

# Gloucester Allotment Garden Association Annual General Meeting and Registration

**Meeting Held: 22 March 2017**  
**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, Brian Linseman, Louis Doyle, Paul Mekis and Registrar Irene Harrison.  
**Absent:** Bill Gloss, Claude Brisebois.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30p.m.

**Introductory Remarks:** President John ApSimon welcomed the members to our Annual General Meeting and registration. With 423 plots at Orient Park and 69 at Anderson Road, ours is the largest community garden in our region. Our fees are \$60 for a full plot, \$30 for a half plot and \$5 dollars off for those registering tonight. Registration ends at the end of March. If you have a change of phone number or address please advise our Registrar immediately. All gardeners receive phone calls before the AGM and before garden clean-up weekend. Please visit our website during the gardening season for information, forms and gardening tips. Starting in 2016, we are limiting members to two plots in total. With a long waiting list for gardens, we are no longer allocating multiple plots. Tilling begins in early May. Compost arrives once the city road restrictions for weight are lifted. Please note that the first 3 meters of each plot will be covered with a bucket load of compost. The City of Ottawa turns on the water sometime around the long weekend in May. Pilfering remains a problem. Do not leave tools at your plot. Keep an eye out for strangers at the garden. There should be a 1-foot (30 cm.) path between your plot and your neighbour's plot. Do not plant up to the edge. Clean-up every year is the Saturday after Thanksgiving. We are looking for new members to serve on the executive. Please join us! (Only 4 meetings per year!)

**Minutes of Previous Annual General Meeting:** A copy of the 2016 AGM Minutes are posted on our website. **Motion:** That the minutes of the 22 March 2016 meeting be approved as circulated. Moved by Louis Doyle. Seconded by Leslie Backman. Carried.

**2016 Financial Statements and Budget:** Roger Eyvindson presented the Financial Statements for the year ended December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016. We had a small surplus of \$1200. In the coming year we are expecting the same revenue from fees and similar expenses arising from the operation of the

garden. We will therefore be able to maintain the same fee structure for 2017.

**Motion:** That the financial statements of December 31, 2016 be approved as presented. Moved by Louis Doyle. Seconded by Don Gray. Carried.

**Recognition of Community Support:** President John ApSimon thanked all our partners for their contribution to our community garden. Friends of the Mer Bleue 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, water to the Orient Park garden, grading for our roads and treatment for the Wild Parsnip weed. Just Food helps to co-ordinate all the community gardens.

### **2017 Program Overview:**

President John ApSimon reminded members that we are a community garden and sale of produce is not in keeping with our rules and traditions.

Vice-President Don Gray wished members a successful season and reminded members that our garden is a public space and we should be respectful of visitors walking through.

Webmaster Barry Mayer directed members to the blog on our GAGA website which contains information about our garden and gardening activities going on elsewhere in the city.

Paul Mekis, (Orient Tree Trimming and Road Maintenance) reminded members to please observe the speed limit of 20 kms. Higher speeds will exacerbate the problems of dust and potholes. Paul and George plan to undertake tree trimming and clearing brush in April. Speaking for Bill Gloss, Paul invited anyone interested to join the staking crew. After tilling, the gardens cannot be opened until they have been staked. 25 volunteers are needed for this task.

Communications Director, Harvey Nuelle, asked members to make sure our Registrar had their current phone number. Harvey and his team phone each member before the Registration meeting, before the gardens are opened for planting and before the fall clean-up. Harvey will be retiring soon and anyone interested in assisting with communications should speak to Harvey or John ApSimon.

Diane Pilon, (Publicity) organized the present meeting at Louis Riel High School. She advised all gardeners to get ahead of the weeds by planting and weeding in June. Then in July and August the weeds will not grow so quickly and overrun your garden.

Charlotte Gupta, (Communications Director, Anderson) invited any gardeners with concerns to e-mail her.

Margaret Don, (Anderson Maintenance) presented a separate set of rules for Anderson gardeners, which reflect the different requirements for gardening at that site. Margaret also made a request for assistance from any members who are skilled at fixing gates, fences and using a chainsaw. More help is needed at the Anderson garden. (The revised rules are posted on our website.)

Dave Lamb (Orient Maintenance) reminded gardeners that all annual plots are tilled each spring. Perennial plots are not tilled unless they have been assigned to a new gardener. Each plot receives a load of city compost. If you do not wish to receive compost on your plot, please notify Irene or post a sign on your plot saying "NO COMPOST."

**Nomination and Election of Officers:** President ApSimon directed members to review the list of members standing for election to the 2017 Board of Directors. **Motion:** That the named members be appointed to the Board of Directors. Moved by Louis Doyle. Seconded by Paul Mekis. Carried.

**Adjournment:** John ApSimon thanked the members in attendance and moved that the 2017 Annual General Meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Catherine Dixon. Carried. The meeting ended at 8:30 p.m. and Registration began.