



Master Gardeners Association of British Columbia  
Consolidated Chapter Reports and Financial Statements  
AGM 2023

## Okanagan Master Gardeners

**Membership:** We are a group of 58 members. Within this group, one person is on leave of absence and there are two alumni. As well, we have five others with lifetime memberships.

**Clinics:** We held 45 clinics at 24 different sites. This amounted to 679 volunteer hours. Only 3 had to be cancelled, so we are pretty much back to normal after the pandemic. As well, we have an online Ask a Master Gardener, and a presence on Facebook, again to answer questions.

**Volunteer Projects:** At present, our projects stretch from Kelowna to Naramata, and include the gardens at Guisachan Heritage Park, Benvoulin Heritage Centre, the Serenity Garden at Cottonwoods Care Facility, Hospice Garden in Kelowna, Summerland Ornamental Garden, beds at Summerland Recreation Centre and Naramata Rose Garden.

We start our year with Seedy Sunday in March. This event in Kelowna happens in March and is organized by the OMG. Almost half our members work on this; it is a terrific way to get the year underway. We take part in other "seedy" events in the valley as well.

**Basic Training:** Eleven people graduated last December. All are Master Gardeners in Training and are well on their way to complete their 65 practicum hours to become fully fledged Master Gardeners. Tentatively we will offer the next course in September, 2024. There are 20 people on a wait list; we have decided we need at least 16 to commit before we go forward. It will be our first course offered in a hybrid format.....meeting some days in person, others online.

**Continuing Education:** Opportunities for education are regularly emailed to members. Speakers at our AGM will be talking about growing food, always a popular topic at clinics, and information on the best shrubs and trees for climate resilience. (We can see the sad results of increasingly erratic weather in our gardens and the surrounding environment.)

**Community Partnerships:** We have a close relationship with our local garden clubs, supporting them with plant sale help, educational talks, as well as casual question/answers at club meetings. We also work with the Okanagan Xeriscape Society, again with plant sales, as well as garden visits to give information on more effective water use. Recently, we have had opportunities to become involved giving talks at libraries.

In summary, it has been a good year. We feel we have been well received at clinics and our presence in the community is well established. Among our aims, is to become more interactive with other similarly focused groups.

Respectfully submitted: Pat Zander, OMG

## Prince George Master Gardeners

22 Master Gardeners

10 Master Gardeners in Training from 2021

9 Master Gardeners in Training from 2023

It has been a year of positive change for our chapter, the biggest change being one of leadership. It is refreshing to have two very capable co-chairs at the helm who bring new ideas and ways of thinking to the membership.

The seed library in partnership with our local library continues to thrive. Two of our newer members have stepped up to coordinate next year's new season beginning in January. Meanwhile, MGs have been organizing late summer and fall workshops on seed saving.

This year's Seedy Saturday, an in-person event, was well attended. The venue was smaller than in previous years so it was decided not to include commercial vendors. Attendees were able to purchase lunch provided by caterers which added a degree of sociability in between displays and speakers.

Under the guidance of three of our members, the Master Gardening Program was completed in four-week blocks from November to April. For the first time this year a mentorship program was established on a voluntary basis linking students with a chapter member. Mentorship could take many forms, the simplest being sitting beside the student at an event or making sure the student was aware of and included in activities. It is hoped that by making personal connections our chapter will retain these enthusiastic graduates from the program. It was decided by the three instructors that the Master Gardening course would skip next year and be offered the following year. The reasons are two-fold. Firstly, it was felt that time should be spent mentoring the new Master Gardeners in training before bringing in a new group. Secondly, it is a very big-time commitment for the instructors even with bringing in guest lecturers and they wanted and needed a break.

Spring saw Master Gardeners once again helping with the Garden Society's large two-day plant sale. Master Gardeners helped to label, repot and groom plants to look their best for the sale. They were on hand to give advice to enthusiastic crowds.

Our chapter had an information table at the spring Home Show and helped kids plant a tulip bulb, a very popular activity. Also in the spring, a small group traveled to Burns Lake to be part of a day long clinic.

Throughout the summer, chapter members have helped at a variety of eight open gardens, acting as auxiliary hosts after a pre meeting with the garden's owner. I would be remiss not to mention the small committee that began working before Christmas to start planning this year's AGM. It seemed quite daunting at first but has been made manageable with regular meetings and the addition of tech savvy members. I am grateful for the encouragement and advice from Provincial and individuals, namely Linda Derkach from Vancouver Island Chapter and Julie Paul from Vancouver Chapter. At this time of writing our hope is for an informative, enjoyable and productive Annual General Meeting on October 1<sup>st</sup>.  
Respectfully submitted: Carol Salton

## Vancouver Island Master Gardeners

### **VIMGA Membership Stats as at September 2023:**

- 63 CMG; 12 Interns; 3 Lifetime; 11 Alumni

### **Four VIMGA Geographical Areas encompasses all of VI north and south VI to Mill Bay:**

- North Island
- PQN (Parksville/Qualicum/Nanoose)
- Nanaimo area and Gabriola Island
- Cowichan Valley

### **Clinics and Advice Opportunities:**

- Advice hours total 924+ and other opportunities, including Garden Advice Parties (GAPs)  
total 380 hours.

