

Bath Gardening Club
Executive Meeting
November 10, 2025
1pm at Loyalist Golf Club

Present: Sylvia Whalen, Marlory Brunsdon, Janice Firth, Jeri Love, Joanna Sperinck, Kim Bonner, Linda Cohen, Sandra Lowman, Val Behm, Diane Nolting

Regrets: Joanne Pearce

Motion to approve Minutes from September 8, 2025

Motion by Jeri Love

Seconded by Joanna Sperinck

Carried

Treasurer's Report: Marjory Brunsdon

Due to Joanne's illness, Marjory provided the following update.

Bank balance Nov 4 is \$14,720.00

Re L&A Activation Fund grant of \$1,000 towards music at SMB – final reporting has been submitted to Rob Plumley at L&A with more detailed info to be supplied on a USB.

Currently working on the Loyalist Township submission.

Sunday Market in Bath 2025 season:

SMB revenue	10,241.60
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SMB expenses	5,931.63
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Net	4,309.97	this is an approximate figure
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Bulb sale report: Diane

All the bulbs were sold! Costs were recovered.

Should OHA repeat this fundraiser, we recommend that additional information be provided about each of the bulbs along with more specific planting instructions. Would also encourage the use of paper bags to hold the bulbs

Sylvia circulated 4 different funding grant applications from OHA available on the Garden Ontario website: Seedy Saturday, Technical Advancement, Trees, Pollinator Projects. Details at <https://gardenontario.org/resources/awards-and-grants>

Membership: Joanna Sperinck

#of renewals: 53

New members: 2

Retention and recruiting members is always a challenge, Garden Ontario is offering a workshop on Friday, December 5 at 7 pm It will be recorded and made available on their website after the session.

<https://gardenontario.webex.com/gardenontario/j.php?MTID=mc7b36f215f92ee7f092bdb6a740e8f81>Strategies for reaching members to renew:

Access to membership forms for Executive members and Team Leads

Sandra will provide a link to all Executive members and Team Leads to access members volunteer interests and contact information on the online membership application form. Only the Membership Secretary can change the information recorded. Leaders are encouraged to check forms regularly as new members join throughout the year.

Revisiting the proposed fee increase to a \$20 flat fee

It was decided to stay with the current fee structure of \$15 for individuals and \$20 for Family . Family members need to be listed to be covered by our insurer.

Motion moved by Joanna Sperinck and seconded by Jeri Love. All in favour

Programming: Janice Firth

35th BGC Birthday Celebration November 20, 1:30 pm at Loyalist Golf Club. Special Guest: Penny Stewart.

December Lunch: December 11th, O'Connor House, 12 noon. Car sharing possible

January 15, 2026: Speaker from the Tea Store in Kingston with tea tasting 1:30 pm at Loyalist Golf Club

February 19, 2026: Business Meeting, 1:30 pm at St. John's Hall

March 19, 2026: Landscaping Workshop offered by Heather Campbell, 1:30 pm at Loyalist Golf Club

April 16, 2026 Short Business Meeting followed by Guest Speaker: Carson Arthur. Topic Food Insecurity and Sustainability at St. John's Hall.

Janice will reach out to the wider community and invite others to attend.

May: Planning in progress. Field Trip to Prince Edward Point

Other suggestions for workshops: Silk Making, Stepping Stones, Soap Making

PG/MG/Bugtel: Kim Bonner

Recently completed projects. PG garden surround, MG garden edging, bulbs, fall maintenance, Monarch Waystation, DSF Butterflyway

Trees for the MG. Checking with Carol's master gardener friend about the trees she'd recommend for feeding/sheltering pollinators, and hardiness in our zone. Eastern Redbuds might need a more sheltered area. Oaks are also a keystone species and might be better.

Geocaching at the MG. A great way to attract kids and families. Darrell has no concerns but asks us to share the location and geocache contents for township approval before proceeding with installation. Initial thoughts: locate it in the MG away from the PG; cache with a logbook stored in a fake birdhouse with a combo lock; the combination is attached to a fake bird in another tree. For more info, see:

<https://naturallyla.ca/explore/geocaching/map-of-games>

Keeping dogs out of the PG. They're drinking from the bee waterer in the PG and running roughshod over it, so we'll be adding dog watering bowls in the MG area. Brian Nilsson has created an adorable dog stick library, which will help draw attention to the water bowls beside it.

Making curated native flower seed packages to sell at our meetings, various events, and the Bath Sunday Market. It's also a good fit with my role as a Butterflyway Ranger.

The proposal is to buy seeds for a variety of native flowers and then curate them into packages targeted to bees only, butterflies only, bees and butterflies mix, shade garden, fall sowing, monarchs only, etc. Would include planting instructions and other helpful info. FYI, here's a link to the 3x3x3 gardening method that's recommended for pollinator gardens.

<https://wildpollinators-pollinisateurssauvages.ca/2024/06/06/beginner-pollinator-garden-the-3-x-3-x-3-system/>

I really like the look of this online store. They're located in Sudbury so the seeds would do well in our climate. They donate 10% of proceeds to charitable causes like promoting food security.

