



**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**SATURDAY, April 24, 2021**  
**Via Zoom**

**Present:** Pamela MacLean, Vicki Willis, Kathy Harvie, Allison Magee, Sue Gilmour, Elizabeth Hill, Kathy d'Entremont, Susan Hazelwood, Bibiane Lessard, Deb Bowes-Lyon, Sharon Bryson, Sandi Carroll, Emily Walker

**Regrets:** Geoff MacDonald, Betty Anne Cameron (has resigned from the Board)

**Not Present:** Dixie Cress, Jamie McLellan

**1. Review Minutes of October 19, 2019 and September 26, 2020 Meetings**

- Approved as distributed.

**2. Old Business**

**a. Treasurer's Report and 2020 Audit**

- Allison reviewed the Treasurer's report.
- **Allison** will contact the 2 Board members who agreed to be auditors and complete the audit in May.
- Pamela asked about the bank fees, which are higher than the interest. Bibianne noted that Simplii Financial doesn't charge bank fees and has a high interest rate **Allison** will see if there are other options for our accounts.
- **Allison** agreed to send the audited financial statements to the Registry of Joint Stocks after approval by the membership and by the end of June.
- Allison moved that the Financial Statements for 2020 be approved. Bibiane seconded. *Motion carried.*
- Allison has agreed to take on the Tags and Seals. Pamela moved that the two positions be merged. Sharon seconded. *Motion carried.*
- **Susan** will move the Tags and Seals job description to that of the Treasurer.

**b. Board Positions**

- Vicki reviewed the Board Nominations and Openings report.
- Vicki highly recommends that the Past President form a committee to help with recruitment. She also said that more face-to-face contact is needed to fill positions.
- Pamela agreed to act as the Awards Chair for the coming year.
- Deb has a contact at a nursery in her District who might be interested in a Board position. The District 7 Director position might be appropriate.
- Sandi suggested that we might want to add a Communications position to the Board.
- Sharon will contact someone in her area for the Photo Contest Chair.
- Susan indicated that it may be time to review the by-laws and perhaps make structural changes to the Board at the same time.

**c. 2021 AGM**

- Susan proposed that an AGM via Zoom could exclude those clubs that have technology challenges. Instead, she would like to send an email the clubs asking them to vote (via email) on the Financial Statement, 2021 Board and 2019 AGM Minutes.
- Susan asked if we need responses from the clubs or if we can make the assumption that they approve if we don't hear from them.

- Deb and Sharon both thought that a response via email or phone is needed.
- The agreed upon AGM logistics will be:
  - Susan will send an email to clubs via the Directors by May 8.
  - The clubs will be asked to respond by May 22.
  - The Directors will call those clubs that have not responded by June 4.
  - Susan will compile the results and write minutes/summary report on June 5 and distribute to the Board.

#### d. Plant Giveaway

- The last discussion about the 2021 plant was to provide bulbs in the fall.
- **Pamela** will contact Geoff and Jamie and ask them to submit info for the next newsletter about a bulb give away.

#### e. Social Media Guidelines

- Considering recent issues around the Facebook page, it was agreed that we need social media guidelines. They will include the web site and other social media platforms, in addition to Facebook.
- **Deb** will resurrect the document that she started a couple of years ago and bring it to the Board for review and approval.
- There was discussion about the number of admins and moderators we need immediately. It was agreed to add one more admin for now. The guidelines will dictate any others that may be required.
- Pamela moved that Deb is made the third admin immediately. Bibiane seconded. *Motion carried.*
- It was suggested that we could allow garden related businesses to advertise on our page.
- Sharon suggested that we need to make it more obvious that NSAGC “owns” the page.
- Emily noted that the Facebook page and web site need to complement one another.
- After discussion, it was agreed that the web site needs to be redesigned and developed by a professional. Grants may be available to fund this project.
- A Social Media Committee will look at all of the above. The committee will consist of Deb (Chair), Emily and Kathy H.

#### f. Garden Centre Discounts

- The Directors had agreed to contact local garden centres in their areas and try and expand the NSAGC discounts list on the web site.
- Sharon said that the Kent and Canadian Tire in her area are offering discounts, along with some of the local nurseries.
- Deb said that most centres in Districts 5 and 7 are willing to offer discounts. She also suggested approaching some of the large retailers (Walmart, Canadian Tire, Kent, Home Hardware) to see if they will give provincial discounts.
- It was agreed that it is best to deal with things locally during COVID and until the new web site is launched.

### 3. New Business

#### a. New Club and Affiliates

- The potential new club is a community garden group in Digby (not Yarmouth). The Executive recommended that they be invited to join NSAGC.

- **Pamela** will contact them again to confirm if they are still interested. If so, they will be asked to pay the \$4 per person membership fee.
- **Deb** is willing to meet with them. If they are still interested in joining NSAGC, Pamela will let Deb know,
- After discussion on affiliates, **Pamela** agreed to survey those clubs to see how many of their members belong to other clubs and the reason why the affiliate clubs belong to NSAGC.

