



**White Rock & District Garden Club  
General Minutes - AGM  
December 9, 2025  
Cranley Hall**

Elizabeth Young called the meeting to order at 2 pm

**Approval of Minutes – November 11, 2025**

*Motion to Approve – Eileen Davidson 1<sup>st</sup>, Dodi Mesenchuk 2<sup>nd</sup>, Approved.*

**Budget 2026 – Elizabeth Young**

*Motion to Approve – Terry Haight 1<sup>st</sup>, Marilyn Murphy 2<sup>nd</sup>, Approved.*

**Directors' Reports:**

**President – Elizabeth Young**

- Thanked everyone for a very successful year.

**Vice President – Gayle Horie**

- Encouraged members to get involved and volunteer for various positions.

**Secretary – Alexis Kent**

- Encouraged members to consider volunteering for Secretary position.

**Past President – Darlene Chamberlain**

- Taking an Executive position is very rewarding and many lasting friendships will be made.

**Front Porch – Joyce O'Brien**

- Thanked members for donating items and for making purchases from Front Porch. Sales were held for 9 months in 2025. Total revenue \$948 for the year. Items not purchased were donated to the Superfluity and Hospice Thrift Stores.

**Programs – Eleanor Enns**

- 2025 was very successful for Programs, including 4 guest speakers and 4 member demonstrations, and floral workshop in May. Bus tours included Harrison Tulip Festival (April) and Van Dusen Gardens/Bloedel Conservatory (August)
- Encouraged members to consider volunteering for Programs position. Noted that the January and February guest speakers have already been booked. Duties would include booking the remaining guest speakers, introducing guest speakers, arranging payment and A/V equipment, and placing the “reserved parking” sign when guest speakers are attending. Also need to book 4 x 30 minute member demonstrations.

**Treasurer – Eleanor Enns**

- One GIC was cashed in, 3 remaining GICs total \$7,500 (reinvested). Current bank balance \$13,499.79 will carry the Garden Club through to the 2026 Plant Sale. Need a financial cushion as the 2026 Plant Sale earnings are unknown.

### **Membership – Fran Deptuck**

- Currently 94 members including Lifetime members.
- Encouraged members to renew membership for 2026 on-line before January meeting. On Website, click on “Become a Member Today”, then click on “Renewal” in next window. Collection of annual dues in January. Individual membership for 2026 remains the same at \$25, and family membership at \$30.

### **Plant Sale – Terry Haight**

- Thanked members and especially to Plant Sale Committee for their support and efforts to make the Plant Sale a success. Total of \$5,869.39 was raised for 2025. For 2026, a Clean Up Crew will be added. First meeting for 2026 Plant Sale will be January 6. Plant Sale will be held the Saturday before Mother’s Day 2026.
- Westcoast Seed Promotion has been approved for 2026 (last 2 weeks of February).

### **Flower Shows – Donna Lawson (Reported by Terry Haight)**

- Very successful Floral Shows at Semiahmoo Mall, displays at General Meetings and floral workshops.

### **Trophies – Bev Polywkan**

- 10 trophies presented for 2025 Floral Shows, as well as awards and rosettes for various categories - Floral, Fruit and Vegetables, and for Distinguished Service. The Mall Show at Semiahmoo Mall was very well attended.

### **Website – Bev Sass**

- Garden Club has a great team working on the Website, Facebook and Instagram.

### **Newsletter – Jean McKendry**

- Thanked members for their contributions to Newsletter. Enjoyed experience in last year. Thanked Melanie Rantucci for assistance with Newsletter editing. Dodi Mesenchuk will be taking on the Newsletter position for 2026.

### **Publicity – Patricia Corder**

- Placed ads in Peace Arch News and Coffee News for 2025, as well as advertising for the Plant Sale through various contacts.

### **Nominations for 2026 Executive – Elizabeth Young**

- Positions open for 2026 – Secretary, Program Director and Newsletter

***Motion to Approve Dodi Mesenchuk as Newsletter Editor, and remaining Executive Members to continue for 2026. Eileen Davidson 1<sup>st</sup>, Eleanor Enns 2<sup>nd</sup>, Approved.***

- Jean McKendry and Alexis Kent formally thanked for time placed in their jobs for 2025.

