

Niagara-on-the-Lake Horticultural Society
Annual General Meeting/Christmas Potluck Minutes
Tuesday, November 26th, 2019 6:00pm
NOTL Community Centre

Members were encourage to arrive at 6:00pm for Christmas Appetizers and refreshments. Our potluck Turkey dinner began sharply at 6:30pm. Ingrid Regier led the singing of grace – “Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow”. The society provided the turkey and potatoes and members brought either a salad, vegetables, a main course dish, rolls or desert. The meal was enjoyed by all.

Joanne Young called the business part of the meeting to order at 7:15pm. Joanne then introduced to special guests for the evening – Lord Mayor Betty Disero and Susan Lusted (representing the District 9 Board).

Susan Lusted brought greetings from District 9 of the OHA. She highlighted some of the events that have happened over the past year at the District and Provincial Level and brought our attention to some of the upcoming events.

Joanne moved for the approval of the minutes from the last AGM that was held on November 27th, 2018. Motion was seconded and approved.

Suzanne Rate came forward and presented the Annual Treasurer’s Report and Auditor’s Report. Our General Account had an opening balance of \$33,830.35. Total Revenue for 2019 was \$37,992.46. Total disbursements were \$32,885.35. Leaving a closing bank balance of 38,937.56. We currently have \$6558.56 in our 50/50 account and \$10,993.97 in a GIC account. Our finances have been audited by 2 individuals. Suzanne moved for the approval of the treasurer’s report – seconded and approved.

Joanne Young then presented the 2019 President’s Report. Some of the highlights were:

As a society, we have established 5 goals to focus our efforts on:

1. Educate our members on a variety of horticultural topics and instruct proper gardening techniques through speakers and workshops
 2. Continue working with the town of Niagara on the Lake on community projects and encouraging everyone to respect our environment.
 3. Promote horticulture to young people through donations and bursaries to schools and other organizations
 4. Encourage the use and enjoyment of horticulture with our members, community and to visitors to Niagara.
 5. Give back to the community through the encouragement and financial support of garden related community projects.
- We had the pleasure of donating \$6500.00 to go towards the plantings in the “Voices of Freedom” Park, on Regent Street.

- We also donated money towards adding gardens at the 3 entrance points to the Upper Canada Heritage Trail.
- Some of our members played a role the Garden Of The Week contest this summer by being judges. The Garden of the Week Contest is a project of the Communities In Bloom Committee.
- Many of our members volunteered to help decorate the town for Christmas. The society also donated money towards some of the decorations including the six large evergreen trees at the end of Mississauga and Queen Street.
- Another town project that we have donated \$2000 towards is their new Adopt A Park program
- **FLOWERS FOR SENIORS program** delivered 250 bouquets of flowers to our local senior homes. This year at least 30 volunteers created 250 vases which were delivered to 3 seniors homes in NOTL – Pleasant Manor, Upper Canada Lodge and Chartwell. We also delivered 250 poinsettias to the same homes on December 10th
- The annual plant sale was held again at the Virgil Arena on May 11th, the Saturday before Mother's Day. The sale went very well with a profit of just over \$4500.00.
- This year's garden tour was another grand success with over 1000 visitors. Once again, the gardens were located all in Old Town, making it more of a walking tour. The ticket sales brought in about \$14, 500.00 and sponsors adding another \$9,500.00, making a profit of approximately \$15,000.00.

Joanne thanked Sandy Bott and Karen Simonen for organizing the potluck meal and a special thanks went to Alice Rance, Kim Mustill, Hilda Ellard and Mary Beth Ross for making the centrepieces for our tables.

Marla Percy gave the Nominating Committee Report. Here are the names that were put forward to fill the positions on the 2020 Board:

President – Joanne Young

Vice President – Cindy Grant

Secretary – Karen Simonen

Treasurer – Donna VanMoorsel

Garden Tour Co-ordinator – Cindy Grant

Plant Sale Co-ordinators – Sandy Bott and Susan Dodd

Community Education Co-ordinator – Ingrid Regier

Hospitality Co-ordinator – Francyne Chenier

Membership Co-ordinator – Pauline Meyler

Communications Co-ordinator – Bette Ann James

Susan Lusted came forward for the installation of officers.

It was announced that our brochure for the 2020 year will be sent out early in January.

Back by popular demand, our special entertainment for the evening was Guy Bannerman who did a special Christmas recitation for us.

Door Prizes were awarded and the 50/50 draw was given out. Our half of the draw is designated to go to Newark Neighbours along with the donated food items.

Meeting adjourned.