

Minutes - Final
OHA District 1 Presidents' Meeting
October 19, 2019 – 8:30 AM
 Russell United Church
 38 Mill Street, Russell, ON

1. **Call to Order:** Candace Dressler, District Director, OHA District 1 called the meeting to order at 9:02.

2. **Roll Call:** Present: Charles Freeman, 1st Vice President, OHA; Candace Dressler, DD; Louise Freeman, Assistant DD; Susan Ramsay, Assistant DD; Ginny Blair, District Secretary/Treasurer; Sandra Mitchell, Cornwall; Judy Nadon, Joanne Côté-Pilon Gloucester; Arline Rutter, Kemptville; Vicki Foerster, Kemptville; Elaine Herrington, Martintown; Phyllis Van Egmond, Maxville; Linda Fraser, Maxville; Lois MacLeod, Maxville; Carol Van Die, Russell; Mary Higginson, Vankleek Hill; Daryl Waite; Vankleek Hill; Esther Bryan, Williamstown.

3. **How to Attract New Members:** Candace asked all present for ideas to attract new members. Following are the ideas:
 - offer a free membership to new members
 - circulate posters indicating free meetings
 - set-up a Facebook page
 - circulate business cards
 - design bookmarks and rack cards – leave at schools, churches, seedy Saturdays, libraries etc.
 - welcome new people at meetings
 - have a greeter at every meeting
 - contact speakers a membership
 - make presentations at local nurseries and events
 - create partnerships
 - have a “help day” at local garden centres
 - bring older members to meetings
 - “invite a friend” at meetings
 - Have a sign in book at Society events and ask for email addresses. Even if person isn't from your District you can send the name and email to the District Director they are from.

4. **Agenda** – The minutes were reviewed and Ginny Blair asked that the OHA Harassment Clause be added to the agenda.
 Moved by Carole Van Die, seconded by Sandra M, Carried

5. **Minutes from 2018 Presidents' Meeting** – The minutes were accepted as written.
Moved by Sandra Mitchell, seconded by Phyllis Van Egmond Carried
There was no business arising from the minutes.

6. **District Report** – Candace Dressler, District 1 Director
 - Candace reported the OHA is concerned with the shrinking membership and asks all Societies to attract new members.
 - The Auditors reported the membership is also getting older and younger people are not joining Societies.
 - Technology issue are also affecting attracting members to executive positions
 - Candace asked every Society to indicate what they charge for memberships. The range was between \$5 and \$20.
 - \$3 of every membership goes to the OHA for the following:
District Director visit to Society twice/year, cost of OHA Board meetings, 2/year, speakers at Convention, Fundraisers, Judging books, grants, liability insurance for members
 - all Societies pay \$100/year for bonding insurance
 - auditors say donations are down
 - Helen Scott at OMAFRA has retired and who will replace her is up in the air
 - OHA Fundraiser 2020 – seed sale, OHA and Society split profits 50/50 seeds will be distributed in March.
 - 2020 Convention is in London ON, July 17-19. All tour buses will be air conditioned
 - 2021 Convention is in Guelph, July 14-17
 - Garden Ontario Swag is now available for sale on the website. There is a good selection of items marketing Garden Ontario

7. **Treasurer's Report** - delivered by Ginny Blair – See page 5
Moved by Arline Rutter, seconded by Mary Higginson to accept the report Carried

8. **Correspondence** none

9. **Reports Society** – All Society reports received. See enclosed at end of minutes

10. **New Business**

a) Transfer Payments Ontario? One-key society

All Societies must be registered so make sure new treasurers have registered with One-key. No one-key no grant

b) Succession Planning

- Many Societies cannot find members to take on Executive positions especially President
- Succession planning should take place years in advance - at least 4 to 6 years out
- The Past President should recruit 2nd Vice President personally
- All Positions should have a term, especially the President
- ¼ of a Society Board should be new each year
- Have a job description of each position
- Talk about succession at least 4 or 5 times /year

c) Society executives - Do you need a full slate?

No, just make sure there is a contact person for the OHA and OMAFRA

d) New OHA annual Report

- The deadline for submission is February 1, 2020
- New but similar format with more dropdown menus
- Must be done in one sitting as it can't be saved
- Can print out blank form and fill out before going on the computer to complete
- Volunteer Hours included with form

e) Volunteer vulnerable Sector Police Checks

- Charles indicated the OHA is working on the Policies and Procedures for Societies working with Youth. It should be ready by Christmas.
- All members having contact with Youth will require a police check every year.
- All police checks must be retained for life.
- He cautioned everyone to be very careful working with youth.
- Payment of police checks will be at the discretion of the Society

f) Insurance Procedures

Charles indicated that the OHA Certificate of Insurance can be downloaded from the website. If Societies have an insurance question they should contact their District Director and not Shawn LaPalm directly.

