



MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

Website: www.millbaygardenclub.com

Email: mbgcnewsletter@gmail.com

Your presence is requested

MBGC Potluck Dinner and AGM

Tuesday, June 26th at 6:00 pm

This much-anticipated annual event will begin with our traditional potluck dinner, followed by the Annual General Meeting (see the President's Message inside for details of the AGM) and the Garden Hat Contest!

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

Should the weather turn inclement, the event will move to the Mill Bay Community League Hall — an email will be sent mid-afternoon on the 26th if we are moving to the hall.

Please arrive between 5-5:30pm for setup. Please bring the following items (especially chairs!): Potluck dish to share (with serving spoon); chairs; plates, cutlery, napkins, placemats; coffee cups; favourite beverage and glasses; your garden hat inspiration (see inside); a cash donation for the food bank; and a light jacket or sweater in case the heatwave passes.

Cold turkey and ham, and coffee and tea will be provided.

** For directions and parking see page 2.*



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Potluck / AGM Notes

Directions and parking:

Footnote from Janice: The Roses will be doing a ham with mustard mousies.

I think we may be in for cooler weather next week...perhaps a warm woolly may be required.

Volunteers:

- 4:30pm setup — Gill Keir, Dianne Munday, Alex and Pat Spezowka
- Cleanup — Barb & Bernie Juurlink
- Tea / Coffee help — Barb Kohlman

Garden Hat Theme: **Top Heavy**

Get inspired! Make and wear a hat using materials found in your garden or home following the theme "Top Heavy".

There will be one prize for the best hat.



www.firstpalette.com

President's Report

Ajay Oppelaar

Finally.....summer. And it came not a moment too soon for my sanity, which was beginning to suffer somewhat with our cold, wet and windy weather. All the orange 'boy' parts of the fir trees created wave after wave of unbelievably annoying debris and the leaf blower had become my constant companion.

Oh, what a meeting we had at the final executive and committee of my year as president. Fran was late, so Clifford took some amazing minutes to add to our club archives. Stunning in both descriptive verbiage AND accuracy, these minutes will go down in committee history as some of the best, outside of Fran's work of course. We all thank Cliff for the many contributions he's added to the club over last 80 or 90 years. His retirement is well deserved, and obviously needed.

Plans for the AGM on the 26th of June at Janice Rose's home were double checked and finalized. We hope to see lots of you there; this is always a very important meeting as we see the election of new executive and committee members. We will be holding an election for the slate as follows unless there are any more nominations that come forward before or at that time.

- President: Donna Kaiser
- Vice President: Bernie Juurlink
- Treasurer: Marie Cooke
- Secretary: Fran Benton
- Flower & Garden Show Chair: Gill Keir
- Membership: JoAnn Mulhern
- Newsletter: Dave Byrnes
- Website: Gord Hamilton
- Library: Janice Rose
- Kitchen: Pat Spezowka
- Raffle: Cori-Lee Fisher
- Plant sales: Monika Morgan

The roles of Sunshine and past President are honorary.

The executive and committee also voted on approving 3 new life members who have spent years working in front of and

behind the scenes of the club to help assure the club's success. We extend many thanks to these invaluable individuals. It's because of dedicated members like these that we still have a successful and viable community minded organization that is the envy of many other groups. Congratulations to them all.

The big decision at the final executive meeting of the year is to receive final accounting for the year from both the club treasurer and the flower and garden show treasurer. They both make a recommendation on the amount of money available to donate to the community. The committee composes a list of possible recipients of the funds and discusses then votes on organizations that are presented.

At the AGM we will be revealing the amounts of money to go to each of these deserving local organizations: CMS food bank, SPCA, Cowichan Family Life, Somenos House, Hospice Society, and Providence Farms.

We are also proud to have a recipient for one of the bursaries and we will top that account up so next season there will again be two \$500 bursaries.

When all the money is handed out and accounts are settled, we are leaving the club and the flower and garden show with a one year operating budget as was mandated by the exec and committee. We are fortunate to have low overhead and generous members. We should all be very proud of the amount of the donations that we as a group are able to raise through lots of teamwork. Congratulations to every member and we hope it brings a sense of pride to all of you.

