

**Bath Gardening Club
Annual General Meeting
October 16, 2025, 1:30 pm**

Welcome: Sylvia Whalen

Special Guest: James Kimmerley, District #3 OHA

Approval of Minutes of the 2024 AGM held on October 21st, 2024

No changes were identified

Moved by Sue Nilsson

Seconded by Dawn Ford

Approved

Approval of Minutes of Meeting held on September 18th, 2025

No changes were identified

Moved by Roxanne Beddington

Seconded Jeri Love

Approved

FISCAL YEAR IN REVIEW

Membership Report: Joanna Sperinck

Membership this past fiscal year:

- 68 members (including family 13 members)
- 11 new members
- Grand total of 79 members

Efforts to increase awareness of the scope of the BGC activities and reaching out to new residents have been instrumental in this increase.

Website Report: Sandra Lowman

BGC website: <https://bathgardeningclub.ca/>

Expenses this past fiscal year:

- Domain name renewal = \$16.94
- Web hosting renewal with Web Hosting Canada = \$162.58
- Total expenses = \$180.

Estimated expenditure for 2025-2026 = \$250.00

New PG and MG page was added for the Pollinator Garden and Memorial Grove with content by Kim Bonner and photos by Don Taylor:

<https://bathgardeningclub.ca/pollinator-garden-and-memorial-grove/>

We have 7 webmail email accounts; each having forwarding addresses for the respective BGC board and executive members.

info@bathgardeningclub.ca
district3@bathgardeningclub.ca
market@bathgardeningclub.ca
membership@bathgardeningclub.ca
president@bathgardeningclub.ca
treasurer@bathgardeningclub.ca
Secretary@bathgardeningclub.ca

The website includes 3 forms for BGC membership application, member volunteer hours reporting, and the fertilizer order form.

The website includes the Minutes of all BGC monthly and executive meetings; the page is password protected 

The website includes all issues of the club's seasonal newsletter, and a variety of photographs, as well as links to gardening resources and presentations by our speakers when available.

Sylvia asked members to remember to capture their volunteer hours.

Winter Decor and BCD Parade Float: Laurie Minorgan

We couldn't have chosen a better year to return to the Canada Day Parade. The turnout, the enthusiasm and national pride was incredible.

Plans for next year's parade will get underway early in 2026, but Sue Nilsson, our creative genius, has already introduced the theme and begun shopping. The sheep themed parade will highlight the 'Baaath Gardening Club' in all its glory.

So, if you haven't signed up but would like to be part of this team, please complete the membership form which is linked on our website under the 'Join Us' tab.

We haven't yet gotten through Halloween but there are so many steps that go into decorating Bath for the winter holiday season that we are calling on members to help us out now. I'd like to introduce Mary Cuthbert and Sheila Marie as your new Winter Décor Committee. Together we will be asking those who have signed up for this team to help with the following:

- Tuesday, October 28th at 2:00 p.m. we are meeting at St. John's Hall to make bows.
- We will meet a few days later in Centennial Park to add the bows to the wreaths.
- The greenery has been ordered from Sun Harvest Greenhouses and will be delivered there at the end of the month or beginning of November. Dave and Adam Bryant have offered to pick the greenery up and deliver it to Centennial Park. When we know the date, we will be calling on members to show up in the park to unload the greenery and decorate the urns. The bows, dogwood and other elements will be added after the greenery is installed, likely a few days later.

- We will also be decorating the bridge with garland.
- This year we are adding several strings of lights in the park and could use a couple of spare hands, at least one ladder and someone who is comfortable on a ladder. This is scheduled for Saturday, November 8th in the morning or Sunday, the 9th, depending on the weather.

An email to follow with all these details.

Planting: Val Behm

Planting took place May 22nd on a chilly and very wet day. Next year we will plant a week later and see if the weather is more co-operative. Twenty members came out to help, and the work was done in no time.

This year was a challenging time with very little rain. Despite this the flowers looked beautiful; Flourish Landscaping contracted to water 3 times a week. We will continue to look for their assistance next year.

Five groups maintained the flowers over the season. Many compliments were received over the summer. Thanks to all who volunteered this year.

The planters, barrels and beds are all ready for winter. The Township picked up the barrels and put them behind Schell's for the winter. Yard waste bags were also picked up.

Elaine Nicholson and I would like to extend our thanks to everyone who participated with the planting and maintenance of the plants. We are looking forward to next year with new colors and new plants that are drought resistant and low maintenance to again make Bath more beautiful.

Programming: Janice Firth

This past year has been a busy year for the Bath Gardening Club. We have had a full program of speakers to educate our members on a variety of topics:

- September we started our year with a Gardening Trivia which gave our members an opportunity to socialize and share their gardening knowledge.
- October was our AGM and we had a presentation from one of our local market vendors on how to grow microgreens.
- November was a workshop session with another one of our market vendors. Angela from Limestone Succulents came with a great variety of plants and pots for us. We certainly learned a lot about succulent plants!
- In December, we enjoyed a lovely Christmas lunch at the O'Connor House in Deseronto.
- In January, Dr Brent Helmstaedt, one of our local chiropractors, came to give us some helpful tips for getting our bodies ready for gardening.

