



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**

**April 25, 2026; 10 AM**

**NSCC, Truro Campus; 36 Arthur St, Truro**

Item	Notes
<p><b>Meeting called to order at 10 am</b></p> <p><b>Regrets:</b></p> <p><b>In attendance:</b></p> <p><b>Review Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting, September 26-27, 2025</b></p>	<p>Beate Acker, Deb Bowes-Lyon, Debbie Innes, Dale Kelly</p> <p>Geoff MacDonald, Susan Hazelwood, Lori Reid, Chuck Boyd, Bill Mercier, Glynis Thomas, Liz Hill, Janet Rose, Janet Patterson, Kathryn Davidson, Emily Liot, Sharon Bryson, Brenda Graser, Pamela MacLean</p> <p>Approved as distributed.</p>
<p><b>Old Business</b></p> <p><b>a. NSAGC District Director Training</b></p> <p><b>b. NSAGC Secretary Position</b></p> <p><b>c. Convention 2026 Update</b></p>	<p>a. Geoff provided an overview of last years seminar.</p> <p>b. Melissa has stepped aside and the Executive will assume the secretarial duties. Pat Mora will take over as Secretary after AGM in June.</p> <p>c. Glynis reported that all plans are coming together, 189 registered for Convention with 169 planning to attend the banquet. Still looking for sponsors, vendors and door prizes. Still time to register for the Floral competition.</p>
<p><b>New Business</b></p> <p><b>a. Strategic Plan Update</b></p>	<p>a. Geoff provided overview of progress of strategic plan.</p> <p>1. Board and Presidents Handbook Committee is updating and organizing these into a more cohesive and user-friendly format. If Club Presidents would like anything added, contact their District Director who will forward to Deb.</p> <p>2. Continue Growing Membership Geoff has created a poster which is able to be customized for each club. Subcommittee for more ideas (Chuck, Kathryn).</p> <p>3. Grow List of Garden Centre Discounts The committee will be contacting garden centers throughout the summer to either ask for increase in discount offered or</p>

	<p>ask if they would be interested in offering a discount to NSAGC members.</p> <p>4. Outstanding Flower Show judging needs – We have 21 flower show judges at present which is sufficient for the 8 clubs that host shows. Susan will send out the NSAGC Flower Show Handbook to District Directors.</p> <p>Survey – Geoff has created a survey and will be sent out to clubs (not club members) within a couple of weeks. Susan will do summary and create action list. There will be 2 \$50 drawn for from clubs replying.</p> <p><b>b. Mileage Rate Calculation</b> b. Mileage rate is 10% of current days gas price. Discussed switching to a rate, set annually on April 1, re-evaluated if a spike over \$1.80. Susan made motion to come up with a rate/km for the 2027 fiscal year. All in favour. Motion carried.</p> <p><b>c. CRA and Registry of Joint Stocks</b> c. We have a NS Registry of Joint Stocks number available for clubs to use when applying for grants. NSAGC does not have a CRA number, if grant requires that number, you cannot apply. Susan was in contact with both Registry of Joint Stocks and CRA, neither care what clubs have in their bank accounts. NSAGC financial information does get reported to Reg of Joint Stocks.</p> <p><b>d. Name Tags</b> d. Geoff will design nametags for Board members, Lori will print.</p> <p><b>e. Club Reports and Deadlines</b> e. Twice per year club reports are sent to District Director, which are forwarded to Secretary along with their summary report. Pamela stated there is no need to send this information to her as she is able to get them from the minutes. Lori informed Board of a “Cheat Sheet” that was created for District 5 with Dale. Interest shown by District Directors and will be sent out.</p> <p><b>f. Plant Giveaway Committee</b> f. Janet and Janet have informed Geoff they will be stepping down from their duties and request replacements be found.</p> <p><b>g. Insurance Policy</b> g. Susan reported that she has been contacted by the insurance broker requesting information and changing guidelines. Instead of clubs sending request for event policy certificate, they require all requests to go through Susan to them. Susan, Geoff and Chuck have formed a committee to look into insurance companies and what they could provide us with.</p>
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**Reports Highlights**

**a. Treasurer**

**b. Web Content Manager**

**c. Newsletter**

**d. Facebook**

**e. Plant Giveaway**

**f. Photo Contest**

**g. Historian**

**h. Nominations**

**i. Membership Coordinator**

**j. District Directors**

- **D1 Glynis**

- **D2 Chuck**

**a.** Attached

**b.** Susan suggested that we should be asking for President's permission to include their phone number on the Garden Clubs Map. We will add "what is the best way to contact your club" to the membership renewal form. Susan will include the web site traffic stats on the Web manager report from now on. Susan thanked everyone for the input from their clubs on the Contact List, Map and Calendar. Changes will be made in the next week. The Contact List will be sent to the District Directors for distribution to the clubs so that they can contact one another.

**c.** No report

**d.** Why does East Coast Gardening, a non-member gardening group, have more members than NSAGC? Pamela responded that we are strict in who we allow to post. We might need to update our page's restrictions. What are we trying to accomplish with our Facebook page? It is educational, limited to the Maritime provinces and informational. We no longer allow sales each month because that was not being used. Can we put the FB pages of the clubs on our page? Not easily and we use the Calendar to share their FB pages. We want to encourage clubs to post events, etc. and also submit them for posting on the Web Site Calendar. A suggestion is to have training sessions on Facebook, Web on the Friday afternoon of the convention. Could start this in 2027.

**e.** Highlights are in report and previous discussion

**f.** As per report

**g.** As per report

**h.** No report

**i.** Report attached. Liz moved that the cut-off date for membership renewals be changed from February 28 to February 14. Susan seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

**D1.** No report. Working with 2 new clubs and 2 potential new clubs.

**D2.** As per report.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>D3N Beate</b></li> <li>• <b>D3S Brenda</b></li> <li>• <b>D4 Bill</b></li> <li>• <b>D5 Dale</b></li> <li>• <b>D6 Emily</b></li> <li>• <b>D7 Kathryn</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Motion made to accept all reports made by Glynis, Kathryn seconded. All in Favor. Motion carried.</b></p>	<p><b>D3N.</b> As per report.</p> <p><b>D3S.</b> As per report. 5 members have passed away. Committee is working on speaker list. Great Fall Rally.</p> <p><b>D4.</b> clubs doing well. Lost 2 clubs – Hammonds Plains (wanted D&amp;O insurance which was too expensive for NSAGC to provide) and Bedford (couldn't get anyone to work on the Executive).</p> <p><b>D5.</b> No report</p> <p><b>D6.</b> Clubs looking at developing programs to alleviate food insecurity. It was suggested that they contact the Sea Spray Gardening Initiative who are doing the same thing on the Eastern Shore. Clubs are deciding what to do with their money.</p> <p><b>D7.</b> As per report.</p>
<p><b>Next Meeting</b></p>	<p>via Zoom – September 25, 6:00 PM and September 26, 10:00 AM.</p>
<p><b>Adjournment</b></p>	<p>Meeting adjourned at 2:55 PM</p>
<p><b>Action Items</b></p>	

## **Treasurer's Report For April 2026 Board Meeting**

### **Financial Statements Audit**

The Audit has not yet been done. Due to the schedules of myself, Pamela and Deb as well as the weather, we have had to postpone it until May 15. It will be completed before the AGM.

### **Financial Statements Notes**

1. The Balance Sheet shows that we are in a very healthy financial position this year.
2. We continue with our Board meetings in person in April and via Zoom in September, as well as other Board related meetings.
3. The Sales of Surplus Plants include sales from April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026.
4. The Garden Club Dues include dues collected from the new garden clubs that have joined NSAGC since April 1, 2025.
5. We do not expect as many Board retirements as we had last year so the Awards are less.
6. Unfortunately, we were involved in a hack of our bank account in the summer. While most of the money was recovered, we suffered a loss of \$750.
7. We did not receive the invoice for the 2026 insurance until after March 31, 2026.

