



BATH GARDENING CLUB & HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

February 24, 2025, Meeting

Time: 2:30 pm Venue: St. John's Hall, Church St., Bath, ON

<https://bathgardeningclub.ca>

1. Welcome – Introductions

We welcomed 5 new members!

Bonnie Bailey, Heather Campbell, Tracy Lightle, Marilyn Martin and Sunny Wang

2. Approval of the minutes

with corrected spelling of the Speaker's name

Motion to approve: Janice Firth, Seconded: Joanna Sperinck Approved

3. Additions to the Agenda - None

4. Garden Question/Sharing amongst Members

A question was raised regarding fertilizing orchids. Members suggested consulting with local Orchid Societies

Sylvia demonstrated a Seed Snail Starter Kit

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d9AinRRQ89o>

Keith reported that Seedy Saturday is March 8. For details <https://seedsgrowfood.org/>

Sylvia reported that the Bath Gardening Club will have a table at the Communities in Bloom Event on April 5, Volunteers needed

Reports &/or Updates

5. Treasurer's Report: Joanne

Bank info:

Bank account balance as at Feb 24 is: \$8,540.27.

3 outstanding cheques total \$220 (\$50 Cory Brouillard fr 2024, \$100 Dr. Brent Helmstead-JAN.guest speaker, + \$70 Jonathan Jones=SMB music=May 11/25)

Once cheques have cleared, bank balance = \$8320.27

We have \$5,000. GIC @4.9% maturing on May 17, 2025.

Maturity value should be \$5,245.00. Current value=\$5188.62. On track.

At maturity, principal + interest will be deposited into the bank account.

Then reviewed for reinvestment rate, term, type of investment. Rates for a 1-year term GIC = 2.7%; 2 year term GIC = 2.8% subject to change between now and maturity.

Budget

BGC budget posted on the BGC website (under the tab for Members/Minutes).

Focus is on Sunday Market in Bath Sunday Market in Bath budget income = \$4500, Bath Gardening Club budget grant totals = \$7000.



Sunday Market in Bath budget expenses = \$2800

Proposal:

Tarra's, BGC new Market Manager, proposed expense budget for Sunday Market in Bath = \$6215.

Which means $\$6215 - \2800 (current budget) = \$3415 over budget. To offset the additional expenses/overspending, higher grant amounts will be our ask for approx. \$3000 + over budget. which reduces overspend to \$415.

NEW this Year: Collection of full vendor fees/balance prepay for season (additional payments due by April 1st = approx. \$4488.60.. \$2205 already paid by vendors as down payment, including 1 vendor who has paid in full. (excluding part-time and casual vendors)

Grant Applications

Acknowledged Laurie Minorgan for her amazing grant work. Submissions were prepared/made in a very short time frame to OHA, OMAFRA and Loyalist Township . Going forward Marjory Brunsdon will be taking on the grant writing role as co Treasurer. Thank you, Marjory.

LaFarge grant request pending. LaFarge grant request tentative \$3,000 +, from a current budget of \$2000.. $\$3000 - \$2000 = \$1000$ increase. Loyalist Township, who is our major supporter, held a hybrid Council session for Community Grant Programs on Feb 19/25 ~ was attended in person by Linda, Joanne & Laurie. Session was live-streamed and is available on Loyalist website and YouTube. Very positive comments made by the grant committee,

** found the session by searching Loyalist Township website; Community Grant Programs and moving through the timeline to hear Laurie's Open Forum presentation, and then further along the timeline is the committee's review and recommendation:

Requested \$4,948 cash portion , plus \$2,590.64 in kind services (park rental for Sunday Market + Merry Little Main Street). Due to a cap on in-kind services @ \$1500, the committee recommended approval of \$6038.64 (cash portion) and \$1500 in-kind services. **With the hybrid committee's recommendation for approval, Council approval/payment should be forthcoming.

$(\$4948 + \$2590.64 = \$7538.64 = \$6038.64 + \$1500)$, For the first time, we need to provide Loyalist Township with a breakdown of how the grant money was used.

To date, we have received \$100 deposits from full-time vendors: 8 in January, 8 in February plus multi casual vendors.

Celebrate our successes! Don't forget to email treasurer@bathgardeningclub.ca any good news success stories involving monies saved or obtained. I would love to share them with our members 😊



Joanne

6. Sunday Market: Linda

The market is kicking into high gear with our vendors now at 18 full time committed vendors: 6 farmers, 2 food and beverage and 12 artisans part-time vendors planning to attend, and more to come!

