



MGABC Annual General Meeting

Held at the University of Northern BC, Prince George

Sunday, September 11, 2016

Minutes - Final Draft

Update: September 21

Present: Lynne Christmas, Jill Wright, Karen Bennett, Sue Ackerman, Anne Marie Bell, Mike Juleff
Christiane Hirt, Trine Helsoe, Linda Derkach

Present: 26 Qualified MGs (including the Council members), 4 members of the public

1. Welcome

We were welcomed to UNBC and to Prince George by Linda Naess, President of the David Douglas Botanical Garden Society located at the university. Linda gave us a very interesting overview of the outstanding features and attributes of Prince George, including an update on progress for the botanical garden.

2. Call to Order

President Lynne Christmas called the meeting to order at approximately 10:30 am and welcomed members, students and guests to our annual general meeting.

3. President's Report

Lynne thanked the David Douglas BGS for hosting the AGM, and the members of the Prince George Chapter of MGABC for arranging a great weekend of fun, education, garden and winery tours.

As this is her last year, Lynne said that she has enjoyed her years as President of MGABC. She introduced Council members. She noted that we have had inquiries from other communities as to how to begin a MG chapter.

Lynne stated that – for her – MGABC stands for communication and sharing. During her time on the Provincial Council, we have re-vamped the website that now includes a calendar so that all chapters can post activities for others to see. Two chapters entered projects in the conference of the Canadian Association of MGA. Vancouver won first prize and Victoria MGs came second. All chapters have renewed their Affiliation Agreements.

As President, her personal “pet” projects have been Seeds of Diversity and the Invasive Plant Council. Lynne thanked everyone for their enthusiasm and reminded us that the chapters **are** the association and we cannot exist without everyone. We also need the universities and the public botanical gardens as our partners.

4. Minutes of Last AGM

Motion #1:

Moved by Jill Wright and seconded by Karen Bennett that minutes of September 27, 2015 be accepted as corrected as follows: *Horticultural* changed to *Horticulture* in the heading.

Carried

5. Treasurer's Report

Trine Helsoe presented the financial statements to June 30, 2016 and a budget for the year 2016-2017.

MGABC Financial Statements to Year End - June 30, 2016

Opening Bank balance as of July 1, 2015	\$11,933.65
Website Development	\$2,475.00
(cheque issued June 30, 2015 cleared July 21, 2015)	
Income	
Bank interest	\$1.68
AGM – net of \$150,58 Karelo	1,641.97
Donations – Victoria MGA for website	1,000.00
Membership fees	<u>7,180.00</u>
Total Income	\$9,823.65
Expenses	
AGM – room, speakers, food	1,498.10
Website	4,650.00
Fees – Society Report	25.00
Council Meeting - Lunch	50.00
CGL Insurance	1,893.00
Travel – total paid out (\$150.00 donated back)	<u>2,044.82</u>
Total Expense	\$10,160.92
Closing bank balance as of June 30, 2016	\$9,121.38

MGABC Provincial Council Budget July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017

Revenue	
Surplus Brought Forward	2,000.00
Interest Earned	6.00
AGM	625.00
Donations	-
Membership Fees	7,100.00
Miscellaneous Revenue	<u>50.00</u>
Total Revenue	\$9,781.00
Expenses	
AGM – Advertising and Promotion	-
AGM – Registration (Karelo)	50.00
AGM – Venue	-
Speakers Honorariums, Tours	1,000.00
Conferences & Meetings	500.00
Website – Development	-
Website – Maintenance	225.00
Education Programs – Bursary	200.00
Books, Subscriptions, Reference	25.00
Meeting Rooms/Hall Rental	200.00
Printing & Copying	50.00
Supplies	50.00
Website Host Fees and Domain Names	152.00
Contingency	-
Insurance – CGL Liability	1,900.00
Travel Expense*	<u>5,529.00</u>
Total Expense	\$9,781.00

*Note: Travel Expense for Provincial Council members is higher for this year due to travel to the AGM in Prince George.

Motion #2:

Moved by Trine Helsoe and seconded by Birthe Miller that the Financial Statements to June 30, 2016 and the Provincial Budget for July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017 be accepted as presented.

Carried

6. Reports of the Chapter Representatives

(Following is a brief summary of the reports given. The full reports are attached to these minutes and form part of the minutes. They can also be found at the MGABC Website.)

• Okanagan – Anne Marie Bell

- This area covers Osoyoos to Armstrong, including Kelowna, Penticton and Vernon
- Currently there are 72 members
- A new BTP is underway now; certified MGs can audit the course as a refresher for \$5.00 per \$5.00 per half day
- They participate in Seedy Saturday in Vernon and Penticton and run Seedy Saturday in Kelowna
- Lifetime memberships were recently presented to Linda Sears and Ginny Dournovo

• Prince George – Christiane Hirt

- Activities include wreath-making, pot lunches, nursery tours, weed free lectures, outreach to Burns Lake, summer garden tours, 100 foot diet, plant sale and fall fair judging
- There are currently 30 members of the PG Chapter

• Thompson/Shuswap – Sue Ackerman

- This area includes Enderby, Kamloops and Shuswap
- Meetings are in Kamloops
- Members have done 500 clinic hours this year; we have only two people at clinics
- Clinic kits have been found to be very useful
- The City of Kamloops has been very supportive of the MGs - funding events, involving them in the Green Living Expo that gave them great exposure
- Participation in Seedy Saturday and great educational events
- We will have a big turn-over in the Executive this year
- We have new aprons and tee shirts
- 13 people are taking the Basic Training Program
- Currently there are 22 members with five on LOA