### **Partnerships and Affiliations:**

- Vancouver Island University ('Advanced Gardening Theory Course' – our MG basic training)
- Milner Gardens and Woodland (botanical garden situate in Qualicum Beach)
- Vancouver Island Regional Library (our 'Virtual Gardening Series' is live-streamed monthly and is also available on YouTube)
- Take 5 Magazine ('Gardening Hoe Down'); Island Farm & Garden Magazine, and Lighthouse Country Living Magazine

### **Continuing Education:**

Our two major education events of the year are our **Spring Education Day (SED)** and our **Fall AGM**. Our SED event in March this year was themed on Managing Pests and Encouraging Beneficial, and our upcoming AGM event to be held Nov 4<sup>th</sup> will focus on Tree Fundamentals.

### **VIMGA website:**

Check out our very functional and appealing, new this year, website at [VIMGA.org](http://VIMGA.org)!

***Prepared by Jacqueline Sherk, MGABC Representative***

## Victoria Master Gardeners

### **Membership Oct 2023**

127 Total members: 79 Active, 15 Emeritus, 23 MGIT (13 year1,10 year2) 1 Life, 3 Honorary,3 Associate.

### **Chapter Numbers/Activities 2023**

The VMGA year is November 1 to October 31: Number of clinics, number of hours in volunteer categories and projects will be reported after year end. Volunteer hours returned to the pre-pandemic requirement. The Victoria Symphony Mother's Day Garden tour declined participation of MG's this year, representing a loss of many clinic hours.

### **Chapter Activities Highlights**

**Mixing It Up in the Urban Garden**, VMGA's biennial public education event was held January 26. **Evolving Gardens** was planned with the climate in mind and presenters, resources, sponsors, and silent auction items were all locally sourced. Almost all of the VMGA members are involved with some aspect of the conference. Early in the planning process the decision was made to hold the conference in person and 211 participants attended, and a further 90 ordered the taped presentations. Evaluations of the conference content were rated "excellent".

**Strategic Plan 2024-2029**- The background work on VMGA's strategic plan involved many layers of collecting information for the direction of activity of VMGA in the next years. Work began with a Zoom Town Hall Meeting, a survey sent to membership, assistance from a facilitator, feedback sessions with the membership and finally the development of action plans. Once the strategic plan has been ratified by the membership at the VMGA AGM work will begin on initiatives.

**Pop Up Mini Workshops** – VMGA has begun to experiment with mini educational workshops at clinics. Growing Tomatoes and Plant Latin have been offered to date.

**Advanced Training Program (ATP)** celebrated a 10-year anniversary with fun activities and cake! Impressive numbers about the program: 47 courses have been organized for 904 students. There are 93 current members involved in ATP with 43 graduates and over the 10 years, 95% of the course evaluations are excellent/good. VMGA has purchased a microscope for use in the courses.

### **Educational Opportunities**

Mycorrhizae was the topic for the 2022 full day Master Class with limited enrollment due to the microscope work.. Presentations at general meetings included Growing Trees in

Containers, Combining Native Plants with Ornamentals, a panel of Roserians and Heathy Gardening. During the summer members visited the Welland Community Orchard, and a member's innovative garden. Our very popular hands-on tool sharpening event is becoming by demand an annual event.

### **Other 2023 news in brief**

Thirteen members celebrated 15, 10 or 5 years with VMGA

One member received the provincial Golden Trowel Award

In person plant sales have resumed (two this past year)

Our long time Basic Course instructor was presented a book of VMGA memories.

There is interest in re-establishing interest groups – e.g., propagation.

Nancy Willihnganz, VMGA MGABC Chapter Rep

## Vancouver Master Gardeners

### **Membership – 419 Members**

- 317 Active Qualified Master Gardeners
- 56 Students – 43 1<sup>st</sup> year & 13 2<sup>nd</sup> Year
- 46 Other Categories: 14 Sustaining, 13 Alumni & 19 Life Members

### **Continuing Education**

The Vancouver Chapter offered a wide range of educational opportunities throughout the year, including:

**6 Speaker Series** with topics ranging from native plants, common ferns, Dr Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden, issues related to our food systems, putting the garden to bed and a conversation with J.B MacKinnon.

**Spring Seminar** – *What's New In Gardening*.: a very successful in person event with 230 attendees and 95 individuals viewed the recordings of the presentations.

