

KITCHENER HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOR THE YEAR ENDED 2007

JANUARY 22, 2008

KITCHENER PUBLIC LIBRARY

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes of Annual General Meeting for 2006
(Held January 23, 2007)
3. President's Message
4. Reports:
 - Treasurer
 - Committees:
 - Rockway Gardens
 - Horticultural Therapy
 - Membership
 - Newsletter
 - Programme
 - Youth
5. Nominating Report; Election of Officers:
Directors for 2008 are: Kim Ball; Theresa Billo; Charlie Davis; Rhonda Grein, Geoff Lorentz, Councillor; Bruce MacNeil; Trish Malleck; Steve McKenna, Ken Meinzinger; Gerry Reed; Maryanne Weiler.
6. New Business
7. Adjournment of the AGM

The meeting will be concluded with a talk by Master Gardeners Maryanne Weiler and Helen Gordon and a Representative from the Region of Waterloo who will be speaking on Water Conservation.

KITCHENER HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Held at Kitchener Public Library, Tuesday, January 23, 2007

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bruce MacNeil, Trish Malleck, Kim Ball, Rhonda Grein, Steve McKenna, Charlie Davis, Gerry Reed, Theresa Billo, Ken Meinzinger, Maryanne Weiler.

Meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by Bruce MacNeil.

Minutes:

-*Motion* to approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting for 2005, held January 24th, 2006, by Theresa Billo, seconded by Trish Malleck. Carried.

Committee Reports:

-*Motion* by Gerry Reed to adopt the committee reports in total, as submitted. Seconded by Mary Ann Gilhuly. Carried.

President's Message:

-Maryanne Weiler welcomed everyone to the meeting. She acknowledged Jerome Hauck for his contribution to the KHS over the years, and advised that Jerome has been made a lifetime member of the KHS. Maryanne also mentioned that KHS is celebrating its 135th anniversary this year. She noted that we will be adding a new feature to the gardens this year; a gazebo, for which there will be a special dedication. She also thanked MTD for their generous donation of lawn equipment for use by the staff at Rockway Gardens.

Treasurer's Report:

-Ken Meinzinger provided everyone with a copy of the draft report (unaudited) from an accountant. Ken explained the notice to reader, and also explained several items on the statement of financial position and statement of operations and changes in fund balances.
-*Motion* by Bruce MacNeil to adopt the treasurer's report as submitted by Ken Meinzinger, seconded by John Arndt. Carried.

Nominating Report:

-Maryanne Weiler conducted the nominations for director and read the list of names appearing on the agenda, those being Kim Ball, Theresa Billo, Charlie Davis, Rhonda Grein, Geoff Lorentz (City councillor), Bruce MacNeil, Trish Malleck, Steve McKenna, Ken Meinzinger, Gerry Reed, Maryanne Weiler. Maryanne asked if there were any further nominations from the floor, of which there were no further nominations. The above parties were declared as KHS directors for the year 2007. Maryanne and Bruce also mentioned that there are two director positions open if anyone is interested.

New Business:

-Maryanne mentioned that the next KHS program will be an outdoor workshop given by Fraser

Gibson, a field naturalist. It will be held on Saturday, February 3rd at 9:30 a.m., at the Huron Natural Area. The topic is winter identification of trees.

Motion to adjourn the business part of the meeting at 7:36 p.m. by Gerry Reed, seconded by Kim Ball. Carried.

Bruce introduced our speaker for the evening, Anne Morgan, a Master Gardener, who gave a very interesting and informative power point presentation on how we can make over our front yards in order for them to be more environmentally friendly. Anne was thanked by Maryanne.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

President's Report for 2007

The role of the Board of the Kitchener Horticultural Society is a little unlike that of other Horticultural Societies in that in addition to the educational role practised by all, KHS manages a large 7.5 acre Botanical Garden for the City of Kitchener with the support and assistance of the City of Kitchener.

This year has been an incredibly active one for the Board. A Gazebo was constructed during the early Summer and was dedicated to a very special long time supporter, Dorothy Elliott, in August and a concert in the new Gazebo at Rockway Gardens rounded out an already busy programme.

Despite the near drought conditions, staff members did an amazing job maintaining the beds in the Gardens. We continue to receive compliments from regulars at the Gardens and those that seem to stumble upon it for the first time. We have an incredibly hard working crew and some pretty special volunteers who bring credit to the Board, Society and City. Thank you all.

We need also to thank our supporters and partners who help to make the product of the Society attractive. We receive financial and service support from the City of Kitchener and donations, discounts and gifts in kind from Fred's Nursery, MTD, Sheridan's Nursery, Colour Paradise, Ontario Seeds and Adam and Eve Garden Accessories. The Kitchener Public Library partners with the Society in the Library's 'Get Set to Grow' programme whereby the Library provides the space for our talks and we provide Speakers. We also need to thank the Kitchener Master Gardeners for their continuing support without which we would be hard pressed to continue some programmes. Thanks too to the many donors and volunteers who contribute to our efforts and help to make the Gardens an 'oasis' for the Community.