In closing, I'd like to thank all the hardworking people on all of our committees who joined forces and made things happen this year. You've all heard me say about the flower show, that in the end, it all just happens. And it does. But it happens because of the tireless efforts of many people working behind the scenes in perhaps ways that most of us wouldn't know. The many hours spent organizing silent auction items and setting up the show. Hours grooming, identifying and tagging plants, not to mention the daily care that donated plants require and the space they take up.

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President's Report continued

People rounding up donations for auction, preparing food for workers and judges, organizing lists of volunteers and job descriptions, or contacting and organizing vendors for the outdoor portion of the show. These are the people that make it all 'just happen'.

On the Executive and Committee, it's the same. Everyone does what the job requires and it all comes together nicely. It has been a great year for the club. I hope you all realize what amazing talent we have within our organization. Thank you to everyone on that committee, and another huge thanks to those who took on positions mid-season, jumping right in without being asked.

Many bundles of thanks to Mary Vandenberg. Without Mary, we wouldn't have had speakers for the last 5 years or a newsletter for many years as well. Thanks to Cliff for agreeing to be VP this season. We work well together as sparing partners. It's too bad he won't remember most of this season, he's been fun.

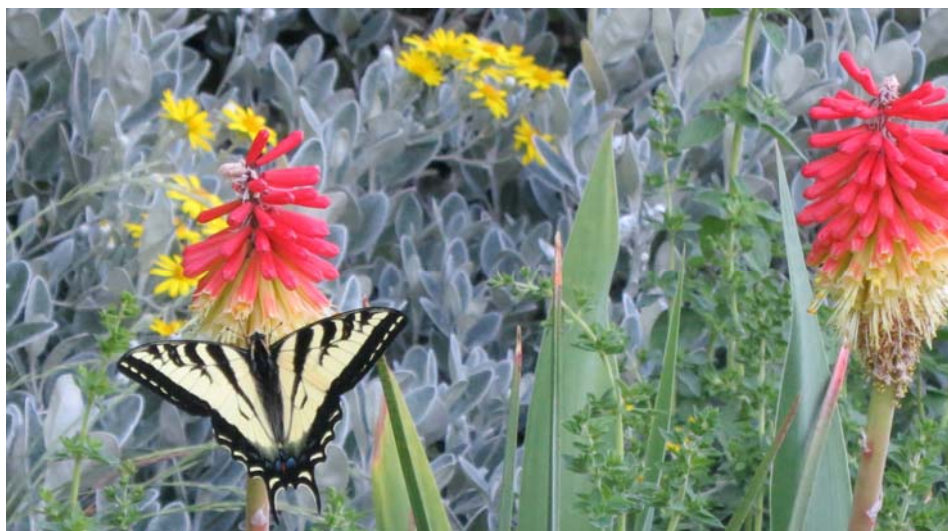
Thanks to Elaine's plant sale committee and the more than a dozen people who help raise so much money for our group. Thanks to Gill and the flower and garden show committee for presenting such an amazing and profitable event. And thanks to Norman and the Millennium garden committee for taking care of the hall garden beds.

Thank you also to Barb Kohlman for her many years of not missing a meeting and presenting the brag table at meetings and thanks to Bill Herring for his continued participation with the Q and A sessions. We have some true leaders in our organization who continue to be passionate about their involvement with us. Kudos to you all.

And thank you to the members of the club for trusting the business of the club to me and Clifford. We have both had a great time in our reprised roles and we're leaving the club in capable and talented hands. I'm looking forward to seeing what the next season brings, other than fewer meetings for me ;)

Have a great summer and I hope to see you at the AGM.

Ajay Oppelaar



**The Mill Bay Garden Club's
2018 Community Flower & Garden Show
"Garden Party"**

Photos: Thanks to Pauline Dueck



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"Garden Party"**

Photos: Thanks to Pauline Dueck



2018 Community Flower & Garden Show Report

The weather cooperated and the day of the show was lovely. There were many and varied flowers and some vegetables on display at this year's show – despite, once again, a late spring. This year, youth groups from Frances Kelsey Secondary Gardening class and the entire Evergreen Elementary school entered and filled almost two tables with their efforts. There were about 400 people attending, including the exhibitors, the volunteers, the vendors and the public.

The Silent Auction raised \$4600 gross revenue. There were 98 items, 31 from businesses, 20 from Vendors and 47 from the membership. The Outside Vendors were doing well and the Plant Sale too.

