Manager</p> <p>c. Newsletter</p> <p>d. Facebook</p> <p>e. Plant Giveaway</p> <p>f. Photo Contest</p> <p>g. Historian</p> <p>h. Nominations</p> <p>i. Membership Coordinator</p>	<p>change of venue. <i>Susan made a motion for budget approval from board to take to the AGM with tags and seals reduced to \$30 from \$100 and the meeting expenses reflective of what this meeting costs. Seconded by Deb, all in favor, motion passed</i></p> <p>b) Susan is asking district directors to ask clubs to send her information for events that she can put on the website calendar.</p> <p>c) No report from Newsletter Editor. But Deb said Debbie will take feedback and anyone can email her at newsletter@nsagc.com</p> <p>d) Deb had circulated changes to the Facebook Guidelines. Susan noted that it stated we were non-for-profit, which we are not. That will be changed. Deb made suggestions for a change in wording regarding invasive species. New guidelines will be drawn up.</p> <p>e) Revision to previously submitted report - when plants were received it was discovered that the flats contained less plants than were expected. This caused one club's extra plant orders to be unable to be filled, and one club's order to be shorted. The revised form will be added to the draft minutes and posted to the website. Geoff and the Janets will be creating a process document for the plant giveaway.</p> <p>f) The recent increase in submission is promising. Sharon has offered to stay on for another term</p> <p>g) <i>Pamela makes a motion that the NSAGC covers the cost of printing and binding a copy of the historian report. 2014-2019 Edition Seconded by Anne Graton, all in favour, motion passed.</i></p> <p>h) Kathy circulated hard copies of her report with list of vacancies. Reminder that it is the job of the DD to find their replacement. <i>Kathy makes a motion that we include affiliate clubs in anniversary recognition. Seconded by Susan, all in favor, motion passed.</i></p> <p>i) Suggestions and requests from Liz from her report. Access to bank account: Looking for solution to allow Liz to deposit cheques. Susan will look into</p>
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<p>j. District Directors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D1 Glynis • D2 Anne • D3N Beate • D3S Brenda • D4 Nancy • D5 Lori • D6 Emily • D7 Kathryn <p>Motion made to accept all reports made by</p>	<p>getting Liz a card. Update to form: Susan and Liz will work together to make change to form and website.</p> <p>Directors</p> <p>D1- New Club , Coal Coast.</p> <p>D2 – Lots happening. Happy to get seeds</p> <p>D3 N- Beate sent clubs a “survey”, and asked for a “report card”. Clubs were very innovative with how they distributed free seeds. Clubs appreciated Beate’s communication over physical visits to clubs</p> <p>D3S – Middle Musquodoboit Weeders are struggling still.</p> <p>D4- Nevill McKay presented at Eastern Shore Club. Fall River continues to have very successful plant sales.</p> <p>D5 – Lori joined petal society (new club) predominantly young members.</p> <p>D6 – All is well!</p> <p>D7 – Bridgetown celebrating 90 years</p> <p><i>Pamela made a motion to accept all reports as read and submitted. Seconded by Susan, all in favour, motion passed</i></p>
<p>Next Meeting</p>	<p>Via Zoom Friday September 26th 6-9pm & Saturday September 27th 10-1.</p>
<p>Adjournment</p>	<p>3:11pm</p>

District 5

Lori Reid

April, 2025

District 5, encompassing West Hants and Kings County, has 7 garden clubs, including a newly formed club focused on Homestead Gardening.

The seed donation was welcomed from all clubs. From feedback, most have distributed their seeds with a few planning to handout the remainder of the seeds at plant sales.

No problems have been reported. Am still having difficulty getting answers/reports from some clubs even with email and phone call reminders.

Charing Cross Garden Club

Charing Cross Garden Club hold their regular monthly meetings at members home on the first Wednesday of the month. We have ten (10) regular members and one Honorary Member, Mona Reeves.

In March the club held a St. Patrick's Day Tea at the Charing Cross Manor. Music, games and lunch was served. The Residents always enjoy this event.

In April members attended the District Meeting in Kentville, hosted by Valley Gardeners.

We held a Pot Luck dinner in June at the Golden Age room at the New Ross Fairgrounds. Members from Forties Garden Club were invited also our District #5 Representative, Lori Reid.

In June a plant sale was held at the Bandstand in New Ross. Gardens were cleared and planted and Hanging Baskets were hung in our community.

In August our Flower show was held at the New Ross Fairgrounds in conjunction with the Annual Fair. There were 45 exhibits and 347 visitors.

In September, for an outing we went for lunch at the Church Restaurant in Wolfville and a trip to visit the Tangled Gardens.

For our Christmas party we went to the Hearth Room at the New Ross Farm where we all enjoyed a turkey dinner. Great meal.

Our Club decorated a Christmas tree at the Ross Farm during the Christmas Festival. Out of the six decorated trees our tree got most "People's Choice" votes! We also decorated the Bandstand for the Christmas Festival.

We had a very busy year and looking forward to a new Gardening year 2025!
Submitted by President Barbara Naugler

Mount Denson Garden Club

September – Fall Mum Plant sale was held at the Avon Community Farmers Market in Windsor. We welcomed Lori Reid back with her presentation on Winter Sowing. The members have been planning what they were going to try using this method. The annual \$500 Norma Sweet Memorial Bursary was awarded to Brianna Henderson.

October – We welcomed back Mark Kehoe to talk with us about trees in our landscape.

December – Tracey Martin once again led us in a workshop creating outdoor holiday arrangements. Members gathered at Walkers Restaurant for our annual Christmas Party. Thru donations we raised \$400 for Windsor Caremongers.

February – A seed donation from NSAGC was received. Members gathered for a potluck lunch and seed exchange.

April – Hosted the 2025 District 5 Meeting in Brooklyn, 78 registered with 74 attending.

UPPER VAUGHAN GARDEN CLUB REPORT

The Upper Vaughan Garden Club held a joint fund-raising event with the Upper Vaughan Community Hall on June 22, 2024. It was a busy day for both organizations with great attendance. The Garden Club realised over \$2,200 for our efforts. These funds will help to offset the cost of our planned projects in the community.

Meetings convene at the Upper Vaughan Community Hall on the first Wednesday of every month at 6:00 pm. Every second month we host a guest speaker followed by a business meeting. In September, the club hosted the NSAGC District 5 Director, Lori Reid, who talked about Winter Sowing. Our club members were very enthusiastic with Lori's presentation that developed into a Winter Sowing Workshop in the New Year. In November, Ken Byrka, Owner/Operator of Revival Seeds located in the Annapolis Valley shared his dedication to ensuring the success and sustainability of every seed they plant. Along with his informative presentation he also sang to us having traveled all over the world with his band Sleddogs. At our Dessert party in December, Hughstin Grimshaw-Surette, Terrestrial Project Coordinator from the Nova Scotia Invasive Species Council joined us. Club members learned from his informative presentation that plants/shrubs we have in our gardens may in fact be an invasive species.

The club received a \$1,000 Community Development Grant from the Municipality of the District of West Hants. These funds helped to purchase soil, mulch, fertilizer for three community gardens. Our Civic Committee led our community garden project with work started in June with club members and other volunteers in cleaning up the existing garden at the Upper Vaughan Baptist Church. They then moved into July with restoring and expanding an old garden while adding a new sidewalk garden at the Upper Vaughan Community Hall.

