

Banff Greenhouse Gardening Society
Annual General Meeting
November 15, 2012

In Attendance: Bob Lutz, Audrey Frey, Magda Idasz, Heather Dempsey, Connie Brill,
Liz Stockdale, Fran Milburn, Iris Korndorfer, Mari Hirota, Catherine Bartlett, Nancy
Blaney, Patrick Hillman, Lorraine Harder, Bev Reimer, Joanne Wilson

Budget:

-Our major income for this past season was from the Town of Banff and grants. In the future, most income will be from the plot fees.

-BGGs pays a flat rate fee to the TOB for the water usage in the greenhouse.

-We need two people to review and approve the 2012 budget:

Connie Brill

Iris Korndorfer

2013 Season

-Heather Dempsey created a worksheet/questionnaire. She will email it out to all members of the society to provide feedback on things like, which seeds grew well and at what time, which seeds do we not want to see again etc. Please return the questionnaire to Heather via email.

-We will also gather information in regards to second crops (eg spinach and lettuce did not do well this year as a second sowing. Anything else?)

-Ideas will also be collected on what to do with surplus (if you had any) produce (eg canning, recipes etc)

-We will send out an email before Christmas reconfirming whether gardeners would like their plots back for the next season (this only applies to folks that have had their plot for 1 season.)

-We will hold an equal lottery for the 17 plots that are up for grabs in the new season and potentially give folks that have applied for 2 years now and have not received a plot yet an extra chance.

-We will look into purchasing or working with the Town of Banff to place a compost bin right outside the greenhouse. In the meantime, please continue to take your compost out with you.

-Biodegradable bags will be looked into as well for next season.

-Still looking at ways to keep those windows on their pistons. Sometimes, curious hands from the outside pull on the windows and pop them open, which leaves the plots closest to the open window susceptible to frost.

2012 info

-Tomatoes and cucumbers did much better when planted in the main box as opposed to hanging baskets. (Fran was able to make 25 jars of pickles with her cucumber plot!)

-Peas and Basil did well in hanging baskets.

-Soil improvement this season was highly effective and will need some new compost next season.

-Please pass on any info in regards to disease or pests you may have seen this last season (eg some tomatoes had blight and some basil had black spots...)

- Water was shut off quite early this season. The town of Banff is conservative in this field and it is part of their sequence of shut downs. This is unlikely to change. We will explore easier ways to fill the bucket with water as hose under the sink can be awkward and we must be careful not to leave giant puddles in the bathrooms, dripping from the hose.
- The color of the doors could potentially change as per Town of Banff.
- We will purchase some scissors that are to remain in the greenhouse, as well as look into a new bike rack for bikes with bigger tires.

Second Greenhouse

- We have a potential space for a new greenhouse working in conjunction with the Cascade Plaza. It would sit on the rooftop where there is currently a parking lot. The parking stalls hold 24 cars, so the weight bearing would not be a problem. A staircase gets you to the space, which means it would not be an accessible place for all residents. Water is located 1 floor below. The only shade that is given off is from the elevator shaft and it is Southwest facing.
- The plaza is the tallest building in downtown Banff and we may come across issues of building any higher, so there is potential for just beds with cold frames as opposed to an entire structure, or even just a non permanent structure. (Canmore's outdoor garden did this last year with this idea). Aesthetics would be important, as it is a visible sight from places like the Banff Centre.
- We will have a subcommittee to explore this potential sight:
 - Fran Milburn, Heather Dempsey, Joanne Wilson, Connie Brill
- Cascade plaza would potentially put in \$25,000. It would be a benefit to the plaza on many levels including creating a community hub and having people entering the premises and pass by the shops.
- There are plans in the works to fix up the exterior of the Plaza, so also a potential to work with the renovators.
- This new greenhouse could even be used as an experimental commercial greenhouse? Renting plots to commercial companies on a trial basis or selling produce?
- In general, most folks attending the meeting agreed that we should stick with a community greenhouse as opposed to a rental space.

Closing down

- Please pull all plants out of soil, and take down your hanging baskets. This decreases the weight on the structure for the winter.
- If this is your second season gardening, please take all items that belong to you, with you.

2013 Board:

President: Bob Lutz

Vice President: Fran Milburn

Treasurer: Audrey Frey

Secretary: Magda Idasz

Members at large: Connie Brill, Heather Dempsey, Lorraine Harder