



You are invited to the
MBGC AGM & Dinner

Tuesday, June 24th, 2025 at 5:00 pm
in the garden of
Gayle Volker and Randy Thompson

This much-anticipated annual event will begin with a
Potluck dinner, followed by the
Annual General Meeting

Spouses, partners, children... all are welcome to join us
for the evening!

Please arrive between 4:00-5pm for setup. Please bring the following items (especially chairs!): Something to contribute to the potluck dinner, including a serving utensil; chairs; plates, cutlery, napkins, placemats; coffee cups; favourite beverage and glasses; and a light jacket or sweater, just in case.



Please bring a floral decoration for your table!



**The club will be providing tea and coffee, and
a delicious cake for dessert.**

Garbage cans and recycling bags for cleanup will be provided.

Look for directions and parking information inside.



MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

Website: www.millbaygardenclub.com

Email: mbgcnewsletter@gmail.com

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Mill Bay Garden Club Annual General Meeting Agenda June 24, 2025

1. Approval of the Agenda
2. Approval of minutes of the 2024 AGM (attached)
3. President's Report
Backup person to send out emails to members
4. Community Flower and Garden Show report, Janice Rose
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Questions to the Executive
7. Nominations and Election of the Executive, facilitated by Gill Keir
8. Final comments by the President
9. Adjournment

President's Message to the 2025 Mill Bay Garden Club

Richard Nelson

This has been a tremendous year for the Mill Bay Garden Club; we have had huge member participation with full houses for the General Meetings, inspiring presentations and a rollicking Christmas Party. The Community Flower and Garden Show this spring was apparently a grand success in every way save only for the lack of sunshine (the light rain was something to celebrate).

This year we instituted free membership for members under 25yrs, and we attracted a couple of youth members which is hopefully just the beginning of growth in that direction. At the Flower and Garden Show there was a 4yr. old entrant, I don't know if that youngster was signed up as a member - I hope so.

Gill Keir, our Past President has been a tremendous help to me by sharing the insight she gained through her experience in the President position. The orderly succession in leadership of the club over the years continually pays dividends by promoting stability and building on our past successes. With members generously taking on the various tasks and leadership positions in the Club we can continue to grow and improve.

When Dave Byrnes, our communications anchor, took a well deserved trip in early spring we discovered that some individuals take on big responsibilities and do things so well that their being there can be somewhat taken for granted. What became clear is that we need a bit of backup for things like emailing members to get information out in a timely fashion. It is also evident that some members take on large or multiple roles year upon year, they deserve a break from the extra responsibility. There will be opportunities at the AGM for more involvement so that more people doing less means fewer people doing more.

The Mill Bay Garden Club Annual General Meeting is more of a party than a meeting. It is being held in the gorgeous garden of members Gayle and Randy. The forecast is for plentiful pot luck delicacies, engaging company and beautiful summery weather. Please whip up a favourite dish to share and come on out to the picnic.

Thanks to one and all for your participation and support of Mill Bay Garden Club throughout the year.

In gardening,

Richard

Executive and Committee Nomination Forms

If you wish to nominate someone for any position, please fill in this form and return it to Gill Keir before the AGM.

Nomination form for Mill Bay Garden Club

I hereby nominate _____ for the
position of

_____.

Nominator _____

Secunder _____

I (nominee) _____

accept the nomination. Date: __/__/____

Submit nominations to Gill Keir

Nomination form for Mill Bay Garden Club

I hereby nominate _____ for the
position of

_____.

Nominator _____

Secunder _____

I (nominee) _____

accept the nomination. Date: __/__/____

Submit nominations to Gill Keir

Executive Election Candidates for 2025-26 (as of June 10/25)

These positions are still open for volunteers to put names forward. They won't close until the actual election is in progress at the AGM. Contact: Gill Keir, gillian.millbay@shaw.ca 250.709.1471.

President: Richard Nelson

VP: Kathy Code

Treasurer: Gord Hamilton

Secretary: Carol Goodger-Hill

Bursary: Ann Baty

Flower n Garden Show: Janice Rose

Kitchen: Judy Raimondo

Library: Katherine Miller

Membership: Alicia Wonsiak

Memorial Garden: Heather Jenkins

Newsletter: Dave Byrnes

Plant Sales: Carrie Nelson

Raffle: Stephanie Taylor

Social Media: Pat Spezowka

Webmaster: Gord Hamilton

Flower & Garden Show 2025 - Janice Rose, Chair

This year's show was a truly extraordinary day for the Mill Bay Garden Club. We counted over 90 dedicated, cheerful and enthusiastic volunteers who showed up with smiles on a wet and rainy day (thanks to Al and his clip board)!