Coffee Break 2:30 – 2:45 pm

### **Iris Hayes Distinguished Service Award – Bev Sass**

- Presented to Margrit Elmiger-Isert for her exceptional service – 12 years on Executive, Tours, Programs, Website Committee and Historian.

### **Honorary Lifetime Award – Yvonne Pont (for Donna Lawson)**

- Presented to Margaret Maddocks for her outstanding service – Kitchen, Parlor Shows, Floral Circle, Semiahmoo Mall Shows, and helping Donna Lawson in her absence.

### **Christmas Centerpieces - Elizabeth Young**

- Members thanked for bringing in 144 Christmas centerpieces that will be donated to Senior Care Homes in White Rock/South Surrey.

### **50/50 Draw – June Majawa**

- \$86 won by Patti Wolczuk

### **Plant of the Month – Gayle Horie**

- Anthurium Plant donated by Melanie Rantucci. Won by Nancy DeVink

### **Photo Contest (November Meeting) – Bev Polywkan (for Donna Lawson)**

- The Photo Contest that was displayed at the November meeting was won by Valerie MacLanders

### **Trophies – Bev Polywkan**

- Highest Aggregate – won by Terry Haight
- Jean Wilder Memorial Trophy – won by Melanie Rantucci
- Most Points for Fruit/Vegetables – won by Terry Haight

### **Best Christmas Hat/Sweater Contest**

- Best Hat – Bev Sass
- Best Sweater – Valerie MacLanders

### **Member Appreciation – Elizabeth Young**

- Thank you to all the 2025 Committee Volunteers, Executives and Directors.
- Committee Volunteers - Karen Jensen, Anne Wiese, Terry Haight, Bev Sass, Patricia Corder, Lil Penner, Mari-Ann Jensen, Melanie Zuliani
- Audio – Ken Parker, John Davidson
- 50/50 and Draws – Pat Greisser, Jackie Dupuis
- Welcome Committee – Karen Jensen, Ozana Seselja, Darlene Chamberlain
- Communications – Anne Wiese
- Kitchen/Set Up – Hilary Callihoo

### **Christmas Entertainment – Cheek to Cheek following adjournment**

### **Meeting Adjourned – 3:10 pm**

### **Upcoming Dates**

January 13 – General Meeting

February 10 – General Meeting

## **Written Director reports to follow:**

### **President Report – 2025**

I want to thank everyone who's had a part in the running of this club.

So many hands, from sending notes to members who are ill, to setting up the chairs and tables for our monthly meetings, to 50/50 tickets, running the kitchen. Then, there are the hardworking executives who make sure the club runs smoothly with speakers and bus trips. Our plant sale, which was a huge success, pays for the rent, insurance, speakers, bus trips etc. You get the idea. Thanks to all of you for your help to make this a successful club in 2025.

I'm looking forward to new experiences in 2026...

Happy New Year!

Elizabeth Young

### **Vice President Report - 2025**

- Nothing submitted by Gayle Horie

### **Past President Report – 2025**

- Nothing submitted by Darlene Chamberlain

### **Secretary Report 2025**

As Secretary, I have provided Minutes for the General and Executive Meetings. Jackie Maurice assisted with the General Meeting Minutes, and Bev Sass provided the training and ongoing assistance to format the Minutes. Both went out of their way to help, much appreciated. Minutes are filed in the Minutes Binder and a digital copy has been forwarded to the Historian. It has been a pleasure volunteering with the Garden Club.

Alexis Kent – Secretary Director

### **Treasurer Director Report - 2025**

Year End Report

This year was a good financial year for our club. Our plant sale in May earned the club a very substantial amount of money which really helped our bank balance.

We cashed in one of the \$2500 term deposits when they matured in March so that we would have a greater bank balance at the end of December to enable our club to manage through the first part of 2026 until we had the plant sale in May.

This greater bank balance enables our club to hire very experienced speakers to come to the club and also to support bus tours for our members and their guests.