- In February, Derek from Fullerton Farms came to give us an informative talk about how to grow a variety of mushrooms.
- Gary & Diane Westlake came to entertain us in March with a talk about 'Garden Art for Cheapskates'. Members got lots of great ideas!
- Our Bugtel and pollinator garden were the focus for our April meeting. Members Kim Bonner & Carol Cartier have done a ton of work for this gave a presentation 'Pollinator Garden Research and Action' to give our members more awareness of what is happening in this garden.
- In May, we helped get things ready for the club's entry into the Canada Day Parade.
- Andie Wiens, a master gardener from PEC came to talk with us about 'The Ground Beneath our Feet' at our June meeting. This gave us an increased appreciation for what happens in our garden soil.
- In July, our members took a trip to Maitland just out of Brockville to visit two beautiful gardens – Maitland Gardens of Hope and Van Berlo Gardens. Both were amazing and left us feeling exhausted at all the work Dave and Mary Ann put into their gardens.

In the upcoming year we'll have speakers every other month, to give us more time for casual discussions on gardening-related topics.

Pollinator Garden, Memorial Grove and Bugtel: Kim Bonner

This past year was all about the pollinators. At the Bugtel we observed firsthand how they appreciated our members' efforts to provide new wood logs for nesting, watering stations, and shelters from predators.

During our first ever inventory we had a blast searching for pollinators and other critters, photographing more than 100 species of wildlife. Meanwhile, on the the Club's FB site, we shared interesting tidbits about pollinators and their favorite plants in the PG.

The PG, MG and Bugtel became more kid-friendly with fun garden art, a scavenger hunt, and the "two Sue's" photo op standup board. Meanwhile, in the community we participated in several family-oriented events at the park, the Bath Sunday Market, and the Bath Museum.

If you have a minute drop by to see the new garden bed surround. The project was expertly led by Keith McIlwaine and included a team of 6 hard-working volunteers. Read all about it in the next newsletter!

Carol and I would like to thank the volunteers – whether planting, weeding, renovating, watering or simply keeping an eye on the space. Together we've created a vibrant and thriving habitat for pollinators that is essential to our local ecosystem. Also too, thanks from the locals who've told us that they enjoy and benefit from visiting the area, some every day!

Sunday Market in Bath: Linda Cohen

Only 2 more Sundays of the market are left. What a rewarding season it has been, records broken in attendance, vendor participation, and money raised for the Club!

I wish to thank all the members who came out to help with the BGC table this season. I believe you made a difference. And thank you to all who supported the market by your attendance.

I would particularly like to thank Joanne Pearce. We worked very closely this past season sorting out problems and concerns, and as well, making changes that are already working to streamline the market this season and will make it smoother running next year. It has been a pleasure working with you Joanne.

Tara has agreed to stay on as the market manager for the upcoming year, and has some exciting ideas, like securing live entertainment every Sunday. I am certain next year will be even bigger and better! If the market sounds like something you'd like to be involved with, please reach out to me, I'm looking for grow the team with more volunteers.

Again, thank you all very much, it has been a pleasure working with each one of you.

Treasurer's Report: Joanne Pearce **Slide show presentation to highlight**

- **Financial Report for 2024-2025**
- **Budget for 2025-2026**
- **Financial review to verify the reporting**

Motions:

Accept the Financial Report for 2024 - 2025

Approve the Budget for 2025-2026

Moved by Janice Firth

Seconded by Linda Cohen

Motion Accepted/Approved

Accept the results of the verification of reporting

Moved by Sue Nilsson

Seconded by Lynne McDonald

Motion Accepted

To approve a motion to change to the membership fee to a flat fee of \$20 in September 2026

The membership was split 50/50 on this motion so Sylvia will take it back to the Executive for more consideration.

Social Time

New Business: Sylvia Whelan

Review of our Club's Code of Conduct

Sylvia walked us through our club's Code of Conduct. For future reference, it can be found on our website under the Policy and Procedures section:

<https://bathgardeningclub.ca/policy-procedures/>.

Linda Cohen is our club's Complaint Resolution Mediator.

Review of the Bath Garden Club structure

Sylvia walked us through the highlights of our club's 35-year history.

Installation of Executive Members 2025-2026

District 3 Director, James Kimmerly provided us with a few updates about OHA. He mentioned that the Trillium newsletter is looking for a new editor if anyone is interested. He encouraged members to volunteer for our club's VP position, which is currently vacant.

He then presented the Executive/Board Installation for 2024/25 as follows:

- President – Sylvia Whelan
- Vice President - **vacant**
- Past President – Janice Firth
- Recording Secretary – Diane Nolting
- Corresponding Secretary – Diane Nolting
- Treasurer – Marjory Brunsdon, Joanne Pearce
- Membership Secretary – Joanna Sperinck
- Publicity Secretary – Jeri Love

Installation of Board of Directors / Team Leads for 2025-2026

- PG, MG & Bugtel – Kim Bonner
- Planting – Val Behm
- Programming – Janice Firth
- Sunday Market in Bath – Linda Cohen
- Webmaster – Sandra Lowman

Other Items

Seed Exchange:

Members were encouraged to bring dried seeds in labelled envelopes to exchange at the meeting. There was a wide variety of annual, perennial and herb seeds available, all of which were scooped up by the end of the meeting!

2025 OHA Bulb Fundraiser:

Biodiversity Bulb Mixture packages (\$35 for 50 bulbs) – which were specially developed for the OHA - were available for sale by e-transfer, cash or cheque. At the end of the meeting there were 17 bags left, which will be sold at the Bath Sunday Market and other community gatherings.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:30 pm