We counted many more flower exhibits than in previous years. When I opened the hall on Saturday morning the fragrance was intoxicating and when the lights went on it was like Christmas morning! Thanks goes to everyone who contributed to this event!

The buzz around the Plant Sales table and the ever increasing hum at the Silent Auction was exhilarating! More community members came through the gate than in former years.

There are so many highlights from our 76th Flower and Garden show.

Our Aggregate Award goes to Barbara Juurlink. Congratulation Barb! And congratulations also to Heather Jenkins who came in a close second and to Pat Spezowka who was third.

The People's Choice Award goes to Liz Linqvist for her 'Made in Canada, Eh!' design.

The Plant Sales brought in an astonishing record amount of \$3922.00 and the Silent Auction grossed an all time record of \$5758.00. Congratulations go to everyone!

One highlight I wish to share with you are the delightful photos of a 4 year old who entered her own Irises from the family garden. Tori was thrilled with the ribbons she won, especially the red ones because that is her favourite colour. She is already excited about showing her plants next year.

Thank you all for a great and memorable day.

Janice Rose



76th MBGC Community Flower and Garden Show 2025



76th MBGC Community Flower and Garden Show 2025



*Photos by
Nancy Bonner,
Janice Rose and
Dave Byrnes*



Plant Sales - Flower & Garden Show

The Plant Sales went extremely well; over \$3,000 was raised and dozens of happy people went home with some lovely plants. Thank you to all the volunteers who showed up and worked, without complaint, in the cold and rainy weather.

Well done, everyone.

Katherine Miller

Plant Sales- Flower and Green Show

Executive Members

President

Richard Nelson

Vice President

Kathy Code

Treasurer

Gord Hamilton

Secretary

Carol Goodger-Hill

Past-President

Gill Keir

Committee Reports

Notes from the Library

We set up a table of discarded and duplicate books at the Flower and Garden show. These books were sold by donation; we got rid of at least one box of books and the leftovers have been donated to the Salvation Army. Thank you Penny for setting up the table. The money raised will be used to get new books next year. Please let me know of any suggestions for titles and topics.

Enjoy the titles you signed out over the summer.

Yours in reading.

Katherine Miller

Club librarian.

Committee Leads

Membership

Robin Reid

Flower & Garden Show

Janice Rose

Library

Katherine Miller

Kitchen

Judy Raimondo

Plant Sales

Carrie Nelson

Cont'd next page...

Backup person needed for the mailing list!

The executive has decided there should be a backup person who can get emails out when Dave Byrnes (me!) is not available. Need will be infrequent, but someone who is willing to learn MBGC's Gmail system would be an asset to the club.

Please get in touch if you are interested - contact me at mbgcnewsletter@gmail.com, or talk to Richard (details atop this page). *Dave Byrnes*

Committee Reports

2025 MBGC Bursary Recipients

The Bursary Committee is pleased to announce the 2025 recipients of our two \$750 bursaries. Both students have shown notable academic accomplishments, extra-curricular involvements, and the quality of perseverance, as noted in by their teacher references. Congratulations to Paige Elliott from Frances Kelsey Secondary and to Ian Letson from Quw'utsun Secondary who were presented with their awards at school ceremonies earlier in June.



Paige Elliott with Janice Rose

Paige plans to enter Camosun College for a science degree, after which she will pursue her goal of specializing in mycology research (the study of fungi and lichens and their role in ecosystems and human activities and use in human health) at UVic. Paige has studied Horticulture in high school, volunteered for fundraisers, has a variety of music and sport interests, and works part-time.

Ian plans to attend Vancouver Island University in the Horticulture & Landscaping program. Ian was enrolled in Environmental Stewardship class at high school and volunteered extensively for the Somenos Marsh Wildlife Society. He often visits his "grandma who has award-winning gardens and greenhouses." Ian also excels in Art and enjoys playing trumpet in Band at school.

Best wishes to these two deserving students.

