

# **Gloucester Allotment Garden Association Annual General Meeting and Registration**

**Meeting Held: March 18, 2014**  
**Louis Riel High School Cafeteria**  
**1665 Bearbrook Road, Blackburn Hamlet**  
**Ottawa, Ontario**

**Executive Members present:** John ApSimon, George Bushell, Don Gray, Roger Eyvindson, Harvey Nuelle, Margaret Don, Charlotte Gupta, John Ross and “Registrar” Irene Harrison, Brian Linseman  
**Absent:** Frank Bogdasavich, Ralph Scribner, and John Stewart.

The meeting was called to order at 19:30 hrs.

**Introductory Remarks:** Outgoing President Bushell opened the 2014 meeting in accordance with GAGA incorporation which requires that a general meeting be called to present and obtain approval for the annual budget, fee schedule and the appointment of members to the Executive. Members were directed to the Agenda, available at the back of the hall, to follow the proceedings of this meeting. He explained that early registration for this coming year would follow the completion of Association business at the end of the meeting.

**Minutes of Previous Annual General Meeting:** Minutes of the 2013 AGM were distributed to the membership. It was moved by Leslie Backman seconded by Denis Braun that the minutes be approved. Motion carried. There was no business arising from the minutes.

**2014 Budget and Fees:** Financial Statements for the year ended were available at the meeting. Treasurer Eyvindson stated that the Association had ended the year with a surplus of \$4,455 mainly attributable to the receipt of grant monies which are for projects to be completed in this current year. Total accumulated surplus to date was \$15,062 which would be used to fund required tile drainage at Orient Park and water purchases for Anderson Rd. As a result of this financial position the 2014 fee schedule for garden plots would be maintained at the same level as last year. Motion to accept the year-end financial statements and the 2014 Fee schedule was moved by the Treasurer, seconded by Bill Gloss. Motion Carried

**Rules and Registration Form:** The garden Registration Form was introduced by George and members were reminded that when they apply for a garden plot, they sign the form and acknowledge the Association’s rules and regulations that are included on the form. Each year the membership is asked to review the current changes and approve them. These rule changes result from Executive Committee discussions during the year and

changes and recommendations provided by members to assist in the orderly and fair management of the gardens. A number of changes were outlined in red print on the form presented with the meeting minutes and agenda. The noted changes were identified and some were discussed. Motion to accept the rule changes was moved by Bill Hilts, seconded by Don Gray. Motion Carried.

**Recognition of Community Support:** President Bushell wished to recognize the community sponsors for their donations and sponsorship of our gardens. Those identified were: Friends of Mer Bleue, who provide financial assistance to the new garden openings and our water projects; Lafarge Canada, who provide assistance and materials in maintaining the road system at Orient; Just Food, for various grants and financial support for garden openings and supply of water. George also introduced retiring Councilor Rainer Bloess and thanked him for his support and attention to the issues that the Garden Association had brought to his attention during his time as ward representative.

Rainer also wished to recognize George's long term commitment to the allotment gardens and their success within the community. He presented George with a long term service award from the City of Ottawa for his dedicated service.

**2014 Program Overview:** George discussed the program for the year beginning with spring tilling. He made note of the tile drainage project which was to be started as soon as conditions allowed it in the spring, but he cautioned that this might delay the opening of the new Orient Park gardens due to weather and it was important that the drainage be done to enable gardeners to have better conditions to garden than last year.

L. Backman introduced the issue with water supply at Anderson Rd. and requested that a resolution to the various problems that have occurred during the past seasons. The issues related to water supply, use of water and general issues related to watering gardens. After much discussion, it was recommended that a separate meeting be called for garden members at Anderson Rd. to discuss and try and resolve these problems. The meeting was scheduled for the coming weeks prior to the beginning of gardening season. It was also pointed out that the Executive group had discussed and provided a number of solutions over the past few years to try to solve this expensive water issue. These had included applying for grants to pay for additional water supply, the installation of a piped water system at Anderson, installation of large water tanks to supply the system, as well as a deer fence to protect gardens from deer and other animals.

**Nomination and Election of Officers:** George directed members to review the list of Proposed 2014 Board of Directors for the Association. He also pointed out that while he was stepping down from President, he has agreed to serve as Past President during the next couple of years to help with the transition. He also thanked all those gardeners who have volunteered to serve on the Executive and noted that the success of the Association

depended on younger members being willing to serve and to ensure that the gardens are managed and maintained into the future.

He opened this section of the meeting with introductions of all proposed Executive members and asked for any further nominations from the floor. Nominations were closed and all listed members were acclaimed to the Executive group. George again thanked all for their participation.

**Other Business:** George wished to introduce members of the audience who work with the Association to provide assistance and make our gardening seasons a success. The COG (Community Organic Gardening) was represented by David Townson who invited members to contact him for further information and identified workshops available for interested members. The Community Garden Network/Just Food was represented by Terri O'Neil who discussed their participation in community gardening and also the provision of city grants for approved projects associated with community gardens, for example, water provision at Anderson Road. Finally, the "Donate a Row" program that is sponsored by local Gloucester Food Cupboard was addressed by Ruth Torok who discussed the provision of seeds for gardeners who are interested in donating some of their success to needy families through the food cupboard. All wished to thank George for his many years of service to community gardening, both in Blackburn and many other areas of the City through his knowledge and presentations to gardeners.

**Adjournment:** As there was no further business to discuss, and the early registration was to begin, the meeting adjourned at 20:45