Our Outstanding Club Member for 2024 was Mark Kehoe, President. He was instrumental in starting our garden club and always shares his knowledge and love of gardening at every meeting.

Club members served at a holiday dinner hosted by the South West Hants Fire Society. Club members wore our popular red Club Aprons. The Society thanked the Club with a \$100 donation.

Our club also participated in a local Market at the South West Hants Fire Hall in March. Two club members sold plants and tickets and had great fun interacting with all those in attendance. We are planning to attend the next 'Pop-Up' Market in the future.

Plans are underway for our Annual Plant Sale for June 14th, as well as a Garden Tour in July for our members.

Respectfully submitted,
Deborah (Debbie) Innes
Treasurer & Co-Secretary
/dji

Valley Gardeners Club Report 2024-2025

Karen Marsh, President

April 2024 – One of the bursary winners from NSCC Kingstec Horticultural program spoke at our April meeting.

May 2024 – Our annual plant sale was held at the New Minas Fire Hall. It was a great success. We had lots of donated plants and "Ask a Master Gardener" table. The presenter at our club meeting spoke about aging with your garden. It was very informative and relative to many of us.

June 2024 – Annual donation to the Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens. Our final speaker before the summer break was about apples and varieties that are great to grow in the valley. We also had 10 members who attended the NSAGC convention in Yarmouth. We enjoyed all of the speakers and garden tours.

Summer break was quiet for the club this year. However, one of members, last year's Outstanding Member, was in touch with the Tiny Meadows Housing project in Kentville. We were able to provide them with various gardening supplies to help with the exterior of the project.

September 2024 – One of our members presented on growing garlic and provided lots of tips on growing and the nutritional benefits. Our new website was officially launched as well as our Facebook site updated. Lots of hard work done by our then president Pat Mora on a very successful project. Two new bursaries were awarded to students of the Horticultural program at NSCC Kingstec.

October 2024 – We had a joint meeting with the Blomidon Naturalist Society. The books selected by the Annapolis Valley Regional Library purchased with our donation were communicated to our club members. The theme was gardening for children and youth.

November 2024 – Our club held it's annual AGM. A new president was elected. A club review showed we had had a good fiscal year. A presentation by one of our members was done on her trip to gardens and castles of Scotland and England as well the Netherlands.

December 2024 – The club held a fun Christmas social making holiday swags with natural boughs and greenery, along with donated ornaments.

January 2025 – New programs for the year were presented by our Programming Chair. A chance for the new president to introduce herself and say a few words on the upcoming year. A presentation on winter sowing was done by one of our members.

February 2025 – The club provided a donation to the Annapolis Royal Historical Society for another year. The position of Communication Chair was filled. Guest speaker at our club meeting presented on vermicomposting. Hands on opportunity with worms was enjoyed by our members. The seeds donated to the NSAGC were received.

March 2025 – Our club discussed many great organizations and opportunities for distribution of the donated seeds. Seeds have been given or will be given to at least 6 different community groups and more are expected. The presentation at our meeting was on seed starting. Everyone got a chance to get their hands dirty.

April 2025 – Annual donation to the Annapolis Valley Regional Library as been given but books not selected yet. We did give them a lot of seeds for their seed library.

District Directors report April 2025, Eastern District 2

Lots of traveling these past months! I attended St Mary's Garden club meeting Oct 9 in Sherbrooke in early planning stages for convention, June Tate reported they are small but busy club. Then I attended Lismore Garden club bringing home geranium cutting to root which Don Butler demonstrated to the club. October 19 Antigonish Garden club hosted the fall rally, "Feeding our Community in Body & Soul", at Airisaig Community hall with good attendance & good program; photo op setup with bale hay and fall décor was popular, lots photos taken. My home club Pictou held it's annual Christmas potluck, with auction to raise over \$200 for food bank.

2025 began with distribution of our fantastic windfall of seeds! Sun Feb 16 picked up truckload boxes of seeds in Stewiacke for Districts 1&2; then met Glynis Thomas at Auld's Cove Big Stop at the Canso Causeway as a midway from Pictou/Sydney with my car packed with boxes! Jenine from Isle Madame got hers here also. Sharon Bryson picked up from me for Lismore, St Mary's, Antigonish. Westville & Pictou seeds all distributed during next few weeks. Seedy Saturdays occurred at several locations; New Glasgow was Feb 22. Clubs planning plant sales for May with digging/potting already begun in April. Planning continues for 2025 Convention June 13-15 at St FX in Antigonish. Westville club also planning Fall Rally in October. A busy last few months.

Respectfully submitted by District Director Anne Gratton. (at this time let you know my 3-year term is up in June, not re-offering for second term, unless no one steps up by then)

Pictou club report, submitted by Heather Mattie

Pictou and Area Garden Club members enjoyed fall rally Oct 19 in Airisaig hosted by Antigonish club. Speakers included Bonnie Quinn/Lochaber Growers Cooperative; Mary Partridge, Gardener's Panel Q&A(Sharon Bryson, Don Butler, Janice Chaisson) and Outstanding Gardener awards, vendors, lunch. November program was by members MaryAnne MacNeil & Dawn

Westhaver, taped and posted on our facebook page (over 4700 followers!) January meeting program also by a member, Anne Gratton, on September trip to Cornwall,UK to Eden Project, Lost Gardens of Heligan, other smaller gardens, & Tintagel. We attended Seedy Saturday Feb 22. AGM March 19 plus monthly meeting where hundreds packages of free seeds distributed! Planning meetings continue for convention June 13-15. Members Diana & Anne attended Lunch(pizza) and Learn in Antigonish Sat March 8, Niki Jabbour online learning Mini-hoop tunnels.

District 4 - Spring 2025 Report

Bedford Horticultural Society:

The Garden Club's year of meetings is almost over. It now brings their Club into spring gardening with all they have learned this past year....Including their own Round Table Club Discussions and learning lots from their speakers including the following... Dr. Claudia Schmieman of the Holistic Centre from Lunenburg, Kara McCurdy, Fire and Emergency Wildfire Mitigation Manager, Liz Edgely - speaking on Healthy Living, and during this month they have their Bursary Recipient speaking on Healing Gardens.

May will bring the Clubs Summer months recess and celebration of their 75th Anniversary. Their annual plant sale will take place on May 24th at Scott Manor House. It also concludes the end of Donna Burris's third year as President. As discussed with the Club Members during a meeting - If no one steps up to replace Donna the Club will fold this year unfortunately -

Dartmouth Horticultural Society:

With over 110 Current Members registered in their Club; The Dartmouth Horticultural Society (DHS) has enjoyed another vibrant and successful year of gardening enthusiasm, educational programming, and community involvement. Activities such as Seed Exchange, Holiday Potluck, great Speakers including... Elizabeth Pierce, Catherine Morley who spoke of "How to Grow a Cut Flower Garden" and this month Elizabeth Bailey, local Author and Chef presenting on "Eating the Seasons" exploring local foods throughout the year.

DHS continues to support and volunteer at the Moir Garden, and Cole Harbour Heritage Farm while supporting the Local Feed Nova Scotia during their PotLuck. They made a financial contribution to The North Grove along with awarding a Bursary to Dalhousie University. Their President Jennifer McNeil continues to enjoy her role with the Club.

