

Banff Community Greenhouse Society  
Annual general Meeting, October 2 2011  
Fenlands Recreation Centre

Chair: Bob Lutz

Present: Heather Dempsey (recorder), Connie Brill, Tiffany Teske, Ken Simms, Bev Simms, Gloria Enns, Maureen Russell, Audrey Frey, Bruce Anderson, Lorraine Harder, Jen Geboers, Bev Reimer

Budget:

2011 Revenue

Membership Fees	\$ 380.00
Plot Fees	\$1,155.00
Other donations	\$ 369.13

Total **\$1,904.13**

2011 Expenses

Seeds	\$ 125.69
Seedlings	\$ 507.68
Hardware/ Supplies	\$ 122.66

Total **\$ 756.03**

**Current Balance \$1,148.10**

Forecasted Future Revenue

Memberships	\$ 250.00
Plot Fees	\$1,155.00

-----  
\$1,405.00

Forecasted Costs

Seeds	?
Seedlings	?
Fertilizer	?
Soil improvements	?

-----

## Budget Discussion:

The Town of Banff still has ~\$5000.00 from the building grants. We will have a clearer idea of this figure once the signs have been paid for.

*Q: do we need to decide how to spend this money, keeping in mind that it was donated for the construction of the greenhouse?*

## Other expenses:

1. Winterize water valve, blow out lines, etc. (see notes below)
2. Create website – Bob estimates \$100 to register name, etc.

## First Season Operations: General Discussion

### Soil Enrichment

The local soil needs some enrichment, in terms of nutrients and consistency. Some things to consider:

- What should we do?
- When - this fall or spring?
- Set up a work bee to do all plots at once
- Do we need to replace/ remove some soil to accommodate enhancers, e.g. vermiculite – what to do with extra soil e.g. make sure we have some extra soil for hanging baskets, etc.
- Is adding worms an option?

☐ **Ask Ryan Neilson for advice.**

### Aphids Infestation

How can we avoid aphids? Questions to consider:

- Are they a seasonal phenomenon or will they be in the soil next year?
- What can we do to reduce this potential – now and in the spring?
- What about using ladybugs - need to run this by Parks Canada.

☐ **Research more on aphids.**

### Powdery Mildew

Same questions as above. Is there something we should do now, or consider in our soil mixture or seed/ plant selections to reduce another attack?

☐ **Research more on mildew.**

*Q: The plot next to yours has aphids and you've just "de-bugged" your plot. How to address to reduce large scale infestations like this year's?*

## **End of Season and winter maintenance of greenhouse**

We expect that all plots will be finished by the end of October, plus we need to turn the water off before threat of freezing.

### **Winterize water tap:**

Oct. 3. Heather talked to Bill Calvert (ex-owner of Bill's Plumbing) and according to him, it depends on what kind of curbsstop (plain or with a drain) was installed and how deep it is in the ground, to decide what needs to be done. Bill will try to contact Chad about this, we should too and then see who can do the work (Bill might be interested -- \$\$?)

All **plot holders** are to do the following by the **end of October**:

- Remove all personal structures, etc
- Remove all plant debris and put into Town's compost bins (not left in greenhouse)
- General tidying up around each plot

*Q: what if you want to get a plot next year do you still have to take everything down?*

Need a work party to:

- Check window openers/ doors to make sure in good condition (Q: do window opener valves need anything special – ask Supplier?)
- Rake gravel floor
- Inspect window panels for cracks, etc – wash?
- Sweep window sills?

**Will send out a note with a date for this.**

**Need one or more people to keep an eye on greenhouse over winter and record/ report any damages such as ice build-up, broken panes, vandalism, Halloween "fallout", etc.**

**Bruce Anderson has volunteered to go by and check from time to time, Amelie Petch was also suggested as she also lives nearby and strolls the park a lot with her young son.**

### **Learning Opportunities**

All agreed that it would be great to host some learning sessions to set everyone up for better success next spring. Need ideas for topics and presenters, it would be great to have them available for the public in general and if possible posted in the Continuing Education Calendar. Deadlines are Oct. 31 for the winter issue (Jan. – Mar. 2012) and Feb. 10 for the spring issue which comes out just before spring break. \*\*\*Jen Feikes, coordinator for Bow Valley Learning Council will send BCGHS reminders of these dates.