g) District dues

Ginny indicated all Societies in the District have paid their dues for 2019.

h) indemnification

- Candace asked if all Societies have an indemnification clause in their By Laws
- Candace suggested that Societies separate their Constitutions from their By Laws. For an example of how separate a Constitution from your By Laws, look at the OHA Constitution and By Laws.
- Candace asked all Societies to email her their Constitution and By Laws

i) Code of Conduct

- Charles reported the OHA is revising the Code of Conduct due to shortcomings
- Some Societies must have Harassment Policy to rent a meeting room

- The new Code of Conduct will come down through the chain to Societies

j) Society Sharing

Friendships between Societies should be encouraged

Our District is already friendly and sharing

11. Old Business –

a) Cornwall sign for D1 garden-done

b) Garden Ontario.org

- Candace encourages all Societies to get their events on the Garden Ontario.org website.
- This will show OMAFRA what Societies are doing.
- Candace reported all Societies have a website on Garden Ontario except Williamstown and Cornwall

c) District 1 Email Updates

Candace reported she will continue sending smaller messages to Society Presidents

d) Volunteer hours

Charles reported it is extremely important for all Societies to report accurate Volunteer Hours

OHA is waiting for OMAFRA to call and ask the OHA to justify our grants

Volunteer Hours are the first line of defense and to how much the OHA Societies Save the government of Ontario

e) Photos on and other Media Facebook

All Societies should have photo permission forms to be signed by all members every year

For children there should be a signed form for every photo taken. Shouldn't take or distribute their pictures without a signed form

f) New Society in South Gloucester

All present agreed to another Society in District 1

g) OHA Liberation Tulip Fundraiser

Maxville purchased 30 bags

12. Other Business – 2020, 2021 District 1 AGM

2020 AGM – Cornwall, April 18

2021 AGM – Martintown

13. Adjournment – moved by Esther at 12:32 PM

Financial Statements
OHA District 1
January 1, 2019 to September 30, 2019

Beginning Balance January 1, 2019	\$1,439.14
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Revenues

	0.00	
Total Revenues		0.00
		1,439.14

Expenses

2018 AGM Competition Prizes	200.00	
2018 AGM Speaker	200.00	
Bank Service Charges (9 Months)	27.00	
Total Expenses		427.00

Ending Balance September 30, 2019	\$1012.14
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Bank Reconciliation - September 30, 2019

Ending Balance September 30, 2018 (Books)	\$1,012.14
Ending Balance September 30, 2018 (Bank)	\$1,012.14
Difference	\$0.00

Williamstown Green Thumb

SPEAKERS

- FEB **'A Cut Above; A Notch Below'** - Kris Lunan, of *Marlin Orchards and Garden Centre*, discussed pruning trees, shrubs, fruit bearing plants and roses. Horticultural Society - 2019 President's Report
- MAR **"The Edible Landscape"** - Daniel Marion, an urban garden pioneer and market gardener in Cornwall talked about his project, the Pitt Street Garden, as well as bed building and plant selection
- APR **"Softscaping Your Garden"** - Tom Bryant of *Floral Design Landscaping Inc.*, located in Kemptville, showed us how to design our gardens to suit our site, our needs and our gardening style.
- SEP **"All Things Orchid"** - Lynn and Santos Guimond, who have specialized in growing orchids for many years, taught us how to choose and grow these exotic beauties.
- OCT **"Growing a Winter Garden"** – Staecy Lauzon presents exciting new methods of growing plants in our cold climate, even during the winter months.
- NOV **"The Indoor Garden"** – Freida Deschamps presents an illustrated talk on choosing, caring for and propagating house plants.

ACTIVITIES

- MAY 11 – Plant Sale at the Meeting Place on the Williamstown Fair Grounds
- JUL 13 – Flower Show and Victorian Tea at the Meeting Place on the Fair Grounds
- JUL 24 – Bus Trip to the Montreal Botanical Gardens
- NOV 25 – Wine and Cheese, plus contributions of non-perishable items for the Christmas Food Drive

CIVIC IMPROVEMENTS

The Green Thumbs have partnered with The Williamstown Fair for many years and we:

- do the maintenance of two gardens at the Fair Grounds
- plant flower boxes at the washroom entrances
- plant and maintain 7 window boxes at the Heritage Hall

Beyond the Fair Grounds we plant and maintain:

- flower boxes at the four entrances to Williamstown
- two tulip beds; one at the Glengarry, Nor'Westers & Loyalist Museum in Williamstown and the other one at the Library in Lancaster
- four flower boxes on the bridge over the Raisin River in Williamstown
- two Cenotaph urns in Williamstown
- the geranium bed at the Bishop's House in St. Raphael's
- the flower box at Glen Gordon Park on County Road 34

We also partner in a Children's Garden with the South Glengarry Township Day Camp and the Glengarry, Nor'Westers & Loyalist Museum

Martintown and District President's Report - 2019

This was a challenging year for the Martintown and District Horticultural Society. After 19 years, Ginny Blair stepped down as President and no one else stepped forward to take the lead.