### **Budget Notes**

1. The budget is in-line with last year's actuals.
2. The 2026 insurance cost is reflected in the budget.

### **Tags & Seals**

There was one order for Tags & Seals in 2025.

### **Membership**

Bedford Horticultural Society is not continuing as a club after over 60 years. The Petal Society and St. Margaret's Bay Garden Club decided not to rejoin as of March 31, 2026.

Liz and I continued to evaluate our processes and make changes where appropriate. We used the shared spreadsheet on Google Docs but decided after the Renewal process was over to not continue with it next year. It became just one more thing that Liz had to do and was not an advantage to either of us.

We welcomed the following new clubs to NSAGC: Frenchvale and Area Garden Club, Louisbourg Gardeners Club, The Grey Gardeners, Sea Spray Initiative, Baxter's Harbour, Hants Shore Community Garden Club, and North Mountain Gardening Club. We also welcomed back The First African Violet Society and Annapolis Valley African Violet Society. We have 1822 members and 60 clubs.

***Submitted by Susan Hazelwood***

## Balance Sheet

Year end 2025 - 2026

2025/2026    2024/2025

### ASSETS

#### Bank Accounts

Chequing	9735.58	10412.27
Savings	17567.51	12241.72
<b>TOTAL Bank Accounts</b>	<b>27303.09</b>	<b>22653.99</b>

#### Other Assets

Convention Loan Due from Host District	1000.00	1000.00
Tags & Seals Inventory	653.78	672.70
<b>TOTAL Other Assets</b>	<b>1653.78</b>	<b>1672.70</b>

<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>28956.87</b>	<b>24326.69</b>
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### LIABILITIES & EQUITY

#### LIABILITIES

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>28956.87</b>	<b>24326.69</b>
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<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>28956.87</b>	<b>24326.69</b>
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# Profit & Loss Statement

Year End 2024-2025

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2025/2026</b>	<b>2024/2025</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>Income from Sales</b>			
Newsletter Advertising	50.00	200.00	
Sales of Surplus Plants	3885.00	2664.00	<b>Note 1</b>
Sales of Tags & Seals	30.00	0.00	
<b>TOTAL Income from Sales</b>	<b>3965.00</b>	<b>2864.00</b>	
<b>Income from Other Sources</b>			
Affiliated Garden Clubs Dues	350.00	300.00	
Garden Clubs Dues	9295.00	9440.00	<b>Note 1</b>
Interest	207.75	178.21	
Donation	20.00	10.00	
<b>TOTAL Income from Other Sources</b>	<b>9872.75</b>	<b>9928.21</b>	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>13837.75</b>	<b>12792.21</b>	
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
<b>General Expenses</b>			
Awards	179.18	75.00	<b>Note 2</b>
Newsletter	0.00	0.00	
Photo Contest	278.92	262.00	
Plant Giveaway	3543.66	3127.35	
<b>TOTAL General Expenses</b>	<b>4001.76</b>	<b>3464.35</b>	
<b>Meeting Expenses</b>			
Board Meetings	1539.34	857.04	
Board Members	1679.79	1052.99	
<b>TOTAL Meeting Expenses</b>	<b>3219.13</b>	<b>1910.03</b>	<b>Note 3</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>			
Bank Fees	105.90	108.12	
Fraudulent Expense	750.00		<b>Note 4</b>
Incidentals (postal, printing, etc.)	312.79	82.66	
Insurance	0.00	1392.00	<b>Note 5</b>
Joint Stocks Membership	31.15	31.15	
Web Site	767.92	1112.33	
<b>TOTAL Operating Expenses</b>	<b>1967.76</b>	<b>2726.26</b>	
<b>TOTAL Expenses</b>	<b>9188.65</b>	<b>8100.64</b>	

**OVERALL TOTAL**

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**4649.10      4691.57**

**Note 1** Includes April 2025 and up to March 31, 2026

**Note 2** Several Boad retirements at AGM

**Note 3** September Board meeting and planning committee meetings were held via Zoom

**Note 4** Result of a hack when dispersing Municipality Grant to a club

**Note 5** Invoice not received by March 31

## Budget 2026/2027

	2026/2027 Budget	2025/2026 Actuals	2025/2026 Notes
<b>INCOME</b>			
<b>Income from Sales</b>			
Newsletter Advertising	50.00	50.00	
Sales of Surplus Plants	3800.00	3885.00	
Sales of Tags & Seals	30.00	30.00	
<b>TOTAL Income from Sales</b>	<b>3880.00</b>	<b>3965.00</b>	
<b>Income from Other Sources</b>			
Affiliated Garden Clubs Dues	350.00	350.00	
Garden Clubs Dues	9300.00	9295.00	
Interest	210.00	207.75	
Donation	0.00	20.00	
<b>TOTAL Income from Other Sources</b>	<b>9860.00</b>	<b>9872.75</b>	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>13740.00</b>	<b>13837.75</b>	
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
<b>General Expenses</b>			
Awards	50.00	179.18	
Newsletter	0.00	0.00	
Photo Contest	280.00	278.92	
Plant Giveaway	3800.00	3543.66	
<b>TOTAL General Expenses</b>	<b>4130.00</b>	<b>4001.76</b>	
<b>Meeting Expenses</b>			
Board Meetings	1550.00	1539.34	
Board Members	1680.00	1679.79	
<b>TOTAL Meeting Expenses</b>	<b>3230.00</b>	<b>3219.13</b>	
<b>Operating Expenses</b>			
Bank Fees	110.00	105.90	
Fraudulent Expense	0.00	750.00	
Incidentals (postal, printing, etc.)	150.00	312.79	
Insurance	1450.00	0.00	
Joint Stocks Membership	31.15	31.15	
Web Site	800.00	767.92	
<b>TOTAL Operating Expenses</b>	<b>2541.15</b>	<b>1967.76</b>	
<b>TOTAL Expenses</b>	<b>9901.15</b>	<b>9188.65</b>	

**OVERALL TOTAL**

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**3838.85    4649.10**

## **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 2025.

- Added the Fall, Winter and Spring editions of Scotia Gardener.
- Added the September 2025 Board Meeting Minutes.
- Added Convention documents under Save the Date and Documents & Forms.
- Tested the changes to the Convention Registration form made by True inSite.
- Updated the Events Calendar and Garden Clubs map with info from the Membership Renewal forms.
- Added the 2025 Plant Giveaway PDF and changed the online form.
- Added new resources under Gardening Related Resources.
- Added 2026 Photo Contest Rules
- Continued to update the Events Calendar with plants sales and other club and gardening related activities as requested by the clubs and as I see them on Facebook.
- All of the web site files have been added to Google Docs so that they are accessible from one place.
- Added an area to the Annual Plant Giveaway info for the plant of the year, after it is decided on by the Board.

Please encourage your clubs to send their plant sales, teas, etc. along to me directly at [webmanager@nsagc.com](mailto:webmanager@nsagc.com) or through the Contact us page so that I can add them to the Calendar.

I continue to check the emails from the Contact Us page every 2 days, no matter where I am in the world, as long as I have Internet access.

It's worth reminding everyone about the process for having updates made to the web site:

1. Send them to me via [webmanager@nsagc.com](mailto:webmanager@nsagc.com) or through the Contact Us screen or via my email address.
2. I will assess the request and update the web site without consulting anyone if I think it will add to the site, is in keeping with the NSAGC mission and will be of interest to the NSAGC community.
3. If I am in doubt, I will consult my small Advisory Committee (Geoff and Deb) who will make the final decision.
4. If the decision is to make the change, I will make it myself if possible or ask True inSite to make it for us.

***Submitted by Susan Hazelwood***

**Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs**  
**Facebook Groups Report**  
**April 25, 2026**

The Association's Facebook group continues to be a valuable resource for the NSAGC, Clubs and group members.

We are continuing to experience slow membership growth. Membership as of April 10 stands at 16248.

There is nothing outstanding to report.