The Committee members and the Volunteers all put in a lot of work to make this show a success. I thank: **Pat Spezowka** for the advertising campaign; **Dorothy Kennedy, Randy Bouchard** and **Noreen Carver** for gathering and organizing the Silent Auction items and a special thank you to **Megan & John O'Hara** and **Pat & Alex Spezowka** for the extra help during Auction Set-up and Sale days; **Heather and Nick Jenkins** for organizing the Outdoor Vendors; **Donna Kaiser** for organizing the Indoor Hall and volunteers; **Dianne Munday** and **Janice Rose** for taking care of finances; **Barbara Juurlink** for organizing the Judges; **Barbara Juurlink** and **Diane Regan** for organizing the lunch for Judges and volunteers; **Bernie and Barbara Juurlink** for looking after the Miscellaneous sub-committee, the posters and brochures, the road signs; **Barbara & Bernie** and **Ajay** for all the help and advice they gave me. I thank all our volunteers who were put at a disadvantage during the Set-up due to the lack of a ramp into the building and who had to carry everything up the stairs. I thank all the volunteers who volunteered during the Sale day and those who assisted with the take-down at the end – who were, mercifully, able to take things out of the hall via the hastily installed, temporary ramp that had been finished at the end of Set-up day.

Thank you!

Gill Keir

PS: If you are attending the AGM please bring your flower show signs with you. If you are not attending, please return them to my home

Gill Keir

Committee Reports and News



"Sunshine Mary"

Our esteemed Lifetime Member, Mary Gale, has for a very many years, been sending cards and kind words to those members who are experiencing illness or loss.

She does this on behalf of the Mill Bay Garden Club, bringing a spot of sunshine into what is often a stressful time for a club member.

If you know of someone in the club who is sick, in hospital, or has lost a loved one, please let Mary know and she will send a card on our behalf.



Plant Sales

Thank you again for all the contributors & buyers at the plant sales table this season. Your donations have also helped towards all our charitable donations...

So, we may have a few more treasures at the Annual meeting. Bring a few sheckles, & help start the donation pot for next season. Remember the raffle we had last year? The alpaca gold brought in big bucks:)

One of our club members, Carmen Stanek would like to donate some pond plants. For anyone who could use some...Carmen would find kitty litter size buckets ideal for transporting. She will have up to 10 plants to donate. Ice cream buckets will also do in a pinch (empty:) Let Carmen know at cstanek@shaw.ca. She is happy to pick up the buckets if you live in the Cobble hill area. (before tue please.)

'Look forward to seeing lots of you at the meetin'.

Your Plant Sales Committee

Monika & Sharon

Membership

Thank you all for a heartwarming friendly year.

We currently have 140 members, 14 of whom have been honoured with lifetime memberships. I hope to see all of you at the AGM later in June and at our first meeting of the 2018-2019 season in September.

JoAnn



From the Raffle Table

Our sincerest thanks to all those members who so kindly donated to our monthly raffle during the 2017-2018 garden club year. The wide variety of items received always generated a lot of interest in the raffle table. And thus a very big "THANK YOU!" to all those members who bought Raffle tickets! You will be pleased to know that a net profit of ~\$400 was generated from ticket sales for the year. :-)

Your Raffle Table Committee

Tracy Morris and Cori-Lee Fisher

Mill Bay Garden Club Plant Sale

The Mill Bay Garden Club Plant Sale Committee (Ruby Armour, Noreen Carver, Monica Morgan, Barb. Kohlman, Margo Johnston, Ali Morris, Heather Jenkins, Fran Benton, Pat Stevens, Mary Vandenberg, Sharon Martin, Mary Gale and Elaine Scott) would like to thank all of those members who donated plants to our annual sale. The quality of the plants this year was very good and most of the plants had their roots well established which was great. It also helped us a lot to have the majority of the plants correctly labelled.

We made \$1,169.55 which includes a generous donation of \$60 from two of our Garden Club members. The average amount of money that we have made from the plant sale over the past 13 years is \$1,033 so we did very well. We could not have done it without a good supply of quality plants. Thank you one and all.

We would also like to thank four husbands who worked tirelessly to help us - Nick Jenkins, Doug Ford, Dave Morgan and Allan Carver. Thank you very much.