After much discussion, it was decided the 18 members of the Executive would rotate in groups of three to assume the President's position for 2 months at a time. In theory, this seemed like a workable solution but as in every organization, people get sick, their spouses get sick and not everyone is motivated or interested in taking on what can sometimes be a big job. However, with the help and resourcefulness of all concerned, the Society flourished. At the end of September, the membership numbered 93.

We had six wonderful speakers on a variety of topics. Eric and Tamara Lang gave us their insight into on Vertical Farming, Vic and Mary Lou Leroux discussed the ups and downs of Growing Lavender in South Glengarry. Suzanne Patry from Whitehouse Perennials brought some beautiful new perennials she had grown, Katie Andrews taught us how to raise Monarch Butterflies from a crystallise, Paul Allaire amazed us with his spiritual talk on Native Lore and finally Fred and Frieda Deschamps, Master Gardeners, answered a multitude of members gardening questions.

We had three Walkabouts in member gardens as this was our off year for the Garden Tour. Even with the heat they were well attended.

In May we did all our normal gardening in the Village. The boxes were planted on the bridge, 13 barrel planters were planted throughout the Village, the 4 road sign boxes were planted at the Village entrances and the flower beds were planted at the Community Centre. Of course all the plantings were maintained throughout the Summer and into the Fall by various members.

We had several garden competitions this year including: A Photo Competition at our March meeting, A Peony Contest, Summer Judging Competition and coming up in December our Christmas Decorating Contest.

We gave a \$400 bursary to Charlan District High School to a student continuing in post- secondary education in Agriculture, Horticulture or Environmental Studies.

We will have three fundraisers this year, the Plant Auction, Bake Sale and Gardeners Tag Sale in May, a Silent Auction at our Annual BBQ in August and a Christmas Silent Auction at our Annual General Meeting and potluck on November 4th.

Twenty of our members carpoled to the 1000 Island Garden Trail this July. We visited gardens from the St Lawrence to Westport with stops at Kilborn's Store and a beautiful farm producing cider and lavender along the way. We ended our perfect day in Westport at the Cove Restaurant for dinner. It was a long day as we left at 8:00 am and most of us returned home at 9:00 pm. It was well worth the long day as we saw some beautiful gardens, did lots of shopping and eating.

All in all it was a good year but there are many unanswered question on how we will organize in 2020 without a formal President!

President's Report for 2019 - Maxville

This exciting year started, following my election as President at our AGM last November.

We started in early December with Past President, Lois MacLeod and myself teaching a class on "how to make a Christmas centrepiece."

January was busy as we started planning our year book. We lined up guest speakers and planned our list of convenors for our general meetings. The bus trip committee had great ideas for day trips. We assisted with the Maxville Manor Resident's January birthday party.

I submitted for the OHA Special Project Grant to redo our Piper flower bed at the north end of the village. We received the \$500 grant.

February the Men's committee started their gathering to work on building Pollinator houses. Our first one was to bring to Gloucester's AGM. The men continued to build more after this one.

March was our first general meeting with yearbooks handed out as membership paid. Our quest speaker, Alex from Fitlife gym in Hawkesbury, gave a talk and demonstration on "Back basics for the gardener" Very interesting as we all prepare for the busy planting season ahead.

April's meeting was another enjoyable potluck dinner with quest speaker Alan Kruszel talking on "Soil health and soil erosion" Eight members attended the AGM in Gloucester, with all enjoying a wonderful day. Informative speakers, incredible displays of flowers, photography and written word. Also the societies Pollinator houses silent auction. We bought ours back to put at our updated Piper bed. Two Life Time Awards were presented this year.

May brought us to our annual plant auction. Members bring in so many varieties of plants and take home new ones. We also had 9 pollinator houses to auction. Thanks to the men!

We also presented a Pollinator house to Glengarry Museum in Dunvegan. It was hung on a tree in one of the many gardens that some of our members also help take care of during the season. This year bark mulch was added to the gardens. We sent \$100. donation to help with this.

June brought us to Tagwi high school and Glengarry district graduation nights as we presented \$200 bursary to local students. Then many members continue their volunteer role again as they assist and participate in displays and events at the Maxville fair. Another task well done.

By this time all the hanging baskets are up in the village, the eight flower beds and urns are all planted.

Thankfully the township team water them for us.

