

**CREDIT VALLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES, NOV. 13<sup>TH</sup>, 2024**

**ERINDALE UPPER HALL**

Call to Order

Refreshments were available prior to the start of the meeting.

President Chris Anderson called the AGM meeting to Order at 7:45 pm. The number of attendees (31) met the quorum standard.

The president welcomed all and introduced special guest Asna Black, Assistant District 15 Director.

Approval of the Agenda

Motion made by Daphne VanGinkel and seconded by Irene Hill to accept the agenda; a show of hands passed the motion.

Approval of the 2023 Minutes of the AGM

The President asked if there were any comments or changes. President did state there were corrections made to the election portion of the minutes and these changes had been emailed to all members prior to the meeting. Daphne Van Ginkel made the motion to accept the minutes and seconded by Irene Hill; motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report was passed out earlier to all members attending. Valerie Gillies explained what was in the financial statement. Motion made to accept the financial statement by Irene Hill and seconded by Saskia; all approved.

President's Report

This year 2023-2024 has been an interesting year of meeting location changes, challenges of presenting a meeting in a heritage building (Erindale Hall), a spring that came late but members were still able to donate plants for the sale. This year was more difficult for board members due to low numbers on the board, vacations and bereavements.

Each board member did some cold calling to members to get information on the programs presented, location of meetings and interest in being on the board.

- We were successful in having a new member agree to take on the position of secretary. Thank you, Linda Ogilvie! We also got some insightful comments from members who answered our calls.

Our membership has had a slight drop in numbers below 100. However, our membership director has been very proactive in developing a membership renewal system that reduces the use of paper and the board is actively looking into e transfers and other electronic means of paying memberships.

- Heinke Thiessen did a wonderful job of updating the "when did they join" dates on the membership list. This was a work of love.

Nov. 24, 2024

- What's new at the membership table – according to ONCA rules **all** society members need to read and agree to the society's Code of Conduct annually. This process has started this month along with renewal of memberships.

The program facilitated by Irene Hill was a varied and interesting range of speakers from the wonderful world of bees, to a presentation on how trees communicate with each other, to a presentation on invasive plants (I had to cut my yellow barberry shrub out), and the celebration of our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a society.

- We had the pleasure of Maureen Ricker attending and telling how the society began in October 1984. Our councillor (Matt Mahoney) came and presented us with a certificate from the City acknowledging our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Doreen Coyne from District 15 presented the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary certificate.
- One thing that has not changed is the cost of speakers. Irene has developed a speaker form that outlines presentation, special needs for the presentation and, cost etc. This allows for a more concise method of tracking speakers.

Community projects this year did not have a dedicated board member responsible for this important community outreach. However, thanks to Kit, there were members who helped with clean ups at Riverwood in the spring and fall.

- This summer, CVHS was approached by the Sherwood Forest Community organization to participate in their summer festival. Fun was had by all as children young and old potted flowers into decorated pots. Next year, we will be prepared to hand out information sheets and/or brochures.
- The society had one Litter Not Walk along the Sawmill Valley Trail this spring and collected much garbage. The fall walk was cancelled due to erosion of walkway and creek banks.
- Three courtyard gardens and the Pediatric Oncology Garden at Credit Valley Hospital were again maintained by a dedicated group of volunteers.

The annual plant sale was again a success despite the reduced numbers of plants donated (about 900). The net proceeds were approximately \$3500. The sun shone for a change and the membership table got 3 new members signing up. Some of the remaining plants were donated to a local church garden.

- Thanks again for all the time and commitment from you, our volunteers.

There were 2 flower shows this year in June and October. There was enthusiastic support for the 2 shows by the members. They found their creative juices and their gardens provided the inspiration.

- I think that these shows are important to the life of the society and needs someone to take on the responsibility of organizing them. Not knowing how to do this is NOT an excuse – there lots of members who can provide guidance and help.

ONCA's new rules made it necessary to make some bylaws changes. Our constitution, which was approved last year needed no changes. The changes/updates were:

- (a) There is now a form used to account for monies transferred from one member to another and also for any monies collected during a general meeting. This necessitates an actual count on the premises. The only exception is plant sale monies which are counted in a private home.

- (b) the Code of Conduct was to be read and signed by all members annually.
- (c) since Erindale Hall had no Wi-Fi, all general meetings were to be in person unless there is an exception ie, hall not available, inclement weather, then a ZOOM meeting can be considered
- (d) CVHS does not have any guidelines for the use of proxy votes; voting is generally done by show of hands or via an email survey.
- (e) The Board has tightened up how membership information is used and saved as Google doc

Another change developed by ONCA is that members who are being elected into a director's position, as a financial examiner, or an associate need to sign a consent to be elected or appointed into a specific role. If a member accepts a position post AGM, they are considered to be appointed and still need to sign a consent.