Upcoming Events

- Whisky Point Garden Ramble and Silent Auction, **Sunday 24 June** from 10am - 4pm. Tour seven local gardens from Kilmalu Road to Whiskey Point Road. Tickets from Dinters or Volume One Books, or online at 7GardenTours.com. \$30/person, all proceeds to aid a young Syrian family to resettle in the Cowichan Valley. More details at www.7GardenTours.com.
- View Royal Garden Club, **Wednesday 27 June**, 7:30pm at 500 Admirals Road presents Mark Dickerson on "Hanging Baskets & Planters. Info at 250.721.6159. \$5 drop-in fee.
- The Victoria Lily Society presents "Summer Scentsations" Flower Show, Plant Sale & Tea on **Saturday 7 July** from 10am - 4pm at Cadboro Bay United Church, 2625 Arbutus Road. Admission by donation.

More Upcoming Events

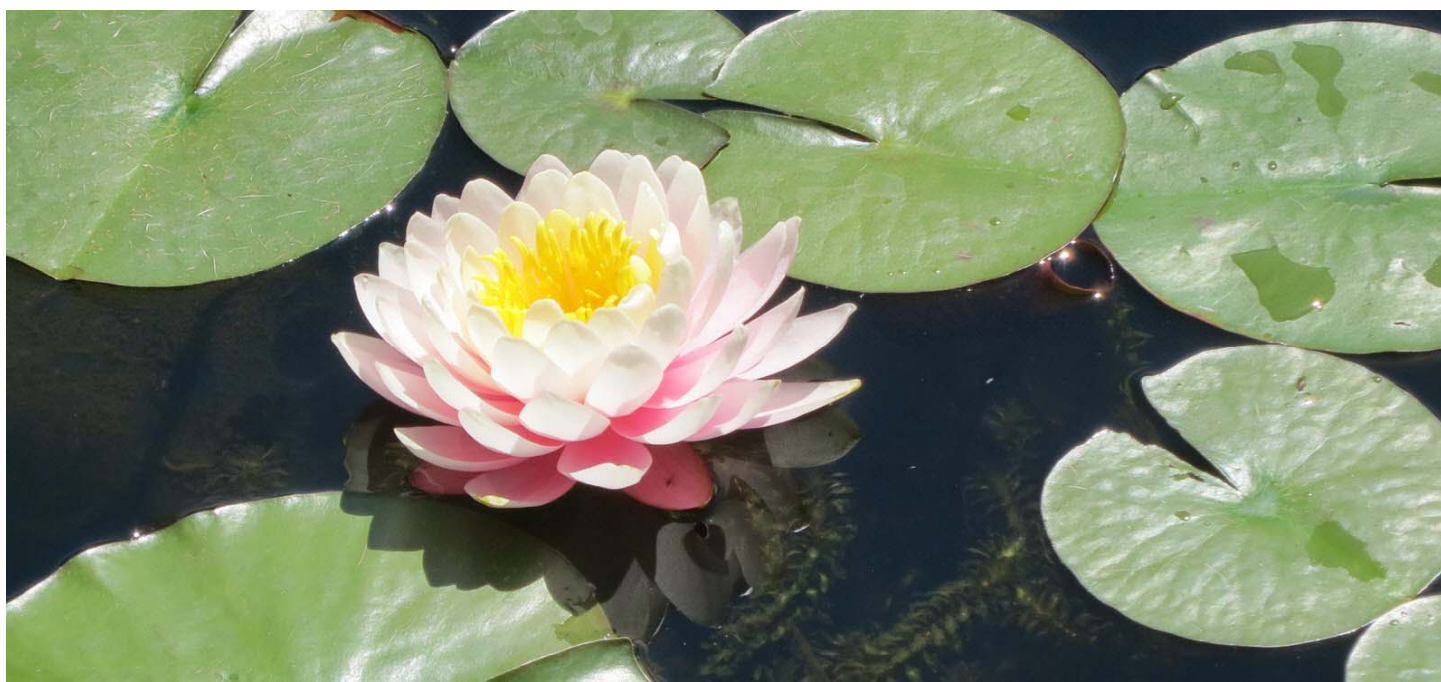
- The 12th Annual Victoria Water Garden Tour takes place on **Saturday 14 July** from 9:30 am - 4:30 pm. Visit 11 landscapes with water features and enjoy live music, refreshments, and talk with garden designers on-site. Tickets \$25 each from Dinters and other vendor locations at www.watertour.ca. Proceeds will support the work of “For the Love of Africa Society” in Tanzania.
- The Point Roberts (WA) Garden Club holds its acclaimed garden tour every other year. This year is number XV! We would love to invite you and your members to visit the eight unique properties on this year's tour. **Sunday July 15**, 10am to 4pm, C\$20 per person. This self-guided tour of eight wonderful gardens includes a map and a stop for afternoon tea with music. **Note: enhanced driver's license or passport required to cross the border.**
More info: info@pointrobertsgardenclub.org.
- Bookmark the Date! The Victoria Master Gardener Association presents “Mixing It Up in the Urban Garden 2019: Beauty and the Beast” on **February 2, 2019** at the Mary Winspear Centre in Sidney. For early details visit mixingitup.org; registration will probably open in the summer. For more info see the poster at the end of the newsletter.
- And some workshops and events happening at the Horticulture Centre of the Pacific that may be of interest to MBGC members (visit hcp.ca/events for more details):
 - Summer Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop, Saturday 14 July, 9am - 12pm. In this three hour workshop, certified arborist Ryan Senechal will provide an introductory summer fruit tree pruning instruction. Practical application is encouraged during the workshop. Learn how this traditional approach to pruning can reduce the burden of dormant season pruning as well as provide you with higher quality fruit. Secateurs are encouraged. HCP Members \$45 / Non-Members \$55. To register, call 250 479 6162.
 - Plant Identification and Culture Workshops are ongoing and run one Saturday a month from 1pm - 4pm; next workshops are **21 July** and 18 August. Diane Pierce will introduce you to 25 new plants in each session. You will learn Latin & common names, plant descriptions, cultural requirements, general maintenance and landscape uses. This is an ongoing course & can be joined at any time. HCP Members \$35 / Non-Members \$45. To register, call 250 479 6162.
- Visit the Horticulture Centre of the Pacific at hcp.ca and click Events for information on these and other HCP events.