**b. NSAGC Action Plan**

- Kathy indicated that she appreciated the responses received from the survey.
- The next step is to put a plan together, based on the responses, and work with the Board on moving forward with the action items.
- The hope is that the plan will reinvigorate the Board.
- Deb and Sandi both noted that there needs to be follow up between the Board meetings.

**c. Facebook Issues**

- Discussed as part of 2e.

**d. Addresses on Assessment Forms**

- Susan has been asked why we are collecting mailing addresses for the Club Presidents and Secretaries on the Assessment forms. To her knowledge they were only used by Ann Jones for mailing newsletters.
- Only one Director has used the addresses to send info to a club without an email address. It was agreed that it is not worth the work to maintain the info in the Board Handbook for one club.
- **Allison** will remove President and Secretary mailing addresses from the Assessment Forms.
- **Susan** will remove President and Secretary mailing addresses from section 4d of the Board Handbook.

**e. Year of the Garden 2022**

- Kathy talked about the Year of the Garden 2022 project. Info may be found at [year-of-the-garden](#)
- The link has a letter that can be used to contact your Member of Parliament, asking the government to recognize 2022 as the year of the garden.
- This is great way encourage people to join clubs. It is also an opportunity to promote the clubs and get them involved.

**4. Reports Highlights**

a. **District Updates** were distributed before the meeting and not discussed at the meeting.

**b. COVID Successes**

- Bibianne reported that Inverness usually installs about 150 hanging baskets around the town. Because of COVID there is no money coming in to support this project, so they posted a Go Fund Me and raised over \$2,000.
- Deb reported that Digby Neck and Islands applied for and was awarded a \$1,500 grant for butterfly gardens. All clubs in District 7, except one, are starting to schedule events. Bridgetown has started to use e-transfers and are getting new members via Facebook.

- It was noted that several clubs around the province are using e-transfers now.

**5. Next Meetings**

- Tentatively September 24<sup>th</sup> (Executive) and September 25<sup>th</sup> (Board), 2021 in Truro.
- **Allison** will book the Willowbend meeting room and hotel rooms.

**6. Adjournment**

- Meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

*Recorded by Susan Hazelwood*

## Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs Financial Statement 2020-2021

Chequing Bank Balance April 1 2020	\$8,245.64
Expenses: Bank fees	\$50.62
Registry of Joint Stocks	\$31.15
Web site fee	\$57.50
Postage	\$19.87
Convention close out costs	\$105.51
Meeting costs (Zoom)	\$23.00
Income: Convention refund	\$1,000.00
Plant purchase refund	\$2,341.99
Tag and seals	\$22.60
Plants sold	\$104.00
Bank Balance March 31 2021	\$11,426.58

Note: the Insurance was paid in April 2021 \$1,334.00

Savings account Balance April 1 2020	\$10,068.85
Expenses bank fees	\$20.00
Income: interest	\$17.86
Bank Balance March 31, 2021	\$10,066.71

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Assets April 1 2020	Chequing account	\$8,245.64
	Savings account	\$10,068.85
	Total:	\$18,314.49
Expenses:		\$307.65
Income:		\$3,486.27
	Total assets March 31 2021:	\$21,493.11

## NSAGC BOARD NOMINATIONS AND OPENINGS 2021

The following positions will be open for nominations at the virtual AGM in June:

### **Executive**

President – candidate Kathy d’Entremont  
Vice President- candidate Deb Bowes-Lyon  
Secretary- open

### **Directors**

District 3 Director North-open  
District 3 Director South-open  
District 5 Director- candidate Sandi Carroll

### **Committee Chairs**

Webmaster- open (Paul Depress willing to do some updates)  
Photo chair-open  
Awards -open  
Tags and Seals-open

April 20, 2021

# **Report on NSAGC Board Questionnaire**

April 20, 2021

Submitted by Kathy d'Entremont and Deb Bowes-Lyon

## **Introduction**

In order to better acquaint ourselves with the organization and the people involved, Kathy d'Entremont and Deb Bowes-Lyon requested NSAGC Board members and select stakeholders complete a questionnaire.

The goal of the questionnaire was to improve our corporate knowledge, identify the strengths and weaknesses of the organization and determine areas to concentrate Board efforts on in the upcoming term.

A total of twelve members out of sixteen responded.

The information was collected between April 2, 2021 and April 20, 2021 and a compilation is included verbatim starting on page 4.

After an initial review of the responses, we collected similar items under the title Themes.

## **Themes**

### Organization and Communications

- Volunteer run
- Volunteer recruiting
- Board composition and duties
- Network for communication and sharing of information
- Investigate other ways of sharing information
- Annual convention
- Newsletter

### Membership

- Aging members
- Need to encourage a more diversified membership
- Support for struggling clubs

### Visibility

- Need updated web site
- Use Facebook group for promotion
- Be more relevant and useful to clubs
- Engage with stakeholders

### New Directions

- Diversify to equally promote:
  - Ornamental gardening

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Fruit and vegetable gardening

