



**MGABC Annual General Meeting
via Videoconference
Sunday, October 1, 2023
Minutes**

Draft:

Present:

Rachael Fleming - President, Okanagan
Mike Juleff – Past President, Victoria
Lynne Christmas - Treasurer, Vancouver
Carol Salton - Prince George Chapter Representative
Julie Paul - Vancouver Chapter Representative
Jacqueline Sherk - Vancouver Island Chapter Representative
Nancy Willihnganz - Victoria Chapter Representative
Pat Zander - Okanagan Chapter Representative
Sherry Bennett - Thompson Shuswap Chapter President

In addition, 173 members were present for the AGM portion, including the Provincial Council members noted above.

Welcome

President Rachael Fleming welcomed 154 members to our AGM and acknowledged that we come to you from, and garden on many of the traditional, ancestral, unceded territories across the province of British Columbia.

Educational Presentations

Before and after our business meeting, we enjoyed three outstanding presentations with a focus on Art in the Garden. Speakers were Maureen Faulkner “The Garden as Art”, Nigel Saunders “Bonsai – a Two Thousand Year Old Art Form in a Pot”, and Nancy Moore “The Role of Art in the Garden”.

MGABC Annual General Meeting
Sunday October 1ST 2023

Meeting was called to order at 12.35pm

President Rachael Fleming welcomed 154 members to the AGM.

1. President's Report

President's Report AGM 2023

Good afternoon and welcome to you all. It is a pleasure to have so many members attending the 20th Annual General Meeting of the Master Gardeners Association of British Columbia.

I would like to begin my Report by thanking the Prince George Chapter for hosting today's program. Thank you to Patricia, Maureen, Marie, Swetha, Ana and, Carol. Special thanks to Julie (Vancouver) and Linda (Vancouver Island) for their valuable assistance. I would like to express how impressed and inspired I have been by your work. It is not easy putting together a Zoom event like today but they have done it and once again it has been a pleasure for me to work alongside you.

Over this year, the MGABC has seen its new website up and running, it has been a lot of work for our Website Committee, thank you all. Check the website for events, reference material and help keep your Chapter pages up to date. The website is mgabc.org.

This year MGABC Council members worked diligently to stream line the requirements for nominating a member for the Golden Trowel Award. To nominate a member, Chapter members must complete a one-page application, with up to three letters of recognition. The committee that goes through the nominations is made up of a MGABC Council representative and previous Golden Trowel Award winners, one from each Chapter. With your help we hope we are well on the way to stream lining the nomination process. Details are posted on the MGABC Website and can be found the updated MGABC Manual.

The MGABC Council has retired the physical Golden Trowel trophy. It will be kept, in perpetuity, with the MGABC Archives, winners each year will received a framed certificate and we will celebrate their win with an article on the MGABC Website.

I would like to personally thank all members of the Provincial Council. It is always pleasure working alongside you as we update procedures, share information on our successes and occasional issues. During the year Linda Derkach has stepped forward to assist us with her administrative skills to update the MGABC Manual, and with Pat Zander to stream line the Golden Trowel Award application. Thank you Linda, for your assistance and knowledge.

At this time, I would like you all to join me in thanking Mike Juleff for all his hard work and many years spent at the helm of the MGABC Council. His vision and support made it a pleasure to work together on the Council, his leadership made it easy for Council members to share their knowledge and step forward to help one another. Thank you Mike.

Today I have a request to you all, the MGABC Council needs a Secretary. Our Constitution does not allow for someone to put their name forward from the floor, at the AGM, but the position is critical to us going forward. Our Council works closely together and helps one another. We meet seven times a year via Zoom, the Secretary is responsible for taking Minutes, working with the President to create an Agenda for meetings and distributing Minutes to the Council. For the last year, your Council members have taken turns recording the Minutes and today, Mike is doing so, this is not sustainable. Therefore, I am asking you, one and all, to consider taking on the role. I am more than happy to discuss the duties and can be reached via email and we can arrange a time to chat about the position. Take advantage of our Chat option and Patricia will make sure I get your message. Make my year....inundate me with requests to join the MGABC Council! As well as Secretary, I am putting you all on notice.... We are going to need a Treasurer this time next year... Lynne has generously extended her time for another year....