Eastern Shore Garden Club:

The ESGC has 60 current Members with a new President Jane Orton. In December the Club celebrated their 25th Anniversary with a Christmas Dinner, catered by a local company "Lets Grow Together " with 50 members in attendance.

They also have had great speakers attend their meetings including Allan Banks of Harbour Breeze Daylilies who spoke of soil remediation, and the part it played in the creation of Harbour Breeze from the rocky treed hillside to what it is today. This Club also had Kara McCurdy of HRM Fire and Emergency Wildfire Mitigation speak which brought about several of the Clubs Members taking advantage of the "Fire Smart" assessment program, which is a free service

provided by Halifax Regional Wildfire Mitigation along with Roslyn Duffus speaking on “Plants for the Rock Garden” which promoted a spring visit to the Dal. Agricultural Rock Garden and then with Neville MacKay speaking and entertaining in April -

March Meeting and AGM saw the voting in of four new Executive Members, Pat Durant - Treasurer, Helene Paulus-Thain - Vice President, Jeannine Tremblay - Program Director and Jane Orton - President. Future plans include a Hanging Basket Workshop, with Norwood Gardens of Lake Echo, in early May. Their plan is to welcome children to participate in the workshop to create a Mother's Day gift.

In June - 21 lucky Members have been invited to visit the Rhododendron Gardens on Hall's Road, Halifax, the site inspired by collector Captain Steele, and carried on to this day by residents of Hall's Road, who have kindly agreed to be the guides for their group.

Fall River Garden Club:

In October this Club hosted the District Meeting with Club Members attending from all around the District. They had great speakers to keep the 80+club members in attendance engaged. This is when these various District 4 Club Members were introduced to Kara McCurdy of the HRM Fire and Emergency Wildfire Mitigation and at this point in time a few District 4 Clubs have had her in to speak at their meetings. Important and great information was shared...

Richelle Gregg - Wildlife in Your Garden and also Carter Feltham from Mersey Tobeatic Research presented.

During this time they unveiled the Info Plaque for this stunning Monarch statue by Heavy Metal Heather along with a drone video of the Monarch Statue

This Spring they donated some of the Donated Seed Giveaway to their Club Members; Friends; Schools and Community Gardens.

The first of the year during the Clubs AGM they had a few changes with Sherry Johnson taking the role as the Club secretary, Darel Kilford as Treasurer with Lawrence Spencer remaining as President. They have 47 current registered members.

This year they also had the Placement of Bird and Bat Houses in Jamieson Park

The Club had a Fall River Garden Club Info Booth at the local Craft Sale - Jamieson Park which has a very high attendance. Their Annual Plant Sale will be held on - May 31, and this is a huge money maker for them. Huge !

The Fall River Garden Club will be celebrating their 25th Anniversary Dinner on June 10th

Prospect Garden Club:

This small group of 20+ are maintaining their numbers of members. They continue to meet the 3 week of the month and have had great speakers throughout their year from September to May including both Master Gardeners and in house expertise-They continue to maintain the planter boxes at their local Community Centre and have enjoyed a Daylily Social last summer which was a hit with the members along with taking trips throughout the province as a group -

St. Margaret's Bay Gardening Club:

This Club has just had their Executive Meeting recently with having Gerry Thibeau step down as President and Malcolm Maxwell replace her. He is eager to continue on as strongly as Gerry had done with their Seedy Saturday and money raising projects. They are very supportive of the local seed and gardening companies in their area who support this Club in a big fashion. This Club will be hosting this years District Meeting.

Hammond Plains Area Garden Club:

This Club continues to do a lot with their members in respect to Speakers and Virtual On Line Tours and presentations from people and businesses around the Province. They are involved with the Dahlia Society of Nova Scotia and the Daylily Society.

NSAGC Central District 3 North By-Annual Report to Director.

Club Name: _____

Where we meet (location): _____

When we meet (day of month): _____

Please provide feed back on the following questions. These provide your director guidance to better meet your needs and expectations, and the NSAGC to bring your club greater value and support.

*How many members do you have as of March 2025? _____

*Did membership increase or decrease from the prior year?
_____ and why _____

*Are you actively working to increase membership? _____ How?

*What is your average membership attendance at your meetings? _____

*Do you interact with neighboring clubs and does this offer each of your club's support?

*Do you have an internet presence? _____ What is it? _____

*Does your club participate in a by-annual District meeting? _____
Do you find this important and helpful? _____

*Does your Club value being a part of the NSAGC? _____ Why? _____

*Please inform me, as your director, on how my support has been?

Did I make a visit? _____ Do you want me too? _____

Do I respond to all your inquiries and is it helpful? _____

What would you like to see more from me, like visits, materials, speaker supports, other information? _____

Please be honest so I can learn to better serve your needs. Grade me from 1-10, 10 being the best? _____

*Is the NSAGC Website helpful, easy to navigate, and accurately contain your Clubs information? _____

*Do you value the quarterly Newsletter? _____

Comment on how it can be improved? _____

*What events did you hold, like talks, craft gatherings, gardens you support, plant sale, seed exchanges? _____

*What special highlights that may have occurred the last 6 months was most enjoyable to your membership? _____

*Does your club appreciate the annual NSAGC Convention? _____

How many of your members plan to attend this year's convention?

What comments are of concerns by your members regarding the convention, like travel, costs, speaker interest, lodgings?

*Comment on the plant give away. Do you like the selected plant? _____

Is the cost ok? _____ Does your membership value this offer? _____

What other benefits that the NSAGC should offer, would your club value? _____

*Please state what your garden club brings for your community? _____

*Please comment on if your club is struggling to remain viable, like financial concerns, aging membership and no younger interest, competitor local groups? _____

*Provide any other comments: _____

*Completed by: _____

Contact email and tel#: _____

District 5

Lori Reid

April, 2025

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Respectfully submitted,
Deborah (Debbie) Innes
Treasurer & Co-Secretary
/dji

Valley Gardeners Club Report 2024-2025

Karen Marsh, President

April 2024 – One of the bursary winners from NSCC Kingstec Horticultural program spoke at our April meeting.

May 2024 – Our annual plant sale was held at the New Minas Fire Hall. It was a great success. We had lots of donated plants and "Ask a Master Gardener" table. The presenter at our club meeting spoke about aging with your garden. It was very informative and relative to many of us.

June 2024 – Annual donation to the Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens. Our final speaker before the summer break was about apples and varieties that are great to grow in the valley. We also had 10 members who attended the NSAGC convention in Yarmouth. We enjoyed all of the speakers and garden tours.

Summer break was quiet for the club this year. However, one of members, last year's Outstanding Member, was in touch with the Tiny Meadows Housing project in Kentville. We were able to provide them with various gardening supplies to help with the exterior of the project.

September 2024 – One of our members presented on growing garlic and provided lots of tips on growing and the nutritional benefits. Our new website was officially launched as well as our Facebook site updated. Lots of hard work done by our then president Pat Mora on a very successful project. Two new bursaries were awarded to students of the Horticultural program at NSCC Kingstec.

October 2024 – We had a joint meeting with the Blomidon Naturalist Society. The books selected by the Annapolis Valley Regional Library purchased with our donation were communicated to our club members. The theme was gardening for children and youth.