**Need a volunteer or group to work on this over winter.**

## **Learning from other garden projects**

It would be great to learn from Canmore, Jasper, Hinton, Whistler, etc on their successes, etc. and to share our experiences too.

## 2012 Operations

### **Planting Season(s)**

It is hoped that the greenhouse can be operational for planting in mid-April. This will be dependent on when the water can be turned on, daytime/ nighttime temperatures, etc. There was some discussion around potential for 2 planting seasons, e.g. a second one in late summer. Will leave this to future plot holders to decide if they want to share their plot this way or not for time being.

### **Plot Selection**

Issues: need to provide the community with opportunities to be involved and to build on experience and expertise with longer leases.

Bob presented 2 options for plot lotteries:

- host annually
- or have options to lease for 2 consecutive years

Result: unanimous vote to go for 2 year plot leases.

\*\*\* This means we will have to determine how to set this up for coming year with existing plot holders (find out who wants their plot again and those who don't and then decide if there needs to be a "lottery within a lottery" to select returning plot holders so there will be 50% new plot holders this coming year.

**ask all present plot holders to indicate whether they want to keep plot or not for next year. Deadline: October 31, 2011.**

### **Seeds**

Q: BCGHS provide seeds or let plot holders bring their own?

It was decided we should create a list of appropriate seeds to plant – in terms of best success as well as space requirements, etc and then we need to decide if BCGHS buys them in bulk or not. If a plot holder wants to plant something not on the list, they should seek approval first – some may not be appropriate or just not known to committee.

**Set up seed selection group in new year (after plots are allocated) to draft list. Get info from Abbie Swanson who put a lot of effort in buying this year's seeds.**

## **Seedlings**

This year seedlings were purchased because the greenhouse wasn't ready until early June. Next year it is hoped that everyone can start their plants from seeds and we will only resort to bulk purchase of seedlings if success with our own plantings is low.

\*\*\* We will need to make sure we have some reserve funds to buy them.

## **Hanging Baskets**

It was agreed that each plot could have up to 3 hanging baskets over their plot.

\*\*\* it would be great to know what methods of "vertical" gardening worked well without shading out neighbouring plots.

## **How to Provide More Plots in Future?**

We had twice as many people apply for available plots this year and hopefully this interest in gardening will continue. Over the winter we should collect ideas for new opportunities and also learn from Chad Townsend and Nancy Lewis at the Town of Banff on the other locations and options they pursued with the town so we have a sense of what may fly or not. There was much mentioned at the ribbon cutting of the greenhouse that this was the first of perhaps more greenhouses, and grants may be available to help us achieve this goal.

With this in mind some questions and ideas arose:

- Are we ready/ willing to start more fundraising?
- Let's learn from what we've done so far. Perhaps send out a satisfaction survey to plot holders to measure user satisfaction. Our lotteries, courses, membership can help measure demand and interest.

**Tiffany and Connie are interested in helping**

*Q: Do we want to continue to set aside a plot for seniors, is there a way to get school children more involved? Ideas?*

## **General Communications**

We talked a lot about how to share our ideas, knowledge, experiences etc.

**A website was suggested, but someone needs to devote some time towards that – any volunteers?**

Tiffany also brought up that we already have a Facebook site and we should utilize it more. It was recognized that not everybody is savvy on Facebook, so it will be one of many tools to communicate with members and the public. Bob mentioned that we need to post our bylaws somewhere too.

It was said over and over again how great it would be to learn from this first season – what worked well, what needs to be improved, what to drop – how best to do this? This would also include photographs.

\*\*\* it would also be great to come up with a calendar of dates for the greenhouse, eg. Start up, work bees, classes, etc.

**Election of officers:**

President: Bob Lutz

Vice-president: Jeannette Fish (absent, pending her agreement)

Secretary: Magda Idaz

Treasurer: Audrey Frey

Directors-at-Large: Connie Brill, Tiffany Teske, Jen Gebours