

The following is a recap of the Annual General meeting of the Carleton Place and District Horticultural Society that was held this past Wednesday evening Dec 6th. The recollections and reporting are mine, as are all of the errors and omissions. Please note that there are a number of photos in this post so it may take a few minutes to download everything depending on your internet speed. Also, a special thank you to Vinnie Krieger and others who helped with the photos.

Rick

AGM INTRODUCTION

President Paul Pietsch welcomed everyone to the 2023 Annual General Meeting commenting on a successful year that saw many horticultural activities within the society and the community at large. He commented on the growth of our membership and the many members who have volunteered in a wide variety of roles. With that the floor was opened to the business portion of the meeting:

Finance:

CPDHS Vice President and **Treasurer Linda Bartlett** shared the good news regarding our financial position. Though our 2023 expenses slightly exceeded our income, the net result is that we have a sound bank balance to take us into 2024. Linda expressed thanks to **Caroline Bredin** and **Debi McEwen** who stepped forward to check and approve the society's books.

Linda also mentioned that there were printed December CPDHS Newsletters available for all in attendance. There is a printable PDF copy of the Newsletter attached to this email.

Membership

CPDHS Director and **Membership Coordinator Laura Cupper** confirmed that our membership for 2023 has reached 99 members. She encouraged everyone to get their 2024 renewal forms filled in and submitted.

President's Report

President Paul Pietsch encouraged members to read the full President's Report which is attached to this meeting recap to get his complete overview. He specifically called attention to the good work that has been done this year by volunteers at the Victoria School Garden (VSG) and remarked that our volunteers have created a public garden that stands out in the province. Paul encouraged more members to join the fun in 2024. [*There are now two groups working in the VSG during the growing season. Tuesday mornings and Thursday evenings*]

OHA District Two Report:

- **District Two Director Anne Clark-Stewart** provided a recap of accomplishments and activities within District Two in 2023 with a focus on the biggest undertaking of the year which was the 2023 OHA Convention that District Two hosted in Kanata last summer. Anne finished up by surprising CPDHS members with a **35 year certificate**, the number of years that our local society has been in continuous operation. President Paul Pietsch accepted the award on behalf of CPDHS.



- **District Two Treasurer Roger Harbord** reported on the successful fundraising effort within the District and beyond that ensured that the 2023 OHA Convention was funded as required and came out in the black.



Election of Officers

CPDHS Director **Dianne Elliott** chaired the election of officers. We welcomed a new addition to the Board with **Irene Tobis** being nominated, seconded and unanimously elected as a Director. The existing 2023 Board have agreed to continue in their roles for 2024. Our 2024 Board includes 10 enthusiastic members who represent a wide scope of diverse interests in all things horticultural.



Your 2024 CPDHS Board include (l to r) Debbie Guthro (Secretary), Daniel Brumar, Irene Tobis, Dianne Elliott, Doreen Harris, Linda Bartlett (VP Treasurer), Brianna Logan, Paul Pietsch (President), Laura Cupper, OHA District 2 Director Anne Clark-Stewart who installed the Board, & Rick Roberts.

GUEST SPEAKER

Our guest speaker was **Leah Gibson** who provided an interesting and entertaining demonstration of **Seasonal Floral Arrangements** using mostly local seasonal materials. Her emphasis was on ecological awareness including demonstrating the use of chicken wire for a floral foundation rather than foam, local dried floral materials including native plants from the wild.





Leah's approach was artistic and her delivery easy and casual. Audience questions were answered fully and in detail. She also generously donated the arrangements she made to be added to the door prizes at the end of the evening.

We were blessed again this year with a fantastic lineup of exceptional presenters and topics. Our thanks to all of the guest speakers who shared their knowledge with us this year, and to Paul Pietsch who convinced those speakers to come to CPDHS, and looked after the details to make it happen.

AWARDS

Flower Show and Photography trophies

Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA) District 2 Director and CPDHS member **Anne Clark-Stewart** presented the 2023 Flower Show and Photography trophies with the able assistance of **Doreen Harris** and **Heather Lebeau** who organize and promote these events throughout the year.. The categories and winners are:

- The CPDHS *Novice Floral Design Trophy* - Recipient - **Brianna Logan**



- The CPDHS *Floral Design Trophy* - Recipient - **Janet Cain**



- The **Carleton Place Nursery Trophy** - Exhibitors with the most points in the *fruit and vegetable classes*. Recipients - **Valencia Logan, Sheila Gibson and Rick Roberts** (all 3 tied for 1st place) Share trophy!



(l to r): Doreen Harris & Heather Lebeau (Flower/Veg Show & Photo Competition Coordinators), Rick Roberts, Valencia Logan, Anne Clark-Stewart (OHA District 2 Director presenting), Sheila Gibson.

- The **Reid Gardens Flower Trophy** (*for flower specimens*) - Recipient - **Anita Ruus**



- The **Wendy Leblanc Trophy** - Recipient - **Sheila Gibson** (for the *highest aggregate points throughout the year*)



- The CPDHS **Photography Trophy** - Recipient - **Brianna Logan**



(l to r): Brianna 'Bri' Logan with Photo Competition Coordinator Doreen Harris & Anne Clark-Stewart OHS District 2 Director presenting

Volunteer of the year Award

CPDHS President Pual Pietsch presented the 2023 Volunteer of the Year Award to **Rick Roberts**



FOOD BANK DONATIONS

Membership Coordinator Laura Cupper reported that the food that CPDHS members donated for the Food Bank weighed in at **a total of 126 lbs**. Also contributed were **cash donations totalling \$400**. That includes a total of \$300 donated by individual members plus \$100 donated by the Carleton Place and District Horticultural Society on behalf of all members.

SOCIAL BREAK

Sandy Schappert and some other members brought a tasty selection of cookies and other treats to share during the Social Break. **Dianne Elliott** donated cups and napkins etc, plus helped organize and kept things on track.



These social breaks are a great way to get to know our gardening neighbors, and to pick brains for helpful advice on all things horticultural. We are in great need of someone to step forward to coordinate the Social Breaks during 2024 so we can keep it going strong. Please respond to this email if you have questions about what is involved. Or speak to any of the Directors.

WRAP UP

Door prizes

Sandy Shappert distributed door prize tickets to all attendees for the draw. Door prizes included the Christmas arrangements created by our guest speaker Leah Gibson, a big basket of preserves donated by OHA District 2 Director **Anne Clark-Stewart** and several items collected and donated by CPDHS President **Paul Pietsch** and **Caroline Bredin**.



Paul and Sandy presided over the drawing of the prizes to the delight of the many winners.

Show & Tell - How to Winter Sow

Irene Tobis, our brand-new CPDHS Director, shared information about Winter Sowing.



Irene explained what it is, invited members to try it out, and provided a handout that was created by the Ottawa Wildflower Seed Library titled *How to Winter Sow* (copy attached to this email).

Closing & Thank You

President Paul thanked all in attendance for their efforts with CPDHS throughout the year, and for making this AGM a very enjoyable event. He wished all a healthy and successful 2024 and looks forward to seeing everyone at the first 2024 meeting in March.

Extending Best Wishes to you and yours for a Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays,

Rick

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Carleton Place & District Horticultural Society

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