

**BC Council of Garden Clubs  
Annual General Meeting  
April 5, 2025**

**DELEGATES PACKAGE**

**THE BC Council of Garden Clubs Annual General Meeting** and spring meeting will take place from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM on Saturday, April 5, 2025. It will be held at the Bonsor Recreation Complex, in the Banquet Room, 2nd floor, 6550 Bonsor Avenue, Burnaby (behind Metrotown).

One designated voting delegate from each affiliated club member in good standing\* will be asked to vote on the AGM minutes from 2024 and on the 2025 nominations.

After a light lunch, there will be a presentation from Ron Long, past president of the Alpine Garden Club, and former science photographer at Simon Fraser University. He will fill our senses with beautiful photographs of our native flora.

Remember to bring a prize for the draw table (thank you again to New Westminster Horticultural Society for managing all of the donated prizes). Each guest will have the ability to buy draw tickets (bring small change) throughout the day. It is important to note that all monies raised from the draw table go directly to the BC Council of Garden Clubs scholarship fund.

We also encourage you to share some of your brochures or pamphlets, showcasing events and happenings within your group. Our members love to see what other clubs are doing and bring some of the ideas back to their group.

We have shopping too, with a great group of vendors on site! Again, all the money raised from the vendor fees goes to the BC Council of Garden Clubs scholarship fund.

We are proud to continue the display of our floral art experts during the day. We all love to see the beautiful designs created so floral art and design folks, make sure to get in your entries!

Let's make sure we gardeners show how we love to take care of the environment and **bring our own coffee mugs and our own refillable water bottles!** There's a water station right near the meeting room.

So lots to see and lots to learn while enjoying the company of fellow gardeners. Make sure to get your registration form in as quickly as possible. We will see you all there!

Lynda Pasacreta, President  
BC Council of Garden Clubs

Email: [president@bcgardenclubs.com](mailto:president@bcgardenclubs.com)  
Website: [www.bcgardenclubs.com](http://www.bcgardenclubs.com)

\*Affiliated club members in good standing have paid 2025 membership fees.

**BC COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
APRIL 5, 2025**

**AGENDA**

1. (10:00 - 10:05 AM) — Lynda Pasacreta, Welcome | Announcements
2. (10:05 - 10:10 AM) — **Motion** to approve agenda | **Vote**
3. (10:05 - 10:10 AM) — **Motion** to approve minutes from April 6, 2024, Annual General Meeting | **Vote**
4. (10:10 - 10:30 AM) — ELECTIONS | **Vote**
  - President (L. Pasacreta will run again)
  - Second Vice President (R. Ouwerkerk will run again)
  - Secretary
  - Secretary, Scholarship Fund Committee
5. (10:30 - 10:45 AM) — COFFEE BREAK — visit vendors, buy draw tickets
6. (10:45 - 11:15 AM) — Scholarship Fund Presentation
7. (11:15 - 11:30 AM) — Roundtable Discussions
8. (11:30 - 12:00 PM) — Floral Design Show — results and comments
9. (12:00 - 1:00 PM) — LUNCH BREAK — visit vendors, buy draw tickets
10. (1:00 - 2:00 PM) — Ron Long — Native Flora in BC
11. (2:00 - 2:15 PM) — COFFEE BREAK — buy draw tickets, visit vendors
12. (2:15 - 3:00 PM) — DRAW TABLE
13. (3:00 PM) — Closing remarks
14. (3:00 PM) — **Motion** to adjourn General Meeting | **Vote**

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
APRIL 5, 2025**

**MOTIONS FOR APPROVAL**

We will be asking the membership to approve two motions at the meeting:

1. **Motion** to approve minutes from the 2024 Annual General Meeting.
2. **Motion** to approve election of officers (BCCGC Bylaws, Article 3 — Elections and Appointment of Officers, 4.).
  - President
  - Second Vice President
  - Secretary
  - Secretary, Scholarship Fund Committee

Delegates will be given a ladybug paddle at the meeting when signing in at the registration table. Make sure that your delegate is given the paddle. This is how we count votes. Please return the paddle at the end of the meeting.



**BC COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS  
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**REPORTS**

1. President:

I am coming to the end of my term as president of the BC Council of Garden Clubs. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at the “front of the room” and would like to continue for another two years if the membership agrees with that.

One of the challenges of volunteering is succession planning. Many people are concerned with helping out an organization for the fear of difficulty finding the next person in line for the job. So the hands do not go up to help out.