The Bursary Committee: Norman Redcliffe, Robert Liston, Reyna Jenkyns, Heather Jenkins, Al Mikalishen, and Ann Baty

Ann Baty

...from previous page

Committee Leads (cont'd)

Bursary

Ann Baty

Sunshine

Janice Rose

Brag Table

Barb Kohlman

Memorial Garden

Heather Jenkins

Raffle

Stephanie Taylor

Website Administrator

Gord Hamilton

www.Millbaygardenclub.com

Social Media

Pat Spezowka

[www.facebook.com/
millbaygardenclub](http://www.facebook.com/millbaygardenclub)

Newsletter Editor

Dave Byrnes

mbgcnewsletter@gmail.com

Social Media

If you use Facebook,
don't forget to check us
out and "LIKE" us at:

[www.facebook.com/
millbaygardenclub](http://www.facebook.com/millbaygardenclub)

Committee Reports

Plant Sales Table - General Meetings

Hi Everyone,

Here we are already in the middle of June with days until the Summer Solstice.

I'm sure by now your gardens are filled with lovely flowers and you are hoping for a little rest from all the planting.

On behalf of Carrie Nelson and myself, we would like to say a big thank you again to all the members who brought plants to the monthly meetings. It's always so nice to see what you bring and chat about your gardens.

And a huge thank you to all the members who contributed plants or volunteered for the Mill Bay Garden Club Plant Sale . The sale was a success and we raised over \$1,700.00. Everything went smoothly and our volunteers worked tirelessly with the unloading and setup. The weather stayed sunny and we had lots of people stopping by to pick up the plant bargains at our table and chat about gardening.

So enjoy your garden and have a good Summer. And please keep us in mind if you have plants or garden related items that need a new home. You can bring them to the Plant Sale Table at the September meeting.

Take care,

Kathleen

Social Media

Hello Gardeners - Here are some interesting facts from our Facebook page:

Our site has increased from 859 followers to 878 in the last 28 days. That's up 19 new followers from my last report. I was told by a new member that our page prompted her and 2 others to join. What a great way to increase our membership.

Most followers are female at 86.7%, men are 13.3%.

Percentage of followers are Canadian at 102.4%, next is US at 2.4%, UK 0.6% and NZ 0.4%
These numbers are taken right from our site. Maybe one of you can explain to me the over 100% number.

Please help keep our page active by playing a part on our site. Comments or even just a picture of something in your garden would be great. Every post helps.

I will repeat the rules we must follow periodically so please bear with me.

This is the place to share all Mill Bay Garden Club related activities so please help make this a true community forum for all to enjoy. Being part of this group requires mutual trust.

Continued over page

Committee Reports etc

Social Media *(continued)*

Authentic, expressive discussions make groups great, but kindness is required. We are all responsible for co-creating a space that is innovative, respectful, kind, and inspiring. Let's treat everyone with respect. Healthy debates are natural but negative or hurtful posts are not allowed and will be deleted by Admin.

Spam, sales and irrelevant links aren't allowed.

Please double check your posts for spelling and grammar before posting. Admin will not edit posts and Mr. Spellcheck would love to change your lovely red roses to red noses.

Looking forward to seeing you all on Facebook,

Pat Spezowka

North American Lily Show, July 9-13 in Sidney

North American Lily Society (NALS) Show and Symposium July 9 to 13, 2025 Sidney BC

The Victoria Lily Society is hosting the 75th International North American Lily Society (NALS) Show and Symposium July 9 to 13, 2025 at the Mary Winspear Centre in Sidney BC. The lily show, plant sales, and guest speaker presentations are open to the public on the following days.

Lily show is Friday 1:00 to 5:00 pm, Saturday 9:30 am to 5:00 pm, and Sunday 9:30 am to 3:00 pm. Admission is by donation.

Plant sale is Saturday from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm and features potted lilies, and some local specialty growers will be selling a variety of plants. On Sunday, at 3:15 pm (show ends at 3:00 pm) a limited number of cut lily stems from the show will be for sale.

Speaker presentations are Saturday starting at 1:30 pm with Dr. Colin Tamboline speaking about "Lilies – Summer Splendor". At 2:45 pm Ms. Barrie Agar will speak about "Stalwarts In The Perennial Garden - A Personal And Subjective Look At Top Performers In Perennial And Mixed Gardens". Cost for both sessions is \$5.00, and tickets are available at the show desk.

For more details, please visit the NALS 2025 website at <https://nals2025.lilies.org/index.html>.



**75th Annual
International
Lily Show
July 11 – 13**

Plant Sale &
Guest Speakers July 12th

Mary Winspear Centre
2243 Beacon Avenue, Sidney, BC

nals2025.lilies.org
Judged Exhibits
Show admission by donation
Saturday Speakers \$5
Wheelchair accessible
Lots of Free Parking
Presented by The Victoria Lily Society

SCENTSATIONAL
LILIES BY THE SEA

NORTH AMERICAN LILY SOCIETY
FOUNDED 1947



Minutes of the Mill Bay Garden Club Annual General Meeting, June 25, 2024

President Gillian Keir called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm at the home of Gayle Volker and Randy Thompson, 695 Kilmalu Road in Mill Bay.

