

KITCHENER HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOR THE YEAR ENDED 2008
JANUARY 20, 2009
KITCHENER PUBLIC LIBRARY
AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes of Annual General Meeting for 2008
(Held January 22nd, 2008)
3. President's Message
4. Reports:
 - Treasurer
 - Committees:
 - Rockway Gardens
 - Horticultural Therapy
 - Membership
 - Newsletter
 - Programme
 - Youth
5. Nominating Report; Election of Officers:
Directors for 2009 are: Kim Ball; Charlie Davis; Rhonda Grein, Karen Kocher; Geoff Lorentz, Councillor; Bruce MacNeil; Steve McKenna, Gini Nolan; Jodi Rice; Vi Shadd; Maryanne Weiler; Dwayne Wheeler.
6. New Business
7. Adjournment of the AGM

The meeting will be concluded with a talk by former Supervisor of Rockway Gardens Maryanne Weiler who will provide a history of Rockway Gardens.

KITCHENER HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOR YEAR ENDED 2007
Held at Kitchener Public Library, Tuesday, January 22nd, 2008.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Bruce MacNeil, Ken Meinzinger, Maryanne Weiler, Gerry Reed, Trish Malleck, Steve McKenna, Rhonda Grein, Violet Shadd, Kim Ball, Theresa Billo.

REGRETS: Charlie Davis, Al Shivas, Geoff Lorentz.

There being approximately 30 members present (a quorum being 15), the meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by Bruce MacNeil.

Bruce gave a brief introduction to the meeting, and explained the mandate of the Kitchener Horticultural Society.

Minutes:

-Motion to approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting for 2006, held January 23rd, 2007, by Steve McKenna, seconded by Trish Malleck. Carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Ken Meinzinger presented the draft financial report (unaudited). This report included the notice to reader, statement of financial position as at December 31st, 2007 and 2006, and statement of operations and changes in fund balances for the years ended December 31st, 2007 and 2006. He pointed out various items, including the gazebo (under capital assets). The presentation was ended with the showing of some pictures of the Dorothy Elliott gazebo.

-Motion by Bernice Uebele to adopt the treasurer's report as submitted by Ken Meinzinger, seconded by Gerry Reed. Carried.

President's Report:

-Bruce briefly discussed the various committee reports which had been provided to the members at the start of the meeting. He also reported that directors Trish Malleck and Gerry Reed were stepping down from the board, and extended thanks to them for their hard work and dedication to KHS. He noted that Jodi Rice has agreed to become a director, and also went over the benefits of being a member of KHS.

-Motion to receive the committee reports for 2007 by Maryanne Weiler, seconded by Gerry Reed.

Nominating Report/Election of Officers:

-As noted previously, the list of directors for 2008 as written on the agenda should be adjusted to remove the names of Trish Malleck and Gerry Reed, and to include the name of Jodi Rice, Karen Kocher and Violet Shadd.

-The names for director for 2008 are: Kim Ball, Theresa Billo, Charlie Davis, Rhonda Grein, Karen Kocher, Geoff Lorentz (Councillor), Bruce MacNeil, Steve McKenna, Ken Meinzinger, Jodi Rice, Violet Shadd, Maryanne Weiler.

-Maryanne Weiler conducted the elections for officers, and put forth the following names: Bruce MacNeil, President; Theresa Billo, Secretary; Rhonda Grein, Treasurer. Maryanne asked

for any nominations from the floor, of which there were none. The above were declared nominated and elected.

New Business:

-Bruce advised that there is an insurance policy in place which insures the society and its directors. The OHA typically requires the treasurer of a horticultural society to be bonded. Because of the type of insurance policy that we have, the KHS do not require this.

-**Motion** by Bernice Uebele that the treasurer of the Kitchener Horticultural Society should not be bonded, seconded by Steve McKenna. Carried.

Motion to adjourn the business portion of the meeting at 7:35 p.m. by Nancy Lehman, seconded by Huguette Meinzinger. Carried.