• Vancouver – Jill Wright

- Currently, there are 403 members.
- The BTP used to have 54 students with a waitlist; last year just 27 people took the course
- We expect this trend to continue but we are not sure why it is happening
- Vancouver has increased the number of hours required each year: 25 hours for Outreach (may include 10 hours with another organization) ; ten hours education (up from five)
- The chapter website is used to report members' hours
- Outreach hours are divided as follows: 40% in clinics, 40% on community projects, 20% teaching and writing
- We find people are more committed in community projects
- We run Seedy Saturday and donate to Seeds of Diversity
- Our Spring Seminar is very successful and we donated \$5,000 to VanDusen Gardens

- The 2017 Spring Seminar scheduled for March 12 at the Michael J. Fox Theatre will feature Noel Kingsbury, Linda Chalker-Scott and Cisco Morris.
- Billets were offered to out of town MGs wishing to attend
- Jill attended the conference of the Canadian MG Association in Ontario; they were very gracious hosts; they were very surprised to learn that there are 700 MGs in BC and 400 in Vancouver alone; Toronto has just 200 members
- The Ontario Association requires people to sign a promise to give time to Association administration
- Jill encouraged members to attend the International MG Conference in Portland in 2017
- Workshops in Vancouver this year include veggie gardening, ergonomic gardening, water wise, permaculture and deciduous tree identification
- Meetings are taped and go on the website accompanied by the Power Point slides

- **Vancouver Island – Karen Bennett**
 - With a large geographical area, we have only two meetings a year; we probably need to meet more often to build relationships and friendships and become more cohesive
 - Currently there are 75 members
 - A new gardening advice line has just started at Milner Gardens in Qualicum Beach in collaboration with VIMGA and is manned by MGs; a Plant Pick article is written once a month by MGs on plants in the garden and posted on the Milner social media and website

- **Victoria – Mike Juleff**
 - This area includes Victoria, Sidney, Sooke and up island almost to Duncan
 - Currently there are 123 members which includes 93 certified MGs and 21 MGsIT
 - 15 projects are underway including garden advice to residents of BCHMC buildings
 - Two MGsIT are producing a video on doing clinics
 - 17 MGs are volunteering at the Royal BC Museum to work in the herbarium, mounting plant specimens; they are trained and supervised by museum staff
 - 100 clinics took place between March and October
 - Nine gardens were staffed by members for the Victoria Conservatory of Music
 - 21 people took the BTP course this past spring and 17 have subsequently joined the Association. The course scheduled for 2017 is fully subscribed.
 - Their Advanced Training Program is well attended
 - Frequently Asked Questions are put on the website with answers for the public
 - Strategic Plan development is underway
 - A cook book entitled Master Flavours is under development; it will include growing tips for some of the ingredients
 - Mixing it Up in the Urban Garden is planned for January 2017; tickets are going fast

7. Golden Trowel Award – Presented by Jill Wright, Vancouver Chapter President

Heather Nielsen of the Vancouver Chapter is this year's winner.

Heather Nielsen graduated from the 2005 Vancouver Basic Training Class and the 2007 Advanced Training Class. She has worked tirelessly for the organization from the outset. Presently, Heather is in charge of communication for the BC Master Gardeners Provincial Web site encouraging all chapters to communicate their successes, their upcoming events and relevant articles to share with other members. She ensures the

required content is posted, current and easy to find. She has managed the website through many incarnations and worked diligently with the provincial council to get the great website we have today. She operates a Facebook page for the Vancouver Chapter and posts current happenings that she observes in her garden whether that is insects, diseases or invasive plants.

Heather sits on the Vancouver Chapter Executive as a non-voting member now that her 6 year term has come to an end.

She researched and implemented a process for easy registration for both chapter and provincial events which has saved countless hours of volunteer time.

Heather was on the provincial council during the transition to a fully functioning provincial body that included the six chapters in the province.

Heather has also held the position of Chapter Secretary.

Heather is a worthy recipient of this award for her dedication both to the Provincial Organization and to her own local Chapter. She is a strong advocate for education and for our members to be current on issues. She is helpful, always cheerful and friendly, reliable and accurate.

Her work is so effective that sometimes we take her for granted.

Thank you Heather, you are appreciated.

Heather was unable to attend the meeting in Prince George. She will be presented the award in Vancouver on September 12, 2016.

8. Election of Officers

Sue Ackerman presented the Slate of Officers for 2016-17 that was previously circulated to all members.

President – Karen Bennett

First year of two-year term

Secretary – Linda Derkach

First year of second two-year term

Treasurer – Trine Helsoe

Second year of two-year term

Past President – Lynne Christmas

The balance of our Provincial Council is made up of Chapter Representatives who are appointed or elected by each Chapter.

Motion #3:

Moved by Grace Morrice and seconded by Lynn Barker that we accept the slate of officers for 2016-2017. **Carried**

9. Passing of the Gavel

A “Thank You” gift was presented to Lynne Christmas by Trine Helsoe.

Lynne passed the gavel on to new President Karen Bennett. Lynne said that the gavel was made of rhododendron wood and presented to MGABC by Doug Courtemanche of Vancouver in 2005.

Karen thanked Lynne Christmas for her many years of service to MGABC.

Karen said she is excited to accept the position of President and to continue to move the council forward. She continues to be supportive of SOD and the Invasive Species Council. She welcomed ideas from members. Karen noted the benefits of getting together and sharing our time and our know ledge with one another.

10. 2017 AGM

The Vancouver Chapter will consider holding the 2017 AGM.

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:30.

Recorded by Linda Derkach, Secretary, MGABC

President

Secretary