### **Additional Programs:**

- Apple Tree Pruning workshop
- Drip Irrigation – How to design and install
- The Art and Science of Landscape Design, an in-depth program held over several days with assignments.

### **Outreach Opportunities**

#### ***Clinics***

Over 200 clinics were held at 98 locations throughout the Lower Mainland, Abbotsford, Chilliwack, Bowen Island, Sunshine Coast, Powell River & Squamish. Nurseries are our most popular location, but we also host clinics at Farmers Markets and Gardening Events.

#### ***Projects***

47 projects are being supported by the Chapter. The Chapter oversees **Healing Gardens** located at Extended Care Centres, Hospice facilities, Long-term Care Facilities and Children's Hospitals. As well our members support a wide range of **Community Gardens** including food gardens, pollinator gardens, cultivation of Dahlias

& Mason Bees and seed libraries. We also offer research opportunities for our members to complete on their own and at home.

### **Community Partnerships**

VanDusen Gardens is our home base where we hold our Basic training Program, Members Meetings and continuing education programs. For members who are located outside of the lower mainland we encourage them to support their local garden communities. This includes Sunshine Coast Botanical Gardens, Paulik Park in Richmond, UBC Botanical Gardens, and Darts Hill. We also work with West Vancouver and the City of Vancouver on various initiatives.

## Thompson Shuswap Master Gardeners

### **MEMBERSHIP**

As of September 1st there we have a total membership of 24 - 17 Qualified Active Members (this includes three Master Gardeners in Training who recently completed their qualification requirements); 3 Leave of Absence; 4 Alumni. As is typical with so few members, recruiting members to accept organizational roles remains a challenge.

### **VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES**

#### *CLINICS*

Members participated in 20 clinics as local nurseries, non-profit plant sales, farmers' markets, earth day celebration and a seedy Saturday.

#### *FACEBOOK SERIES*

TSMG team members facilitated two popular multi-week Facebook series, one focused on Urban Trees and the other on Fabulous Foliage. Due to the popularity of our gardening workshops, the City of Kamloops asked us to increase offerings for their Fall and Winter Recreation programming. In addition to facilitating workshops on indoor seed starting, winter sowing, small garden plot gardening, invasive species, and hardy plants for the Kamloops' climate, we added seed saving for beginners, native plants in the home landscape and composting for small spaces.

#### *POLLINATOR FESTIVAL*

Many of our members participated in the Kamloops Farmer's Market's annual Pollinator Festival. The TSMG's four interactive displays were a well-received!

#### *NATIVE BEE TALKS/WALKS*

Elaine Sedgman, our resident native bee expert, travelled the region offering highly-engaging native bee talks and walks to a demographic spanning young children to adult.

#### *CBC RADIO INTERVIEWS*

With the high temperatures came requests from our local CBC radio for information on how to adapt our landscapes to accommodate drought conditions.

### **WEBSITE**

Estelle Berube spent many hours formatting text/images for the MGABC's recently updated website. She also shared her expertise on succulents by leading a succulent workshop to our members at our spring meeting.

### **BASIC TRAINING**

Planning for a 2024 Basic Training is underway, in collaboration with the Vancouver Master Gardeners, VMG and TSMG have secured an outstanding lineup of lecturers. The training will run January 6 to April 6, and will take place on Tuesday evenings and Saturday mornings. To ensure our basic training is accessible to gardeners in the vast Thompson Shuswap geographic location, and to minimize the need to travel to Kamloops in winter driving conditions, we've incorporated as many online lectures as was possible.

### **GOOGLE WORKSPACE**

Our executive members have Google Workplace fully functional and it's serving as an efficient tool for our membership to download forms and access other key chapter operating documents.

Submitted by Sherry Bennett – TSMG Chapter Rep

## **MGABC Financial Report AGM October 1, 2023**

### **FINANCIALS - July 1,2022-June 30,2023**

<b>REVENUE</b>	
Membership Fees	\$6844.00
Direct Support (Donations)	\$ 775.00
Misc. Income	\$ --.76
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$7619.76</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	

AGM	\$1194.34
Website Upgrade	\$1912.50
Website Maintenance	
Donations – Out	\$ 775.00
Insurance	\$2493.00
Misc. Expenses	\$ 469.17
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$7050.26</b>
<b>BANK BALANCE – June 30,2023</b>	<b>\$11,945.06</b>

Budget July 2023-June 2024

<b>REVENUE</b>	
Membership Fees	\$6800.00
Direct Support (Donations In	
Misc. Income	\$ 1.00
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$6801.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
AGM	\$2300.00
Website Maintenance	\$ 500.00
Insurance	\$2400.00
Donations Out	
Misc Expenses	\$ 550.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$5750.00</b>