We often hear replies like “I don’t have enough time,” or “I’d love to, but I am too busy.” I am sure that it is a challenge within many of our 200 garden club and community garden club members.

It is important to note that each of us on the BC Council of Garden Clubs executive team have several obligations but we really enjoy our team and working together to support our membership.

From my two years in the role as president, communications, and newsletter coordinator, I find that my commitments to the BC Council of Garden Clubs only takes up a few hours a month (which I thoroughly enjoy). My obligations to my other volunteering activities take up the majority of my volunteering efforts.

We have done some great things in our communities under the banner of BC Council of Garden Clubs. Folks looking for gardening events in their communities use our website. People looking for great speakers use our information on current speakers (thanks to our second vice president, Ron Ouwerkerk, for refreshing that information). Our website is engaging, easy to use, and three-dimensional due to webmaster Frank Girard’s ongoing work behind the scenes. At many of the gardening events I attend, I am meeting young people who have benefitted from our BC Council of Garden Clubs scholarship fund. And we are growing! Because the word is out on the street that the BC Council of Garden Clubs has value. All levels of government in the province are now familiar with our organization.

So be proud, step up, and help us continue to build this organization to promote the value of gardening and how gardeners are an important solution to our climate issues today! Send me an email at [president@bcgardenclubs.com](mailto:president@bcgardenclubs.com). We are looking to fill the secretary position on the team (two-year role) — this is a great way to get familiar with our team and the organization!

Respectfully,

Lynda Pasacreata

## 2. First Vice President:

As first vice president, I am responsible for all of the horticultural and floral art judges in the province, as well as chairperson to the Floral Design Judges committee and the Horticultural Judges committee.

As chairperson of the Horticultural Judges committee, an online horticultural judges course was initiated during Covid and is still being offered. The horticultural judges course consists of reading the Horticultural Judging and Exhibiting Standards Manual and doing 18 assignments and a final exam. You would also be required to enter exhibits, and observe judge and co-judge at public shows with a qualified horticultural judge. We are looking for horticultural judges, so **if you are interested, I want to hear from you!**

The Floral Design Judges committee meets monthly on Zoom. We have developed instructor books and student books for Level 1 – Introduction to Traditional Design and Level 2 – Introduction to Contemporary Designs. The course instructors have been trained and these two courses have been and can be taught to those of you who are interested in learning how to make beautiful flower arrangements.

Level 3 and Level 4 – Contemporary Designs are a ‘work in progress’.

If you would like to take any course offered by BC Council of Garden Clubs, **please let me know! I would love to hear from you** – [1vicepresident@bcgardenclubs.com](mailto:1vicepresident@bcgardenclubs.com).

If your club has flower arrangements on your show bench you might consider having a floral art judge come to do a demonstration at your club meeting, or if your club would like to host lessons, contact me for more information.

Respectfully,

Cindy Tataryn

## 3. Second Vice President

On our website the speakers list was reviewed during October and November 2024 to determine who still wished to be active on the list and who were not. Approximately 50% of the speakers returned the email stating their wish to remain on the list as is, remain on the list but with updates, or asked to be removed from the list.

The speaker list was then updated according to the responses received. The review was put on halt during the busy membership and insurance renewal season but we plan to start again after the AGM.

If you have contacted a speaker and received no reply, please let us know at [2vicepresident@bcgardenclubs.com](mailto:2vicepresident@bcgardenclubs.com) so that we can contact the individual speaker to determine if they wish to remain on the speakers list.

Respectfully,

Ron Ouwerkerk

#### 4. Treasurer

As you may remember, the 2025/2026 budget was approved at the Fall Meeting in October 2024. This has been done for the past few years to allow us to have a better picture of what we have budgeted for in the coming year, which starts in January. I am pleased to say that we are well within budget with our spending to date.

The BC Council of Garden Clubs books for January 1 to December 31, 2024, have been reviewed by an independent person and have been found to be in order.

For those clubs who have renewed their affiliation and insurance for 2025, a reminder that BCCGC makes no profit on the insurance and all that is remitted to us is forwarded to the insurance company. Our rates are extremely low for the industry.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Ann Peters  
[treasurer@bcgardenclubs.com](mailto:treasurer@bcgardenclubs.com)

#### 5. Chair, Scholarship Fund Committee

##### **Scholarship Fund Committee**

Anita Irani - Chair (2022-2025)  
Betty Girard - Treasurer (2023-2026)  
Debbie Mellenger - Secretary (2024-2027)

##### **Donations and Revenue**

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we raised \$18,282.81 in 2024. This figure represents the highest amount raised since 2014. We are grateful to all our donors.