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 at this time

Respectfully submitted

Deb Bowes-Lyon

Facebook Group Co-Administrator

**Plant Giveaway Committee Report**  
**April 25, 2026 NSAGC Board of Directors Meeting**

At the September 2025 NSAGC board meeting, it was decided to select the Dianthus “Rockin’ Red” 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 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 2700 plants, which is the same quantity as the previous year. The shipment included 2,808 total plants, with 2700 guaranteed. The total estimated cost at the time of the order was approximately \$3,571, which factored in an early order 3% discount. It was decided to use the same sales price as the previous year, which was \$3.00 per plant for additional sales. As with last year, all District Directors were emailed after-care instructions to share with their clubs.

After the September meeting, Janet Patterson placed the order for 2700 plants with our supplier, Jolly Farmer, in Northampton, New Brunswick. An invoice in the amount of \$3,681.29 was sent to the NSAGC Treasurer who paid the invoice via Interac e-transfer. The plants will be delivered the week of April 20<sup>th</sup> 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 2026, 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 membership assessments were finalized.

In early March, the NSAGC Membership Coordinator sent us a list of total membership for 2026, which was 1798 members. With a total of 2808 plants available, and holding back a reserve of 10 plants, this left 1000 plants available for sale. The sale itself was officially launched on March 19<sup>th</sup>. Sales started off very strongly with all sales coming through online either by e-mail or the online order form. Interac e-transfer was also the primary method of payment with 100% of orders being paid using this method. As with previous years, a couple of clubs did not provide full information in their order submission making it difficult to confirm orders.

Plants were officially sold out on April 7, 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. The sellout of the 999 available extra plants generated revenue of \$2,997.00 against an expense of \$3,681.29 which results in an overall cost to the association of \$684.29. 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

## **Photo Contest Report – April 25,2026 Board Meeting**

**Sharon Bryson**

The 2026 Photo Contest information was added to the NSAGC website after the last update of the Rules and Classes. Notices were sent in January announcing the 2026 Contest.

There were small changes in the Rules and Classes to include one or two clarifications on the size of images and the necessity for JPEG format.

There has been good exposure via the Scotia Gardener and the NSAGC Facebook page in the time leading up to the April,2026 deadline. Reminders were also sent to District Directors to be forwarded to their clubs.

The NSAGC website reflecting a more direct link to The Photo Contest has been good.

Submissions in 2026 seem to be slower than last year, in spite of many reminders. Procrastination seems to be the norm.

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

Bernice MacDonald and Anne Louise MacDonald will be judging the submissions.

The slideshow for the Convention will be completed and forwarded to District1 for use at the 2026 Convention. I will prepare a summary of the winners with their information for the Awards Ceremony.

Prizes will be presented at Convention or mailed out.

The images will ultimately be displayed on the NSAGC website. We are looking at a slightly different method of presenting all images on the website.

Historian report

I just had to get a new computer in January. Most of the files have been recovered but All the files have not yet been transferred over to the new computer for the historian report which will cover from 2019 to 2025 inclusive.

I'm working on the report and look forward to anything anyone has to send to me to be included. Other than that, I'm extracting the information from the minutes and the reports reports that have been sent in to the board meetings.

Respectfully submitted

Pamela MacLean

## NSAGC MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR'S REPORT SPRING 2026

- I first contacted the Directors in December by e-mails to encourage the clubs in their districts to renew their memberships. I e-mailed the Directors again in the beginning of January, again in the beginning of February, the middle of February and for the last time the beginning of the last week of February.
- Membership renewals trickled in this year until the last week that the memberships were due, February the 28th. Of the 54 clubs, not counting the 7 affiliate clubs, 2 renewed in November, 2 renewed in December, 12 renewed in January, 20 renewed in the first 2 weeks in February and 15 clubs waited until the last 2 weeks in February to renew their memberships. Two clubs did not renew until the first week in March and one club renewed the last week of March.
- This year 54 garden clubs and 7 affiliate clubs have paid their memberships to the Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs. The total membership for 2026, not including the 7 affiliate clubs, is 1822 down 76 members from 2025.
- Of the total of 61 clubs who paid memberships, 25 paid by cheque and 36 paid by e-Transfer.
- There were two clubs that did not renew their memberships this year and we had 4 new clubs join. The new clubs are The Grey Gardeners Garden Club and the Louisbourg Garden Club both in District one. Also joining us this year are Sea Spray Initiative Club in District 4 and Hants Shore Community Garden Club in District 5.
- When garden clubs do not renew their memberships in a timely manner than it puts undue stress on the Membership Coordinator, the Treasurer, the Secretary and the Plant Give-away Co-chairs as we all have deadlines to meet also. Everyone must remember we are all volunteers.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Hill,

Membership Coordinator

## **Antigonish Garden Club April 2026 Report**

The Antigonish Garden Club meets on the third Monday of the month at The John Paul Center in Antigonish. We currently have ~50 members.

**Chair** - Chuck Boyd

**Treasurer** - Mary Campbell/ Ruth MacEachern

**Secretary/Communications** - Ruth MacEachern

**Members At Large** - Jane Palmer, Jean Crosby

### **Club Activities**

#### **Fall Rally October 4, 2025**

Approximately 15 members enjoyed attending the Fall Rally in Westville.

#### **November – Christmas Craft**

Led by Ayami Briggs, about 20 members created their own ikebana floral arrangements blending seasonal materials and cut flowers.

#### **December – Xmas tea**

Our first date was snowed out, so a few days later a smaller group of 17 people met at Mary Campbell's home in North Grant. Members shared potluck offerings, exchanged small gifts and admired Mary's Highland cows. The Club made a cash donation to the Food Bank and also to the Annapolis Royal Historic Garden.

#### **February –Indoor Seed Starting Workshop**

Over 35 people joined us for a presentation by Martha's New Growers from Bethany. The event was well received, and attracted 8 new members.

#### **March 22 Antigonish Seedy Sunday**

Our Club attended Seedy Sunday, where we distributed 400 seed packages left over from the 2025 NSAGC donation and provided advice to new gardeners on how and when to start seeds. This event attracts many younger people and families interested in getting started. Several people took information on Club events and how to join.

#### **March 16- Fruit Tree Pruning demonstration**

Our first regular Club meeting featured well-known horticulturalist Henri Steeghs showing people how to prune different types of fruit trees. Attendees used the opportunity to ask a wide variety of questions on growing fruit trees. Over 60 people attended, and several non-members chose to join the Club.

## Highlights

**Promotion** – over the last 2 years, the Club has expanded efforts to promote awareness of the Garden Club. This includes regular new posts on our Facebook page which now has over 400 members and features a mixture of gardening tips, jokes, and Club events. We have a program of sharing events postings on other Facebook pages, as well as contacting local newspapers and radio stations, and posting attractive flyers for our events in high-visibility areas around town. The Facebook page is particularly useful for describing Club projects and specifying which opportunities are only available to Club members.

In addition, we use differential pricing for our workshops and meetings – these are free for members, with a reasonable cost to non-members that includes a year's membership. Some of the new members thus attracted are becoming very engaged as they realise the other benefits of membership.

**Membership** – our membership has grown considerably since the winter, and we now have 91 members.

**Projects** – in addition to monthly Club meetings the Club has various projects under way to assist members with spring tasks. We obtained 2 dozen 1000 litre IBC totes for water storage at a good price, encourage seed sharing and book swaps at meetings and are currently working on arranging a bulk load of compost from Pictou County Solid Waste (following on from their presentation at the Fall Rally). Other potential projects include a drought preparation workshop, visits to members' greenhouses, and summer garden visits in Antigonish and beyond.

**Banner** – As part of promotion, the Club ordered a new standalone banner, which makes us easy to find at large events like Seedy Sunday, and also adds colour to our meetings.