Patricia, from Front and Centre Bakery, a full time vendor who also happens to be a librarian has very kindly agreed to do a Kid's Story Time in the park once a month. She will also do a Kid's Cupcake Decorating special event

The Fire Department is going to a Touch the Truck event at the market in August and we are also trying to get the OPP to come to the market for an event

The goal is to have something extra going on at the market at least 2 times a month and some months 3 times

Please go to our Sunday Market in Bath Facebook page and our website: sundaymarketinbath.com for dates and times and what is going on at the market. They are both wonderful new sites, please explore them both, as well as our instagram page

I have been told there will be another picnic table placed in the park this season. Wonderful news! We would also like to place folding chairs and tables on the grass so people can stop, sit, eat and enjoy the music or whatever else is going on. Stayed tuned for details

The Bath Gardening Club will also be having a table at the market, hopefully once a month for the season to promote the garden club, sell our fertilizer and perhaps other things as well, and make more people aware of what we do for our community. For this I would like to have 2 volunteers at the table and will be counting on the members to volunteer one Sunday of their time for this worthwhile endeavor.

We will have a sign up sheet at our March and April meeting, so please give some thought to helping out for this

Some STATS for you all from Tarra our market manager

Engagement on our Facebook page is up by 2500%. Not sure how you measure that, but it is a WOW 22 new followers, a 214% increase in net followers this month 14,000 views this month! This is all Facebook

Instagram is 6.7K views this month and 122 new followers this month

Website - 375 views this month



Marketing - A flag has been ordered and a large sign will be placed for 2 months near the park to advertise the market coming

There will be a blurb in Profile Kingston Magazine. It doesn't come out until a week following our opening day but it is FREE advertising!!!!

We are reserving one free spot for community groups, so if anyone has a group in mind that would like to set up a table please let us know. This can include other garden clubs, bike clubs, knitting clubs, book clubs etc

Tarra will have \$10.00 gift certificates printed that can be redeemed at any vendor at the market. They will be distributed in the village at various merchant locations. Our budget will reimburse the vendors for any certificates they receive. She also said they said they would be given to anyone who wanted to become a sponsor of the market.

She has found this to be a really effective marketing tool and about 80% of certificates are redeemed. We have set aside \$1,500 in our budget for this project.

We are also looking for sponsors, so if you know of any possible sponsors please let us know. We are giving out reusable tote bags this season and these totes can have the sponsor name on them or logo and marketing material inside and the sponsor can also set up a booth at the market for a day. Sponsorship cost is \$1900.

7. Fritz's Fertilizer: Diane

Date for mixing and sale: Saturday, May 3

Location: St John's Hall

Set up and mixing inside the Hall 9:30 to Noon, Pick up from 12:30 to 4:30

We already have two orders! Goal is 650 bags

Will be using compostable bags tied with twine. Price per bag to be determined when we hear from Agromart. We expect it to be similar to last year.

Judy Hume, Sandra Lowman and Susan O'Connor are collecting wood ashes for us.

Wendy is collecting cardboard flat boxes and will track orders

Sandra will create an online order form again this year

E-transfers are preferred as it makes tracking so easy. Cash or cheques are fine.

Promotion to members, sister societies and general public to start the week of March 17th



8. Bath Canada Day Parade Entry: Laurie

Theme Bath Gardening Club: 35 and Still Growing

Hoping to involve youngsters as part of the entry

Encouraging those with grandkids to participate

Need to borrow children's wagons to be decorated

Next meeting, Thursday March 13th, 2:30 pm at Diane Nolting's home - 39 Country Club Drive
Bath

9. Programming: Janice

Speakers for the March Meeting are Gary and Diane Westlake : Garden Art for Cheapskates

10. Pollinator Garden and New Resources: Kim

As you know if you've been a member of the club for a while, in 2024 we focused on restocking and rejuvenating the plant material in the Pollinator Garden.

With great enthusiasm we developed a first draft of the Pollinator Garden Guide with instructions for watering, clean-up, dividing, and so on. We followed the guide, and the garden rewarded us with flowers blooming continuously from spring to fall with sources of nectar to satisfy all kinds of bees, wasps, butterflies, and other pollinators.

However, when we started researching pollinator lifecycles this winter, we learned that maybe it wasn't such a great environment for overwintering and raising offspring there.

Let's just say that we were a little 'overzealous' in our clean-up activities and realized we needed to make amends!