And finally, a very big Thank You to the volunteer Board Members who give so freely of their time and expertise. Without their efforts, there would be no Society.
Bruce MacNeil, January 2008

Rockway Gardens Report for 2007

The 2007 season has passed and I would like to thank all of the staff for their hard work and dedication. Once again the gardens looked beautiful and well cared for. The major addition to the Gardens was the Dorothy Elliott Gazebo in late Summer. It is a wonderful addition to the gardens and to the many wedding parties that have been photographed in it. There was even a wedding ceremony held in it

The first concert was held this year and it is expected that there will be more in 2008.

A new water system was installed in front of the perennial garden and the rockery. New benches were placed in locations that provide visitors with great views of the gardens. New gardens were created which will increase the number of garden designs and work continues on the Naturalization of the East end.

Charlie Davis, January 2008

Horticultural Therapy Report for 2007

Horticultural Therapy Programmes continue to be offered at Grand River Hospital – Freeport and Winston Park Retirement and Nursing Home. Three Society members (Theresa Billo, Maryanne Weiler and Bruce MacNeil) work with Staff members and residents weekly throughout much of the year.

Participants at Freeport continue to be short term patients who reside at the Hospital during while they participate in various therapeutic regimens. Classes take place in the Solarium during the

colder months and outside on the terrace at the raised beds during the warmer months. Most activities are gardening related but we do have some holiday craft days where we make center pieces, hand creams and oils and vinegars. Classes have been 3 and 8 participants from week to week.

At Winston Park, we do much the same as at Freeport but the numbers of participants are generally higher (8 to 13) and they are generally more mobile. We even cook for the participants from time to time, an activity that started out as a Harvest Lunch and became a Social event over time.

Bruce MacNeil, January 2008

Membership Report for 2007

At the close of 2007, the Society had 298 members. This included 18 family memberships, 23 youth members and 19 Master Gardeners. Even though we attracted 76 new members in 2007, membership fell by 15% compared to 2006. We understand, from the OHA, that declining membership is a challenge that many Societies in Ontario are facing.

Our speaking program was well received in 2007 – we trust the word will spread and new and old members will renew. We intend to improve our messaging in 2008 with the recently revamped newsletter, new website features and coverage in the local media.

Steve McKenna and Bruce MacNeil, January 2008

Newsletter Report for 2007

The newsletter is distributed monthly in paper format and electronically to members, to Kitchener Public Library locations and to City of Kitchener Community Services Department staff members. It is also made available at Kitchener Horticultural Society and Kitchener Master Gardener events. Currently, 167 members (up slightly over 2006 numbers) receive their Newsletter electronically. The use of electronic resources helps to control distribution costs. Contributors include Theresa Billo, who provided the feature articles, Al Shivas who provided information about Rockway Gardens and bulb availability and Bruce MacNeil, the Newsletter Editor. Information was also received from Maryanne Weiler, Programme Coordinator. We adopted a new format in November which will be coordinated. The intention is that survey articles written for the Newsletter will be coordinated with in depth articles, descriptions and photos placed on the website. The new format will evolve over the next few issues.

Bruce MacNeil, January 2008

Programme Report for 2007

The speaker programme for 2007 proved to be very well attended, averaging 60 plus per session. At one session, we even had to turn away some people who wanted to attend because of room capacity. As a result, programmes for 2008 will be held in larger rooms at the Kitchener Public Library. Reports were positive from those attending.

The only session not very well attended was an outdoor venture in Feb. on an extremely cold (- 20 C) Sat. morning. This outing was an attempt to add a different dimension to our programmes. Was it the weather, the Sat. morning or the outdoors that kept attendance down?

Other activities that include the Plant Exchange, Bulb Sale and Garden Tours continue to draw the largest number of members.

Two additional activities centered around the new Gazebo drew a sizeable crowd. The first, the dedication of the Gazebo to long time member Dorothy Elliott was an excellent affair.

About 60 people were in attendance to witness the dedication and to pay their respects to Ms Elliott. And in September, we held our first concert at which about 100 members attended despite the threat of rain. The Tim Louis Trio entertained us for a little over an hour.
Maryanne Weiler, January 2008

Youth Group Report for 2007

The KHS Youth Program ran this year with 23 young gardeners sharing 18 plots provided by the J. Steckle Heritage Homestead. We enjoyed some very enthusiastic new gardeners who worked very hard to plan, plant, maintain and harvest their own ten by ten plots of vegetables and flowers. Thank goodness the Steckle well runs deep, we carried many cans of water this year. The dry season and some pesky Squash Bugs did take their toll on our harvests which were down somewhat from previous years. The late season rains however, did boost our tomato crops in the end.

We enjoyed our annual scavenger hunt in June, made incredible stepping stones in July, and made homemade salsa in August. We owe a big thank you to Chef and gardening participant, Jodi Rice for a tasty salsa night in the Steckle kitchen. Also thank you to Valerie Green and the J. Steckle Homestead for allowing us the garden space to run our program, the use of the kitchen and barn for our special events. As always we wrapped up the season with a cake and hot chocolate harvest celebration in September.

NOTE: We need someone with a love of children and gardening to join the KHS Board to run a similar program this coming season as Trish Malleck will not be returning. If you have an interest in becoming a Youth Leader in upcoming seasons, please contact the KHS.
Trish & Brennan Malleck, January 2008