The club's bank balance as of December 24, 2025 is \$12,839.94

Eleanor Enns, Treasurer Director

## **Publicity Report- 2025**

This year I have placed ads in the Coffee News and The Peach Arch News I put up some posters for our plant sale along with others I did it online advertising for our plant sale, including:

BC Council of Gardens

Amanda Jarrett

North by Northwest

And other sites

Respectfully submitted by Patricia Corder, Publicity Director

## **Membership Director Report - 2025**

Total number of Members as of December is 94

Which including 7 lifetime Members

Donna Lawson

Claire Muirhead

Mary Openshaw

Ken Parker

Iris Peacosh

Yvonne Pont

Mavis Taylor

Respectfully submitted by Fran Deptuck

Membership Director

## **Newsletter Director Report - 2025**

Over the Garden Wall is our garden club member's newsletter which is published monthly except for July and August. The newsletter director's terms of reference and duties are posted in the member's only section of the garden club's website. Back issues of the newsletter, as well as meeting minutes are posted in the member's only section. A password is required to gain access to the member's only section of the garden club's website. Please email [info@whiterockgardenclub.ca](mailto:info@whiterockgardenclub.ca) for the member's only password.

In January 2025, I volunteered to help Melanie Rantucci with the publication as well as the distribution of the newsletter. Bev Sass kindly provided additional technical assistance with the newsletter. In the fall of 2025, I decided that I could no longer continue to be the garden club newsletter director. A new member, Dodi Mesenchuk has very kindly volunteered to be the next newsletter director. Garden club members are encouraged to submit your newsletter content to Dodi, the newsletter director.

In closing, I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to help with the garden club newsletter and to wish you all the best for 2026.

Submitted by Jean McKendry – Newsletter Director

## **Show Director Report – 2025**

Our Club enjoyed Parlour shows in April, June, September and November plus a large show at the Semiahmoo Mall in September. This is the one that the public enjoys where we get a lot of nice remarks and often gain members to join our meetings.

The Floral Circle group also contributed a "fun" part of our May meeting where we helped a lot of members make a tiny miniature design,. These are enjoyable for all and also gets newer members meeting other newer members and learn about future classes. We often hear "lets do that again, its fun"

All in all a successful year for all who are interested in learning and teaching some ways to do lovely arrangements. MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL and lets look forward to a lovely spring in 2026 so the gardens will be happy -- and so will we.

Donna Lawson – Show Director

## **Trophies/Properties Director – 2025**

- 10 trophies presented for 2025 Floral Shows, as well as awards and rosettes for various categories - Floral, Fruit and Vegetables, and for Distinguished Service.
- The Mall Show at Semiahmoo Mall was very well attended.

Bev Polywkan - Director

## **Front Porch Director - 2025**

Nine regular monthly sales of The Garden Porch earned \$948.00.

The May Garden Sale included \$277.50 for a grand annual total of \$1225.50 Earned by the Garden Porch.

Submitted by Joyce O'Brien, Front Porch Director

## Program Director - 2025

These are the speakers and presentations that we enjoyed this year:

Meeting Date:	Speaker:	Topic
January 14 <sup>th</sup>	Owen Ballance UBC Botanical Garden	Growing Plants At Home
February 11 <sup>th</sup>	Lukas Miller Wild Birds Unlimited	Birds In Your Garden
March 11 <sup>th</sup>	Amanda Jarrett	Weatherwise Gardening Drought Resistance
May 13 <sup>th</sup>	Floral Circle Workshop	Making A Miniature Floral Arrangement
June 10 <sup>th</sup>	Melanie Rantucci	Watering Your Garden
October 14 <sup>th</sup>	Claude LeDoux	Growing Vegetables and Information and Tips About Growing Apples
November 11 <sup>th</sup>	Melanie Rantucci Terry Haight	Christmas Gift Ideas

As well, an annual survey is conducted each year asking the members of the club what they liked or disliked about the year's presentations and activities. This is done to ensure that the direction of the club and its activities is representative of the wishes of the club members.

Thank you to our members who contributed ideas for speakers and who volunteered to make presentations to our club.