Sustainability in gardening

Protection of natural eco systems and native plants

## Compilation of Responses

### What are the strengths of the Association?

- The board has a great mix of people at the current time. Everyone is easy to get along with, shares their ideas and contributes. The District Directors are doing work with their clubs to keep them engaged and informed. All of this has made my job a lot easier than it has been in the past. We have some younger people on the board (Jamie and Geoff) who bring a different mindset.
- Well organized, good communication
- Good leadership
- An overseeing body that supports the individual clubs. It provides a network for communication (website, newsletter) among the clubs. Specific contributions: annual convention; photo contest; free plant for members; membership cards which enable discounts at nurseries.
- Long history
- Annual Convention
- Communication network
- Benefits of membership - discounts, free plants, insurance
- Volunteer run
- The ability to reach decent numbers across the province through email and FB.
- Excellent volunteers.
- Ability to support clubs.
- Financially stable due to continued membership
- Annual convention
- Nursery/garden centre discounts
- Newsletter and Facebook to reach members
- Insurance for clubs
- I believe that having a Provincial Organization is a strength in itself
- Having area Directors is a strength.
- Having annual conventions (when we can) is a strength. Gardeners getting together to share information, having speakers, having AGM, having competitions, having vendors and sharing meals.
- Having different committees within the provincial organization is a strength.
- Total membership is a strength.
- Having Provincial Board meeting both spring and fall is a strength.
- Camaraderie, knowledge, contacts, insurance.
- Providing education and social opportunities to connect with other gardeners through the annual convention and through the Facebook page.
- Provision of information and news through the newsletter.

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- NSAGC has a strong presence on Facebook and needs to use it to help clubs increase membership

### What are the weaknesses of the Association?

- Some of the clubs members are older, not up to date with technology. Some of the Board members have been around too long (I count myself as one of them). You run out of new ideas after a while and fall back on the old ways of doing things, which isn't good. I have said before that, unless the younger people join clubs and the NSAGC Board, there won't be an NSAGC in 10 or so years. And maybe that's OK because younger people seek information differently. Increasing membership has been identified as a top priority in the last 2 planning sessions. I'm no longer convinced that it should be - bigger isn't necessarily better. The web site is a disaster, has never been used effectively and might not even be needed. Maybe we just need a dropbox to share info amongst the board members and Facebook, etc. to share info with the clubs and public
- Making its presence felt/known to individual garden club members
- Individual club members do not know the NSAGC executive members or very little about the role of the NSAGC.
- The website needs a rework and ongoing maintenance to keep current.
- A need to examine how the Association can be made a more relevant and useful body for all the clubs in NS. This questionnaire is a great start in that direction!
- Not very relevant to Clubs - need to provide more value to them
- Membership not diverse
- Not visible to other than members and even that is not too good
- Lack of strategic plan
- Difficulty getting volunteers, although the ones we do get are excellent.
- Our organization was started on the premise that we wanted to promote beautification, basically through ornamental plants, and was done I believe in conjunction with nurseries to promote the ornamental plants and beautify the province. It was not done with the intention of supporting native plants, biodiversity, rainwater issues, controlling invasives, promoting vegetable growing, or removing pesticides and insecticides and sustainability in gardening etc. These are the issues at hand right now and if we don't make changes, and do some education, we will fall behind.
- Poor website structure
- The NSAGC is not visible to garden club members other than our Facebook page; they do not know who we are or what we do.
- Weak leadership would be a weakness.
- Non-participation would be a weakness.
- Not having a voice would be a weakness.
- Members not participating within their own clubs would be a weakness.

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- Clubs not communicating with their director would be a weakness.
- Training of new directors
- The NSAGC website needs to be updated and made more user friendly, plus it needs to be mobile friendly.
- Many younger people do not join clubs. They go online to get information. They do not have time to go to club meetings.

### What opportunities can we take advantage of?

- The network that we have established can be better used. It might (or might not!) be possible to engage the clubs more. Using social media more effectively.
- With a rise in the interest to garden due to Covid we have an opportunity:
  - to make our Clubs more visible to draw in new members. Having a web page, inviting friends to our garden club meetings through Zoom are all opportunities we can explore to ensure our Clubs continue to thrive.
- The fact that gardening is having an upsurge
- A "Meet the NSAGC Executive" article each issue of the newsletter with a photo and brief note about the members (maybe three members each issue). Also, when meetings resume, a photo of the executive members for the newsletter as well.
- Our website could be made much more relevant and attractive.
- The current boom in gardening interest
- Availability of grants
- Year of the Garden 2022, Halifax Garden Festival and any other garden related functions in communities, our facebook page, also we should make a move for change, promoting those items above.
- Growing interest in gardening and environmental sustainability
- Our Facebook page is very popular - we could use it to promote the organization.
- Communication
- Being open minded, have good listening skills as an organization
- Drawing on other people's knowledge and experiences
- Working together for the good of the organization
- Brainstorming
- Acknowledge new direction of food security interest from the public and find a way to make the NSAGC a part of that.
- Perhaps the increased interest in home grown vegetables and fruit that seems to have happened during the pandemic.

### What threats should we be mindful of?

- Aging members
- Covid has kept members apart, we have lost contact with many of our

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members whom we hope will maintain their interest and desire to remain as members of our Club.

