



**Ontario Horticultural Association District 9
Annual General Meeting
Saturday, April 22nd, 2023**



The meeting was called to order by District Director, Leslie Daniels who welcomed everyone present. O Canada was sung.

Greetings were brought from Thorold Mayor Terry Ugilini and Port Colborne Mayor Bill Steele. Mayor Bill Steele was not present and his greetings were read by Maggie Corner.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, April 23rd, 2022

The minutes were read by Maggie Corner.

MOTION: that the minutes from the Annual General Meeting of April 23rd, 2022 be approved.

Moved by Lisa deYoung and seconded by Tami Lyons The motion passed.

Roll Call of District Societies

Recording Secretary, Maggie Corner took the roll call

Dunnville	0
Fort Erie	0
Grimsby	1
Lincoln	7
Niagara Falls	1
Niagara-on-the-Lake	1
Pelham	19
Port Colborne	10
Ridgeway & District	2
Garden City Gardeners	7(formerly St. Catharines)
Smithville	0
Thorold	15
Welland	5
TOTAL	68

Gift Bags

Maggie Corner highlighted the generous donations of businesses and garden club members to the gift bags to be received by attendees on leaving.

City of Port Colborne – pins and recyclable and compostable pens

Laurie & Brian Pye, Maple Meadows Farm and Event Centre – handmade pottery vase frogs

The Mill Nursery, Michael Sneek - \$5 Mills Bills

Port Side Petals and Gifts – Flower food packages and flowerpot ornaments

Stokes Seeds – Catalogue and seed packet

Lee Valley – Seed packet

Country Basket Gardens – Fertilizer and their fertilizer program was highlighted.

Shannon Passero, The Post Office – Bags, purse/key chain tassel, 15% off coupon

LouAnne Wronski, Thorold Garden Club - Bookmarks

Treasurer's Report

Alan Daniels, Treasurer, highlighted the financial report from 2022 and included the cost of the Fall Forum 2022. The 2022 Financial Report was audited by two members of the Thorold Garden Club.

MOTION: That the Financial Report from 2022 be accepted as presented.
Moved by Nicki Szczechura, seconded by Debbie Eggleton. The motion passed.

Old/New Business

Leslie thanked the Port Colborne Garden Club for providing the breakfast.

Fundraising at this event was highlighted.

The Beeway selling honey and bluebird nesting pipes.

Thorold Garden Club selling hostas.

Pollinators were also highlighted.

The membership were also informed of an increase in fees from all Niagara Garden Clubs to District 9. The fee will be increased in 2024 from 50c per member to \$1.

Election and Installation of Executive

Leslie Daniels introduced Kathy Bouma, District Director – District 7 representing the OHA who would be installing the District 9 Executive.

Kathy Bouma brought greetings from Charles Freeman, OHA and highlighted the ongoing work of the OHA.

- The OHA is undergoing a Strategic Plan Review with a new mission coming in July at the OHA AGM to be held in Kanata, Ontario;
- developing and supporting all programs for all ages;
- Thanking everyone for supporting the 50/50 fundraiser;
- Thanking everyone for supporting the Year of the Garden Calendar
- The colour of the year (2023) is purple.
- Respect and kindness were requested when members are dealing with OHA staff, especially the computer/technical staff;
- The AGM is 2024 will be held in Guelph, Ontario.

Installation of Officers – Kathy Bouma

District 9 Director Leslie Daniels

Assistant Director and

 Corresponding Secretary Susan Lusted

Assistant Director Amber Cuthbertson

Treasurer Vacant, Alan Daniels will fullfil role till he is replaced

Recording Secretary Maggie Corner

All members were elected and installed.

Speaker: Paul Gellatly – The Tattooed Gardener

Lions, Tigers and Plants, Oh My – Zoological Horticulture.

The Curatorial Gardener manages the plant collection at the Zoo for each of the continents, making the animal pavilions as realistic as possible with geographical plantings.

Under his research some animals were able to be outside safely for the first time.

There are three greenhouses and now one is open to the public.

He and his staff work with endangered plants using their cryogenic facilities.

Leslie Daniels thanked Paul for an excellent and informative talk.

Lunch was catered by the Fonthill Legion and was enjoyed by all members.

Speaker: Wendy Somers. Welland Garden Club and the Garden Club of Niagara.

Floral Designs and Information on Agra Wool.

Wendy highlighted the use of Agra Wool in floral design instead of using Floral Foam.

Floral Foam has been banned by some organizations for its negative impact on the environment.

Agra Wool is made from volcanic rock and can be reused many times. It eventually breaks down into basalt dust, which is good for gardens. Agra Wool is not readily available. Leslie Daniels is able to purchase this product if requested.

Other alternatives to floral foam/Agra Wool are tape, sticks, chicken wire, driftwood, skewers and water picks.

Wendy demonstrated two different designs and put both on the raffle table.

The meeting ended with the announcement of the photography contest winners, the drawing of the Garden Club door prizes, the table centres were also included in the raffle and the penny sale.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Maggie Corner