

Bath Gardening Club Executive Meeting

September 8, 2025

Loyalist Golf Club

1pm

Present: Sylvia Whalen, Joanne Pearce, Marjory Brundsen. Janna Sperinck, Val Behm, Linda Cohen, Sandra Lowman Janice Firth

Regrets:

Jeri Love, Kim Bonner

Motion to approve the minutes of June 9th Executive Meeting

Motion passed

Treasurer's Report - Joanne Pearce

Opening Balance for Fiscal 2025 = \$ 8,737.33

Fiscal 2025 Year-End bank account balance = \$16,049.34

Fiscal 2025 Profit: (\$16,049.34 - \$8,737.33) = \$ 7,312.01

2026 tentative budget has been created (based on F2025), pending Club discussion on where/how Club money will be spent. Team leads are asked to review the proposed amounts and respond to Joanne by September 17th.

1 item outstanding for SMB: 2nd feather flag, to be included in this year's budget. Flag has not been delivered or invoiced as of yet.

To date, SMB has 7 full time farmers, 4 part time farmers, 10 full time artisans, 30 part time artisans, 3 full time food vendors, 3 part time food vendors, which means still not eligible for Farmer's Market status (need 51% farmers = 30)** Numbers based on paying vendors.

Teams are doing a fantastic job~be proud.I.e. SMB ~ it's the best of many in the area

Preparing for annual audit

Sylvia, Janice , Joanne and Marjory will review on September 26

Membership notice of budget approval required 3 weeks in advance

Budget proposal sent to membership 2 weeks in advance

Budget will be approved at the October AGM on October 16

Membership Update

Joanna Sperinck has taken over the Membership portfolio

From September 1, 2024 to August 31, 2025 the membership breakdown is as follows:

49 individuals renewed

12 family memberships

14 new members joined

Total 75 members

Team leads have access to the membership list and can scroll over the *Volunteer Interests* listed for each member. Team Leads are encouraged to check regularly as new members and renewals come in throughout the year. Sandra will provide access to this list.

The Ad Hoc Membership Initiative is an ongoing effort.

Agenda Item for the AGM: *Do you support a flat membership fee of \$20 starting in 2026 - 2027 ?*

Year in Review Request

In addition to the Treasurer and Membership reports, all team leads are asked to prepare a summary of their year's activities in advance of the AGM.

Please send to secretary@bathgardenclub.ca

Information on Club activities is shared with the OHA

Planting Update: Val Behm

Watering of barrels and garden beds remains a challenge especially in drought conditions.

Transitioning to using more perennials . Val will decommission 11 barrels next year.

Arrangements for cleaning out barrels and pick up by the Township are underway. The quality of plant material from Sun Harvest is excellent.

Programming: Janice Firth

Janice suggested that the laptop owned by the Club be made available for speakers' meetings at St John's Hall.

She raised the concern that this machine is reaching its life span and perhaps another one

should be purchased

Copies of the Programming Schedule will be available at the September Meeting

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Sunday Market in Bath: Linda Cohen

A Special Event is being planned for September 28. There will be music and samples of ethnic foods available in the SMB available for kids with a ticket. Tarra is arranging this.

Linda has recommended that a volunteer coordinator be recruited to oversee the set up, staffing and activities related to the Bath Gardening Club's monthly table at the Market. While being present at the SMB has helped to raise awareness of the Club's activities, the potential to educate the visitors and promote the Club is untapped. This would be brought up at the next meeting.

Linda also recommended that a table cover be purchased with our name and contact information on it, along with a feather flag to attract attention to the table.

Linda spoke to the owners of the Hot Dog Stand who have a contract with Loyalist Township for the use of the area at the corner of Fairfield and Main Street. She assured them that the SMB did not request their absence on Market days. Any misunderstanding is between them and the Township.

Website: Sandra Lowman

We continue to have 6 webmail accounts, each having forwarding addresses to the respective BGC executives.

info@bathgardeningclub.ca

district3@bathgardeningclub.ca

market@bathgardeningclub.ca

membership@bathgardeningclub.ca

president@bathgardeningclub.ca

treasurer@bathgardeningclub.ca

The website includes 3 forms: membership application, member volunteer hours reporting, and fertilizer order form. It also includes all issues of the Club's quarterly newsletter, the OHA Trillium publication, a variety of photographs and the Minutes of all meetings; this page is password protected: vinca.

Pollinator Garden/ Memorial Garden/Bugtel update: Sylvia reported in Kim's absence

Pollinator Garden (PG)

Recent updates:

With aggressive hand-weeding we've almost eradicated the invasive Marsh

Woundwort that crowded-out 10 plant species in the PG 2 years ago

We bought a water barrel from a fundraiser on rainbarrel.ca benefiting Scott's Ecological Fund, a local charity educating youth on growing sustainable foods.

2025-2026

We'll be replacing the wooden garden bed surround in October

Removing old wood, relocating plants away from edges, digging a trench and filling with gravel for drainage, sealing white cedar lumber with eco friendly stain, installing the lumber, securing the corners, securing wood into the ground, adding stumps on the corners for sitting

Approach the Township about removing the dead tree north of the Bugtel, which is forked and possibly unstable.