November 2024 – Our club held its annual AGM. A new president was elected. A club review showed we had had a good fiscal year. A presentation by one of our members was done on her trip to gardens and castles of Scotland and England as well the Netherlands.

December 2024 – The club held a fun Christmas social making holiday swags with natural boughs and greenery, along with donated ornaments.

January 2025 – New programs for the year were presented by our Programming Chair. A chance for the new president to introduce herself and say a few words on the upcoming year. A presentation on winter sowing was done by one of our members.

February 2025 – The club provided a donation to the Annapolis Royal Historical Society for another year. The position of Communication Chair was filled. Guest speaker at our club meeting presented on vermicomposting. Hands on opportunity with worms was enjoyed by our members. The seeds donated to the NSAGC were received.

March 2025 – Our club discussed many great organizations and opportunities for distribution of the donated seeds. Seeds have been given or will be given to at least 6 different community groups and more are expected. The presentation at our meeting was on seed starting. Everyone got a chance to get their hands dirty.

April 2025 – Annual donation to the Annapolis Valley Regional Library as been given but books not selected yet. We did give them a lot of seeds for their seed library.

Zone 6 is comprised of 6 clubs (Chester, Lunenberg, Mahone Bay, Bridgewater, Queen's and Shelburne) and has approximately 300 NSAGC members.

We have not held a Zone meeting for the past two years. Last year it was because of poor registration and the year before it was cancelled due to the weather. I will make a list of the speakers and trips that the clubs have enjoyed as that is of primary interest for all the clubs and something that would have been shared at a Zone Meeting.

Chester and Bridgewater continue to hold a Flower Show every year, and their focus has been to attract new and younger gardeners to the art of Flower arranging. There have been several workshops on Ikebana that were well attended.

All the clubs have plant sales as their major fundraiser. It is a lot of work, but is gratifying as it gives the clubs a public presence in their communities.

The free seeds were a success and the clubs were innovative in how they were distributed. They were shared by the members as well as local community gardens. They were given away for free at different Farmer's Market, and one club even held a seed starting workshop.

Filling the Executive roster has not been a major problem for most clubs; imaginative speakers and day trips attract the most members. Meetings are generally attended by about 50% of members and opening the doors to non-members has been successful. The Christmas activities of wreath, centrepiece making and/or a pot luck dinner together is a great way to nurture fellowship.

Now, if we could find an effective way of dealing with all the deer on the South Shore, then our gardening efforts would be much more fruitful!

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Liot

Western District #7 Report

April 2025

Submitted by Kathryn Davidson, District Director

District 7 includes 8 Garden Clubs. From locations in Bridgetown down through the Valley into Digby Neck and Islands, Clare, Weymouth, Yarmouth and West Pubnico, on the southwest shore.

Most clubs are now just getting back into monthly meetings, as some don't meet over the wintertime.

For 2025, my goal is again to get out to at least one club meeting, per club over the Spring/Summer time.

More clubs now have a Facebook presence. All District 7 clubs have been encouraged to look up and join the Garden Clubs Facebook page so they can continue to know what is going on within the District Clubs and attend any open events each club is hosting. This would include Seedy Saturdays, Plant Sales, Tea Socials, club meetings (if permitted), and any other events a Garden Club may be hosting.

With NSAGC 2024 Convention completed and in the books, our District has quite a lot of money left in our account. The intention is to meet with all Club Presidents sometime in the summer of 2025 to begin plans for a District Rally sometime in early Spring 2026.

Western District 7 Club Updates:

Pubnico Area Garden Club (established 1974) with ~ 17 members.

Increasing membership remains a struggle. They host monthly meetings and also attend Yarmouth GC meetings, when they can.

They host monthly meetings (except January) with various speakers, from the area. This year they have hosted Matthew Roy from Coastal Grove Farms who spoke about growing tea in Nova Scotia.

The club will be conducting a few contests this year, which include:

Pansy contest.. in container of your choice.. judged end in June

Hens and Chicks contest, mixed varieties, to be judged in Sept.

This GC takes pride in beautifying their town and surrounding areas. 2025 will see club members conducting yearly clean up of gardens, pruning existing shrubs and perennials, planting perennial shrubs around the sign at the Pubnico Museum and filling planters with annuals

During the summer months member garden tours are conducted.

Currently, scheduling of fall events and speakers for the monthly meetings, is underway.

Yarmouth Garden Club (“new” version of club established 1992) with ~100 members.

This is the largest club within District 7. They had another successful Spring Photo Contest and work is now underway for the May 15th Annual Plant Sale which is the largest fundraiser for the club.

This year the club will also be hosting a much anticipated Bus Trip which will be held near the end of June and travel to various Nurseries throughout the Valley and along the 101 Hwy.

Yarmouth GC members also maintain garden beds on Hawthorne and Brown Streets. A work party monthly schedule is being worked on, and all members are welcomed to help out, when they can.

Monthly meetings consist of speakers on various topics of interest. All seed packets that were picked up continue to be disbursed to club members. Many hundreds of packets were donated to various groups within Yarmouth – AOK Pantries, Parents Place and Shyft House. The remainder of the seeds will be available to the general public at the upcoming Spring Living Show and the GC Annual Plant Sale.

Work is underway on a Legacy Project for Yarmouth – to be donated by the GC. This may be installation of a Welcome sign with garden, or metal artwork surrounded by a garden.

Kathryn Davidson is the new President as of January 2025.

Rooted in Clare Garden Club (established in 2016) with ~25 members- is a very active club with new members joining within the last year.

The Club is raring to get dirty. After winter meetings about House Plant Care, The Ergonomics of Gardening, sharing 100's of seed packages with instructions to our members, Clare Share Fridge and Pantries, Clare Food Bank, our schools, Inclusion Clare and our seniors homes they are ready for it.

The GC has made room for 5 more large raised beds at the Clare Community Gardens (CIFA building) which will be ready soon to plant more potatoes, onions, cabbages along with their usual vegetable collection to be given/shared with local people in need.

At the end of their 2025 season, they will be hosting a bus tour for members, going to some of the not so local nurseries/greenhouses.

Weymouth Garden Club (established in 1974) with ~ 27 members – small club with aging members. They find it difficult to attract new members to the club and do not meet normally during the winter.

There is no change to the executive.

2025 will see club members continue to work on their Club cookbook, organize a Tea social for sometime in June or July, host a plant sale for Mother's Day and set

up a “Committee of Fun” who will be responsible to plant activities and events to make Garden Clubbing more fun and enjoyable and hopefully attract new members.

Digby Neck and Islands Garden Club (established in 2021) with ~25 members

This is an active and “slowly growing” Garden Club.

Karen Smith is back in the role of President.

The club meets monthly and will be very busy in the spring of 2025. From hosting a Seedy Sunday event, to a paint workshop and how to plant a hanging basket workshop and in May the annual Community Garden clean-up which will showcase how and what to plant and how to mulch and care for newly formed gardens.

During the summertime they host a number of events for their members and also some events for the community. They are promoting the Convention and also in June host a plant sale and potluck. A couple of field trips are planned for members, throughout the summer, potlucks and fresh produce donations to those in need, within the community round out events conducted/hosted by this very busy GC.

Champlain Garden Club (established in 1956) with ~35 members - many members are summertime members, as they live elsewhere for most of the year.

The club hosts multiple Seedy Saturdays throughout the season and have already attracted 6 new members, as a result.