- This seems like a strange question, as if Covid hasn't been threat enough
- Aging population of the clubs.
- Becoming irrelevant if clubs do not welcome change and attract new members and younger members
- Volunteer burnout
- Lack of diversity in membership and interest (i.e. many clubs only interested in flowers)
- Aging members - need to attract more diverse membership
- Difficulty recruiting volunteers
- Younger generation prefers virtual as opposed to physical involvement in clubs
- I do not know exactly how to answer this question because I do not know exactly what it means.
- Stagnation

Who are stakeholders of the NSAGC?

- Clubs, members, social media users
- The stakeholders are the Executive, the District Directors for the 7 districts and the Committee Chairpersons
- I guess it would individual clubs
- all garden club members whose clubs belong to NSAGC
- each garden club entity that belongs to NSAGC
- nurseries and companies who market gardening tools, supplies, seeds and plants
- organizations that train gardeners like the NSCC, Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture
- other associations that share interests related to gardening
- other specialized clubs, provincially, nationally and internationally
- Club Members
- Clubs
- Like-minded associations, locally, regionally and Nationally
- Municipal, Provincial, Federal Recreation Departments
- Nurseries and vendors of gardening materials and supplies
- Education and Training facilities with an interest in gardening
- The garden clubs mostly
- Member clubs and associates
- Garden related businesses
- Anyone or any business who can be affected by gardening in any way. Seed companies, nurseries, greenhouses, fertilizer companies, garden art people, a lot of different small businesses or crafters and many more.

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- The Garden Clubs
- Members of the various garden clubs.

### What should the Vision Statement of the NSAGC be?

The current objective, which is in Section 2 of the Board Handbook, needs to be updated.

- I think it is pretty much the same as the objective i.e. to promote the general landscape beautification of our province by promoting community beautification and encouraging the formation of horticultural groups (garden clubs) who will promote interest in all phases of home gardening.
- To continue to make gardeners of Nova Scotia a community
- To support, grow, invigorate and equip individual clubs and their members to be community leaders and resources for all aspects of gardening. This includes the maintaining of useful relationships with associate stakeholders.
- Provide the leadership and support that Nova Scotia Garden Clubs need to flourish.
- Changed
- To inspire Nova Scotians to get growing by promoting all gardening methods and techniques
- To encourage and promote gardening, both vegetable and flower for mental and physical health, teach gardening to those who are willing to learn especially children, address climate change and how gardening can help, promote beautification of our properties and communities, help and assist those in gardening who may need our help. Assist in food security. Above all enjoy what we do.
- Something dealing with promotion of gardening for the mind, body and soul while respecting the natural environment.

What are the most top three priorities for the Board to address over the next 12 months? Number 1 being the most important.

#### Number 1

- Membership
- Contact with all Garden Clubs (not an easy task)
- Encouraging a return to normal activities within our clubs. Summer and fall are ideal times for clubs to start meeting outside and holding outside events safely again. Let's ask Dr. Strang for his advice on this and then pass it on!
- There should be a nominating committee and not have this the responsibility of one person - the past president. By the time you reach that stage, you have been on the Board 8 or more years and are sick of it. I don't think it's fair to ask one person to find replacements.
- Develop a strategic plan for the next three years

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- Changing direction of the club (include education) which could result in growing the numbers of members
- New interactive and user-friendly website
- Pandemic and how we, as an organization, can positively move forward.
- Board Development
- Connect with the garden clubs/members and determine if their focus/needs have changed.
- Increasing membership
- The bi-laws should be reviewed and updated. They still refer to faxes, I think!

## Number 2

- vegetable gardening (self-sufficiency)
- Try to encourage feedback
- Begin cross pollinating individual club expertise/interesting activities to other clubs and compiling a directory of speakers who are subject experts. Once we can meet in person again, even having Zoom presentations for the group to watch and then discuss is stimulating. It opens the doors wide to a wonderful world of resources.
- Reassure Clubs that we are operational, provide support and encourage them to undertake activities
- Promotion of the NSAGC
- Attract a more diverse membership (utilize social media?)
- Getting and keeping the individual members involved within their own clubs, within their district and in the provincial organization.
- Median age count of clubs
- More direct contact with club Presidents
- Investigate other ways to provide information/education/workshops etc. - maybe a virtual convention or workshop.
- Providing support for clubs that are struggling from covid
- There are a number of board positions that are functional in nature (treasurer, secretary) and don't need a lot of creativity. Their role is to take care of the organization administratively and financially and satisfy Joint Stocks requirements so that we remain a registered entity. Possibly awards and historian fit into this category. There are a number of positions that require the incumbents to keep up with the latest trends in technology so that we don't fall behind (web master, Facebook, newsletter). These positions need turnover, which is difficult to do. A suggestion is to have them as a 3 or 5 year terms with the option of extending the term for another 3 or 5 years if the Executive feels it's appropriate.

