

**DRAFT**

**BC Council of Garden Clubs  
Annual General Meeting  
April 5, 2025 – 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Bonsor Recreation Complex, Burnaby**

**1. Welcome & Announcements**

**President Lynda Pasacreta** started the meeting at 10:00 and welcomed everyone. 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.

She also thanked the members of the New Westminster Horticultural Society for handling the draw table, as they do for us every year. And she also thanked the “busy bees” who stepped up to help the BC Council executive with running today’s meeting.

**2. Agenda**

The meeting agenda was circulated in advance in the delegates package. There were no additions.

MOTION: to accept the agenda for the AGM.

1st Susan Lilholt, South Delta Garden Club, 2nd by Gaitri Yapa, Port Coquitlam Garden Club. Motion passed.

**3. Minutes of the Previous AGM**

The minutes of the AGM held April 6, 2024, were circulated in advance in the delegates package. Pam Robertson announced two changes, correcting two garden club names.

MOTION: to accept the minutes of the previous AGM, held April 6, 2024, as amended.

1st by Victor Froese, Floral Artists of the Fraser Valley, 2nd by Anna Camporese, BC Floral Art Society. Motion passed.

**4. Elections**

This year, elections are being held to fill four positions: President, Second Vice President, Secretary, and Secretary for the Scholarship Fund Committee.

First Vice President Cindy Tataryn announced that **Lynda Pasacreta** was willing to stand for re-election as President and called for any further nominees from the floor. There were no additional nominees so Lynda was acclaimed as President.

Lynda Pasacreta announced that **Ron Ouwerkerk** was willing to stand for re-election as Second Vice President and called for any further nominees from the floor. There were no additional nominees so Ron was acclaimed as Second Vice President.

Lynda Pasacreta announced that **Pam Robertson** was ending her second term as Secretary and not standing for re-election. Calls were made for nominations from the floor, and Lynda asked that anyone interested or wanting to know more could come and see her at the break.

Scholarship Fund Chair Betty Girard announced that **Darlene Kalawsky** of the Castlegar Garden Club has put her name forward to serve as Secretary of the Scholarship Fund Committee. There were no additional nominees so Darlene was acclaimed as Secretary.

MOTION: to accept the nominations and elections as recorded.

1st by Shawn O'Neill of South Delta Garden Club, 2nd by Lorna Cloutier, New Westminster Horticultural Society. Motion passed.

MOTION to end the business portion of the BC Council of Garden Clubs 2025 AGM. 1st by Anna Camporese, BC Floral Art Society, 2nd by Andrea Maudsley, Dogwood Garden Club. Motion passed.

[coffee break]

## **5. Scholarship Trust Fund Report – Betty Girard, Incoming Committee Chair**

**Betty Girard** thanked **Anita Irani** for her amazing work on the committee for the past three years, then reviewed the current fund totals and recent donations. She also spoke about how the committee makes its decisions on how much money goes to which programs and levels of study.

There were two updates to the institutions receiving funds. The SFU master's degree program in pest management is currently on pause, so we won't be able to donate to their Mildred Wells Scholarship until they resume. And as discussed at the fall general meeting, there is a new scholarship now in place for KPU's Richmond Farm School.

Finally, Betty presented information on and feedback from some of the recent student recipients.

## **6. Student Speaker: Amy Wells, UBC**

**Debbie Mellenger** of the Scholarship Fund Committee introduced **Amy Wells**, who is a student at UBC and won the Rose Bancroft Scholarship, one of the scholarships we support through the Scholarship Fund, while a student of the sustainable agriculture program. She is now pursuing a master's degree in soil science.

Amy spoke of her early interests and what led to her becoming enrolled in the sustainable agriculture program at UBC, and how she brought her interests in architecture and science – pursued through taking interdisciplinary courses – over into her work in agriculture and soil science. She now pursues her studies as part of the Soil Res 3 Lab, which focuses on soil resistance, resilience and restoration. She also produces open access videos and photos of soil media and soil organisms – they can be found posted online on Wikipedia Creative Commons.

Amy answered a few questions from attendees. Debbie thanked her on behalf of everyone.

## 7. Election of Secretary

Lynda was very happy to report that Dorothy Barkley of the Grandview Garden Club has stepped up to stand for the role of Secretary for the BC Council of Garden Clubs.

MOTION to elect **Dorothy Barkley** as Secretary for the BC Council of Garden Clubs. 1st by Lynda Pasacreta, Richmond Garden Club, 2nd by Andrea Maudsley, Dogwood Garden Club. Motion passed.

## 8. Roundtable

Lynda asked the representatives attending the meeting if they could speak about their ways of attracting new members to their garden clubs. A microphone was taken around the room so everyone could share their experiences.

## 9. Floral Art Show Results

Cindy introduced the head judge, **Dorothy Scott**, a very experienced floral art judge based in Surrey. BC Floral Art Society and The Society of Horticultural and Floral Design Judges of BC and Buds and Flowers Floral Art Club.- Dorothy commented on the techniques and interpretations on display, and the reasoning behind her decisions. The winners were:

- Best in Show, **Debra Justice**, Floral Artists of the Fraser Valley
- Best Open, **Catherine Deslauriers** from Floral Artists of the Fraser Valley
- Best Judge, **Gerri Willms**, BC Floral Art Society
- Honourable Mention, **Cindy Tataryn**, BC Floral Art Society

[lunch break]

## 10. Speaker: Ron Long, “Native Flora of BC”

Lynda introduced our speaker, **Ron Long**. Ron was the sciences photographer at Simon Fraser University for thirty-six years. Early in his career he developed a life-long interest in plants and plant photography. Now retired he travels the world in search of interesting plants to photograph. He has a particular interest in native species and is a member of the Pink Mountain Biodiversity Initiative, which seeks to protect the endangered and rare species found there.

Ron shared information about and beautiful photographs of many native plants he has hunted out around BC, many of which have sporadic distribution and are quite tiny. Favourites include the mountain lady’s slipper, the yellow lady’s slipper, *Clarkia anemone* (rare but sometimes can be found at nurseries) and beautiful mariposa lilies such as *Calochortus lyalli* (Lyall’s mariposa lily). Another interesting gem is wild ginger (*Asarum caudatum*), which is dispersed by ants.

Those looking to explore the native flora of BC, and this region especially, would benefit from the guide *Plants of Coastal British Columbia* by Jim Pojar and Andy McKinnon. And to source

the plants, Ron recommends finding out the binomial Latin name and checking directly with nurseries that carry native plants. Ron also mentioned that Pink Mountain, northwest of Fort St. John, where he has recently focused his attention, is an amazingly diverse area and a rich source of plants to study – and features virtually every plant (including tundra ones) that occurs in Canada’s North.

Lynda thanked Ron on behalf of everyone.

[coffee break]

### **11. Draw**

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

### **12. Adjournment**

MOTION: to adjourn the BC Council’s 2025 AGM.

1st by Janet Bennie, Gibsons Garden Club, 2nd by Jennifer Zuk, Vancouver Dahlia Society.

Motion passed.

Meeting ended by Lynda Pasacreta at 2:30 p.m.

Minutes taken by BC Council secretary Pam Robertson.