From: **Clarrie Mackinnon** <[clarriemackinnon@gmail.com](mailto:clarriemackinnon@gmail.com)>

Date: Wed, Apr 15, 2026 at 12:53 AM

Subject: Re: April board meeting reports

To: Chuck Boyd <[cboydns@gmail.com](mailto:cboydns@gmail.com)>

Hi Chuck:

Sorry for the delay in getting a report off to you. I intended to do up a detailed one this evening, however, one of our two dogs was not only sprayed by a skunk, but at one point had the critter in its mouth. Massive amounts of showering and various recipes for spray cleansing have finally left Lucy somewhat fresh, with the smell still in the house. The following will have to suffice:

The Westville and Area Gardening Club is having a successful 2025 -26 to date. Since September we have had 7 meetings with outstanding guest speakers, progressive agendas and good lunches. In December, the club had one of our best Christmas parties in years at the home of Clarrie and Mary K. MacKinnon, rather than in a community hall. Membership is approaching 25 with new enthusiastic additions. We meet the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Community Room of the Westville Library with our next on April 21. As Spring advances, the club will be getting the fenced raised beds Community Garden readied, ordering flowers for the annual planting at a dozen sites in Town of Westville, organizing the Spring Plant Sale, and looking forward to the Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs Annual Conference in Baddeck.

Thanks for your leadership, Chuck!

Kindest regards.

Clarrie MacKinnon, President

From: **Charline Baird** <[cslbaird@gmail.com](mailto:cslbaird@gmail.com)>

Date: Tue, Apr 14, 2026 at 11:20 PM

Subject: St Mary's club report

To: Chuck Boyd <[Cboydns@gmail.com](mailto:Cboydns@gmail.com)>, June Tate <[junemtate@icloud.com](mailto:junemtate@icloud.com)>

Hey, sorry I was hoping to have had time on the weekend.

**January 2026,**

New President Charline Baird

Treasurer : June Tate

We collected memberships,

Topics we talked about :

-possible family kids workshops/fundraiser for spring

- getting compost from the westville landfill place
- prepping and ideas what what to put into our club canoe garden bed when you come into sherbrooke
- use of a rain barrel, after last years drought to be prepared a little more in case history repeats it self

I asked group members what they would like to have for meetings for ideas.topics

talked about maybe doing some road trips, we talked about Allan Banks in jeddore, he has a huge garden with over 100 lily varieties and also other flowers

Charlie the tree guy road trip

Cochrane Family farm road trip

Talked about companies to buy our 2026 seeds from for our gardens, trying to keep things within our province.

Talked about the seed exchange swap that usually is in March.

### **February 11, 2026(postponed due to weather to Feb 18, 2026)**

Brought up the photo contest through the NSAGC and deadlines

Also let members be aware of the seed starting workshop in antigonish feb 28/26 with the Marthas new growers

Getting registers in before the end of the month we registered 17 Garden members to our club

annual flower show judging

Talked about keyhole style gardens

time to start sweet potato starts

talked more on an event for a fundraiser, we would like to this fall have calendars done to sell in our community with locals submitting flower and vegetable photos and then having the community vote on our facebook group.

also what we will have for family and kids for stations such as planting a seed, rock painting, making scarecrows for gardens.

I brought an activity in for the group with green house cup domes and my big box of seeds for everyone to create a window sill garden.

Earline volunteered to take on next meeting with rock painting

### **March 11, 2026**

Talked about this year's convention and deadlines

asked everyone what we all started so far for seeds  
talked again about our fundraiser, volunteers etc and getting the Goshen Hall  
maybe doing a monthly draw , getting local business to donated something

we did rock painting which was a hit, was a great little activity

had snacks and beverages

maybe also doing a bake sale

Hopefully that's all that was needed let me know if there was anything else that had to be given for info

Take care

Charline Baird  
President  
St. Mary's Garden Centre

From: **Heather C-Mattie** <[heathercmattie@gmail.com](mailto:heathercmattie@gmail.com)>

Date: Thu, Apr 2, 2026 at 11:57 AM

Subject: Re: Club reports

To: Chuck Boyd <[cboydns@gmail.com](mailto:cboydns@gmail.com)>

Good Day Chuck

Pictou and Area Garden Club in our January meeting, hit the ground running, by organizing a Bus/Garden Tour to the Halifax Public Gardens for July, and had a great presentation with Scott and Rachelle. In February we participated in Seedy Saturday in New Glasgow; as well we exchanged seeds of our own in our March Meeting.. We are very excited about our partnerships with the Town of Pictou on 2 garden upgrades and West River Greenhouse with our two local schools in the Junior Gardener Program. We met for our AGM in March and our Executive and committee heads are:

President – Heather Mattie Vice-President – Ann Wren Secretary – Linda Morden Treasurer – Mary Ann MacNeil Membership – Marjorie MacKenzie Facebook/ Website Communication – Heather Mattie Committee Chairs : Historian – Anne Gratton Program and Workshops - Donna Collins, Cheryl MacDonald Plant sale : Dawn Westhaver, Ericka Rauh Scammell Gardens : Dawn Westhaver, Tracy MacLaughlin Vets Wing :Dawn Westhaver, Tracy Mac Laughlin Hanging Baskets -Pam Graham Junior Gardener – Emily MacDonald, Anne Gratton Exhibition – Diana Spurvey, Anne Gratton Refreshments -Diana Spurvey Nominating Committee – Beth Henderson, Charlene Thompson, Marina Tobin.

Dawn Westhaver will reach out with our total of plants, the ones we already paid for as well as the extra plants. Our Next meeting is April 29 at 7pm New Horizons Plctou. So good hearing from you, Heather Mattie

From: **Donnie Butler** <[butlerdon@live.ca](mailto:butlerdon@live.ca)>  
Date: Tue, Apr 14, 2026 at 4:14 PM  
Subject: Re: Club reports  
To: Chuck Boyd <[cboydns@gmail.com](mailto:cboydns@gmail.com)>

Chuck: The Lismore and District club enjoyed a sleigh ride S their February outing. In March we placed a club order with Charlie the Tree Guy for peach trees and rose bushes(fireside). In April we welcomed Margie Beck who spoke on establishing a meadow garden. Would you join us for our May meeting on May 11th. Be our guest speaker speaking g on dahlia bulbs?  
Don

## **NSAGC District 3 North Club Reports Oct2025-Mar2026.**

### **Report on activities from October 2025 to March 2026**

**The Parrsboro Garden Club** meets at the Fundy Geological Museum on the 1st Monday of each month (unless that falls on a bank holiday when it is moved to the second Monday), from 2-4, for eight months of the year. In addition to our monthly meeting we have field trips, off site workshops and, in October, an extra meeting where a speaker talks to members and the public, to help Parrsboro celebrate their 10 days in October Festival.

October –We worked hard to crush apples to make apple juice. It was harder than anticipated but the results were delicious. After this activity we had a meeting to discuss upcoming events, including the Fall Rally next year, and preparations for our 10 days in October speaker. Our president shared with us the information that Margaret Griebel was publicly rewarded for all the work she does for the Parrsboro Garden Club. She was given a certificate and two books at the Fall Rally. Margaret shared her certificate with the group. Additionally, NSAGC acknowledged Georgie's contribution to the newsletter.

October –We had an open house meeting on Saturday, October 18th, where Peter Milner talked to members, and the public, about The Wonder and Wisdom of Wild Apples. It was very well attended by the Parrsboro community.

November – Our meeting in November is eagerly anticipated as we hold a power point presentation of the successes, and failures, in our gardens throughout the year. The drought had affected all our gardens, but we had persevered.

December – We are lucky to have a creative community in Parrsboro including several who work in fabric. Fabric Artist, Isadora Speilmann came to our meeting to show us how to make felt flower picture and members worked enthusiastically. Additionally, two members decorated a Christmas tree to stand outside our “Dino” museum complete with dinosaurs wearing Santa hats. The meeting ended with a potluck snack buffet.

### **Great Village Garden Club                      October 2024-March 2025**

The Great Village Garden Club (GVGC) meets monthly on the fourth Monday evening at 7 PM. We are fortunate to meet at Faith Baptist Church and have use of their extensive video system. This allows speakers to easily use full-screen videos or slide presentations. We give the church a donation as there is no charge for use of their facility.