## Number 3

community beautification

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- Try to rejuvenate some struggling clubs
- Gardening was big during Covid and hopefully the interest will continue. To attract and retain members, we have to work at growing a higher profile. Create a feeling of cohesiveness among our team of garden club members throughout Nova Scotia. How? enhancing communication; member involvement; gardening buddy system for new members--all kinds of suggestions could be entertained.
- Increasing visibility among stake holders, principally by a renewed website
- Supporting the clubs in the direction they want to go.
- Address issues with the Facebook page.
- Find more ways to support the clubs
- Finding way to encourage younger people to join, take part in and/or take an officer position. As we all know some clubs have had the same officers for years because no one will step up to take these positions.
- More direct contact with club Presidents
- We have had a problem with action items from the meetings and the strategic plans being acted upon between board meetings. Now that Zoom is in our lives forever, maybe have a meeting via Zoom between the 2 board meetings that is just to check up on the progress of actions items.
- The Directors intro meeting that we had a couple of years ago was a great way to introduce the Handbook and their roles. No one is going to read that handbook from cover to cover to figure out what they are supposed to be doing. I do hope the handbook remains and is updated since it provides a great source of info for the board.
- There are too many positions on the Board. I suggest that Tags&seals come under the Treasurer since it is really an inventory exercise and not as busy as it once was because flower shows aren't being held by as many clubs. The Awards could be assigned to the vice-chair and would be a great opportunity to learn about the organization and meet some people in the clubs. I suspect the photo contest could be rolled into another position too.

Any additional comments?

There are many ways that an oversight body can knit things together. One way that jumps out at me is our website. It is quite dated--indeed, styles of websites have morphed immensely in the last few years. We need to be keeping the information there up to date; the site visually appealing; additional information added (such as links to all member clubs throughout NS so that a person who is interested in joining a club knows who to contact and can read some information about each club. A wonderful opportunity here to include photos from clubs, listings of past presidents, major annual events, etc.) A website must be constantly evolving, current and inviting!

- I think the NSAGC was on the right page when it was started, and it did a great job, but I feel things have changed and are no longer the same as they were 70 years ago. I

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think the organization needs to change to make its concerns more like the ones noted in # 2.

- The NSAGC could keep a library of webinars that would be of interest to garden clubs to use as educational tools or even as programs for club meetings. On the same note, the NSAGC could maintain a list of speakers, especially those willing to speak via Zoom or similar platform.

## CLUB REPORT – DISTRICT 1

October 2020 to March 2021

The four clubs in my District are the:

Inverness Garden Club

Isle Madame Garden Club

North Sydney Garden Club

Westmount Garden Club

Due to the pandemic the vast majority of the Clubs have not been meeting. Some have chosen to maintain communication via email with the executive and membership. One other Club has been meeting via Zoom since October with a maximum of 6 attendees.

The clubs are continuing to maintain community beautification projects, weeding, pruning and planting were undertaken in the fall. Volunteer commitments were kept up as well as support to community organizations. A poinsettia was donated to the Regional Library as well as a donation to the Northside Christmas Dinner fund.

Isle Madame Garden Club continues to maintain their Facebook page.

All the clubs feel confident that “our strongly rooted” members will return when we regain our momentum once the Covid-19 uncertainty passes.

Respectfully submitted  
Bibiane Lessard

## **NSAGC District 2 report for April24, 2021**

**Sharon Bryson, Director**

It has been quite a struggle to get feedback from several Garden Clubs in my District.

### **Lismore and District Garden Club**

Don Butler send a brief report.

Lismore & District Garden Club has been meeting and following Covid-10 guidelines.

In February we had an interesting presentation on photography. Not only did we see some beautiful pictures, we were given tips on how to improve our own picture taking skills.

In April one of our members gave a presentation on how to grow ginger.

We are looking forward to attending the Antigonish Farmer's Market program on May 16th.

And finally, plans are in the works for tours during the summer.

### **Antigonish Garden Club**

The club has not held regular meetings in the last year. Last summer there were some informal garden visits. We have had membership renewals which number mid-twenties. Members are able to use their Membership card to get discounts from some Gardening outlets.

Sharon Bryson has edited and distributed a Newsletter (7 Volumes to April). Items were mostly solicited from members in the hopes of maintaining contact during the winter and through continuing pandemic restraints. It seemed to be well received.

Plans for the 2021 spring and summer include participation in the Garden Expo being held May 16 at the Antigonish Farmer's Market Location. We will have plants for sale, plus Pollinator Plant Information.

We hope to have outdoor meetings soon, with a Club member hosting at their garden. Each will have a theme topic or plant choice around which the meeting will revolve.

Care will continue at The Maryvale School Garden.

### **St. Mary's & District Garden Club**

Report sent by President June Tate

St Mary's Garden Club has 23 members with several new officers

President: June Tate 902-833-2625

junemtate @icloud.com

Secretary: Linda MacIntosh 902-522-2811

[daysago@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:daysago@ns.sympatico.ca)

Treasurer: Elizabeth Jordan 902-522-2859

[elizabethjordan52@bellaliant.net](mailto:elizabethjordan52@bellaliant.net)

Feb. - An organizing meeting was held to see what members want to do , interests, volunteer work, how we can help each other . When to say no to people looking for free labour and hands.

March - Mac Millian Greenhouse owner Donald MacMillan

Starting seedlings, taking cuttings of plants.