Maryanne introduced the first speaker of the evening, Dan Meagher, Communications Coordinator, Water Efficiency, of the Region of Waterloo. Dan spoke on how the Region is trying to educate the public, especially children, on ways to better manage our use of water. He explained the toilet rebate program, rain barrel program, outdoor water conservation bylaw, naturoscaping program, and water saving tips. Maryanne thanked him and introduced the second speaker, Helen Gordon of the Master Gardeners. Helen gave us some facts on water usage per person, and explained a number of concepts, including waffle gardening, rain barrels, rain gardens, and gray water. Maryanne thanked Helen, and then spoke herself on rain barrels and seeds. Bruce thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 2008

As a long standing member of the Ontario Horticultural Association, the Kitchener Horticultural Society is responsible for encouraging an interest and improvement in horticulture through its events and programs. In addition, the Society, with the support and cooperation of the City of Kitchener, has been responsible for Rockway Gardens for the past 80 years. Rockway Gardens features over 65 beds, 3 fountains, a rockery, a cascade and ponds on a unique setting near the entrance to the City. The Gardens provide the Society with a garden laboratory it can use to meet its educational objectives.

The Society continued the hectic pace of 2007 by beginning the year at the community's Home and Garden Show at the auditorium. The booth, shared with the Kitchener Master Gardeners was a great success and gave us the opportunity to meet residents unaware of the scope of the activities provided by the Society. Programs continued as in the previous year with seminars being held at the Main Branch of the Kitchener Public Library, events at the Gardens and Garden Tours in the community. The Concert in the Garden series, supported by local businesses, was expanded and the Youth Group program at Steckle Farm was well attended.

Rockway Gardens staff continued to provide us with an interesting display as they tried new plants and modified some of the beds. Staff members and volunteers continue to do us proud! We continue to receive compliments from the Community and from visitors to the area. Our incredibly hard working crew and volunteers deserve our greatest thanks.

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 community gardeners who agree to show their gardens in our ever popular Garden Tour series to Society members.

Two things begun in 2008 will be completed in 2009. The Rockway Gardens Master Plan was last reviewed over 10 years ago and needs confirming or revision and Steve McKenna led a first discussion to that end. Our website was frequently unavailable during the year, and Steve began the process of moving the site to another Information Service Provider. The project has necessitated changes and rewriting which is currently underway.

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. Two Board members, Theresa Billo and Ken Meininger, have resigned from the Board and they will be sorely missed.

Bruce MacNeil, January 2009

ROCKWAY REPORT for 2008

The new raised round bed was created and a diamond shaped bed added. Al Shivas, Gardens Supervisor, started the new Arch which will be another Gardens focal point for wedding pictures but unfortunately the early snowfall prevented it from being completed.

New plant material has been added around the main fountain and it continues to develop. Bulbs have been planted and we all await Spring to see what wonders will appear. The City added a new sidewalk along the east end and will remove the flagstone walk in the Spring to eliminate a potential liability.

The Garden House Bulletin Board is a great source for garden tips, trivia and interesting quotations.

Again I would like to thank the Staff for their hard work and dedication to the Gardens. The many tributes and compliments we receive throughout the year are a tribute to this hard work. As a Horticultural Society, we are very fortunate to have such a great group of employees.