Our executive is as follows: President Cheryl Cooke, VP vacant, Treasurer Trudy Johnson, Secretary Sybil Flemming. We have a three-person program committee: Cheryl Cooke, Patti Wyllie, Doreen Harris who work diligently to have varied and interesting programs. Our Face book is visited frequently and has brought us new members; community notes as well as gardening information are provided on this. We have 34 members including five honorary members; average attendance 15.

In October six members attended the District Rally. Improvements were made to the signs at each entrance to Great Village. We have agreed to tend the planters at the pergola located at the Irving gas station near the bridge. This was provided by and tended other years by the former Historical Society.

Our November formal meeting was waived and replaced by a work day followed by social at a member's home early in December. A large Christmas tree, donated by a member, was placed at a prominent village corner and lit for the holiday season.

In January member Arthur Haskins led a hands-on workshop on making corsages. The skills gained will be useful for many special occasions.

In February plans were discussed for distribution of the free seeds. The program took a different form: discussion of gardening interests and a brain-storming session to help the program committee with its long-term plans. Popular topics were identified, suggestions sorted by season. It was both appreciated by program committee and interesting to the other members.

In March we made our annual visit to Lowland Gardens to see what is new the plant world. Fascinating to see the many plants in various stages of growth. A highlight was the update on their year old "green" heating system after the long winter. It is a computerized system, monitored locally as well as from BC, developed in Germany, burns local wood chips. It is highly efficient, minimal ash waste and gas emissions. Later, seeds were distributed to members for placement in many community facilities.

We are a busy club, supporting members and communities.

Respectfully submitted, Cheryl Cooke and Sybil Flemming

**Brookfield Garden Club** had two craft nights, in October and February with projects to decorate our gardens. We crafted Drinking Dishes for bees and Fairy Wands for plants.

While our gardens might have been asleep all Winter we, at the Brookfield Garden Club have not.

Our Club's main project is the Wreaths that decorate our village at Christmas. These wreaths, along with their sponsor's name are put up in November and down in February. They are the only source of income for our club. Our November meeting is spent decorating the wreaths.

In December we held our annual Potluck dinner, with games and gift exchange.

In January we discuss our coming year and passed out a questionnaire for everyone's input.

March we enjoyed a video of plants and a quiz.

We are looking forward to special guest, Andrew Stewart from Dal A.C. Friends of the Garden at our April meeting. We have invited several clubs in the area to join us.

Submitted by Gail Wright

**Hilden Garden Club Report March 2026** Hilden Garden club meets on the second Tuesday of the month at Smitty's . We have 12 members most of whom attend the meetings on a regular basis. Our main community outreach is helping the Hilden Elementary school by donating needed items every month or so. During the last few months we donated bags of apples, fruit cups, and cereal for their breakfast

program. 24 boxes of tissues , 22 hats,24 pairs of mittens/gloves,and 34 pairs of socks. Other donations to the community included \$200 to Christmas Index program, \$100 to Hilden United church and \$100 to the Hilden Fire Hall. Recent activities: Attending the fall rally in Elmsdale Hosting the annual Hilden Christmas Tree Lighting Christmas dinner with the Bible Hill garden club Attending a presentation at the Stewiacke garden club Up coming events: Attending a presentation at the Brookfield garden club Our Plant sale on May 30th at 9 am at the Hilden Fire Hall A road trip to the East Hants area to visit Withrows' , lunch at Bitar's, visit to gardens in Elmsdale and probably a visit to the chocolate shop. Helping Bible Hill club with the flower show at the Exhibition

Submitted by Terrance Terry [terranceterry007@gmail.com](mailto:terranceterry007@gmail.com)

## Central South District 3 Director's Report October 2025 - March 2026

All six Club in District 3 South are still active and involved in their communities. I was able to visit the Stewiacke Garden Club's Opening Ceremony of their Community Garden after having to relocate it when the Town Council told them they had to move. This resulted in a lot of work and money for the Club and the Community. They are having to constantly fund raise to pay for this move. I attended the Fall Rally hosted by Country Garden Elmsdale and had the opportunity to speak on high lites of each of the 6 Clubs in the South. The Fall Rally was well organized and an enjoyable afternoon with fellow gardeners. Our District 3 Council Meeting in October, was another great opportunity for the 12 clubs in District 3 North and South to gather and share information. Overall our Clubs are very active and busy with community projects and promoting gardening in their area.

**Village Garden Club, Gore** - has 33 members as of March 31, 2026. Their Club featured three guest presentations: Marilyn Linley, author of "Intertwining Roots, The West Gore Grove and the Harvey / Blois connection 1860 - 2025" : Jennifer Daniels of the Fire Smart Program on Fire Safety & Wildfire Prevention : Gemma Rawson, Entomologist - bug expert on good vs bad bugs in our gardens. They held a Potluck Supper in Nov. Their Club tends two community gardens - West Gore & the Rawdon Gold mines Seniors Centre. Food & Cash Donations were made to the Hants Food Bank and West Gore Community Pantry.

**Country Garden Club Elmsdale** - has 11 members. In October. In October of 2025, the Club hosted over 100 members of garden clubs in District 3, North and South at the Fall Rally. The theme for the Rally was "The Trials and Triumphs of Gardening" with guest speaker Dez Pearson, who talked about the gardens of the Halifax campus of Dalhousie University, and Susan and Gerrard Garden who spoke about St. Bernard's Park gardens. In December, members attended at St. Bernard's Park to help decorate the garden for Christmas. At that time, we also made a donation to the Park to help with the cost of maintaining the garden. Also in December, we had our traditional Christmas lunch at Bitar's Restaurant, at which time we exchanged gifts. Our January meeting focused on planning for the upcoming year. In February, some members assisted with preparing vegetables for the Riverview Church turkey supper fundraiser. In March, member Elaine Dawson gave a talk about monarch butterflies and her experience of collecting caterpillars and providing them with a safe place to go through their metamorphosis into butterflies.

**Middle Musquodoboit Valley Weeders** - has 19 members. Club revitalization continues after a COVID low of 4. There are some returning members but most are new to the club with many new community members joining. The median age has been significantly lowered. Meetings have been held monthly with the exception of December, January and February. A new member President was elected and limited terms for volunteers returning as Secretary and Treasurer. Events: Two work days held for Cornerstone Park. Christmas tree decorated for the Christmas at the Ex event. Fruit tree pruning and grafting demonstration held by Keith Elwood at two members gardens

### **Future projects set**

Exhibiting instructions by Judge Ann T (floral arrangements)

Guided tour of Acadia Park grounds in Lower Sackville

Supervision of Floral Building during Halifax County Exhibition

Plant Sale Saturday May 23, 10-11am, Halifax County Exhibition Grounds

**Hants North Late Bloomers** - has 13 members. They meet the 2nd Wednesday 7:00 - 9:00 at different member's homes. November: Pamphlets describing our garden club were made and

Central South District 3 Director's Report  
October 2025 - March 2026

distributed at the District Director's seminar in Truro. Fall bulbs arrived and were distributed. Club purchased three holiday food boxes for the local food bank. Robert Greene

**Hants North Late Bloomers (cont'd)**

stepped down as President, Annisa Comeau and Minou Morley stepped in as co-presidents. Club donated 2 bins of items to local senior centre and fighter auxiliary. December: Holiday party – potluck, games, members brought food donations for food bank. March: Minou shared some Indigenous plant teachings - the four Sacred Medicines, and the Honourable Harvest (as described by Robin Wall Kimmerer in *Braiding Sweetgrass*). Transition of two positions – Geoff assuming duties of treasurer from Kaye, Annisa and Minou assuming position of secretary from Geoff. Sign-up sheets were circulated for hosting meetings, providing sweet and savoury; offering the group a presentation; sharing garden-related book titles; asking what members wished to learn about or were able to teach about; a list of local nurseries; an event calendar and some destinations for some club road trips were suggested. Date for annual plant sale was set – May 30th, 9 to 12 pm at Rising Tides New Horizons Centre.