Use of rooting hormone. Soft wood and hardwood cuttings. (mostly from new growth)

April - Sharon Bryson gave a talk on Growing Vegetables and Herbs in Containers.

The club will be volunteering at MacMillan Greenhouse during the season as needed to learn by hands on learning about starting seedlings, transplanting, arranging plants in baskets. Mr.

MacMillan has been very supportive of our garden club we want to give back.

May - We are planning to go to Lochaber Growers.

### **New Glasgow Highland Garden Club**

Evie Fraser sent a brief note.

We are not meeting, but sending out the odd email to members, to check interest, and stay in touch. No real plans at this time!

We are not planning on doing the Fall Rally, due to Covid risks. 2022 would be a wiser choice.

### **Pictou and area Garden Club**

No report from a member.

They have been having meetings, and there are some postings on their Facebook group.

### **Westville and Area Garden Club**

No report or response.

### **Guysborough and Area Garden Club**

No report or response. They have minimal postings on their Facebook page.

# DIRECTOR'S REPORT FOR DISTRICT 3

April 2021

Covid 19 has taken a very heavy toll on the garden clubs in District 3.

As Director for Central District 3 South and Acting Director for Central District 3 North I sent out e-mails to all of the clubs in the district (thirteen clubs) to ask them for a report from their clubs activities for the last 6-8 months. The clubs had a two week notice to send in their reports.

I heard from five clubs total. I heard back from four clubs in the Southern part of the district and only one club from the Northern part of the district.

These reports I have attached and sent along with this report.

I have heard from different clubs within the district in the past several months, asking questions that I was able to answer but as for the reports, I received very few.

My second term as Director for Central District 3 South is quickly coming to an end, and I have forwarded the e-mail that we received from Pamela asking for members to step forward to take positions that were coming vacant. I have heard nothing.

I just have no idea on how to jumpstart the clubs to have them become more involved within the provincial organization. I just do not want to see the district without a director. If that should happen, it would be very sad.

Elizabeth Hill,

Director for Central District 3 South

Acting Director for Central District 3 North

**Hants North Late Bloomers Garden Club** April 2021 Report.

Our club held meetings last fall outside at various members' yards until it got too cold to do so. We usually had a lovely tour of the gardens before our meetings. Then we had regular meetings via Zoom. We thought it was important to keep in touch and try to bring a little social time we all needed. Also to plan things in the future when we are no longer socially limited.

The club purchased various tulip bulbs last fall and they were distributed to all the members to plant in their own gardens. The bulbs were mixed so members will be surprised at what type and color they get when they bloom in the spring.

In lieu of our annual Christmas party we made a donation to the local food bank.

We are in the process of planning a spring plant sale.

Janet Patterson  
President

**Hilden Garden** club has not met in the past year. We are hoping to have a small outside plant sale in early June. Hopefully this will get us back in touch and we will be able to meet again. A number of our members have not been comfortable getting together. Hopefully with everyone getting their shot things will be better.

A couple of us have been to the AC gardens to see the sights of early spring.

Happy gardening,  
Sheila

Unfortunately **Stewiacke Valley Garden Club** has not been active this year

The **Valley Weeders** have taken a very cautious approach during the pandemic. Since all members are over 65 years of age there is a lot of concern not only for themselves but also for family members. We have not returned to regular meetings. A small tour of three members' gardens was undertaken in July of 2020 trying to stay socially distanced. For 2021, the club has shared garden photos on Facebook and had discussions on gardening plans for the new season. The Halifax County Exhibition has once again been cancelled so the club will not be supervising the floral exhibits. Members are not comfortable with hosting a plant sale at this time. The president's position has remained unfilled with no interest filling it or changing the executive. Once more people are vaccinated I'm sure activities will resume, as all members have remained in touch.

Submitted by V. Willis April 16, 2021

The **Stewiacke Garden Club** typically meets the first Wednesday of the months of March - June and Sept- December. In 2020 our club was challenged in the ability to hold any meeting for two main reasons. We have several members that hold offices that do not have computers nor the internet and we have a membership that ranges between 65 – 90 years of age with most over 75. This made it impossible to hold meetings for the past several months.

We did manage to maintain our relationships via telephone, checking in with one another almost monthly. Our club membership has close relationships and frequently contact one another, daily, weekly and monthly. In 2020 we had several members that found themselves dealing with health matters that we have made progress overcoming and offering mutual support.

We shared updates though our Facebook page as well and have two new members that are ready to join our club once we can resume our normal meetings. We are currently planning and hoping to hold a plant sale in June 2021 and hope to be able to hold 2 meeting this summer outside with social distancing. We however only have a few able younger members that can carry out this work and are not quite sure if we will be able to pull it off.

These are our optimistic comments, yet as a whole our club is facing many challenges. We have a couple of members that are not able to resume activities as before stemming from the impact Covid 19 has had on them. We have a few members with mobility issues and some with low enthusiasm towards their future engagement with the club. Because our membership is small this is of serious concern. We will only truly begin to see how all this will impact our club's future.

As our director, Liz, you should know the full impact Covid and our age demographic is affecting our club. I, President and Cathy Newton our VP remain determined to guide the club through these challenges and hope for the best.