Meetings are held from March through November.

The club is very active in maintaining many community gardens and have just finished installed another 2 gardens. They also help with garden maintenance at the local Nursing Home, Medical Centre and the Post Office.

Clements Garden Club (established in 1987) with ~32 members

This club meets from April until December each year at Felker Hall, in Cornwallis. Their membership includes members from Annapolis to Digby.

They hold a Plant Sale each year as the main fundraiser. The sale, along with their Facebook page has helped to increase/maintain membership.

They had a variety of interesting presenters in 2024, at their meetings, including Bob Howard - Introduction to Hydrangeas, Hughstin Grimshaw-Surette, M SC, Invasive Species, and Seed Saving Workshop.

A few members are planning to attend the Convention in June 2025 in Antigonish.

They are getting back to supporting their local community with a few projects in the works. Veterans' Park, Cornwallis Park, beautification and supporting a Garden Club at Clarke Rutherford School.

The Club is currently in the process of finalizing their programs for 2025. It will be a mix of presentations at the hall along with day trips to such places as Brier Island.

They have their Facebook page up and running now and will be using that more effectively. The club is also in the process of creating their own website.

Bridgetown Garden Club (established in 1935) with ~40 members - this is an active Garden Club with a steady and constant membership. They conduct presentations at their meetings, with upcoming presentations including: "Grow Me Instead" - Invasive species council, Planting Garlic, Member slideshow "My Garden 2025" and Winter Sowing.

They also will be conducting some workshops, with topics including mini hoop tunnels and garden journaling.

Bridgetown GC is quite active in their community also. They have their Annual Plant swap & sale coming up, and Canada Day at Jubilee Park (usually a planting activities for kids).

Their 26th Annual tea party will also be getting underway this year.

To round out GC events, they will be conducting several garden tours, a Garlic Festival road trip and their December potluck & craft night.

Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs

Facebook Groups Report

April 26, 2025

The Association's Facebook group continues to be a valuable resource for the NSAGC, Clubs and group members. In general most posts are in accordance with our guidelines. However, since the last report (September 2024) we have had one notable incident where the NSACG Executive were notified. This involved a FB group member who made racial comments. The person was removed from the group and banned. There were no repercussions from this.

We are continuing to experience slow membership growth. Membership presently stands at 16071.

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 71 members and has had limited traffic.

The Administrator and Moderators have had lengthy discussions in the last few weeks concerning the increase in group members posting sales in the news feed, the use of AI (artificial intelligence) posts and how to limit/prohibit posts citing invasive species. This last being based on the proposal going before the Board at the April 26, 2025 meeting.

The results of these discussions are a proposal to update the Facebook Policy and Guidelines. The draft document is included in the meeting package.

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:

Approve revisions to the FB Policy and Guidelines.
Consider an insurance rider for social media.

Respectfully submitted

Deb Bowes-Lyon
Facebook Group Co-Administrator

Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs Social Media Policies Facebook Group

Revisions in red font

FACEBOOK GROUP POLICY

Purpose of Facebook Group

The purpose of the Facebook group is to provide a forum for the NSAGC to connect with its Clubs and attract new Garden Club members.

- Membership in the group is open to the public.
- The Facebook group will be monitored on a regular basis for content appropriateness.
- Guidelines are to be adhered to.
- Violation of guidelines will result in the removal of content, removing or blocking users.
- Members are not permitted to 'Go Live' in the group without advanced permission from the administrators.
- Chats are not allowed within the group (redundant and difficult to manage).
- Sub-groups requesting to use the NSAGC name must request written permission from a Group Administrator (via private message or email) and must agree to note in their group description that they are not administered by the main group. We reserve the right to revoke use of our name at any time. A list of sub-groups can be found here: Link and list TBD.

Group Management – Administrator & Moderators

- The group shall have a minimum of three administrators at any one time, one of which shall be a Board member.
- Facebook group administrators shall be members in good standing of an NSAGC Club.
- Administrators shall be approved by the Board Executive.
- The group should have at least **three** moderators.
- Facebook group moderators should be members in good standing of an NSAGC Club.
- Moderators may be appointed by administrators.
- Administrators and moderators are expected to be active and enforce rules fairly and consistently.
- Administrators and moderators are expected to take advantage of opportunities to recruit new Club members by responding to relevant posts in a positive manner. For example, commenting on posts concerning how to join a club or how to create a new club.

- The administrators shall report to the Board semi-annually. The report shall include notable events such as removing members from the Facebook page, troublesome member posts, relevant analytics, and recommendations. **Events should also be reported and/or discussed on an ongoing basis through the “NSAGC CHAT GROUP”. Any significant events shall be reported post haste to the current NSAGC Chairperson or Vice Chair Person.**

GUIDANCE FOR FACEBOOK GROUP ADMINISTRATORS AND MODERATORS

Membership applications and monitoring posts

- Administrators and moderators have the discretion to accept or reject any membership application.
- Administrators and moderators have the discretion to delete any post contravening Group Guidelines.
- For the purposes of these guidelines, local means Canada and the Northeastern United States.

Membership Application

- Membership is limited to individuals. Pages with multiple managers are not permitted.
- Membership applications shall be screened to prevent spammers from joining the group. Consider the following when reviewing applications:
 - Screening Questions Answered Correctly?
 - Make sure the answers to the screening questions are relevant.
 - Spammers may answer all questions with statements like “yes please” or “yes administrator.”
 - Decline anyone who has not given reasonable answers.
- Membership Applicants who do not answer all three questions can be deleted after 24 hours.
- Administrators and Moderators may review the applicant’s profile to help determine if the applicant is legitimate and local.
For example, if not all questions are answered.
- Applicants can be declined with feedback – ie “Questions not answered” checked and the comment, “please answer questions.”

Reviewing the Profile

- **Suggested items to review:**
 - What is the date they joined FB? A very recent date could be a sign of a spammer.
 - Are they a member of local FB groups?

- Do they work at local location?
- Do they have friends in the group?
- Do they have garden related posts?
- Please note legitimate accounts are hacked on a regular basic and AI is being used to generate answers.
- **Monitoring Content**
 - Content that is not in accordance with the guidelines or that cannot be monitored shall be deleted.
 - Posts reported by members shall be reviewed for compliance with Group Guidelines.
 - Posts with foreign language video are allowed if the video content is clearly in accordance with Group Guidelines.
- **Promotional Posts**
 - Administrators and moderators have the discretion to delete any post they feel is not in accordance with promotional guidelines. For example, members who signed up in their own name but make posts with their business account link.
 - Members making promotional posts outside of the rules shall be put on post approval.

FACEBOOK ABOUT (GUIDELINES) & RULES

(About with the Guidelines and Rules go under the appropriate sections on the FB group. The length of text is limited based on Facebooks specifications. The Rules/Guidelines reflect each other – the Guidelines under About were created prior to the rules being added and were left in place – technically they are redundant but if it means people read them or vice versa so much the better).