##### **Donations Received From Organizations**

The Vancouver Rose Society	\$500
Garden Club of Vancouver	\$250
Seed to Sky Garden Club	\$150
Dunbar Garden Club	\$1,800
North Shore Community Garden Society	\$80
New Westminster Horticultural Society	\$400
Fraser Valley Dahlia Society	\$530.61
North Surrey Horticultural Society	\$250
Clayton Park Community Garden	\$80
Fraser Valley Orchid Society	\$3,600
Society of Horticultural and Floral Design Judges of BC	\$80
Maple Ridge Garden Club	\$100
Gorge Park Community Garden	\$100
South Delta Garden Club	\$500

Hardy Palm International/Pacific Northwest	\$80
Vancouver Dahlia Society	\$500

**Individual Donations**

Anonymous	\$50
Anonymous	\$500
Anonymous	\$1,000
Jennifer Buckland	\$5,000
Betty Girard	\$700
Sidney Madden (in memory of Pamela Chuan)	\$80
Patty Molnar	\$250
Amanda Smith	\$150

**Revenue from BCCGC Meetings**

2024 Spring Meeting	\$785.20
2024 Fall Meeting	\$767

**Total Donations and Revenue in 2024:** \$18,282.81

**Correction for reported donations in 2023.**

In our fall meeting presentation in 2023, the Scholarship Fund Committee inadvertently omitted the **Hardy Palm International/Pacific Northwest Society** (\$1,000 contribution) as one of our top donors. Our apologies for the omission.

**Vancity Community Foundation Statement of Account**

**2024**

Opening Balance (January 1, 2024)	\$ 330,942.86
Disbursement to institutions 2024	\$13,200
Expense allocation	\$4,337.71
Closing balance (December 31, 2024)	\$370,955.92
Interest	\$38,267.96

**2025**

Opening Balance (January 1, 2025)	\$370,955.92
Funds available for disbursement	\$14,838

## Disbursement to Academic Institutions 2024

<b>Academic Institution</b>	<b>2024</b>
Camosun College	\$ 1,000
Kwantlen Polytechnic University	\$ 1,200
Okanagan College	\$500
Pacific Horticulture Centre	\$300
Simon Fraser University - Mildred Wells Graduate Scholarship	\$1,400
Thompson Rivers University	\$ 1,000
UBC - Rose Bancroft Scholarship	\$ 1,400
UBC - Horticultural Bursary	\$ 1,800
UBC Botanical Garden - Horticulture Training Program	\$ 1,000
University of the Fraser Valley	\$ 1,200
University of Northern BC	\$ 1,400
Vancouver Island University	\$ 1,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$13,200</b>

### **New Program: Kwantlen Polytechnic University Farm School Program**

The Committee toured the KPU Farm School in Richmond and hope to establish a bursary of \$500 in 2025.

Respectfully,

Anita Irani  
Chair

**DRAFT**

**BC Council of Garden Clubs  
Annual General Meeting  
April 6, 2024 – 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Bonsor Recreation Complex, Burnaby**

**1. Welcome**

President Lynda Pasacreta started the meeting at 10:07 and welcomed everyone.

**2. BCCGC Business – Lynda Pasacreta, President**

Lynda introduced herself and the other members of the executive, then introduced the vendors on hand and reviewed who our speakers would be. It was confirmed that quorum was reached.

MOTION: to accept the agenda for the AGM. 1st Susan Lilhort, South Delta Garden Club, 2nd by Victor Froese, Floral Artists of the Fraser Valley. Motion passed.

MOTION: to accept the minutes of the previous AGM, held April 1, 2023. 1st by Martine Arnold, South Burnaby Garden Club, 2nd by Gail Hory, White Rock Garden Club. Motion passed.

She also thanked the members of the New Westminster Horticultural Society for handling the draw table, as they do for us every year.

**3. Treasurer’s Report – Ann Peters, Treasurer**

Ann Peters reviewed this past year’s financials, noting that our books have been reviewed and we are in good shape. We happen to have a larger than usual bank balance at the moment as we have insurance monies collected that are not yet due to be paid to the insurer. All proceeds from the rental of the vendor tables and the draw table tickets go to the Scholarship Fund.

**4. Communications Report – Lynda Pasacreta, Communications Chair**

Lynda mentioned that she hopes everyone is enjoying the newsletter, which now consistently goes out every month and depends so much on member clubs submitting articles about what they have going on – so keep them coming please! We are also active on social media so seek us out on Facebook and Instagram. The website is also ready for all of your event postings, like spring plant sales, and it is free for member clubs to post.

