



BATH GARDENING CLUB & HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Minutes of Meeting, February 19th, 2024.

Time: 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm

Venue: St. John's Hall, Church St., Bath, ON

<http://bathgardeningclub.ca>

I. OPENING REMARKS (<i>Sylvia Whalen - President</i>)
1. Welcome – Introductions There were two guests at the meeting. Betty Elliott and Pauline Johnston.
2. Approval of Previous Minutes (Jan. 15, 2024) Moved: Diane Nolting 2nd: Janice Firth
3. Approval of Agenda. Accepted without changes.
4. Garden Question(s) from the members Janice noticed that there were hardly any birds at her feeder. Suggestions: the increased number of squirrels not hibernating this winter. inadequate cleaning of the feeders, mould could be present. presence of raptors, like hawks there are possibly better treats elsewhere. Should seeds be started indoors? Depends on seeds. Some seeds do not transplant well. If started too early, the plants could become leggy or suffer from “damping off”. Instructions on seed packets should be referenced. Zinnias started indoors, made for very robust plants throughout the summer. Many plants are better started indoors due to our short growing season.
II. BUSINESS
Reports
5. Treasurer's Report: Bank balance; \$10,197.45. GIC; \$5,248.68
6. Executive Positions: Someone has come forward regarding the Market Coordinator position. There is a job description being formulated. We still need a Market Liaison, to whom the coordinator will report. We are also still looking for a Vice President and Correspondence Secretary.
7. Earth Day Clean-up: Pat Chown Earth Day Bath Clean-up will be held on Saturday, April 20th. This event is hosted by Roberta Young of Fast Freddy's. She will provide all participants with water and lunch. The Township provides safety vests, bags and will pick up full bags after the event. The bags are to be left on the curb. The clean-up attracted 25 Gardening Club members last year along with local businesses and residents. Last year, the school also did their clean-up, around the school property, and along Church Street. The school children were also encouraged to clean up at their homes. It was a fun activity. We organized ourselves in small groups and completed the job by noon. This was an opportunity to meet new people in the Club and in



Bath. We welcome as many people as possible, to come out on April 20th. This is an opportunity to “spruce” up our town before planting. More information will be presented in the coming weeks.

8. 2024 Kingston Climate Change Symposium

On January 29th, Kingston’s 7th Annual Climate Change Symposium was held at the Grand Theatre. Over 400 people attended including five members from our Gardening Club. Zoom also provided an opportunity for wider participation. All participants were able to take part in the Q and A sessions during presentations and discussions. The theme of this year’s Symposium was “Balance”. Speakers addressed how we as individuals and in our communities can work toward creating a more sustainable planet by finding a balance between technology, nature and climate. In addition to speakers, a number of interested groups provided and readily distributed material answering questions and making connections.

Canada’s objective is to reduce emissions by 30% by 2030. Kingston has set a more robust goal of a 50% reduction by 2030. A variety of fields represented included: home improvements, watershed management, education in schools, transportation, and involvement from all ages and walks of life was encouraged. The Symposium ended with a televised, interactive presentation by Bob McDonald, Host of CBC’s Quirks and Quarks.

This topic is huge and complex. Climate action requires all of us to take a hard look at how we live, work, move around, what we eat, how environmentally friendly our homes and properties are, what we purchase, our use of water, how we manage waste.

As a Gardening Club it is important that we try to understand the many facets of action that is already taking place. Currently we are compiling a list of resources and speakers who might be able to help make sense of the problems and how we may all help in a solution.

The next newsletter which comes out in March has a more detailed account of the Symposium. This topic will be discussed further at the Executive meeting.

9. Fertilizer Day – Diane

On Saturday, May 4th we will hold our “Fritz Mix Fertilizer” day, at St. John’s Hall.

This is a day long event, where the ingredients will be mixed and packaged in the morning and picked up by clients in the afternoon. The cost is \$4.00, with a free bag for every 10 bags ordered.

Order must be received by April 28th, and can be done, at the March meeting, by filling out an order, or on the BGC website. Wendy O’Neill will compile the orders and email the final tally to info@bathgardeningclub.ca.

Wendy will be collecting berry boxes to hold the fertilizer bags before they are picked up.

10. Paul Fritz- Wendy

It is with great sadness that we as members of the BGC, have learned of the passing of Paul Fritz. Paul has been a speaker at our meetings several times, and shared with us his knowledge, wit and patience with our questions. We were invited to spend an afternoon, at he and his partner’s property, sharing stories, tours, lemonade and snacks.

Paul developed an all-natural granular fertilizer specifically for his roses. He shared this formula with us on the condition that we would not share the formula with others. Till now, the BGC holds an annual “Fritz Mix Fertilizer” fundraiser. Paul has left us a legacy, and will be remembered for years to come by those who knew him.

**11. Pottery Project for 2024**

Diane Nolting and Pauline Johnston presented a fundraiser for Bath Lions Club Food Bank. They decided to create 50 Pottery Garden Lanterns to be offered to friends, neighbours and members of the Bath Gardening Club. They had some tables set up so that members could see what they had to offer. Ted Custance (Village Lifestyle Real Estate) has graciously offered to match their donation, up to \$500.

The cost of lanterns is \$25 for large, \$20 for medium and \$15 for small.

If you are interested in purchasing a lantern, email pdnolting@gmail.com and she will send you the dates and times in advance.

12. Adjournment at 3:15 pm.**Programme**

13. Janice asked those present, if they would be interested in doing a workshop with Angela of Limestone Succulents. Would they prefer to do it in the spring or the fall? There was enough response to go ahead in the fall.

14. Janice Firth- Nature's Underground

Janice presented several videos showing various aspects of soil building. This was well received by the members and sparked some lively discussion afterward.

Thank you, Janice, for an interesting presentation.