ABOUT

The Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs (NSAGC) is **registered Not-for-Profit organization** made up of Garden Clubs, Horticultural Societies, and Specialty Plant Societies from across the province. The NSAGC is the coordinating body for these groups and is the united voice when petitioning government and other organizations. The purpose of this Facebook Group is to provide a place for gardeners and those interested in gardening to come together to share information, insights, tips, questions, and excitement. Additionally, this Facebook group is to provide a forum for the NSAGC to connect with its Clubs and attract new Garden Club members. You do not have to be a member of a Club to join this Facebook Group but we encourage you to consider the benefits of joining a Garden Club. New members are always welcome!

www.nsagc.com

The NSAGC supports the Nova Scotia Invasive Species Council (NSISC) aim to raise awareness and promote coordinated response to the threat of invasive species in Nova Scotia. Please see FILE on INVASIVE SPECIES or visit www.nsagc.com

The NSAGC encourages all gardeners to limit the threat - via dispersal, sale, sharing, propagation, promotion, movement, irresponsible disposal - of invasive species. Posts promoting invasive species will be removed.

CONTACT

You can message the administrators of our group by clicking on the "Members" tab at the top of this page.

GUIDELINES

Guidelines are subject to change so please re-read them from time to time to keep our group's rules and practices in your mind. Disregarding guidelines is grounds for immediate removal from the group. This group is for the sharing of knowledge and the love of gardening. Please keep posts and conversations respectful.

PROMOTIONS: (1) NSAGC Clubs or affiliates can promote activities, plant sales, club events and any event or functions of the NSAGC. (2) All others can, under the FEATURED Monthly Promotional Post, promote Nova Scotia based gardening related business, no more frequently than once every thirty days. We do not allow advertising in the news feed. Direct selling is not allowed.

Only Administrators/Moderators may upload files. If you have a resource you think may be of value to the group, contact an Administrator/Moderator so we can review and upload it. Informative garden content links are welcome.

DO NOT verbally attack or shame the author of a post/comment. If your post/comment is seen as offensive, bullying, cannot be monitored, or is otherwise inappropriate, it will be deleted, with or without explanation. Members may or may not receive warnings before being removed and blocked from the group.

PLEASE DO report rule-breaking. If you see a post/comment that violates our rules, please report it to the administrators.

PLEASE DO remember admins/mods are volunteers and will respond as quickly as possible to reports, issues/conflicts etc.

PLEASE DO use the search option. To avoid cluttering the group, please search the feed before asking a question. Someone might have already asked the same thing before.

DO NOT make posts about the following: politics, religion or prayer requests; rants, memes, cartoons, or posts unrelated to gardening; surveys, job postings; requests for charities and charitable funding/support of any kind; any content determined to be inappropriate, in poor taste, or otherwise contrary to the purposes of the forum.

PLEASE DO respect the copyright and intellectual property rights of individuals' text, photographs and other media.

DO NOT post material owned to someone else unless you have express permission to use it and that you give credit to the owner.

DO NOT post artificial intelligence (AI) generated media or constantly post memes/GIFs. Doing so will result in being placed on post approval, post removal and potentially blocking.

RULES

1.PURPOSE

The Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs (NSAGC) is an organization made up of Garden Clubs, Horticultural Societies, and Specialty Plant Societies from across the province. The NSAGC is the coordinating body for these groups and is the united voice when petitioning government and other organizations. The purpose of this Facebook Group is to provide a place for gardeners and those interested in gardening to come together to share information, insights, tips, questions, and excitement.

1.(A) INVASIVE SPECIES

The NSAGC supports the Nova Scotia Invasive Species Council (NSISC) aim to raise awareness and promote a coordinated response to the threat of invasive species in Nova Scotia. Please see FILE on INVASIVE SPECIES or visit www.nsagc.com

2.BE RESPECTFUL

This group is for the sharing of knowledge and the love of gardening. Please keep posts and conversations respectful. Content determined to be inappropriate, in poor taste, or otherwise contrary to the purposes of the forum will be removed. If your post/comment is seen as offensive, bullying, cannot be monitored or is otherwise inappropriate, it will be deleted, with or without explanation. Members may or may not receive warnings before being removed and blocked from the group.

3.PROMOTIONS

(1) NSAGC Clubs or affiliates can promote activities, plant sales, club events and any events or functions of the NSAGC. (2) All others can, under the FEATURED Monthly Promotional Post, promote Nova Scotia based gardening related business, no more frequently than once every thirty days. We do not allow advertising in the news feed. Direct selling is not allowed.

4.SEARCH

Use the search option. To avoid cluttering the group, please search the feed before asking a question. Someone might have already asked the same thing before. See FEATURED at the top of the News Feed for resources and info, also FILES for a list of NS nurseries, garden centres, vendors, suppliers. www.nsagc.com has an interactive list as well.

5.DON'TS

Please do not make posts about the following: politics, religion or prayer requests; Rants, memes, **cartoons**, or posts unrelated to gardening; surveys, job postings; Requests for charities and charitable funding/support of any kind; respect the copyright and intellectual property rights of individuals' text, photographs and other media. Do not post material belonging to someone else unless you have express permission to use it and that you give credit to the owner.

6.DO REPORT RULE BREAKERS

Revision 04_26 Final Draft

Report rule-breaking. If you see a post/comment that violates our rules, please report it to the administrators - DO NOT verbally attack or shame the author of a post/comment. You can use the three buttons at the top right of the post or message an Admin/Moderator.

7.LET US KNOW

Only Administrators/Moderators may upload files. If you have a resource, you think may be of value to the group, contact an Administrator/Moderator so we can review and upload it. **Posting informative garden content links are welcome in the News Feed.**

Membership Coordinator's Report Spring, 2025

- Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs has 55 individual clubs.
- Two new clubs started this year. Petals Society Garden Club in District 5 and Coal Coast Garden Club in District 1.
- 5 of the 55 clubs are affiliate clubs.
- Total membership for the 2025 year is 1888 up 108 members from the 2024.
- This was my first year as Membership Coordinator.
- Memberships have to be renewed by the end of February each year. I sent out the first reminder with the Membership Renewal Letter and the Membership Renewal Form in late 2024, another reminder with letter and form the first week of January, another reminder the first week of February with letter and form, another reminder the middle of February and the last reminder the beginning of the last week of February. These reminders were sent to the Directors. Still there were three clubs who were late sending in their membership renewals.
- More than half of the clubs paid their membership by E-Transfer the other clubs paid their membership by cheque.
- I would like to have access to the bank account so that I could deposit cheques that I receive without having to resend them to Susan for deposit.
- I suggest a line be added to the Membership Renewal Form that says "Please check off Method of Payment, Cheque or E-Transfer." I believe this would make it easier to keep track of their method of payment for my benefit.
- I would like to suggest that all clubs have their Annual General Meetings before the end of that current year as this would make

it a lot easier for the secretary to get all of the contact information for the clubs correct for the upcoming year as reported on the Membership Renewal Form and not having to keep changing the information in the hand book as the clubs have their AGMs.

- I would like to have a little time at the convention to talk about membership renewal to a larger audience than just the Directors. Maybe if I speak to the convention goes as a whole the message will get across that clubs cannot wait until the last week in February to send in their membership renewals. I have to receive those renewals before the last week in February.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Hill, Membership Coordinator

Photo Contest Report – April 26, 2025 Board Meeting

Sharon Bryson

The 2025 Photo Contest is in progress.

There was a small change to the Rules and Classes to include clarification on the size of submitted images. The judges commented that there were many images too small and therefore of poor quality.

Submissions in 2025 have been slow with the seemingly “typical” last minute submissions.