Adventures at the Plant Sale! by Fran Benton

You are given a notice that says the Perennial Society is having its annual sale of plants at the local hall. Oh boy, you say, I love perennials! You put the date on your calendar and contact a friend who likes to carry heavy objects without complaint. You promise coffee and pastry afterward. You arrive at the plant sale and there is a line up around the block. You notice that some of these people look vaguely deranged. Do that many people in Cowichan Valley really like perennials? No, they just want plants, badly! There is always a feeding frenzy generated by the crowd. These plants are inexpensive and there are great deals to be had. Its chaos inside as people blunder around. And what are people buying? The pretty plants in bloom. Sadly when the flowers fall off in a week the plant will probably get forgotten. Usually their owners do not know where to plant them OR how to care for them. Curiously the plants left on the table are often the best plants for their yard.

To amuse myself I characterize the types that attend these sales. The most hated group is the cell phone obsessives who try to look up each plant they see on the table. Then there are the grabbers who dive around scattering the elderly and small children in their wake. Or the chatters who have come to the sale to connect with old garden friends and have long conversations right in the centre of the plant snatching mêlée. Then you need to pay for the items. The general rule seems to be to take the least competent person in the perennial society and put them in charge of sales. Why do I know this? Because I am the least competent and I always get asked to do sales. Oh but wait! What about the customers who did not bring enough cash to pay for their plants and have to make complex decisions about abandoning a few plants, or the folks who ask if the payment can be MasterCard or VISA? In the church parking lot, where there is no wifi, oh please!

There is one resource everyone seems to forget at these sales – the master gardener table. Take your plants to them before you buy them. You will get the right plant for the right place and you will be the king or queen of the plant sale! And no you can't have the phone number of the friend who carries heavy objects without complaint!



Mill Bay Garden Club

Annual General Meeting Minutes Tuesday, June 27, 2017

Held in the garden of Bonnie and Mike Mills.

Pip Woodcock , president of the Garden Club for the past two years, was unable to chair the meeting as she was on a northern journey. In the absence of Pip, Cliff Stainsby, past president, agreed to be MC and chair of the AGM.

The meeting was preceded by a delicious potluck dinner, decorated hat contest (theme of bugs) and a door prize.

Grand Chapeau Contest: First prize – Dot Garbet, Second – David Morgan, Third – Heather Jenkins.