We wish you all a wonderful 2021 and Happy Gardening. Thank you. Beate Acker.

## 2021 Spring Report – District 4

It has been a challenging year for the clubs finding ways to continue to meet and grow.

Bedford Horticultural Society started having virtual meetings in September. They have a plant sale planned for late May, and hope to plan a workshop and garden tours this summer.

Dartmouth Horticultural Society – no report submitted, but they have been having virtual meetings

Eastern Shore Garden Club has not had any meetings since January 2020. They do have one planned for May, an in person meeting. They distributed a daylily to their club members, one of Alan Banks's seedlings named Eastern Shore Celebration.

Fall River Garden Club has had a couple of in person meetings, one held outside in a members garden and one held inside. They continued to work in one of the community gardens. They have a spring plant sale planned.

Hammonds Plains Garden Club has had a combination of in person and virtual meetings. The club continues to grow under the leadership of Wendy Haley. Having virtual meetings has allowed them to look outside of the province for speakers, and they may continue to have one virtual meeting a year during the winter.

Lower Sackville Garden Club continues to struggle, but Brenda LaPierre is holding it together. They had a plant sale in the spring of 2020 and have had 6 – 8 people at their in person meetings.

Prospect Area Gardening Club – No report

Seabreeze Garden Club – No report

St Margarets Bay Garden Club – No report at this time, they were having their annual general meeting tonight (April 20) and Claudy Levy said she would have a report to me later this week.

Submitted by Kathy Harvie, District 4 Director

## **District 6 Report – April 2021**

Most of the garden clubs in District 6 are maintaining contact with their club members. I have been following them on their emails or Facebook pages.

Bridgewater Garden Club has been sending out garden info to members on a regular basis but have yet to have a meeting in person. They did have a plant sale last year which worked well, the names of the plants were sent out to members and the members bought them by putting an envelope with the amount in the mailbox and picking up the plant at the curb. Everyone also had an appt time to pick up their plant. Worked well, not as well as a public sale but they made \$300. They also maintained the Veteran's Park Gardens which was large enough for the required COVID spacing regulations. The communications person sent out all the COVID instructions for the local nurseries. In Nov the club participated in the 4H Christmas Tree project, with members picking a time to trim the tree. The Facebook page now has over 300 followers, with many new people asking gardening questions.

Queens Garden Club had many plans for last summer which were cancelled. By Sept they were meeting once again in the library by letting the club know who would attend to keep the numbers of members at the spacing required. Mary White did an interesting presentation on Pests in the Garden. In Oct they had a member sharing session, photos and discussion of spring bulbs and fall clean up. In Dec they had a Christmas wreath, centrepiece workshop at Costy's Garden Centre. They also did Christmas Centrepieces for The Queens Manor Nursing Home. And had their Christmas Lunch. In Jan 21 they had a Garden Trivia night with Greg Tutty. In February had a discussion on Nova Scotian seed sources, starting seeds, propagation, container gardening and saving seeds. They also maintained the Library Garden.

The Chester Garden Club maintained club contact on their Facebook page. They encouraged their members to share pictures of their gardens during the year. They took the time to visit senior club members who were isolated. They had a fund raiser making jelly. They held their flower arrangement session in a smaller group setting. They also maintained the Cove Garden, the Parade Square Garden and Bandstand Garden in Chester. They are also planning a flower show this summer.

The Shelburne County Garden Club had elections by email to renew their joint stocks. They ordered plugs from Spencer's Garden Center and divided them up among members who looked after them till they were planted out the first week of June in garden they maintain called the Alma Chetwynd Garden. This also recognized the Gardening Week in Nova Scotia. They had a large number of daylily plants donated to them and will hopefully be able to hold a plant sale in 2021. They are being looked after by members of the club till that time.

The 2021 Plant Sale is planned for Saturday May 22nd. They are organizing it for outside on a parking lot on the ground with lots of distancing between sections and mask wearing. A member will be responsible for each section, providing information and taking the money from sales. The public really missed their Plant Sale in 2020. They also enjoyed the Zoom meetings presented by the Atlantic Rhododendron Society of which they are members.

We order annual plugs from Spencer's Garden Center every year and so when they arrived, they had to be potted and looked after. They were divided up among members who agreed to do it. All supplies needed were provided. They were planted in the Alma Chetwynd Garden annual bed the first week of June to recognize Gardening Week in Nova Scotia.

I did not get a report for the following clubs but have gained the information thru their emails and Facebook:

Lunenburg Garden Club maintained club contact by emails and their Facebook page. They maintained the gardens of the town of Lunenburg as the town did not hire anyone to do that last year. They have had their first meeting this year at the library. They are planning on outdoor activities only. They are planning on holding a plant sale and visit gardens.

Mahone Bay Garden Club maintained contact with their members thru Facebook and emails. They had their first indoor meeting in March 2021 with the AGM at the Mahone Bay Centre since last Feb. In Apr they had Connie Jefferson for their Apr meeting doing a flower arranging demonstration. They had to cancel the planned Christmas luncheon due to new COVID restrictions at that time. In Oct they visited Cosby's Garden Centre to see the sculptures. In Sept they had a plant swap. They also had a few garden tours during the summer.