The exposure via the Scotia Gardener did not happen early this time, but hopefully that new exposure in the April Scotia Gardener will be beneficial.

Exposure on the NSAGC Facebook page was done in a regular fashion. Reminders were also sent to District Directors to be forwarded to their clubs. I can only hope there was good distribution.

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

All entries will be organized on the NSAGC Google Documents site to be easily shared with the judges. Those files are also available for NSAGC website purposes.

Bernice MacDonald and Anne Louise MacDonald are the judges for 2025.

The slideshow of the Contest will be prepared, forwarded and used at the 2025 Convention. The winners will be announced at the 2025 Convention. Actual awards will likely be mailed to the three overall winners. Chances of their attendance at Convention is slim.

The images will be displayed on the NSAGC website after the contest ends.

Treasurer's Report For April 2025 Board Meeting

Financial Statements Audit

Audits of the financial statements were performed by Geoff MacDonald and Melissa Weir. They were provided with the Balance Sheet, P&L Statement, budget, cheque register, expense claims, assessment forms, Tags & Seals register, screen shot of March 31 bank balances and Quicken transaction lists (by date and category). The deposit register has been provided in the past but was not used this year since all deposits were done through the RBC App. The audit went very well.

Financial Statements Notes

1. The Balance Sheet shows that we are in a very healthy financial position this year.
2. The spreadsheet from the Plant Giveaway Chairs was very much appreciated. It allowed for a quick reconciliation between the sales and the bank account entries.
3. The 2024 September Zoom meeting was very productive once again, and I recommend that this be made the norm going forward for that meeting, unless we absolutely must meet in person. I think we should continue to meet in person in April because it is when we get ready for the AGM and plan for the upcoming year.
4. We will be having an Executive planning session before the September Board meeting that will likely be held in person. However, the meetings that result should be held via Zoom, if possible.
5. The cost of the personal Zoom account used for the meetings was expensed to the Meeting Expenses.

Budget Notes

1. The budget is in-line with last year's predications.
2. If we agree that spending will continue as it has, we could consider funding a small project this year.

Tags & Seals

There were no orders for Tags & Seals in 2024/2025.

Membership

The Membership Coordinator position was very successful. Many thanks to Liz for quickly taking on the responsibilities of this role. She asked Melissa to update the Club Contacts list in the Board Handbook, so we were a team of 3. We made some changes to the processes along the way and now have a streamlined "system".

Melissa has created a Googles Doc to replace the individuals spreadsheets that we used to monitor the status of the renewals. We tested it and agreed that we will use it going forward so that we are all working off one list showing who has paid, number of members, etc. This will make monitoring and reporting easier for the team.

We welcomed the Petal Society to District 5 and the Coal Coast Garden Club to District 1, bringing our totals to 55 clubs and 1,888 members.

Submitted by Susan Hazelwood

Balance Sheet
Year end 2024 - 2025

	2024/2025	2023/2024	2024/2025 Notes
ASSETS			
Bank Accounts			
Chequing	10412.27	9128.06	
Savings	12241.72	7834.36	
TOTAL Bank Accounts	22653.99	16962.42	
Other Assets			
Convention Loan Due from Host District	1000.00	2000.00	
Tags & Seals Inventory	672.70	672.70	Note 1
TOTAL Other Assets	1672.70	2672.70	
TOTAL ASSETS	24326.69	19635.12	
LIABILITIES & EQUITY			
LIABILITIES			
Dues - Affiliates	0.00	0.00	
Dues - Garden Clubs	0.00	0.00	
TOTAL LIABILITIES	0.00	0.00	
EQUITY	24326.69	19635.12	
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	24326.69	19635.12	

Note 1 No Tags and Seals sales in 2024/2025

Profit & Loss Statement

Year End 2024-2025

INCOME	2024/2025	2023/2024	Notes
Income from Sales			
Newsletter Advertising	200.00	100.00	
Sales of Surplus Plants	2664.00	4648.00	Note 1
Sales of Tags & Seals	0.00	58.00	
TOTAL Income from Sales	2864.00	4806.00	
Income from Other Sources			
Affiliated Garden Clubs Dues	300.00	150.00	
Garden Clubs Dues	9440.00	8970.00	
Interest	178.21	181.70	
Donation	10.00	0.00	
TOTAL Income from Other Sources	9928.21	9301.70	
TOTAL INCOME	12792.21	14107.70	
EXPENSES			
General Expenses			
Awards	75.00	150.00	
Newsletter	0.00	0.00	
Photo Contest	262.00	175.00	
Plant Giveaway	3127.35	3907.06	
TOTAL General Expenses	3464.35	4232.06	
Meeting Expenses			
Board Meetings	857.04	1201.42	
Board Members	1052.99	744.02	
TOTAL Meeting Expenses	1910.03	1945.44	Note 2
Operating Expenses			
Bank Fees	108.12	86.10	
Incidentals (postal, printing, etc.)	82.66	149.28	
Insurance	1392.00	2709.00	Note 3
Joint Stocks Membership	31.15	31.15	
Web Site	1112.33	1133.64	
TOTAL Operating Expenses	2726.26	4109.17	
TOTAL Expenses	8100.64	10286.67	
OVERALL TOTAL	4691.57	3821.03	

Note 1 Includes April 2024 and up to March 31, 2025

Note 2 September Board meeting and planning committee meetings were held via Zoom

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

Budget 2025/2026

	2025/2026 Budget	2024/2025 Actuals	2025/2026 Notes
INCOME			
Income from Sales			
Newsletter Advertising	200.00	200.00	
Sales of Surplus Plants	2600.00	2664.00	Note 1
Sales of Tags & Seals	100.00	0.00	
TOTAL Income from Sales	2900.00	2864.00	
Income from Other Sources			
Affiliated Garden Clubs Dues	250.00	300.00	
Garden Clubs Dues	9500.00	9440.00	
Interest	180.00	178.21	
Donation	0.00	10.00	
TOTAL Income from Other Sources	9930.00	9928.21	
TOTAL INCOME	12830.00	12792.21	
EXPENSES			
General Expenses			
Awards	125.00	75.00	
Newsletter	0.00	0.00	
Photo Contest	265.00	262.00	
Plant Giveaway	3200.00	3127.35	
TOTAL General Expenses	3590.00	3464.35	
Meeting Expenses			
Board Meetings	900.00	857.04	
Board Members	1100.00	1052.99	
TOTAL Meeting Expenses	2000.00	1910.03	Note 2
Operating Expenses			
Bank Fees	110.00	108.12	
Incidentals (postal, printing, etc.)	100.00	82.66	
Insurance	1400.00	1392.00	
Joint Stocks Membership	31.15	31.15	
Web Site	1150.00	1112.33	
TOTAL Operating Expenses	2791.15	2726.26	
TOTAL Expenses	8381.15	8100.64	
OVERALL TOTAL	4448.85	4691.57	

Note 1 Includes April 2024 and up to March 31, 2025

Note 2 Assume September Board meeting and planning committee meetings are held via Zoc

NSAGC.COM Web Site Report For April Board Meeting

The web site remains stable and used.

The following updates have been made to the site since September 2024.

- Added the Spring 2025 Scotia Gardener.
- Added Convention documents under Save the Date and Documents & Forms.
- 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. I am also adding other garden related events to the site, such as the Rhodo convention.
- Updated the Insurance Coverage form.
- Added the 2025 Plant Giveaway PDF and online forms.
- Added new resources under Gardening Related Resources.

