

Gloucester Allotment Garden Association Annual General Meeting and Registration

Meeting Held: 22 March 2016
Louis Riel High School Cafeteria
1665 Bearbrook Road, Blackburn Hamlet
Ottawa, Ontario

Executive Members present: John ApSimon, Don Gray, Roger Eyvindson, Catherine Dixon, Diane Pilon, Harvey Nuelle, Barry Mayer, George Bushell, David Lamb, Margaret Don, Charlotte Gupta, Bill Gloss, Brian Linseman, Louis Doyle, Paul Mekis and Registrar Irene Harrison.
Absent: Claude Brisebois.

The meeting was called to order at 19:35 hrs.

Introductory Remarks: President John ApSimon welcomed the members. There was an excellent turn out. Members were directed to the Agenda, available at the back of the hall, to follow the proceedings of this meeting. President ApSimon urged members to check the website for information throughout the season as this will be our first method of communicating news and alerts. The minutes of the Annual General Meeting will be posted on the website as well as the phone numbers of those serving on the board of directors. President ApSimon also pointed out that this year we have separate rules for the Anderson and Orient gardens and in applying for a plot a member agrees to abide by the rules governing that garden. As a community garden we depend on volunteers to run all our activities and we try to get along and have fun too!

Minutes of Previous Annual General Meeting: Copies of the minutes of the 2015 AGM were available at the back of the room and were posted on our website. There were no outstanding items arising from the minutes. Motion was made by Louis Doyle and seconded by Amelia to approve the minutes of the 2015 Annual General Meeting. Motion carried.

2014 Budget and Fees: Our Treasurer, Roger Eyvindson reported that we face increasing costs for tilling, trimming, clean-up and water deliveries to the Anderson garden. We will increase fees to \$30.00 per half plot and \$60.00 for a full plot. This is a modest increase of two dollars per half plot and five dollars per full plot. We continue to offer a five dollar reduction for early registration and ten dollar reduction for work assisting the association. We had a small surplus of \$90.00 in 2015. An increase in fees will help keep our books balanced and will help us prepare for the possible expense of repairing the Orient Park road. Motion was made by Theresa and seconded by Louis Doyle to accept the year-end financial statements and the 2016 fee schedule. Motion carried.

Recognition of Community Support: President John ApSimon thanked all our partners for their contribution to our community garden. Friends of the Mer Bleue inc. provided us with a \$2,000.00 grant to purchase water delivery to the Anderson garden site. Lafarge Canada donated several loads of gravel for the Orient Park road to help fill in potholes. The City of Ottawa provides compost to our community garden and water to the Orient Park gardens. A road expert from the city is going to consult with members of our executive and provide advice on the pothole problem. Just Food has provided grants to our association in the past.

2016 Program Highlights:

Registration for the 2016 season will close at the end of March.

Members must notify the Registrar of any change in their contact information as soon as possible. All members are telephoned at least twice per season and current telephone numbers are important.

Starting in 2016, members will be limited to two plots. Members currently holding more than two plots will be allowed to retain those plots.

Compost delivery will take place as soon as the City of Ottawa lifts the load restrictions on city roads (sometime in the month of May.)

Seedlings should not be planted within ten feet of the road until after compost has been delivered to each plot. Otherwise they will be buried.

The City of Ottawa turns on the water at Orient Park (usually by the May long weekend.)

Straw bales will be available to order in late May. An e-mail will be sent to all members at that time.

Staking Committee (Bill Gloss 613-830-5765) **Call for Volunteers.** 25 people are needed.

Leave a one-foot (30 cm) path on either side of the plot number stake. (No string between stakes, fencing, plants, rocks or gardening tools.) Stakes should be visible all season.

The weed committee will continue to monitor all plots this season. Last year 19 plot holders were contacted and only two plots were not rehabilitated due to illness and accident.

Fall Clean-up Committee (Louis Doyle 613-745-1384) **Call for Volunteers.** 30 people are needed.

Members must complete clean up of their individual plot(s) by Thanksgiving weekend.

Any Anderson member who damages the deer fence by throwing stakes, plant waste or other material over the fence shall pay to have it repaired by a contractor approved by the Board. If the member refuses, the Board reserves the right to cancel plot privileges for that year and subsequent years.

Theft continues to be a problem. Try to be vigilant. Get to know your neighbours. If you take down a suspicious license plate number, let any member of the executive know.

Nomination and Election of Officers: President ApSimon directed members to review the list of Proposed 2016 Board of Directors attached to the meeting Agenda. A motion to appoint the named members to the Board of Directors was moved by Ruth Torok and seconded by Pat. Motion carried.

Other Business:

Canadian Organic Growers - David Townson reminded members that COG is again offering a series of workshops on urban organic gardening at Ottawa City Hall in April and May. Information is available on their website: cog.ca/ottawa/urban-organic-gardening-seminars.

Jordan Bouchard, the Community Gardening Network Coordinator at Just Food urged any members interested in saving seeds and setting up a seed library to get in touch with him by e-mailing communitygardening@justfood.ca.

To donate extra produce to the Gloucester Emergency Food Cupboard contact the GEFC at 613 749-4728.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn the meeting was moved by John ApSimon and seconded by Catherine Dixon. Motion Carried. The meeting was adjourned at 20:15.

Registration for the 2016 gardening season proceeded.