I would like to end my Report, with a thank you for all **your** hard work creating and continuing imaginative and sustainable programs throughout the British Columbia Master Gardener Program. On a personal note, I urge you all to take advantage of opportunities to participate in Chapter events throughout the province, whether in person or via Zoom, it is such a great opportunity to learn, share and just be in a room full of like-minded gardeners. A perfect example is the Victoria Chapter has invited all Master Gardeners, who may find themselves in the area, to attend an in-person Master Class on October 21st. The topic for the day is Grow Your Own Food Forest, details will be coming out to you via your Chapter Reps.

Respectfully submitted by MGABC President, Rachael Fleming, October 1, 2023

2. Minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting

Motion #1:

Moved by: Chris Southwick

Seconded by: Joanne Canning

That the minutes of October 2, 2022 be accepted as circulated.

Carried

3. Treasurer's Report

Lynne Christmas spoke to the Financial Statements to June 30, 2023 and to the Budget for 2023 – 2024.

MGABC Financial Report AGM October 1, 2023

FINANCIALS - July 1, 2022-June 30,2023		Budget July 2023 – June 2024	
REVENUE		REVENUE	
Membership Fees	\$6800.00	Membership Fees	\$6844.00
Direct Support (Donations In Misc. Income)	\$ 1.00	Direct Support (Donations)	\$ 775.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$6801.00	Misc. Income	\$ 0.76
		TOTAL REVENUE	\$7619.76
EXPENSES		EXPENSES	
AGM	\$2300.00	AGM	\$1194.34
Website Maintenance	\$ 500.00	Website Upgrade.	\$1912.50
Insurance	\$2400.00	Website Maintenance	
Donations Out		Donations – Out	\$ 775.00
Misc Expenses	\$ 550.00	Insurance	\$2493.00
		Misc. Expenses	\$ 469.17
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$5750.00	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$7050.26
		BANK BALANCE – June 30,2023	\$11,945.06

Good Afternoon all –

I am pleased to present the financial report for the past year July 1/22-June 30/23 – Before I get into the financial details just a quick overview of the organization for the new members and a reminder for all -

The MGABC is a registered not-for-profit society with charity status and is comprised of the provincial council and chapters. The provincial council is elected by all members of the association and each chapter has a representative on this council – and all members – chapter & council - together form the MGABC.

There is an agreement signed by each chapter with MGABC and the chapters pay a membership fee to the provincial council. The provincial council does not determine the day to day running of the chapters but there are certain guidelines set in place by the both the Society Act and the CRA which provincial council is responsible for and to make sure they are followed. As a society we file annual society reports to BC and annual financial reports to the CRA. As a charity we can accept donations from the public and for which tax receipts can be issued.

Explanation of the breakdown –
REVENUE

Membership - this is \$10 per member and that includes all classes of MG membership – qualified, student, associate, alumni - - and this is the basis for the insurance coverage

Donations – this is the donations sent to us- usually by members for their chapter –

Misc income – bank interest

EXPENSES

AGM – this event – the hosting chapter does not foot the bill –

Website – again this is provincial expenses – and all members/chapters have access to
- Covers both the upgrades and maintenance of the site – the payment there is the final amount paid for the upgrade of the site – which has been done over the past couple of years

Donations – sent out the specific chapters – money in/out – this is so the tax receipts can be given

Insurance – the CGL which covers all members –third party liability only – for any injury/property damage one of our members cause to anyone/place else – it does not cover injury to a member at a MG event not loss/damage to their property

Misc expense – fees paid out for items such as – filing society report, zoom membership, etc

The last thing for my report is the budget for this year – now that the website has been updated we can then go back to just maintaining it. Also you will notice I do not include donations in either income or expenses because we cannot depend on any.

REVENUE

Membership - only guaranteed source of income – from the chapters

Misc – bank interest

EXPENSES

Now that website upgrade done we are back to the normal expenses

AGM – increase speaker fees this year

Website – maintenance only

Insurance – the 3rd party liability for all classes of membership

Misc – zoom membership, society report, other misc operating expenses

That is the end of my report – any questions? Then I move to accept the financial report as presented....

Thank you everyone -

Motion #2:

Moved by Lynne Christmas

Seconded by: Trine Helsoe

That the Treasurer’s Report be accepted as presented.

Carried

4. Chapter Presentations

Detailed Chapter Reports were previously circulated to all members and will be sent out again following the AGM along with the Financial Statements.

The six chapters of MGABC each presented a brief slide show or video on some of the activities of their chapter. We learned about the many, varied and creative initiatives of our members.