Norman Redcliffe moved approval of the Agenda; seconded by Janice Rose. Carried

Carrie Nelson moved approval of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of June 27, 2023; seconded by Jim Wisnia. Passed.

Janice Rose thanked the Steering Committee of the Flower and Garden Show and all the volunteers for a successful show. The aggregate trophy for the show went this year to long time member Bill Herring who unfortunately could not be present. The trophy will be presented at the general meeting in September.

The People's Choice award went to Pat Spezowka for her creative arrangement. Next year's show will be on May 30/31 and the following year has also been booked.

President's Report.

Gillian announced that the executive had voted to increase the membership fee for the club this year. Kathleen Mercer moved that the Mill Bay Garden Club increase the annual fee from \$10 to \$20 per year, effective in September of 2024. Seconded by Norman Redcliffe. The ensuing discussion pointed out that the club gives money away so why would we increase the fee? The President replied that the bursary fund needs to increase with the cost of education from \$500 to \$750. Also speakers incur expenses when coming to our meetings and should be reimbursed. This might help us get more speakers. The fee structure of both the Cobble Hill Fair and Seedy Saturday has increased. We need to pay these increased fees. Janice pointed out that the money we give away comes from the Flower and Garden Show. The profits from the show are not standardized. In the past we have not always been able to provide funds for local charities. The cost of the Flower and Garden Show is about \$5000 per year so we need to make that before we can give anything away. However, it would be satisfying to be able to provide larger bursaries.

Family membership will be discussed at the September meeting. Vice President Richard Nelson called the question. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Gord Hamilton said that the fiscal year ends next week so the final statement will be in the September Newsletter. Gord was also congratulated on the appearance of the Web page.

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Bursary Fund

This year we had two winners of \$500 bursaries, Sierra McCaffrey of Frances Kelsey and Richard Goble of Cowichan Secondary. Norman Redcliffe made a motion to approve the dispersal of funds. Passed.

Janice introduced Sierra McCaffery, .who was able to be with us for the meeting.

Discussion and Approval of Club's Surplus Funds

Gillian announced the proposed dispersal as follows:

- Nourish Cowichan \$400.00
- Shawnigan Basin Society \$400.00
- Cowichan Hospice \$400.00
- Somenos Transition House \$400.00
- CMS Food Bank \$1000.00

Katherine Miller moved we accept this proposal; seconded by Carrie Nelson. Passed.

Nomination and Election of the Executive chaired by Bernie Juurlink

Bernie announced the proposed executive for 2024/2025 are:

President Richard Nelson; Secretary Carol Goodger-Hill; Treasurer Gord Hamilton. He asked three times if there were any nomination from the floor. Receiving none, the executive was acclaimed.

He then announced that the Committee Chairpersons are proposed as follows:

- Membership - Robin Reid
- Bursary - Ann Baty
- Flower and Garden Show Janice Rose
- Library - Katherine Miller
- Newsletter - David Byrnes
- Raffle - Stephanie Taylor
- Plant Sales - Carrie Nelson
- Memorial Garden - Heather Jenkins
- Kitchen - Judy Raimondo
- Web site - Gord Hamilton
- Facebook - Yvonne Amos

He asked three times if there were any nominations from the floor. Receiving none, the Committee Chairpersons were acclaimed.

Bernie then asked for nominations for Vice President. This was accepted by Kathy Code who was acclaimed.

... continued next page

Final Comments by the President

Gill thanked Bernie for his many years on the executive of the Garden Club and for his advice and help over the years.

Bernie announced that he now has two acoustic meters to pick up bat calls. Recently at Rat Lake he recognized the call of the Western Red Bat which are not supposed to be as far north as B.C.

Gill passed the gavel to Richard Nelson, the new president of the Garden Club. Richard Nelson and Gillian Keir convened a short meeting of the old and new executive to arrange for the orderly transfer of the signing authority. Carrie Nelson moved that signing authority for the Club chequing account be changed to include Richard Nelson, Gord Hamilton, Kathy Code and Gill Keir, and to remove Bernie Juurlink. Seconded by Jim Wisnia. Passed.

Norman Redcliffe moved adjournment at 7:14 p.m.