

KITCHENER HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOR THE YEAR ENDED 2009
JANUARY 19th 2010
KITCHENER PUBLIC LIBRARY
AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes of Annual General Meeting for 2008
(Held January 20th, 2009)
3. President's Message
4. Reports:
 - Treasurer
 - Committees:
 - Rockway Gardens
 - Horticultural Therapy
 - Membership
 - Newsletter
 - Programme
 - Youth
5. Nominating Report; Election of Officers:
Directors for 2010 are: Elaine Baldwin, Charlie Davis; Rhonda Grein, Karen Kocher;
Geoff Lorentz, Councillor; Bruce MacNeil; Steve McKenna, Gini Nolan, Gloria Whitson
– Shea, 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 speak on a Parade of Wildflowers.

**KITCHENER HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOR YEAR ENDED 2008**

Held at Kitchener Public Library, Tuesday January 20, 2009

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Bruce MacNeil, Ken Meinzinger, Maryanne Weiler, Steve McKenna, Rhonda Grein, Jodi Rice, Violet Shadd, Kim Ball, Karen Kocher.

REGRETS: Charlie Davis, Al Shivas

There were approximately 20 members present (a quorum being 15). The AGM was called to order at 7:06pm 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 2008, held January 20, 2009 by Donna Woloshyn and seconded by Bernice Uebele. Motioned carried.
- Theresa Billo left board in November and Ken Meinzinger is also leaving. Both did a wonderful job and will be sorely missed.

Treasurer's Report:

- The KHS has a \$6,000 policy to bond the board. **Motion** – that the membership agree that this is sufficient to bond the Treasurer and that we not seek bonding through the Ontario Horticultural Association. Moved by Maryanne Weiler and seconded by Theresa Billo. Motion carried.
- A draft of the financial report was presented. This report included the notice to reader, statement of financial position as of December 31st 2008 and statement of operations and changes in fund balances for the year end December 31st, 2008.
- **Motion** – to approve the Treasurer's report. The motion was moved by Rhonda Grein and seconded by Huguette Meinzinger. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

- The 6 different Committee reports; Rockway Gardens, Horticultural Therapy, Membership, Newsletter, Programme and Youth were presented as a package. **Motion** – To adopt the 6 reports is moved by Jodi Rice and seconded by Vi Shadd. Motion carried

Nominating Reports:

1. Review of the constitution this year
 - Item #5 – election of officers. We will look at the constitution this year and possibly need to revise how the officers are elected.

- Three people have put their names forward for Director positions in 2009 – Gini Nolan, Dwayne Wheeler, and Gloria Shea. **Motion** - to accept these new members to the board. Moved by Rhonda Grein, seconded by Steve McKenna. Motion carried.

New Business:

- Any possibility of the gardeners having a bus trip or car pooling to some major garden, perhaps Canada Blooms? Question asked by a member – we could do this as a charge for a fee to the gardeners.
- Bruce MacNeil mentioned that Steve McKenna has done an amazing job with the website and that Steve is now setting it up so that you can pay membership on the website, and make address changes.
- Bruce would like to add the newsletter to the website so that you can click on the newsletter photos and get more information.
- To become a member of the royal botanical gardens it costs \$100. The board is thinking of offering its members the chance to win the tickets to various programs that they have.

Adjournment of the AGM:

- **Motion** - to adjourn the business portion of the meeting at 7:40pm by Violet Shadd and seconded by Rhonda Grein. Motion carried.

Maryanne Weiler was the special guest speaker for the evening. She spoke about the history of Rockway garden, from inception to present day. Her slide show was an excellent pictorial of Rockway Gardens.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:04pm.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 2009

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 season starts off with the AGM that is held at the Kitchener Public Library and seminars are held monthly until April when we start our Summer program. May sees two major activities: the Plant Exchange and the Bulb Sale. Both events while providing an opportunity to acquire plants and bulbs at bargain prices, provide an opportunity to have questions asked and answered as there is always good representation at these events by members of the Kitchener Master Gardeners. In the Summer months, not only do we have some excellent Garden Tours but we also host Concerts in the Gardens that are sponsored by local businesses. Then in September we are back to our seminars at the Public Library which culminate with an always well attended special holiday design seminar.

We continue to receive compliments about the work that Rockway Garden's staff do on our behalf. The line-ups of wedding parties on the weekends attest to the hard work of our dedicated staff. On several occasions this Summer, we have had as many as eight parties lined up at the Arch and the Bridge to take their photos. 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 Adam and Eve Garden Accessories, Colour Paradise, Fred's Nursery, MTD, Ontario Seeds, Sheridan's Nursery, and York Nursery. 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 and to our Tour Garden selectors Carol Kay and Sandi Duclos.