Door prize was won by Darric Hartikainen (a most appropriate winner since he was part of set-up crew and had also ensured that everyone attending received a free door prize ticket).

A lively auction of three bags of alpaca poop followed with Bonnie Mills, Janice Rose and Norman Redcliffe making the winning bids.

Meeting Notes

Cliff Stainsby – chair

President's Report:

Cliff opened the meeting by thanking Pip Woodcock for the wonderful job she has done as President for the past two years.

Cori-Lee Fisher moved that the minutes of last year's AGM be accepted, with Janice Rose seconding the motion.

Cliff thanked the set-up crew for a job well done: Mary Vandenberg, Darric Hartikainen, Mary-Ellen Deuling, ???, ???.

Thanks also to past committee members for their efforts of the past year:

Mary Vandenberg - Vice-President

Janice Rose – Library

Marie Cooke – Treasurer

Mary-Ellen Deuling – Kitchen

Fran Benton – Secretary

Mary Gale – Historian

Bobbie Burns & Janet Abbott – Raffle

JoAnn Mulhern – Membership

Cliff Stainsby – Past President

A very special thanks to Bobbie Burns for arranging the door and contest prizes despite family illness.

MBGC is donating surplus money to the following local organizations:

Providence Farm - \$450

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Cowichan Valley Hospice - \$450

Somenos Transition House - \$400

Mill Bay Food Bank - \$1200

Cowichan Estuary Restoration and Conservation Association - \$200

Thanks were extended to **Dianne Regan** for holding our club together. After years of behind the scenes work, we are pleased to honour Dianne with a **Lifetime Membership**.

Treasurers Report Marie Cooke presented her report and moved that it be passed with Mary Gale seconding the motion, which was then passed unanimously. Many thanks to Marie for all of her work.

2017 Flower and Garden Show Report: Bernie Juurlink, head of Flower and Garden Show for the past three years, presented the final report of this year's show as follows:

Despite the late spring season there was an abundance of flowers and a few vegetables at the 2017 Flower and Garden Show. The weather was perfect. There seemed to be a pent-up demand for garden-related things resulting in very happy vendors, including the Mill Bay Garden Club Plant Sales people, and great Silent Auction sales. There were well over 400 attendees that included 380 paid attendees, 30 exhibitors, ~ two dozen volunteers, 13 vendors plus several dozen people who sauntered through the gates left inadvertently open during the early part of the Show.

The Silent Auction generated \$4,315 in revenue. There were 107 items for auction, of which 22% came from 21 businesses, 14% from 13 vendors and 64% from 37 Club members. As Megan pointed out, this was a magical day with the late spring generating pent-up demand and the summer weather during the Show boosting this demand.

The Show was a great success due to the excellent and hard work of the Committee members. Bernie thanked: Janet Abbott for the excellent advertising campaign; Gill Keir (Chair), Megan O'Hara and Pat Spezowka for organizing the Silent Auction; Ian Kennedy (Chair) and Katherine Miller for organizing the Outdoor Vendors; Megan O'Hara for looking after the Miscellaneous Sub-Committee; Ann Baty for looking after the road signage; Angie Stanta for organizing the Hall volunteers and the Judges; Mary Vandenberg for organizing the Workshops; Barbara Juurlink for looking after the posters and brochures; Dianne Regan (Chair) and Barbara Juurlink for organizing the lunch for Judges and volunteers; Janice Rose for looking after the finances; and Pip Woodcock for advice. Bernie gave thanks to all the volunteers who assisted with the set-up, running and take-down of the Show and expressed his pleasure in working with all of the committee members and volunteers.



The Mill Bay Garden Club extends its heartfelt thanks to Bernie for his leadership in ensuring the success of this event.

Elections for 2017 - 2018 :

Nominations for the following positions were presented and accepted unanimously:

President Ajay Oppelaar (for one year)

Vice-President Cliff Stainsby (for one year)

Treasurer Marie Cooke

Membership JoAnn Mulhern

Secretary Fran Benton

Facebook Pauline Dueck

Web Page Gord Hamilton

Newsletter Angie Stanton

CF & GS Gillian Keir

Plant Sales Monika Morgan

Library Janice Rose

Kitchen Mary-Ellen Deuling

Raffle Tracy Morris

Historian Mary Gale

The meeting was then adjourned.