At \$4 per package for 80, 150, 175 or 200 seeds we could curate a lot of our own custom seed packages and seed bombs too maybe. Would be looking for help from club volunteers to assemble them.

Website - <https://northernwildflowers.ca/collections/shop-seeds>

Catalogue -

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nDpAUeHdRaSgUAWLC4pCXEQa60noIJLI/view>

Take a book, leave a book. I heard through the grapevine that this might be a nice addition to the MG area, with donated books about gardening, pollinators and nature? Brian Nilsson makes lovely mini libraries; cost for supplies several years ago was \$250. Not in the budget, but perhaps we could get a local sponsor? Maybe it can go next to the Lafarge sign.

Approach Loyalist to request spring maintenance. Cut back/remove the dead tree 'snag' that might be at risk of falling on the PG? Mow underneath the 2 evergreens to provide a neater look to the area.

Joint Promotion at Books on Main? An in-store display with BGC items, accompanied by a collection of the store's books on gardening, pollinators, and nature. Maybe a free draw for gardening-related items, a book, and a gift certificate for the market?

The Committee is in favour of these initiatives and will reach out to members who would be willing to take on the lead role

District 3 OHA Meeting: Sylvia

Update from the October 2025 D3 Meeting in Tweed:

Most if not all societies in the district were represented at this meeting and I continue to feel it is important to send one or two BGC folks to stay in the loop. These meetings are held twice a year (spring and fall) The spring meeting is the AGM and will be held on

May 2nd in Brockville.

The continuation of the OHA's AGM is being held November 22 and anyone can attend as it is virtual. BGC is allowed two votes.

There is now a clear path forward for garden walks that meets with the insurance providers requirements. Stipulations for the society & garden owner are provided along with consent forms for the garden owner and participants to sign at each home.

As of July 1st there is a Centennial Grant available to societies who have existed for more than 100 years.

Code of Conduct documents should include confidentiality. At the point a concern is moved up to the OHA level it will go to the OHA secretary who forwards it to the Code of Conduct Committee.

Sister Society Activities

One of my favourite things about these meetings is the round robin of things other clubs/societies are doing. Some highlights from the fall meeting:

Belleville- 2026 is their 150th year!

Lennox and Addington is going through a re-branding.

Many clubs have plant sales and bring in a lot of money.

- plant sale combined with a cafe worked very well
- forcing bulbs for selling
- Picton holds a native plant sale

Flower shows/competitions- one does flowers in spring and vegetables in fall

- hold them at the nursing home.
- one sponsors entries at the fair
- one does mini flower shows integrated into meetings

Gardens- in a park have a 4 planters- one for each season

- respond to requests for gardens/maintenance- hospital courtyards/churches (one in lieu of rent! And one for community gardens/pollinator gardens.

L&A received a Climate Change grant for a pollinator garden

Seeds

Many of the societies have Seedy Saturdays.

-One gives out a seedling/seeds to every child at an event to stimulate the love of gardening.

-Another works with the school and provides seeds for planting then they take a couple seedlings home and the rest go in a community garden which they help tend and donate produce to the foodbank.

-Each child in kindergarten gets a butterfly kit in one community

Presentations/workshops-

Brad King presented a workshop "Neat Garden Things from A-Z" at this meeting. The following is a few of the presentations clubs have had:

- Bees
- Indigenous gardens
- Pumpkin Flower Arrangements (workshop)
- Miyawaki forest/Mini Forest
- Pickling Vegetables
- Foraging
- Caring for fruit trees
- Butterfly wreaths

Another idea:

- Providing Presentations to Scouts/4H groups

OHA Guidelines: Members received the pamphlet "General Guide For Horticultural Society Officers.

The issue of recruitment arose as Pat Chown who has written the BGC newsletter and submissions for The Trillium is stepping back. Also Joanne Pearce the current treasurer has health issues which will prevent her from continuing in that role. Members will be canvassed to identify people who might be willing to step up.

Cyber Security: The password for accessing minutes of meetings on the BGC website is weak. Government Canada material on creating strong passwords strongly recommends a pass phrase i.e. 35yearsandgrowing. No decision made

OHA 50/50 Draw: Jeri will post the draw information on Facebook and Sandra will post on the BGC website

Things to be worked on:

Logo Ideas

Suggestions were received from Sandra, Kim and Sylvia. After much discussion, agreement was reached to use a circle with the lamppost and flowers in the centre surrounded by Bath Gardening Club and the tag line: Gardening for a Healthy Tomorrow.

Mock ups will be brought to the next meeting.

The logo will be used on all community materials, for example website, facebook , print materials, promotional flags, tablecloth, aprons, t-shirts to be used by Market volunteers and Parade participants

To be discussed at the February 19th meeting

Meeting adjourned at 3pm

Next meeting: Jan 12 2006 at Loyalist Golf Course, 1:pm