Several members and guests joined in on two pleasant day trips. The first one took us north to Vankleek Hill, to "Garden Path" where we learned about making homemade soaps and natural products. With a tour of the grounds and gardens. Then into town to the Tea room for lunch and off to Hawkesbury in the afternoon to Legault's garden centre. Our second day brought us to south Glengarry to Lou Lou's Lavender farm. Here we learned about the many varieties and uses of lavender. We had the opportunity to pick our own, avoiding any disruption to the many bees busy at their job. Then off to Glen Walter's for a delightful lunch on the deck enjoying the summer along the St. Lawrence river.

July was the chance for our gardeners to show their skills and hard work with our summer home/garden judging. Congratulations to all. Unfortunately no one was able to attend the OHA convention in Windsor. Maybe next year.

August brings Maxville to the celebration and events of the Glengarry Highland games. We judge the best decorated home. Then we continue our efforts with our mini flower show at the Maxville Manor. A wonderful display of cut flowers, potted plants and arrangements are set up along with vegetables and photos. They are judged and the residents get to view everything, followed by juice and cake.

September brings us back together at our general meeting with guest speaker, Margaret Scott.

One of our own members and judge presented tips on "What a judge is looking for." Sept. also gave us a chance to share some of our plants with others at the fall festival in at the Dunvegan museum. We volunteered time also setting up this display and selling the plants for them. A special event was held this year. An apple pie baking contest. We're not just good gardeners but lots of good cooks also.

October meeting we had the chance to hear Owen Clarkin, an accomplished naturalist, photographer from Russell. Owen gave an extremely interesting presentation on native trees and shrubs. Our District 1 Presidents meeting was attended.

Now we are planning our November AGM and Christmas potluck, with special guest, Candace Dressler. We have some nominations for new Directors. Another evening of fellowship and we will have already decorated the hall for the Santa Claus parade.

This hopefully summarizes our year. I am so thankful to everyone.

We have 81 members, with 6 being Life time members and 6 new to our society this year.

2019 PRESIDENT'S REPORT **VANKLEEK HILL and DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

We have fifty-six members and have been able to continue meeting in the hall at the Champlain Community Centre. We have submitted our application for the community facility usage grant.

We have been fortunate as our web master also prepared our yearbook with the help of our treasurer/photographer.

We have had nine of our scheduled meetings with speakers including dinners and a plant auction. We travelled by car to visit three local gardens. We included two flower and photo competitions at our meetings. Our children's spring flower show took place though cold weather had not left. Six members attended the district annual meeting, as well as the Freemans.

We provided commercial seed for the Champlain Library seed library. We paired with the library children's garden group with a vegetable garden at the edible garden site. We were able to provide small quantities of vegetables to the local food bank. Our society initiated and has maintained the Mill St Park garden for twenty years. This year we planted three of the four town sign planters(road work).We held our street spring plant sale which gave us another public interface. We made our annual donation to the local high school for a bursary.

Two members, as well as the Freemans, registered at the OHA convention in Windsor. It was well worth the travel required and we found the program excellent.

We look forward to the application of the new mission and goals of the OHA. While we have good support for the increasing on- line requirements, those can be onerous and costly. We appreciate our public support and will benefit financially from our volunteers to the local Review Home Tour.

Our volunteer hours will not be reported until our annual meeting in November.

Our membership puts up and stores all the chairs and circular tables for our meetings and complete many beneficial steps even if not on the executive committee. We would not manage without all this. Our membership is changing and we try to maximize our strengths, to adapt to our changing costs and to our environment.

Mary Higginson, October 16, 2019

2019 PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR D1 PRESIDENTS' MEETING

Gloucester Horticultural Society

2019 started with just under 100 GHS members. Our February Forced Bulbs and Preserves Show entries dwindled so much that the Chair of that committee is questioning whether we should continue with the preserves portion and how do we revive interest in the Forced Bulbs and Flower Show portion. A great deal of effort went into preparing for the D1 AGM in April. We had wonderful cooperation within the society to make it a success. The sale of the butterfly pins netted \$308.10 and the silent auction of pollinator hotels netted \$437.00. We paid both speakers \$200. each and we reimbursed them for mileage. The venue was free, after miscellaneous expenses were paid we came out with a profit of \$1,175.79

Our plant sale in May was a roaring success, again the members made it all possible. During the summer we organized members' garden visits, some were showing their gardens and others wanted help with horticultural problems. We call this "garden tour with a twist". A road trip to three public gardens in Ottawa was organized in early July, one was to the Fletcher Wildlife garden, another was to the Ornamental Gardens on the Exp. Farm and the third visit was to the historic Maple Lawn Gardens, and then we visited Brit Erickson's Certified Pollinator Garden in Ottawa West.

We are in the process of reevaluating our current meeting location site. It is nice and cozy and in a historic building but difficult to get to if one does not know the general area. We need to bring more members of the public to the table, it is difficult to recruit new members if people don't know where we are.

Fran Dennett
President
GHS