A very happy Christmas and very best wishes for 2026 to all of our club members!

Eleanor Enns, Program Director

## Tour Director Report - 2025

These are the tours that our garden club presented this year:

April 23, 2025	Bus Tour to Harrison Tulip Festival
July 30, 2025	Member's Garden Tour Our club members visited the gardens of five of our members: Marlise Chapman Pat Yorke Darlene Chamberlain Melanie Rantucci Kim Greskiw Thank you to these members for opening their gardens to us!
August 19, 2025	Bus Tour To Van Dusen and Bloedel Conservatory
December 10, 2025	Proposed Trip To Lafarge Lake in Coquitlam To View Christmas Lights -this trip was cancelled due to lack of participants

All of the tours this year enjoyed good weather and a good time was had by all!

Eleanor Enns, Tour Director

## **Plant Sale Director Report – 2025**

### **Committee year-end report**

Thank you to everybody that participated in our Plant Sale this year once again I consider it very successful we raised. \$5869.39 A special shout out and a big thank you to your Plant Sale committee Joyce, Eleanor, Eileen, Linda, Fran and Gayle they were an amazing group of women to work with, and it's due to their continued hard work and commitment as well as that of all the volunteers that the Plant Sale was the success that it was.

Breakdown of which areas and how much money was made

The bake table \$890.25

Flower market \$316

Indoor plants \$2918.80

Outdoor plants \$714.09

Front porch \$195

Draw \$530

West Coast seed fundraiser \$305.09

Our total for 2025 was \$5869.39

We have once again changed back to the Saturday before Mother's Day as I was able to get the hall rental for the Friday and Saturday of that weekend and I think it will be a little more busy. I was also able to get the West Coast seed fundraiser again this year. It was really easy money so if you were thinking of buying seeds, we will provide more information about this fundraiser in January. All you need is a credit card and a list of seeds you want to buy. We receive 40 per cent back in cash.

We will be adding a few more committees to this year's Plant Sale to divide up the work. There will be more about this further on in the year, so we anticipate having lots of people willing to volunteer again this year. Hopefully we will have continued success this year.

Regards,

Terry Haight, Plant Sale Director

## Website Directors Report – 2025

- ❖ **Thank you** to the website committee, **Eileen Davidson, Margrit Elmiger-Isert, Marilyn Murphy, Melanie Rantucci, Ozana Seselja, Heike Czisch** for a job well done in 2025. Without these ladies the website department wouldn't run as smoothly as it does. Special thank you to Eileen Davidson for doing such a spectacular job of keeping the clubs Website calendar up to date. Warm Welcome to our newest member **Valerie MacLanders**.
- ❖ Over the year committee members captured beautiful pictures of our Floral Shows entries, club member's gardens during open yards this summer and from our many tours. These photos were posted to the clubs social media and website Gallery pages and some of them to our history files. Big thank you to Margrit Elmiger-Isert(the clubs historian) who stays on top of Instagram postings. We hope you enjoyed seeing all the pictures.
- ❖ The club now has more than 1600 beautiful photos on the clubs Instagram account. Many of these photos were also posted by Marilyn Murphy to the clubs Facebook page. You can also find some of the photos on the clubs Gallery page on the Website. – an awesome accomplishment!! 99% of these photos are from club members – so keep up the good work as we love to see your photos.
- ❖ Thank you to Melanie Rantucci for stepping in to cover for me during my 6 month absence.
- ❖ Our group provides website updates to 2iiS Marketiing (our hosting company) the first week of each month. The relationship with 2iiS Marketiing has been going extremely well.
- ❖ We constantly get email compliments about our website from general public as well as other garden clubs.
- ❖ During our first meeting in January 2025 the website committee was providing assistance with membership renewals. We will be doing this again in the coming year. You can either complete the membership renewal form yourself from our website prior to the meeting or sit with one of our committee member to get assistance. Nice and easy!
- ❖ 2025 was an excellent year and it has been a pleasure working with President, Elizabeth Young and the current executive team over the past year.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

Thank you

Bev Sass - Website Director