Your time, commitment and donations make it possible to implement our society objectives and community projects. Your volunteer time is essential for the continuation of the society and its community presence.

The Board of Directors continue to be committed to making CVHS an organization you can be proud of as it provides activities you can enjoy and can participate in. This year, as in the past, we are very short of directors – especially the president position. More about this after the election. Please consider stepping up to assist the board and the society. Volunteerism is a two-way commitment.

Thanks to all.

#### Greeting from OHA – District 15

Asna Black brought greetings from OHA and District 15.

Elections of the Board were conducted.

Thank you for introducing me. I will now run the election process.

I will ask three times for further nominations.

Will the person being nominated please stand briefly when I call your name?

**There are no nominations for President at this time.**

Are there any nominations from the floor for the position of President?

For the 1<sup>st</sup> time, 2<sup>nd</sup> time, 3<sup>rd</sup> time?

Hearing none, the office of President will remain OPEN for the next year.

**There are no nominations for Vice-President** so I will call for nominations from the floor.

Are there any nominations for Vice-President?

For the 1<sup>st</sup> time, 2<sup>nd</sup> time, 3<sup>rd</sup> time?

Hearing none, the Vice-President position remains OPEN.

Nov. 24, 2024

**DIRECTORS**

Nominations for Directors starting the second year of a two-year term are:

**SASKIA WIJNGAARD AND VALERIE GILLIES**

Nominations for Directors starting the first year of a two-year term are:

**IRENE HILL and LINDA OGILVIE**

Are there any other nominations for any of the Director positions?

For the 1<sup>st</sup> time, 2<sup>nd</sup> time, 3<sup>rd</sup> time?

Hearing none, **SASKIA WIJNGAARD AND VALERIE GILLIES** are appointed as Directors for 2024/2025. And **IRENE HILL** and **LINDA OGILVIE** are Directors for the next two years.

LINDA OGILVIE will be secretary and VALERIE GILLIES will be treasurer, SASKIA WIJNGAARD will be membership and Irene Hill will be program

**FINANCIAL EXAMINERS:**

**The nominations for the Financial Examiners** for the next year are:

**KHAZEENA ASHROFF                      KIT CALVERT**

Are there any other nominations for Financial Examiners?

For the 1<sup>st</sup> time, 2<sup>nd</sup> time, 3<sup>rd</sup> time?

Hearing none, **KHAZEENA ASHROFF & KIT CALVERT** are declared your Financial Examiners for the next year.

Associate Board Members have been appointed to their roles by the Board. They are **HEINKE THIESSEN** (newsletter,), **KATHLEEN JAY** (refreshments), **PAT GERBER** (refreshments), **KHAZEENA ASHCROFF** (mini fundraisers). These associates are appointed annually.

All elected and appointed members agreed to take on the duties and responsibilities of their respective positions. Consents were signed by all newly elected and appointed members.

Asna Black installed the new Board.

At this point in the meeting, the President spoke to the membership about the results of the election as no President or Vice-President had been elected. She spoke of the society and its need for a President – someone to lead the board and help in delivering the activities that members enjoy. She indicated that members are asked to consider whether they are willing to set up to a Board position. She mentioned that the President’s role needs someone who has management skills and is computer literate. If no one steps up, the members have a choice as to what happens next – dissolution of the society or possibly joining with another society. The membership will be asked again at the December meeting.

This ends the business portion of the annual general meeting at 8:20 pm.

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President provided the following updates on future meetings:

- There will be a new meeting location at the Erin Mills Twin Arenas starting in January 2025. More details will be provided. Irene Hill gave out some information about the location.
- Kit and Chris attended the District 15 Advisory meeting and learned that more groups are offering earlier meeting times. We would like to send out a survey asking members whether the start time of the meeting could be moved to 7:30 pm. 7pm was initially mentioned but it was noted that members who are working, may have some difficulty getting to a meeting on time.
- At the December, meeting, there will be a “super draw”: where members can donate items for the draw; they don’t need to be horticultural in nature

No Service pins were presented as the members were not present at the meeting.

Speaker – Member Daphne VanGinkel spoke about Brueckner Rhododendron Gardens and their wide variety of rhododendrons, azaleas and other plants and she shared her photos of the gardens.

Volunteer Member Draw for a free 2025 membership was Debra Carson;

The Board member who received a free membership is Saskia Wijngaard.

Door Prize winner was Therese Evans.

Natalie Sahl motioned for the meeting to be adjourned, seconded by Saskia W. and all agreed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.