 General Meeting Minutes (For Approval)

February 5, 2024 at Christ Church Anglican, Campbellford

**Attending:** Pat Annaert, Jan Bastedo, Glenn Bennett, Lois Bennett, Konnie Elief, Helen Evegroen, Hazel Farley, Carol Ferguson, Gayle Fox, Muriel Godden, Teresa Hammell, Darla Hodge, Lamoine Hodge, Jen Hudson, Katherine Jefferson, Gayle Laroche, Phyllis Léger, Betty Leppanen, Lynn Lewis, Linda Mack, Nancy McCarten, Theresa Miller, Elizabeth Neiderhauser, Barb Petherick, Andrew Reynolds, Linda Richards, Carol Robertson, Louise Sander, Cathy Shannon, Yvonne Smallwood, Verne Sparks, Sandra Vella, and guests: Joanna O’Connor, Erin Petty O’Connor, Peggy O’Connor, Ewen Ferguson, Nancy Ballard, Lindsay McMillan and Chris Rucska.

**Welcome:** Cathy Shannon welcomed everyone to the meeting explaining that she was now in the President’s position following the recent decision by Catherine Jefferson to resign from the Presidency for personal reasons.

She began the meeting by reading the Native Land Acknowledgement and asked Andrew Reynolds who has assumed membership responsibilities for the Society, to introduce the guests for the evening. Andrew did so with assists from Carol Ferguson. Cathy Shannon then re-introduced all executive board members and expressed thanks to Catherine Jefferson for her good work over the past year, noting that Catherine has indicated that she will continue to attend general meetings.

**Approval of minutes:** Moved by Theresa Miller, seconded by Linda Richards that the general meeting minutes of December 4, 2023 be accepted as distributed. Carried.

**Financial Report:** Theresa Miller reported a current bank balance of $10,132.20 and a book balance of $9,382.61. She reported as well that the signing authority for C&DHS has been changed with the Royal Bank to reflect the makeup of our current executive. And finally she reported that the 2023 TPON report had been completed and sent and that Cathy Shannon has submitted the annual report to the O.H,A.

**Director Updates:**

**Cathy Shannon -** referred everyone to the new 2024 Society handbook Down the Garden Path which was distributed to everyone tonight, acknowledging Catherine Jefferson’s work to put it together. Cathy made special note of the back page of the handbook and encouraged everyone to record their hours of volunteering on the Society’s behalf, data that is required each year in our report to the OHA.

 Cathy reported that she continues to work with Trudy Neumeyer to keep the C&DHS website updated and functioning. She noted Trudy’s vital work on the Society’s behalf, announcing that the Executive has decided to provide a paid membership and a small stipend to Trudy in recognition of her contributions.

 Cathy expressed thanks to Darla and Lemoine for their on-going management of our general meeting social time, and to Elisabeth Niederhauser, Andrew Reynolds and Sandra Vella for the snacks this evening.

**Andrew Reynolds and Verne Sparks -**  confirmed that the transfer of membership responsibilities to Andrew has been completed. They recognized Carol Robertson, Anne Vogan and other members who have assisted as greeters at the membership table.

 Carol Fergusonwas thanked by Cathy for taking charge of and completing the 2024 speakers program and confirmations, although Carol suggested that much of the work had been done when she stepped in.

 Cathy referred everyone to the Sales Table that is managed by Helen Evegroenand which tonight featured an array of books and plants for sale. Helen also oversees the monthly Toonie Draw, the prize for which this evening was provided by Verne Sparks.

 Cathy reported that Lois and Glenn Bennett have agreed to organize the Flower Show slated for our June meeting. She then turned to Glenn who provided an overview and commentary on this evening’s Mini Show submissions and concluded that all submissions were of a high quality and worthy of award. Members are referred to pages 5-6 of the Handbook for Mini Show schedule and rules.

 Cathy referred to a seed catalogue from W.H. Perron company in Laval QC, which was provided by Muriel Goddenwith her recommendation. A discount is available to C&DHS members who order from the company. Cathy will provide us with the OHA membership code to make this possible.

 The Toonie Draw was won by new member Konnie Elief.

 Cathy Shannon reported that she has received notice from the OHA Secretary to remind us of the February 28 deadline for applications and nominations for the 2024 OHA Grants & Awards, respectively.

**Call for Adjournment:**

Moved by Theresa Miller, seconded by Darla Hodge that the Business meeting be adjourned. Carried.

**Program Speaker:**

Carol Ferguson introduced Erin Pettey O’Connorowner of Erincrest Blooms as tonight’s speaker. Carol began by providing a definition of and explanation of the differences between Bulbs, Corns, Tubers, and Rhizomes, which was followed by Erin’s more detailed presentation on prepping, growing, harvesting, and storing, tulips, dahlias, and gladioli for cut flowers.