I have not had any contact from Chester Basin Garden Club at all. I consider the club to be disbanded. Most of the members joined the Chester Garden Club.

Respectively submitted  
Susan Gilmour  
District 6 Director

## **NSAGC Board Meeting April 24, 2021**

### **Report of District 7**

#### Bridgetown Area GC

Into a second challenging year the BAGC has maintained a strong membership with the addition of several new members, making our total membership 55 to date.

It is useful to note that some of our newer members applied and paid dues online. The Club's website and use of e-transfers facilitated this.

We are using mostly tours and workshops for our schedule. Tours include Greenhouses, Gardens, and Nurseries. Workshops include wreaths, hypertufa troughs, seed exchanges and plant swaps. Our Community projects are active. These include preparation of the Butterfly garden and Canoe display in Jubilee Park, and the Queen St. planters

We communicate and share ideas and information through our Website and Facebook group.

#### Champlain GC

The Club did not meet over the winter but has just established a schedule of monthly outdoor activities from May until October. This spring they will continue their community projects of maintaining the gardens at King's Theatre, the post office and the Ampitheatre. They estimate their present membership at 40.

#### Clements GC

Did not meet over the winter but have just established a schedule of outdoor activities. They are not doing any community work but will be holding a plant sale in June. They have a Facebook group. They estimate their present membership at 22.

#### Digby Neck and Islands GC

Met last week and are planning to establish a schedule of outdoor activities focusing on the construction of a butterfly garden in Sandy Cove. They have 17 members.

#### Pubnico and Area GC

The Club did not meet over the winter but had a meeting and speaker in March. In April they ran a workshop at Ovest Ville Perennials and are planning a meeting for May. They have 18 members. They have a Facebook group.

#### Rooted in Clare GC

Really not much has been happening in the Rooted in Clare garden club. Not many places are open to meet, most of the members do not want to go virtual, so it's difficult to plan anything. We are doing the spring clean up again this weekend to clean up the sides of the roads.

#### Weymouth GS

The club's building is closed so they have nowhere to meet. Members are not anxious to get together. They have printed and distributed copies of Scotia Gardner for those members without e-mail.

## Yarmouth CG

It has been a long winter of worry about Covid. Those of us who have family in some of the hard hit provinces still worry but Nova Scotians can be proud of the way we have kept this terrible virus at bay.

We look forward to our gardens and the pleasure they give us. In Yarmouth, new shoots are popping up everywhere. Our members have been starting seeds indoors and keeping track of each other on Facebook. The Club's Facebook is open to everyone in our area and many non members post often.

The photography contest has been judged with the winners posted on Facebook. The overall winner will be announced at our first face to face meeting on the 24th of April.

It seems so long since we were able to meet but the Executive has met several times and have many ideas to propose for the next months. A New President and Vice President will be offering at this time as are several new Committee Chairs.

Alvina Robicheau has been a dedicated President to the Yarmouth Garden Club and our thanks are heartfelt. Alvina has left very big shoes to fill and we thank her.

## **Newsletter Report for NSAGC Executive meeting—April 2021**

Submitted by Emily Walker

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I am happy to report that since taking over as the newsletter editor last fall, I now have two issues under my belt! Being a newsletter editor is an interesting and satisfying role and I am enjoying it.

### **Club reports**

Even though Covid restricted normal garden club activities, clubs reported their various strategies for forging ahead in spite of restrictions. It would have been nice to have reports from a larger number of clubs but there was a nice mix from across the province.

I depend on club directors to distribute my requests for submissions and I hope they will encourage members to contribute. The newsletter will resonate with members across the province if their club or individual member contributes to its content.

### **New look**

The newsletter aims to be easy to read and pleasing to the eye with lots of photos to add colour interest. I have received a number of positive comments so it appears that readers are pleased with the new look of the newsletter. The electronic file can be accessed and viewed on various electronic devices.

### **New content**

I am always open to suggestions for content and have introduced some regular new features that:

- explain the Latin names for plants
- provide members' gardening hints and tips
- talk about gardening under glass
- provide a recipe using something from the garden

I have other ideas for future features such as:

- profiling nurseries throughout the province (speaking with owners to identify their specialties, experiences, etc.)
- "From the Archives" corner—an opportunity for snippets from the history of the clubs and the NSAGC. Perhaps the club historian can help with providing content.

### **Distribution**

The beauty of electronic distribution is that it is free and instantaneous! The newsletter can contain as many colours and photos and graphics as the designer wishes. Size is not an issue either because the file is compressed so it can easily be circulated.

I depend on directors to distribute the newsletter. However, I have no way of knowing if the newsletter has been received by all club members. One measure of this would have been the number of responses to the flower identification contest. The winner was to receive a nice prize. This contest ran in both the fall and winter issues. Surprisingly, there were about 12 responses to the fall issue and only three responses to the winter issue. I wondered if people actually received the newsletter or just were not interested in the contest. I have decided that there will be no contest in the spring issue!