**Stewiacke GC** - Has 20 members. They meet the first Tuesday of the month ( except July & August ) 6:30. at the Lifepoint Church in Stewiacke. The fall and winter have been spent in moving the community garden to a new location with a 10 year lease. A sustainable method of obtaining and distributing water has been devised and installed. Shrubs and trees were planted that were provided by our Trees Canada Grant. Our garden club members and our local community helped with the planting celebration. Fencing has been installed and the beds are almost ready for planting. Once again the club is partnering with the Stewiacke Dinner Theatre and sharing the profits for the community garden expenses.

In November the club had a table and helped in the kitchen at the Community Craft Fair.

Speakers at meetings were as follows: Oct. - Lorraine Wasson Lorette of Branch and Blossom spoke on bulb planting; Nov. - Joan Mercer led the group in decorating Xmas mugs, Dec. was our annual Christmas potluck supper; Jan. - Kara McCurdy spoke on measures home owners can take to decrease the probability of wildfires on private property; Feb. - Angela Frizzle of Horse Thief Vineyard spoke on the establishment of the vines and her business; March - Lynn Marie Matte spoke on the use of natural healing plants.

Our Gardener of the Year Award went to Heather Killen. She is a long term member. Without her contributions and local knowledge our plant sales and the community garden would be less successful.

**Stewiacke Valley Garden Club** - has 14 members. The Stewiacke Valley Garden Club meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm in the Middle Stewiacke Recreation Centre.

**Sept. 2025**- With our joint Tree Canada grant (\$10,000) with Stewiacke Garden Club, our garden club partnered with the Upper Stewiacke Community Association to plant the beginning of a Food Forest at the Community Park in Upper Stewiacke. On Sept. 20 we planted 20 fruit trees and 10 fruit bushes.

**Oct. 2025** - A number of our members joined the folks at Stewiacke Garden Club to help their members plant trees and shrubs in their community garden space using their share of the Tree Canada grant. - Many of our members attended the District 3 Fall Rally in Elmsdale and contributed to the door prizes.

Outstanding member award from our club was presented to Bernice Cooper.

**Nov. 2025**- The club was very busy selling fundraising tickets for a huge Christmas Dinner basket at various events in the area.- At our monthly meeting, Cecil Dunlap was invited to speak on his work breeding and naming day lilies. **Dec. 2025** - Potluck and club Christmas party

**Jan. 2026** - Executive meeting and planning event. **Feb. 2026** - Members were welcomed back to the monthly meeting with a Pizza party dinner. - Member Brenda Theakston was invited by the Living Earth Council to attend Seedy

Central South District 3 Director's Report  
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Saturday in Truro with a display table and a Powerpoint presentation on Pollinators and the Butterflyway Project (David Suzuki Foundation) - Plans were started on producing a brochure for our garden club.

**March 2026 - Members** painted and decorated flower pots. We support the Middle Stewiacke Food Bank & give bursaries to students from South Colchester Academy & Dalhousie University. Our Pant Sale is May 30, 2026 9:00 - 11:30 Middle Stewiacke Recreation Centre # 2395 Hwy 2889

## Director's Report of District 5

April 2026

Written by Dale Kelly

My first year as District Director has been a busy one. Since I was voted in at the Annual Convention in June 2025 I was able to personally meet with 7 of the clubs in the district. I greatly enjoyed getting together with the leaders and members of the clubs in District 5 to discuss the strengths and challenges facing these clubs.

I worked closely with the Forties Garden Club as they planned the District 5 meeting that was held on Saturday, April 18. I was unable to attend due to my husband's heart surgery but from all reports it was a great success and very well attended.

In November I held the first annual District 5 Council Meeting with 8 Executive members in attendance. Lori Reid assisted with the leadership of the meeting where we discussed topics of interest to all the clubs: Community Involvement; Meeting programs; Fundraising; Membership; Joint Club Activities and Social Media. I distributed copies of the President's Handbook and went over sections that needed their attention through the year along with the deadlines. These included: Deadlines; Membership Renewal Forms; Convention in June 2026; Plant Orders; District 5 Meeting. Members attending the Council Meeting expressed how pleased they were to attend the meeting and how helpful it was as they felt they learned a lot and met members of other executives that they might be able to get together for some activities. It was a great meeting and I am looking forward to this year's Council meeting to be held May 9, 2026.

There was much enthusiasm around the Newsletters and I was pleased to see submissions from several of the District 5 clubs both in the Fall and Spring edition.

This year we had 3 groups join the Association from the District 5 region. They are: The Hants Shore Community Garden Club; The Annapolis Valley African

Violet Society; and the Baxter's Harbour Garden Club. I have made contact with each of these new groups. The Petal Society did not renew their membership in NSAGC this year. I spoke with Siobhan Kalverda, the President of the group and she said she would still like to be in the Association but found it overwhelming to meet the deadlines for reports and membership renewals as she did not have help from the club. I suggested that she bring on at least one person to help her if she didn't want to form a full executive committee. I have not heard from her.

The most challenging part of the job seems to be getting report in on time and general adherence to all deadlines. Some clubs do not respond at all to emails. I do encourage participation from all of the clubs and am in contact with them on a regular basis.

I am very much enjoying being Director of District 5 and look forward to another good year ahead.

Below please see the Activity Reports from the Presidents of the clubs in District 5:

Hants Shore Garden Club – President's Report Kyle Buott

The Hants Shore Garden Club is a small group, mostly focused on vegetable gardening. We organize a seed exchange and plant sale each year. The seed exchange was held on March 29th, and the plant sale is later in May.

We also organize a free natural wreath/centerpiece making workshop in the lead up to Christmas. This year it was full, and we had to cut off registration at 30+ people.

Our Club likes to go on field trips, and last summer we went to the Annapolis Royal Heritage Gardens as a group. This year we are planning a collective trip to Tangled Gardens in June.

We have been around for about three years as a Club, but this is our first year with the Garden Club Association, motivated mostly by the free plant giveaway! :) We look forward to getting more involved and meeting many of you in the future.

## Baxter's Harbour Garden Club President's Report – Heather Stauth

The Baxter's Harbour Garden Club, which started in May 2025, has had a very exciting fall and winter! In October our President, Heather Stauth, gave a presentation on growing, storing, and using garlic. Members went home with recipes and there was a lively discussion about people's experiences growing garlic on the mountain. In November we had a Christmas social and one of our members taught us how to make our own Christmas wreaths using foraged greens and berries from our own properties. We did not meet in December.

January brought a record number of people to our Winter Sowing presentation by Amanda McReynolds. The presentation inspired many who have since started tons of veggie seeds in the winter sowing way. Our February meeting saw more new people come out to learn about starting perennials with a Baxter's Harbour local Dan Hagan. Dan presented his unique germination technique that he has honed over the past many years and brought samples and videos to demonstrate. In March we held a member seed swap and people also brought houseplant cuttings to share. At the same time we had a general meeting to discuss Club direction moving forward now that we are an established community group.

Our club has grown significantly since our first meeting in May 2025 and we look forward to growing together as a community and having fun at our planned events for the year!

## Charing Cross Garden Club

Charing Cross Garden Club held their regular monthly meeting at members' homes from February to August. The remaining meetings were held at the Royal Canadian Legion in New Ross. We have 11 regular members and one honorary member. Eight members attended the district meeting held at Brookland Civic Centre posted by the Mount Denson Club where Linda Meister was presented with a member award.

In July, we toured Patty McNeil's garden.

Community gardens were cleared and new annuals planted. Beautiful hanging baskets were hung in our community. Letters were given to our supporters of the baskets and daily watering arranged.

We held our annual flower show in August. There were 113 entries surpassing the 41 entries in 2024. We had a barbeque at Jean's which was delicious.

In September, we attended the Night at the Market at the fairgrounds with a plant and white elephant sale with \$104 earned.

In October, we had an outing to Mahone Bay. We enjoyed the Halloween theme and ate at the Mug & Anchor (members paid for their own meals and gratuity was paid by the Club).

We held a potluck in November with guest, Director Dale Kelly. In December, we decorated the bandstand in New Ross and held our Christmas celebration at the Hearth Room at Ross Farm with a \$10 gift exchange (members paid for their own meals and gratuity was paid by the Club). We decorated a Christmas tree at Ross Farm, and our tree won the People's Choice Award. We are looking forward to another year of planting with fun.