So, in 2025 we're rethinking our approach to the Pollinator Garden, which is that it's a habitat first and a garden second. For example

- We're not doing clean-up activities, we're doing selective maintenance, and less of it
- We're leaving pithy, hollow-stemmed plant stalks in place for stem-nesting bees



You'll find this new approach reflected in the Pollinator Garden Guide, which is now available via link on the Bath Garden Club home page.

There's a new plant layout reflecting where the plants are situated now, as quite a few were relocated last year. Also, Sandra nudged me to add photo credits and a list of resources, so there's that too. So have a look when you get a chance.

11. Ad Hoc membership Recruitment: Diane

The Ad Hoc group agreed that increasing our visibility and educating the community about the work of the Bath Gardening Club is the **first** step to attracting new members.

The Bath Gardening Club was founded 35 years ago and has increased the breadth and depth of the work done to beautify Bath over that time. Cyndie Eedson has developed a set of messages celebrating the anniversaries of the founding of the BGC as well as the Bath Lions Club and the Hospitality Club. These will appear on the Bath Museum website as factoid messages.

Educating people about the link to the Gardening Club and the Sunday Market is already underway.

The increased social media presence around the new market website which is linked to the Bath Gardening Club facebook page is evidence of this. Six new members joined in February. Linda has outlined additional strategies for the market in her report.

The personal touch has played a role in the new recruits. Inviting neighbours and people new to the community and introducing them to other members has been instrumental in this effort.

The Executive Committee will be asked to support the printing of a postcard with pictures of BGC activities through the seasons on the front, and a welcoming message and the BGC website and Facebook page addresses on the reverse. These cards would be in stores, public buildings, the Post Office Notice Board and at the Sunday Market table. In addition the LCCRA will be approached to include them in their Greeting Packages for new residents of Loyalist Estates.

The Executive Committee will also be asked to consider a public event celebrating the actual founding date.

We also recommend small breakout groups asking members about their motivations to join, their experience as a member, and their suggestions for attracting new people. This should happen asap.



12. Earth Day: Pat

The Bath community will be celebrating Earth Day on April 12th for the Great Annual Bath Clean-Up. The event will be hosted by Roberta Young, manager of Fast Freddy's. Thanks to the generosity of Free Flow Petroleum, all participants taking part in the clean-up will be offered free coffee and lunch. Loyalist Township will provide gloves, vests and garbage bags. Last year over 50 Gardening Club members took part in this special day. We are hoping to have at least 35 people involved this year. We are the largest group taking part in this event and our efforts and partnership with the Township and businesses will be noted in the Township event calendar. Many thanks to everyone who volunteered in the past. Many thanks to those who are able to help out this year.

Date: April 12th

Time 9:00 – 12:00

Meeting place: Fast Freddy's at 9:00am

13. The Newsletter

The Bath Gardening Club newsletter is published four times annually, December, March, June, September. The newsletter covers topics that were suggested by members based on our 2024 survey. One topic that warranted special interest is, "Climate Change". The objective is to write an article concerning Climate Change in each edition of the newsletter. Other topics include: local gardening conditions: soil, care of shrubs, trees, composting, community and Township information, invasive species, tidbits on weeding and fertilizer. Our readership also enjoys interviews by our local gardeners, an update on Club activities, as well as the inclusion of many pictures of our gardens and volunteers at work. Huge thanks to Laurie Minorgan for her beautiful work in editing all our local newsletters. A special "thank you" to Don Taylor and all photographers for the magnificent images provided.

13. The Trillium

The Trillium is a provincial newsletter published by the OHA four times annually. Each gardening club in the province is invited to highlight activities and events taking place in their Club that can be shared with others in the province. Bath Gardening Club has consistently entered an article in The Trillium entitled, "What's Happening in Bath".



All articles for both our local newsletter and The Trillium are fact checked for accuracy and websites are cited for further information. All photos for The Trillium require photographer waiver forms before they are published.

Once the newsletters are published, they are circulated to the membership by our Secretary and are also placed on our website: **bathgardeningclub.ca** and on our Facebook Page: **Bath Gardening Club and Horticultural Society**

New Business

Speaker: Derek Fullerton: Growing Mushrooms

Derek is a regular at our Sunday Market selling garlic and a variety of mushrooms and other farm products.

He did an excellent presentation on the various stages of culturing, inoculating and growing mushrooms.

Members are invited to visit Fullerton Farm website for additional information at <https://www.facebook.com/FullertonFarm> or derek.fullerton2012@gmail.com

Adjournment: 5 PM