This fall we'll ask for volunteers to help with: installing new wooden garden surround; dividing and replanting perennials to maintain vigour; removing delicate items for overwintering; covering pallet art, photo board and Lafarge sign with tarps

In the spring:

o Plant a "living mulch" - low-growing plants that help regulate soil temperature and suppress weeds

We're concerned wasps might build nests in the bugtel. We'll try deterring them by planting plants that bees love and wasps hate, e.g. lavender, mint,

rosemary, marigolds, thyme. We're calling it "Project Pollinator Pantry". o
Replace goldenrod – which is plentiful in the meadow – with something that
adds more diversity. Switch out smooth asters with something the bunnies
won't devour. Buy Little Bluestem, which perished in the heat.

Memorial Grove (MG)

Recent updates:

Nearly every time we visit someone is sitting on the bench or walking their dogs
on the property. Some people tell us they go every day .

The plants in the new gardens have been struggling with the heat and drought,
hopefully they'll fill out next year

2025-2026

We plan to install a garden edge to keep weeds and grass out of the garden.

The first stone butterfly got washed away so a new one with stones glued to a
cedar base is in the works.

We're trialling a nyjer finch feeder (needs filling about once a month) and a dog
water bowl (so they'll leave the bee waterer alone!)

If grant money is available, we'd like the following to be considered: o

Planting 4 Eastern Redbuds, which are a valuable food source for early
bees and a host plant for larvae of several butterflies and moths. \$150-
\$230 each depending on size

Planting 2 Tina Sargent Crabapple Trees, which look lovely and are
covered with bees in the spring. \$150 each

Another option would be a Rotary Club World Peace Pole, which Carol
would help facilitate. Cost is \$500 – \$1000?

A Peace Pole is a monument that displays the message *May Peace Prevail On Earth* in the language of the country where it is placed. It usually displays 3 to 7 additional languages meaningful to the host site. The message is referred to as an affirmation of peace and its placement furthers Rotary's goal of building a culture of peace throughout the world.

Bugtel

Recent updates:

We're thrilled by the number of monarch eggs and caterpillars we saw this year. We'll continue our bug survey until the first frost. We have seen 86 species of bees, butterflies, beetles and still counting. A huge success!

We've seen pollinators drinking at the bee waterer. There are ground-nesting bees in the new sand habitat. Many of the holes drilled into the wood logs are filled with bee larvae. No amphibians so far. 2025-2026

We'll host the annual survey of pollinators at the Bugtel in 2026.

In November, we'll be extracting mason bee cocoons from Carol's bee house, then washing and storing them in the fridge for the winter

We plan to purchase and raise another brood of mason bees in spring at the bugtel

Register with Monarch Watch – "helps spread awareness, provides valuable data for scientists, and offers participants a certificate and sign to recognize their contribution to protecting the species."

Community Engagement: Recent Updates

Added a “Fun Kid-Friendly Activities” section to the club’s Website to promote the photo op board, scavenger hunt and pollinator crafts

Profiled PG plants and pollinators on our club’s FB page

Contributed articles to our club’s Newsletter

We’ve developed scripts for bugtel tours, one targeted at young kids and another at older kids

Carol and I gave several private tours of the bugtel to hers and neighbours’ grandkids, upon request, which were well-received

2025-2026

Attend 2026 Community Blooms, TBA around April 4th, 2026 Host a tour at the PG, MG and Bugtel on World Bee Day, Wed May 20th, 2026 Host PG MG and Bugtel during Loyalist JRPM, TBA around June 6th, 2026 Invite members to join the Bioblitz during the week of June 15th to 21st, 2026 Participate in Loyalist Township Exploration Days at Bath Museum, TBA on a Friday

PG MG and Bugtel display for Sunday Market in Bath

Contribute articles to our club’s Newsletter 4 times a year, space permitting

Start promoting the PG, MG and Bugtel on the Village of Bath News FB page

Get people involved in photographing pollinators at the PG. Host a workshop on how to photograph pollinators (Don Taylor), info on how to use AI to identify them, and a demo on loading photos into iNaturalist (Kim and Don)

2025-2026 Budget highlights

Major items:

- o \$600-900+ tax to replace the PG garden surround

- o \$200 for 500 Printed cards to promote the PG, MG and Bugtel
- o \$300 for plant material – restocking, “living mulch”, plants that repel wasps
- o \$100 for Pollinator Activities Box for Community Engagement
- o \$50 one-time cost to register with Monarch Watch
- o \$50 for 3 x Photo books to tell stories about the flowers and pollinators at the Bugtel (Carol is working on one right now about Ground-Nesting Bees)

Going forward

A number of ideas were suggested as projects for 2025 2026 and others are welcome.

- Moving the year end to the calendar year
- Shorter, crisper meetings
- Send out communication to members with wording and explanation of upcoming motions so that people are simply asked to vote at the meeting
- Use a timer to stay on track
- Possibility of on line volunteer sign ups
- Coordinator for Bath Market table
- New logo and tag line. Use the lamppost drawing as a starting point
- Community Engagement volunteers to develop educational materials boxes
- Climate change education for members
- Involving kids in activities
- Sustainable gardening for front lawns

Meeting adjourned at 4 pm

Next meeting in November: date, time and location to be confirmed