Best regards,  
Barbara Naugler  
President of Charing Cross Garden Club

### Upper Vaughan Garden Club – Activity Report

At our September meeting we hosted 2 member talks. One from our vice president Robert Perry who spoke and demonstrated how to care and store bulbs & tubers for the winter. The other member talk was from Terri Bowlby-Chiasson who demonstrated the registration process to enter garden specimens to the Hants County Exhibition.

Despite the dry weather, our members kept our 4 community gardens were looking their absolute best for the fall season. October was the time we cleaned them up for winter and we planted a few buckets of spring bulbs as well. Our community has really enjoyed the addition of the gardens.

November, we hosted our annual seed swap/exchange and this year we added canned preservatives from members to the offering.

Our Christmas dessert party was back by popular demand for December, and members all brought and shared a delicious treat. During the dessert party, Nancy Maxner hosted member talk and shared garden/park photos and details from her recent trip to New Zealand. Our members also volunteered at the Vaughan Fire Hall to serve a Christmas turkey dinner to residents. Continuing with fundraising in December, we also participated in our 3rd Farmers market and sold pre-made bouquets, rose stems and houseplants.

Jennifer Daniels is local retired florist, and she led our January “Build-a-Bouquet” workshop. Members all learned to assemble a large bouquet, and everyone got to take their beautiful creations home with them.

February, we had a guest speaker for a monthly meeting. Cindy Lou Oulton from Annapolis Valley Luffa shared her production process and endless knowledge about growing and using luffa.

The UVGC AGM was hosted in March. We welcomed new members and presented out agenda for 2026. Our April general meeting had the spring buzz beginning and President Mark Kehoe hosted a timely member talk “Lets Talk Hydrangeas” were we reviewed 6 types of hydrangeas we grow in our gardens the different care for each.

With the snow gone and bulbs/perennials emerging, the club is happy to be back in the community gardens and tidying them up for another season.

-Mark Kehoe – UVGC President

North Mountain Gardening Club – Written by Linda Dale President

This past year has been a great one for the North Mountain Gardening Club.

We held our first meeting in April 2005 to test out the interest in a gardening club focussing on the North Mountain’s environment. We also wanted to see if both established and new gardeners liked the idea of creating a forum to share information, training, triumphs and frustrations in gardening in this area.

The response was excellent, both in terms of numbers– 36 people attended - and enthusiasm. It was agreed that we would establish a membership club which would hold monthly meetings and presentations, organize a summer garden tour, share information on a variety of topics, and participate in provincial gardening events.

Over the past year we have established a strong membership of over 30 people. Our workshops, which have been well attended, have been organized in response to members’ interests. This has included workshops on ticks, pruning, medicinal herbs, pollinator gardens, winter sowing, vegetable garden preparation and sprouting winter greens .Every session has provided opportunities for people to share their knowledge and skills. In July we organized a very successful garden tour featuring three types of gardens. We have established a Facebook page which provides supplementary information related to these events as well as notices on relevant gardening activities.

We are excited about next year's events and becoming an active participant in the provincial gardening association.

## Valley Gardeners Club President's Report

September 2025 – March 2026

The Valley Gardeners have been very busy since the fall and we have had wonderful speakers and activities which have been enjoyed by our members. We are happy to report that we currently have 91 members and hope to continue to grow.

In September, our club held our monthly meeting with guest speakers Sarah and Kenny McAlpine from Tow Birds, One Stone Flower Farm. They shared their story of starting the farm and how the farm operates and produces beautiful flowers. In the month of September we also held our first President's Picnic. This event was held at

Prescott House in Port Williams and was well attended. Our new club logo was reintroduced to the club.

In October, our club held our annual joint meeting with the Blomidon Naturalist Society in Wolfville. It was a great turnout.

We held our Annual General Meeting in November. A potluck was enjoyed by our members as prepared by our Refreshment Committee. Our new executive was elected at this time.

Our social in December was cancelled due to poor weather.

In January, our club welcomed Mark Kehoe of JC Bakker Nurseries to our meeting. Mark shared his horticultural experiences as well as discussed nursery operations at JC Bakker. Our club member, Carolyn Green, also presented a seed starting workshop for native plants later in the month.

In February, club president, Karen Marsh, spoke on growing and enjoying herbs. We rolled out our online survey to our members so that we could get feedback from them on various topics such as speaker topics, workshop ideas, events, and volunteer opportunities.

Elizabeth Pierce was our guest speaker for March. Her talk was titled The Winter Garden – A Guide for Humans and Birds. It was our first virtual presentation.

Mount Denson Garden Club - Written by Dale Kelly, President

The Mount Denson Garden Club has had a busy fall and winter season and look forward to getting our hands dirty in our own gardens as well as the work we do beautifying the gardens in the community. In September we held our annual sale of potted fall mums. We had over 100 pots and were sold out after about an hour so very successful indeed.

Two members of our executive attended our first District 5 Council meeting at the Windsor Community Center. This was a great event bringing the clubs' leadership together for information sharing and brain storming. We look forward to the next one in May.

Every year our club awards a \$500 bursary to a student enrolled in their second year of gardening related study. The recipient for the bursary this year was Ava Copas

We had some very interesting speakers for our meetings this fall. Leslie Porter of Caremongers of West Hants spoke to us about the great work done by that group for the poor and marginalized in our community. It was a real eyeopener to hear about the work they do. Lori Reid taught us about winter sewing. Many of our members gave it a try this winter and are seeing little green shoots appearing as the weather warms. Tracey Martin answered questions from members touching on all aspects of gardening. It was a very lively discussion and Tracey is so knowledgeable everyone went home just a little wiser.

Some of our members got together in December to attend the local Christmas Home Tours sponsored by a local cat rescue. It was an outstanding event with so much beauty and inspiration as related to Christmas decorating. Tea and gingerbread was offered at Historic Churchill House in Hantsport as a break from all the touring. Churchill House itself was decked out for Christmas and looked so lovely.

Also in December we held our winter planters and gnome workshop led by Tracey Martin. Everyone went home with a beautiful piece to display on their deck or at their front door for the Christmas and winter season. Our Christmas party was held at

Walker's Restaurant in Windsor. Everyone had a great time of fellowship and the Program Committee outdid themselves with the prizes and poinsettias for all.

With no meetings in January or February it was great to come together in February for our annual potluck luncheon. It was a well attended event and again the Program Committee surprised us with a flower arranging workshop led by Tracey Martin. All types of cut flowers and greenery was available for us to hone our skills and everyone who attended got to take home at least one arrangement.

At our club meeting in March Tracey Martin explained to us all the ins and outs of hosting a flower show. As a result the club is making plans to host one in the community over the summer, but more on that in the next report.

A representative from our Executive has started attending the Recreation Providers of West Hants meetings to enhance our visibility in the community. These meetings are held quarterly and is a great opportunity to keep informed of events and initiatives planned for West Hants and to participate in them as it pertains to our mandate.

Lastnight was our AGM and regular meeting of the club. We have one new face on our Executive Committee and a couple of old faces who shuffled around the President and Vice-President positions. It is so good to see members ready and willing to step into these positions and volunteer their time for the betterment of the club.

Right now we are looking forward to our District 5 meeting coming up on April 18 hosted by the Forties Garden Club. They have a full day of events and speakers as well as silent auction items and door prizes and a full course turkey dinner for us all to enjoy and we can't wait to go.

Our club has 37 members and 3 honorary members and our average attendance at meetings is around 15. We continually work at improving attendance and keeping people engaged.

## THE AVAVS UPDATE FOR NSAGC

The Annapolis Valley African Violet Society was originally formed in 1973, 53 years ago. Cindy Jo Shoults has been President since October, 2023.

We meet the last Saturday of each month at the Nicholasville Hall, from 1-4 pm. Each meeting consists of a business meeting, an educational program, and an optional leaf draw. Educational programs focus on how to properly care for African Violets and other Gesneriads. Each year, members grow a Project Plant, which is judged and displayed in our Show. We can see how our plants did in different growing conditions.