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. Three Board members, Kim Ball, Jodi Rice, and Violet Shadd, have resigned from the Board and they will be sorely missed.

Bruce MacNeil, January 2010

ROCKWAY REPORT for 2009

This year was another successful year in the gardens.

Al Shivas (Garden Supervisor) completed the stone arch funded in part by the Zonta Club of Kitchener Waterloo and it has been featured in the many wedding, graduation and family pictures during the year.

The planting along the cascades and the stairway was improved. New borders were created on the top above the cascades along with new plantings. The Prairie Garden was removed and will be the new area for trees planted in memory of loved ones. The main fountain pump failed and was replaced and hopefully will last for many years.

On behalf of the many visitors to the Gardens I would like to thank Al, the staff and many volunteers who create and maintain the Gardens over the growing season.

Charlie Davis. January 2010

HORTICULTURAL THERAPY REPORT for 2009

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.

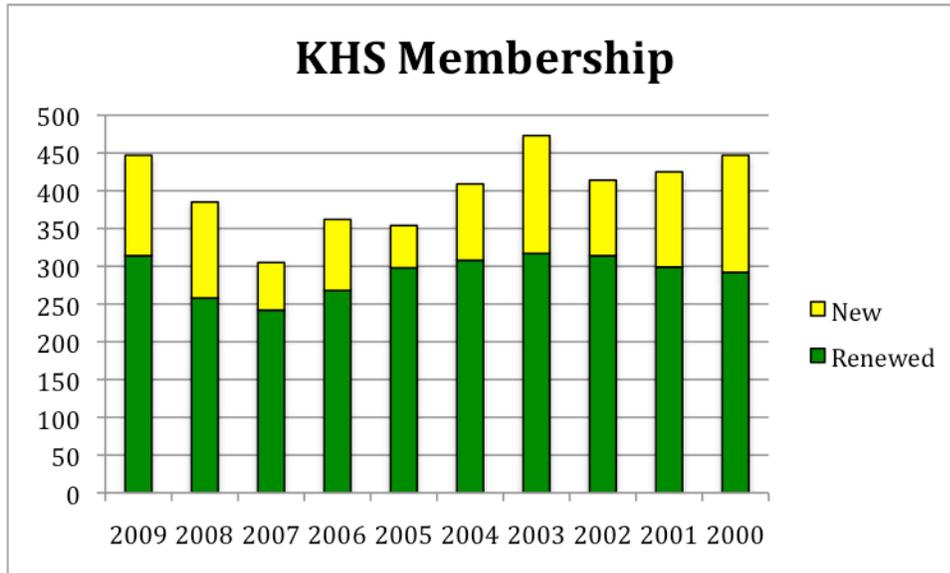
Participants at Freeport continue to be short term patients who reside at the Hospital while they receive therapy for a variety of conditions. Classes, led by therapist Penny Nickle, take place in the Solarium during the colder months and outside in the warmer months on the quadrangle while construction continues around the raised beds on the terrace. 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 (6 to 10) 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 2010

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT 2009

In 2009, Society membership broke through the 400 mark with a total of 447 members. This is the second highest membership level since 2000. Membership increased 16% compared to 2008 and continues the upward trend started in 2008. 2009 includes 91 family memberships, 46 youth members and 199 individual memberships.



We attracted 133 new members in 2009 and lost 71. The average length of membership is 5.2 years.

We continued promoting our events with notices in the local papers, the newsletter and regular email blasts.

We implemented a web based membership management system in 2009. It lets members keep contact information current, provides access to newsletters, and streamlines the member management process. 21 members renewed using the on-line PayPal system.

Respectfully submitted by
Steve McKenna

NEWSLETTER REPORT FOR 2009

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 Rhonda Grein, 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 2010

PROGRAMME REPORT for 2009

Once again the Kitchener Horticultural Society and the Kitchener Public Library co-sponsored the speaker seminars with seven speakers. These speakers have always been well received as an educational and entertaining evening.

We were not disappointed this year and have a power line-up in place for 2010.

I would like to thank the KPL for their continued support and interest in this programme and look forward to another successful year with them.

Last but not least, I thank you the members for supporting this venture.

Maryanne Weiler January 2010

YOUTH GROUP REPORT for 2009

We had another good year this year gardening out at Steckle Heritage Homestead. We welcomed some new families this year and we all made new friends. Our activities this year were our annual scavenger hunt, and a farm tour of Steckle, the children loved the hens the best!

Unfortunately due to Program changes at Steckle, the Youth Program must look for a new home.

Jodi Rice, January 2010