[coffee break]

**5. Scholarship Trust Fund Report – Patty Molnar, Committee Chair**

Patty Molnar presented information on the Scholarship Fund and was pleased to report that clubs and individuals have continued to be generous in supporting the fund, then reviewed the

donations made so far in 2024 and thanked all of the donors. She noted that the fund total at the end of 2023 was used as the basis for how much we can give out in 2024 (4%), which has ended up being just over \$13,000. She also listed the institutions and how much was given to each one for scholarships, then reminded everyone of how to donate.

## **6. Speaker: Thomas Johnson, “Horticulture at UFV” (via Zoom)**

Betty Girard of the Scholarship Committee introduced Thomas Johnson, who is a student at the University of the Fraser Valley. He is also a recent recipient of one of the scholarships we support through the Scholarship Fund.

Thomas spoke about his studies at UFV and what the horticultural program involves. Some of the best parts of the program involve working in the field at local farms and volunteering at agricultural events like the annual egg show. It’s got a great community including supportive school staff coordinating the program and an Instagram presence where you can follow students into their post-grad horticulture work. He was super appreciative of the scholarship, which he used to buy a greatly needed laptop. And he is optimistic about the future of food security – based on his experiences in the program and seeing the popularity of horticulture studies.

Thomas answered a few questions from attendees. Betty thanked him on behalf of everyone.

## **7. Elections**

Lynda Pasacreta announced the names of those who have stepped forward to fill our open positions on the BC Council, and thanked them immensely:

First Vice President – Cindy Tataryn  
Treasurer – Ann Peters  
Communications Coordinator – Lynda Pasacreta  
Scholarship Committee – Debbie Mellenger

Motion to approve the directors, as named, made by Janet Bennie, Gibsons Garden Club, and seconded by Lorna Cloutier, New Westminster Horticultural Society. Motion passed.

## **8. Floral Arts Show Results**

Cindy introduced the head judge, Marlene Tambre, who commented on the excellent techniques and interpretations on display. Best in Show was awarded to Ann Peters, Floral Artists of the Fraser Valley, and Honourable Mention was awarded to Caroline Haywood, Victoria Floral Artists’ Guild.

Lynda then took the mic around the room and encouraged the different clubs to share stories about their projects and upcoming events, like plant sales.

[lunch break]

## **9. Speaker: Claude LeDoux, “Flowers, Fruits and Vegetables in the Urban Garden”**

Claude LeDoux is the former horticulture manager for the city of New Westminster. He is now retired but busier than ever with his speaking schedule and continuing involvement with the Great Plant Picks committee and programs like the Plant a Row, Grow a Row event in New West – this year happening at St. Thomas More Collegiate on April 28.

Claude presented on the evolution of the boulevard garden in front of his home (as well as the rest of his yard) with a focus on changing things up and expressing some creativity when you think of how to approach your plantings. In particular when it comes to maximizing the food you can produce on a single city lot – with the extras going to food banks and other social service programs. For instance they shifted from using the slope of the boulevard to adding planters with open bottoms and a trellis structure just behind them, with a drip line for irrigation.

A few other notes and tips:

- Claude pulls onions and leaves them on the garden bed for the day, then moves them to a cool place, ideally with a fan going, to dry completely.
- You can use espaliered apple trees close together to create what is known as a Belgian fence; he also has an upright columnar apple tree that takes up almost no space – the Wijcik variety of McIntosh.
- Claude incorporates lots of interesting containers and planters – some are sourced from Pot Inc., a local designer.
- If you plant two romaine right together, one will dominate – and when you cut that one, the other one will take off and go gangbusters.
- His preferred soil is Premium Soil’s veggie mix, he loves a butterhead lettuce variety called Alkindus and yellow alpine strawberries, which bloom and produce continuously, and if you are interested in urban agriculture check out Sole Food Street Farms online.

Claude took questions from the floor, then Lynda thanked him on behalf of everyone.

[coffee]

## **10. Draw**

The New Westminster Horticultural Society drew prize numbers until all of the prizes were claimed.

## **11. Adjournment**

MOTION: to adjourn the BC Council’s 2023 AGM. 1st by Caroline Haywood, Victoria Floral Artists’ Guild, 2nd by Janet Bennie, Sechelt Garden Club. Motion passed.

Meeting ended by Lynda Pasacreta at 3:00 p.m.

Minutes taken by BC Council secretary Pam Robertson.