I was away for most of March so likely missed many events for the calendar. Please encourage your clubs to send them along to me directly or through the Contact us page. There are members who are interested!

I continue to check the emails from the Contact Us page every 2 days (even when I am away as long as I have internet access). From September 2024 to March 31, 2025 there were emails almost every second day with requests on a wide variety of topics.

Submitted by Susan Hazelwood

**Plant Giveaway Committee Report - Updated
April 26, 2025 NSAGC Board of Directors Meeting**

At the September 2024 NSAGC board meeting, it was decided to select the Coreopsis "Solanna™ Sunset Bright" 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 2,808 total plants, with 2700 guaranteed. The total estimated cost of the order would be approximately \$3,200, 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, we will be providing all District Directors aftercare instructions to share with their clubs.

After the meeting was complete, Geoff MacDonald placed the order for 2700 plants with our supplier, Jolly Farmer in Northampton, New Brunswick. An invoice in the amount of \$3,127.35 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 Janet Patterson's home where we will sort out all orders by district and prepare them for delivery to the April board meeting in Truro.

In March 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 Membership Coordinator sent us a list of total membership for 2025, which was 1888 members. With a total of 2808 plants available, this left 920 plants available for sale. The sale itself was officially launched on March 16th. Sales started off very strong with the majority of sales coming through online either by e-mail or the online order form. Only one order came through the mail. Interac transfer was also a popular method of payment with about 85% of orders being paid using this method. One challenge with orders this year was the fact that a couple of clubs did not provide full information in their order such as using initials instead of their club name and one club sent an e-transfer without an order or any other identifying information making it difficult to match payments with orders.

Plants were officially sold out on April 10, 2025. At sellout, we asked the NSAGC Web Content Manager to update the website to confirm sales were now closed, we also updated the PDF order form to indicate this. When the plants were received on April 22, 2025, the total number shipped was 2754, not 2808 as expected. This is because they were shipped in liner flats (from cuttings) of 50 plus 1 extra (51) versus plug flats (from seed) of 25 plus 1 extra (26). This meant that the final order received was not able to be filled, and the second last order was partially filled with the plants available. The clubs that were affected were notified of this before the plants were distributed to the Directors. The sellout of the 866 available extra plants generated revenue of \$2,598.00 against an expense of \$3,127.35 which results in an overall cost to the association of \$529.35. We 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 our role and costs for the association.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Rose and Janet Patterson, Co-Chairs, Plant Giveaway Committee

NSAGC Annual Audit Procedures

Each year the Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs (NSAGC) Board of Directors will appoint two auditors to review financial documents for the previous fiscal year so that the Treasurer may finalize annual financial statements.

At the September semi-annual board meeting, the Board will decide on two auditors, one of the two auditors should have taken part in the previous year's audit to ensure continuity. The Treasurer and Chair should not be selected as an auditor and no more than one auditor should come from the remaining executive members. If more than two members are interested, the Board will conduct a vote on who they wish to appoint and those with the first and second highest number of votes will be appointed the auditors.

In February/March of each year, the Treasurer will contact the auditors to determine an appropriate date to conduct the audit after the March 31st fiscal year end.

On the date of the audit, the auditors will meet with the Treasurer at an agreed on in-person location to review the financial documents. The Treasurer will have the following documents ready for the auditors to review:

- Completed financial statements including the income statement (Profit & Loss Statement) and Balance Sheet for the current year being audited and previous fiscal year
- The Budget for the upcoming fiscal year
- Reconciled monthly bank statements
- Transactions by Date report
- Transactions by Category report
- Expense claims for the year
- Assessment forms and list of clubs' fees paid
- Cheque register
- Deposit register
- Screen shot of bank balances from the bank account at March 31st
- Awards and Photo Contest winners lists
- Plant Giveaway spreadsheet for the current year being audited and previous fiscal year
- Registry of Joint Stocks letter for signatures from the auditors

To ensure the independence of the audit process, the Treasurer should not be in the same room or within listening distance of the auditors while they conduct their work.

One auditor should be assigned to record questions that come up as the audit takes place. These questions will be presented to the Treasurer at the conclusion of the audit.

The auditors should complete the following tasks as part of their review:

- Verify the mathematical accuracy of the totals on the Profit & Loss Statement, Balance Sheet and Budget.
- Cross reference that the totals on the Transactions by Category listing totals match up with the totals reported on the Profit & Loss Statement.
- Verify on the Balance Sheet that Total Assets equal Total Liabilities & Equity.
- Verify that the bank totals at March 31st match up with the bank account totals reported on the Balance Sheet.

NSAGC Annual Audit Procedures

- Verify that any other assets reported on the Balance Sheet match up with any applicable backup (for example Tags & Seals Inventory).
- Review any notes the Treasurer has made on the financial statements, as these may answer some questions you may have further along in the process.
- Review and compare the year over year comparison on the Profit & Loss Statement and the Balance Sheet and highlight any areas where there is a significant variance year over year so you can ask the Treasurer (for example a significant decrease in revenue year over year).
- Review each category of income and expenses in the Transactions by Category listing, if there are any unusual amounts, such as very large or small amounts, flag those to review with the Treasurer.
- Testing should be completed in the areas below – selection of the test samples should be equally chosen by each auditor. Amounts tested should match up in all areas and where they do not, they should be questioned:
 - o Pull four samples from the list of Sales of Surplus Plants on the Transactions by Category report. Trace those sales to the Plant Giveaway Spreadsheet, then trace the deposit to the bank account by checking the bank statement.
 - o Pull four samples from the list of Garden Club Dues on the Transactions by Category report and trace them back to the Garden Club Assessment forms, verify the forms are mathematically correct, then trace the deposit to the bank account by checking the bank statement.
 - o Review the list of Awards and Photo Contest Winners and verify that it matches the totals provided in the Transactions by Category report. Select two payments and trace those payments back to the bank statement.
 - o Pull the Plant Giveaway invoice and verify that it matches with the amount reported in the Transactions by Category report. Trace the payment for the invoice from the bank account by checking the bank statement.
 - o Select three samples from Board Meetings and Board Members expenses each. Review the expense claim to confirm an appropriate receipt is attached and that the numbers calculated are mathematically correct. Trace the payments back to the bank account by checking the bank statement.
 - o Pull the insurance invoice, verify it matches what is reported on the Transactions by Category report, then trace the payment from the bank account by checking the bank statement.
 - o Pull the website expense invoice, verify it matches what is reported on the Transactions by Category report, then trace the payment from the bank account by checking the bank.
- Review the Budget for the next year and check for any significant variances in amounts for the budget compared to the actuals for the previous year. Question any significant variances with the Treasurer. The total of the Actuals on the Budget should match the Overall total for the year on the Profit & Loss Statement.
- The auditors are encouraged to check any other areas not mentioned, particularly if they notice any inconsistent amounts that may require further clarification.

At the conclusion of the audit, the auditors will invite the Treasurer to return to the room and will review their questions with them. If all questions are answered to the satisfaction of both auditors, the two auditors will sign off on the Registry of Joint Stocks letter certifying that they have carried out their audit on the financial statements and are satisfied with the result. If there are outstanding questions, the auditor will follow up and report back the responses to the auditors via e-mail.