Our members enjoy many perks: pots at cost, Christmas prizes, new plants, lots of educational opportunities, etc. We also have a Christmas luncheon in December and a year-end luncheon in June. We enjoy growing plants year-round! Our website is [www.avavs.com](http://www.avavs.com). We also have a Facebook page (the Annapolis Valley African Violet Society). Feel free to check these out for more info.

We donate to the Food Bank each year. This year, our club donated \$176 to the Twelve Baskets Food Bank in Nictaux.

This year, we've welcomed 14 new members into our club, for a total of 29 members. In September, we introduced ZOOM meetings. 5 of our new members join us via ZOOM, from NB and QC.

Last May, we held our first public event since prior to COVID. Our DISPLAY and SALE was a huge success! Over 80 people attended. We gained at least 5 new members from this event. In October, we had a booth at the 14th Wing Welcome, and another 2 members joined.

On April 11th, 2026, we offered a Judging School to encourage our members to learn more about African Violets, further their education, and get their first level of Judging credentials. We have an accredited Judging School Instructor in our club. 8 members attended. Also, 4 people from Hfx joined us, for a total of 12 students. We now have several more Judges to judge our up-coming Show! Plus 3 Master Judges.

We will be hosting our Show and Sale on June 6th, from 2-4 PM at the Berwick Town Hall Gymnasium (entrance at the back of the building). We invite all of you to join us. Admission is FREE. So, come on out and see the beautiful plants we are growing. We'll have plants for sale. All of the info is on the posters, so feel free to take a pic of it. We hope to see you there!

Thank you

Anne Brown, Secretary

Forties Garden Club Report: Sept 2025-March 2026

Forties New Ross, NS

Meetings held monthly.

St. Augustine Forties church bench fixed and repainted for walkers, reported much appreciated.

St. Augustine cemetery, sign repaired and repainted.

Donated a Wreath for Remembrance Day ceremony at the New Ross Royal Canadian Legion – Branch # 79 and attended.

Forties Garden club decorated the Christmas tree at the Forties Community Center for Christmas.

Did up 40 care boxes for the seniors in the Community.

December had a bake sale at the Forties Community Center Christmas Festival Meals.

At the Garden club meeting in February had Dale and Larry Kelly, followed by a potluck supper.

Put in a ad in the Forties flyer for children to do a garden of their own in the summer.

Best Regards:

Lucille Keddy, President



## Zone 6 Club Report 2026

There are 6 clubs on Zone 6: Chester, Lunenburg, Bridgewater, Mahone Bay, Queen's and Shelburne. There are approximately 250 members with 7 lifetime members. Membership has been increasing in many clubs. Each Club holds at least 1 meeting a month often excluding deep winter season with about half the members attending on a consistent basis. Meetings are held in Church halls, libraries and other rental facilities. Due to our aging membership, some winter meetings are held in the afternoons and early evenings to facilitate easier access, however, once the days get longer, meetings often revert to the evening to accommodate working members.

Two of the Clubs hold a Flower show every year often linked with a Tea and Social. Workshops on flower arranging held prior to these are always well attended. There is a focus on attracting younger members by including junior categories. The flower and seed planting workshops open to anyone have proven to be very popular especially if offered on a Saturday morning. At Christmas, there are wreath, centerpiece and mug arranging events; the proceeds often donated to the community. Whenever possible, we try to fit in some Greenhouse tours- a great option in our wet spring weather. It is truly amazing what we have on offer here in terms of innovative growers and speakers. Thanks to Geoff MacDonald for coming to Queen's braving a misty drive from the Valley.

During the summer, each club holds a plant sale to raise funds that support community activities. These include town garden clean-ups, town planters and seed banks. There is a focus on finding ways to support food production in needy areas. Speakers are given an honorarium, especially if they have a distance to travel. Some clubs sponsor members to attend the Provincial NSAGC Conference. Often clubs hold a plant swap that encourages diversity in our own gardens. The visits to local gardens, greenhouses and public gardens in the summer are important to shed light on what others are doing and are a great learning experience.

This year, we have started early with the planning for the 2027 Conference to be held in Liverpool. By bringing the clubs together in the planning a camaraderie and support system has been developed with volunteers for different functions coming from the whole district. We appreciate the information and support we receive from other Zones who have hosted recently. There is lots of work ahead, We are excited to welcome NSAGC to the South Shore and are proud to showcase our amazing gardens.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Liot

Zone 6 Director

## **Western District #7 Report**

**April 2026**

**Submitted by Kathryn Davidson, District Director**

District 7 includes 8 Garden Clubs. Bridgetown, Champlain, Clements, Digby Neck and Islands, Weymouth, Clare, Yarmouth and West Pubnico.

Some clubs do not meet during the winter months, so those clubs are just now starting to host club meetings, within the last couple of months.

For 2026, the goal within this District is to host its first Rally, since 2019. As my 3 year tenure is now up in 2026, if I remain District Director, I would like to have a face to face meeting with all Club Presidents to discuss the Fall Rally and a collaboration of events between clubs – like a Club Calendar for District 7 – to be shared by all members. Also, am planning once again to get out to the clubs for at least 1 meeting throughout the year.

More clubs now have a Facebook presence. Only 1 club, within our District does not have a Facebook page. I will continue to encourage all club members from all clubs to follow our various clubs on Facebook.

### **Western District 7 Club Updates:**

#### **Pubnico Area Garden Club (established 1974) with ~ 25 members.**

Membership has increased, albeit slowly. They host monthly meetings and also member garden tours throughout the summer.

This Club helps to beautify their town and surrounding areas. They conduct yearly clean ups of community gardens, pruning and planting perennials around the sign at the Pubnico Museum and filling planters with annuals.

#### **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 are working on their Annual Plant Sale – for May 14<sup>th</sup> 2026. This is the clubs largest fundraiser.

Another bus trip for club members is scheduled for mid June, with visits to a number of Garden Centres along Hwy 103.

Members maintain garden beds on Hawthorne and Brown Streets within the Town of Yarmouth. Currently, the club is working on a “Legacy” project which will enhance the existing gardens with new signage, an interpretative panel and in the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase, the club will work with various artists to install decorative art panels on the wall, of one of the buildings that abuts the Brown Street gardens. It will showcase gardens and the harbour and a scene of the “Olde” downtown. The intention/hope is to have this all completed, prior to the 2027 Communities In Bloom convention – to be held in the Fall of 2027.

This club meets from September thru June and then hosts member garden tours throughout the summer and Fall months.

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

This club meets monthly from September thru June and hosts at least 2 “Seedy Saturdays” which are all well attended. At these events, speakers attend to discuss a number of Garden topics, vendors are present and it is open to the public, not just Garden Club members.

Rooted in Clare members also take pride in maintaining a Community Garden, where a mirade of vegetables and fruits are grown and then shared within the community – at no charge.

**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.

2026 will see club members continue to work on their Club cookbook.

This club hosts a wonderful Summer Social Tea and also a plant sale for the general public.

This may be a small club, but it is held in high regard, within the community.

**Digby Neck and Islands Garden Club (established in 2021) with ~30 members**

This is an active but “slowly growing” Garden Club, most likely due to its more remote location.

Karen Smith is back in the role of President, but will be looking to step down in 2026.

The club meets monthly and plans to host another Seedy Sunday event and also its annual Community Garden clean-up which will showcase how and what to plant in the garden 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, like potluck dinners, field trips to bring back produce to be shared by all within the area.

**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.

Meetings are held from March through November.

The club is very active in maintaining many community 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 ~35 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 and try to get interesting speakers to their club meetings to discuss anything from pruning Hydrangeas, to Invasive Plants.

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.

They have their own Facebook page up and running now. Hopefully this attracts more members to the club.

**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 and also 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 and Canada Day at Jubilee Park.

To round out their events, they will be conducting several garden tours, throughout the summer and they have a December potluck & craft night.