



**MGABC Annual General Meeting
via Videoconference
Sunday, October 2, 2022
Minutes**

Update: Oct 5, 2022 Final 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

Linda Derkach - Secretary, Vancouver Island

In addition, about 221 members were present for the AGM portion, including the Provincial Council members noted above.

Welcome

President Rachael Fleming welcomed approximately 221 members to our AGM and acknowledged that we were gathered on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the Syilx/Okanagan people.

Educational Presentations

Before and after our business meeting, we enjoyed four outstanding presentations on our theme of *Bringing the Wild into Our Gardens*. Linda Gilkeson spoke on *Where Have all the Insects Gone?* followed by Gwen Odermatt on *Treasures of the Pond*. Following our AGM, Dorothee Kieser spoke on *Native Plants for the Woodland Garden* and Kristen Miskelly shared her knowledge on *Native Plants for Sunny Gardens*.

MGABC Annual General Meeting

President Rachael Fleming welcomed 221 members to the AGM.

1. President's Report

Good afternoon and welcome to you all. It is a pleasure to have so many members attending the 19th Annual General Meeting of the Master Gardeners Association of British Columbia.

I would like to begin my report by thanking the Vancouver Island Chapter for hosting today's program. The program planning team of Linda Derkach, Chris Southwick, Jacqueline Sherk, Karen Bennett, and Mike O'Neill put together an inspiring day devoted to *Bringing the Wild into your Garden*. Cameron Smith from VIMGA, Julie Paul from the Vancouver Chapter and Lorna Stewart from the Victoria Chapter are our Tech wonders. Today, we are all enjoying the benefits of the Planning Team's hard work and I would like to express how impressed and awe-inspired I have been by your work. It is not easy putting together a Zoom event like today but they have done it and wow! Thank you for your hard work.

Over this year, the MGABC has seen many of our traditional volunteer opportunities back up and running, and the new opportunities that opened up to us during the last few years of COVID have continued. We have all learned new skills, shared opportunities between Chapters, and participated in Zoom events at an unprecedented level. I very much hope with support from the MGABC Council we can continue. Our AGM is the perfect example of how to bring us all together- just look at our participation numbers.

For the last couple of years we have had a dedicated group of members, representing our Chapters, participating in the upgrade of the MGABC website. I want to thank Mike Juleff for heading up the committee with Heather Neilson, Marina Zarrillo, Janette Patterson, Cameron Smith, Margaret Wyeth, Sherry Bennett, Estelle Berube, and Karen Kellert for their time and effort. Many hours have been spent with the website designer Sean Barber and we will be pleased to unveil the new MGABC Website to all our members later this Fall.

The newly minted MGABC website has a fresh, new look. The focus for the new website is a public site. We want to promote and engage the general public, so the new design will reflect that. We encourage all of you to visit the site, once up

and running, want you to participate by posting information, events, and assist in answering the “Ask a Master Gardener” questions. There will be a section that includes MGABC Governance documents, if you need them, but please note as this is a public site there will not be a section for Chapter-related documents. Stay tuned for our actual unveiling of the new MGABC Website.

In closing, I would like to personally thank all members of the Provincial Council.

Past President: Mike Juleff

Treasurer: Lynne Christmas

Out-going Secretary: Linda Derkach... thank you Linda for all your support, fount of knowledge and tremendous commitment to the MGABC. You will be a hard act to follow.

Chapter Reps:

Julie Paul, Vancouver

Nancy Willihnganz, Victoria

Audrey Baier/Sherry Bennett, Thompson Shuswap

Carol Salton, Prince George

Jacqueline Sherk, Vancouver Island

Melba Reid/Pat Zander, Okanagan

Going forward our MGABC Council hopes to continue encouraging Chapters to share their education opportunities, and to continue their close liaison with each other. Thank you for all your hard work creating and continuing imaginative and sustainable programs throughout the British Columbia Master Gardener Program. If you have not read over the Chapter Reports sent to you, please have a read, it really is incredible what each Chapter accomplishes in a year.

A final note: the President’s Report will be added to a consolidated package of reports and then circulated to members. It will be posted on the new website.

2. Minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting

Motion #1:

Moved by Jo Canning and seconded by Chris Southwick that the minutes of September 26, 2021 be accepted as circulated.

Carried

3. Treasurer's Report

Lynne Christmas spoke to the Financial Statements to June 30, 2022 and to the Budget for 2022 – 2023.

Financial Statement 2021 – 2022

REVENUE

Direct public Support	750.00
Membership Fees	6,740.00
Misc	<u>740.39</u>
Total Revenue	8230.39

EXPENSE

AGM	1,194.76
Web site Maintenance/Hosting	279.72
Website Upgrade	3,375.00
Donations – Out	750.00
Insurance	2,420.00
Operating Expenses	<u>301.80</u>
Total Expense	8,321.28

Bank Balance – June 30, 2022 **\$10, 405.50**

Budget 2022 – 2023

REVENUE

Membership Fees	6,800.00
Misc	<u>1.00</u>
Total Revenue	6,801.00

EXPENSE

AGM	1,450.00
Website Maintenance/Hosting	723.00
Website Upgrade	2,000.00
Insurance	2,400.00
Operating Expenses	<u>265.00</u>
Total Expense	\$6,838.00

Lynne explained that as a registered charity, MGABC receives donations on behalf of the Chapters, provides tax deductible receipts to donors and then disburses the donations back to the chapters as requested.

Lynne also clarified our Liability Insurance and that it only covers Third Parties at any of our events or meetings. It does not cover injury to our members – just to the public. Lynne also explained what is included in each line in the Revenue, Expenses and the Budget.

Motion #2:

Moved by Lynne Christmas and seconded by Mike O’Neill 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 2022 MGABC Golden Trowel award winner from the Victoria Chapter, Master Gardener **Linda Cross**.

Linda began training in 2004 and became a fully fledged Master Gardener with the Victoria Chapter in 2005.

As well as clinics, plant sales and the usual volunteer activities, she has always been a leader in educating, not only the general public, but also other Master Gardeners. She has been a Mentor in her own Chapter, a committee member for the coordination and evaluation of each Basic Training class and participated as a Committee member at the Provincial Level helping establish criteria for all Basic Training Courses in BC.

Linda was instrumental in establishing the first Master Class, “Vegetable Galore” with Linda Gilkeson, it is now an annual event. She co-chaired for the Advanced

Training Program, and in fact, is one of its first graduates. She was the creator and lead of the virtual Master Gardener Basic Training Program in 2020, as a strategy for continuing education during the pandemic, we have all benefited from this use of Zoom.

Linda is a true educator and someone whose love and knowledge of gardening has benefitted countless other gardeners and with her keen interest in Native species, she fits right in with today's theme: *Bringing the Wild into your Garden*.

My few words of introduction and congratulations pale in comparison to the letters of support we received for Linda's nomination. Please join me in congratulating our 2022 MGABC Golden Trowel winner: **Linda Cross**.

6. Nominating Committee Report – Karen Bennett

Karen presented the Slate of Officers for 2021 – 2022:

President – Rachael Fleming, Okanagan Chapter

President Elect – *vacant*

Secretary – *vacant*

Treasurer - Lynne Christmas, Vancouver Chapter

Motion #3:

Moved by Karen Bennett and seconded by Mike O'Neil that the Slate of Officers for 2022 – 2023 be approved as presented. ***Carried***

Rachael emphasized the critical importance of finding someone to take on the role of Secretary. She asked members to contact her to discuss.

7. Adjournment

Motion #4:

Moved by Jo Canning and seconded by Karen Bennett that the meeting be adjourned at 1:30 pm. ***Carried***

Door Prize Winners

Karen Bennett announced the following winners of \$25 Gift Certificates:

- Jane Gates, Okanagan
- Marie Gendron, Prince George
- Bei Zhang, Vancouver
- Marge Robertson, Vancouver
- Debora Gurrad, Vancouver Island
- Carolyn Felderhof, Victoria

Final Poll of the Day:

To what degree were you satisfied with the AGM today?

- Very good – 79%
- Good – 21%

Recorded by Linda Derkach
Secretary, MGABC