5. Golden Trowel Award

Congratulations to the Golden Trowel Award winner for 2023, Prince George's very own: Birthe Miller.

Today, I am going to do something slightly different and read out one of the letters of support for Birthe's nomination... it says it all.

We call her the woman who never sleeps. For how is it otherwise possible to accomplish all that she does in one day, one month or one year?

Birthe is a longtime member of the David Douglas Botanical Garden Society (DDBGS) who completed the Master Gardener Basic Training in 2008. Along with her peers from this first Prince George class, Birthe commenced to organize a number of important projects for the community. She has since been relentlessly and whole-heartedly committed to increasing horticultural awareness in the Prince George area.

Birthe has served in every position on the DDBGS board all the while representing and promoting the interests of Master Gardeners. The many projects that she oversees, which include a winter lecture series, plant sales, garden tours, newsletter editor and others, all provide opportunities for MGs to do presentations, provide advice to the public, submit articles for publication and develop their own skills.

Through the plant sales, Birthe has given the Prince George Master Gardeners an opportunity to hone our planting and transplanting skills, identify plants as they emerge, practice our Latin while writing thousands of plant labels, and provide advice to the public. She has encouraged and focused a team of growers and volunteers to provide our community with a number of plant sales that are widely anticipated and annually raise \$25-35,000. Notably, Birthe most recently was instrumental in our plant sale pivoting to online sales with COVID 19 restrictions while increasing revenue and further engagement with the community. Birthe also used her technology skills to make possible offering the MG Basic Training program online to 2 classes of students.

Birthe's personal skills make her a consummate facilitator and a wonderful, generous friend to all. She takes care of her volunteers and is the type of person that makes you want to follow

her and do good work. She has been instrumental in raising the MG profile and enhancing gardening in the north. We are so grateful to have her on our team, sharing and promoting our interests, and feel she is most deserving of this award.

Please join me in congratulating Birthe Miller, our Golden Trowel Award recipient for 2023. Birthe we will be mailing you a framed certificate and would like to highlight your accomplishments on the MGABC Website.

Congratulations are also extended to Okanagan Chapter member Rachael Fleming who has also been awarded the 2023 MGABC Golden Trowel Award.

Rachael has been a very active member of the Okanagan Chapter since her graduation in 2010.

Her accomplishments include:

2010-2015 Okanagan Master Gardeners Clinic Planner

2016-2018 OMG President

2018-Present Rachael convened the OMG Seedy Saturday, including securing location; developing vendors, education speakers and seed sharing. Making it a very popular spring event in Kelowna.

2018-2021 Rachael accepted the role of MGABC Representative.

2021- Present Rachael has served as MGABC President.

Rachael is also an active member of the Kelowna garden club and the Okanagan Xeriscape Association.

Rachael started OMG volunteering at the Guisachan Heritage Gardens in 2010 and continues to manage the volunteers there.

Rachel has been instrumental in developing the OMG Chapter Facebook page. She is now supporting the new MGIT's involvement on the OMG page.

Some comments regarding Rachael's efforts include; "I have found Rachael to be an engaging and effective volunteer who shares her expertise enthusiastically, in my opinion, Rachael transcends any particular organisation while furthering the aims and missions of each".

"Rachael's ability to work with other organisations is her strength". "She has certainly elevated the Master Gardener profile in the Okanagan". "She exemplifies the role of Master Gardener by sharing her knowledge and enthusiasm with the whole community".

6. Nominating Committee Report – Mike Juleff

Karen presented the Slate of Officers for 2023 – 2024:

President – Rachael Fleming, Okanagan Chapter

President Elect – Coleen Rogers, Victoria Chapter

Secretary – *vacant*

Treasurer - Lynne Christmas, Vancouver Chapter

Motion #3:

Moved by Mike Juleff

Seconded by: Linda Bradford

That the Slate of Officers for 2023 – 2024 be approved as presented.

Carried

7. Adjournment

Motion #4:

Moved by: Joanne Canning

Seconded by: Carol Salton

That the meeting be adjourned at 1:43 pm.

Carried

Door Prize Winners

Ana Peasgood announced the following winners of \$25.00 gift card, of member's choice:

- Laverne DeYaegher, Okanagan
- Karen Pitcher, Prince George
- Leslie Welch, Thompson Shuswap
- Cathy Sutton, Vancouver
- Jan Thorsen, Vancouver Island
- Janette Patterson, Victoria

Recorded by Mike Juleff, Secretary stand-in for 2023 MGABC AGM