Charlie Davis. January 2009

HORTICULTURAL THERAPY REPORT for 2008

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

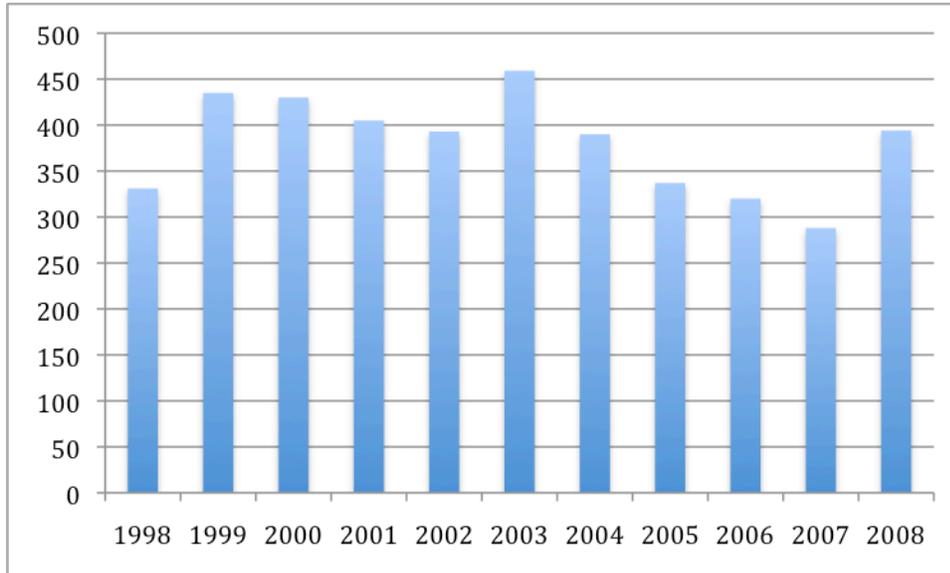
Participants at Freeport continue to be short term patients who reside at the Hospital while they participate in various therapeutic regimens. Classes take place in the Solarium during the colder months and outside on the terrace at the raised beds during the warmer months. Most activities are gardening related but we do have some holiday craft days where we make center pieces, hand creams and oils and vinegars. Classes have been 3 to 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 2009

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT 2008

At the close of 2008, the Society had 385 members. This is a 32% increase in membership compared to 2007 and reverses the membership decline that started in 2004. 2008 includes 70 family memberships, 26 youth members and 22 Master Gardeners.



We attracted 93 new members in 2008. Notices in the local papers, additional programs (concerts, garden center tour) and improved branding and messaging (regular email blasts) contributed to increase in the membership numbers. Hopefully, 2009 will see another increase.

We are in the final stages of implementing a web based membership management system which will allow you to keep your contact information current, provide access to newsletters, 2009 bulb Sale preview and a forum as well as allow online renewals through Paypal. Stay tuned.

Respectfully submitted by
Steve McKenna

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. More than two thirds of our membership 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.

The new format adopted in November 2007 has been well received and it will continue to evolve as it becomes more closely linked to our website.

Bruce MacNeil, January 2009

PROGRAMME 2008 KITCHENER HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The complement of speakers was well attended and received. Each year as we arrange for speakers, it becomes a guessing game as to what speakers will best serve your interests. We select topics that are of interest to us and hope that they you find them useful. We are always open to suggestions.

I thought that some workshops and outings might be appropriate. The speaker programme for 2009 is already in place, since the speakers are committed far in advance. I could however, add some additional topics such as a spring trip to a woodland garden. Enjoy the rest of the winter by dreaming about the spring projects you have planned for your garden.

Maryanne Weiler January 2009

YOUTH GROUP REPORT for 2008

The KHS Youth Program ran this year with 15 young gardeners sharing 10 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. We were concerned that our time might be limited to Wednesday evenings only but with some discussion with Farm staff, we were able to garden on the same schedule as in 2007. We lost some of our produce to Squash Bugs again this year.

Presentations were made to the children by Ken McRae and Anne Morgan of the Kitchener Master Gardeners. Ken gave a very interesting presentation on bees and Anne did likewise on insects. The Scavenger Hunt was run by volunteer and former Youth Gardener, Alexandra Kocher and we had a great time until the black clouds, thunder and lightning started to roll in. Pizza and taste night in the Steckle kitchen was a great success too. 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. Unfortunately, the wrap up corn boil was cancelled this year but perhaps it will again be held in 2009.

Bruce MacNeil for Jodi Rice, January 2009