

**COC 21st Annual General Meeting,
Ottawa Ontario
April 27, 2008**

Present:

Jean Hollebone	Ottawa Orchid Society.	COC Representative
Judy Adams	Eastern Canada Orchid Society.	COC Representative
Barbara Hart	Foothills Orchid Society.	COC Representative
Peter Poot	Southern Ontario Orchid Society.	COC Representative
Kevin Derksen	Manitoba Orchid Society.	COC Representative
Terry Kennedy.	Southern Ontario Orchid Society	Observer
Marilyn Light	Ottawa Orchid Society	Conservation Chair
Michael Lum	Ottawa Orchid Society	Observer
Inge Poot	Southern Ontario Orchid Society	Observer.
Rosanna Lee	Toronto Artistic Orchid Association.	COC Representative
Howard Ginsberg	Montreal	Observer
Faithe Prodanuk	North Okanagan Orchid Society	President
Robin McLaughlin	Southern Ontario Orchid Society	Secretary
Jerry Bolce	Central Ontario Orchid Society	Webmaster/newsletter

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:08 by the president, Faithe Prodanuk. She welcomed delegates and friends and indicated she had heard from eight societies, and with the societies represented, she announced a quorum had been met. She declared the meeting open.

2. Adoption of the Minutes of the last AGM

The minutes of the 21st AGM in Winnipeg were adopted as distributed.

Moved by Barbara Hunt and seconded by Peter Poot. Carried.

3. Business arising from the minutes

3.1. COC Insurance Issues The President reported that there had been a concern that member societies are not receiving notification for insurance premiums in time to avoid financial penalties. The deadline for sign up is January 1 and there were some late responses and a \$50 late charge. The issue has been now been resolved. Notification of the deadline is posted on the COC website and newsletter. However, there is still a concern re timely communication with societies. It was noted that societies must renew annually.

Jean Hollebone moved that 60 days prior to the due date that the COC secretary send notice to the societies asking for payment within 60 days.

Seconded by Barbara Hart. Carried.

3.2. Newsletter. A motion was carried to continue to send the newsletter by pdf. This has gone to member societies and to website. Distribution appears to be going well. The

newsletter is being distributed electronically to 29 societies. All but three people on the mailing list have email addresses.

3.3. COC medal. Societies are reminded to send the editor a photo and description of the COC medal awarded at their annual show. Several delegates indicated that they were not aware of this policy and would provide the COC with proper reporting in future. The societies will be reminded of this in the letter regarding insurance.

3.4. Website: It was decided to update vendor information on the website annually. Vendors that do not respond will be removed from the website. COC reps for each Society are requested to review their information on the web site and to contact the webmaster to keep it up-to-date. This request will also be made in the letter going out to the societies.

3.5. Slide Shows: A slide show on taxonomy had been presented for review in 2007 for inclusion in the slide programs but the review has not been done. 'Hardy orchids' was redone on power point and will be reviewed before adding to COC programs. The issue of reviewing both old and new slide programs was deferred to discussion under the Treasurer's report.

3.6. COC medal: Discussion concerned the conditions under which the medal is awarded. The award was originally proposed, with guidelines, in March 1990. Clarification was requested with respect to societies that do not hold shows and whether they should be able to award the medal for special service in their society. Terry Kennedy provided the original documentation from March 25, 1990 in which Peter Poot proposed the Medal originally. The medal had been established as follows:

- “1. The objective is to encourage exhibition of orchid flowers and plants in artistic arrangements at Canadian orchid shows.*
 - 2. The award is to be made available at no charge to any Canadian orchid show upon application to the sponsoring society provided that the society is a member in good standing, and provided the society report on the awarding of the trophy to the COC.*
 - 3. The trophy is to be awarded on a recommendation of personnel appointed to judge the show by the sponsoring society.*
 - 4. Orchid flowers should be the predominant element in the exhibit.*
 - 5. Funds to be appropriated for this purpose not to exceed \$500 annually. Jim Brasch moved and acceptance of the proposal, seconded by Wally Thomas.*
- After discussion proposal remained unchanged. Carried.”*

From this it appears that there was a specific designated use for the medal, e.g. for shows. However it was also discussed that there needs to be an opportunity for small societies not having shows to use the medal for special purposes. Also a COC medal was given to each of the six committee members of the WOC in Vancouver, so there may be some differences in application. Howard Ginsberg noted that there could be two approaches: one: awarding medals to members for extraordinary achievement and two: awarding the COC medal for Show displays. The former would be picked up by small societies and the latter by larger societies. He proposed a second medal to cover awards to individuals. Discussion followed.

Since it has been 15 years since the inception of the COC award, Peter Poot moved that a committee review the use of the medals, look at new medals/additional medals, and report back in 6 months.

Seconded by Barbara Hart. Motion Carried.

Howard proposed that Peter chair the committee. He indicated he would be prepared to serve on the committee. Peter agreed to chair.

4. Correspondence:

Nothing to report.

5. Officer Reports

Reports were available for review at the meeting and are filed with the minutes.

5.1 Treasurer's report: The treasurer's report was presented and opened for discussion. Howard Ginsberg noted that he believed there were some issues regarding the allocation of monies for the speakers' tour, indicating that Halifax had applied for some of these funds and had been denied. Howard asked that any wrongs committed be corrected retroactively. Since Halifax was not present and none of the details were known, Jean Hollebhone proposed that this issue be looked at in conjunction with a general review of approved policies and procedures from previous minutes. Judy Adams asked clarification of what constitutes a small society. The answer was 50. Jean refined a motion to read that the First Vice President be asked to conduct a review of previous minutes to develop a short document of approved policies and procedures, and, if required, to recommend any corrections with respect to distribution of funds

Seconded by Barbara Hart. Carried.

The president raised the issue of distribution of funds from the COC auction and queried whether the split of 50 COC/50 Host Society would be determined from net or gross proceeds from the auction. Representatives were reminded that Societies are donating to the auction, and the policy clearly stated gross receipts. It was agreed that at this time there was no need to change the current policy. Faithe also indicated the COC must trust the hosting society to make the appropriate donation. Inge Poot reminded the COC that when auctions are held in conjunction with a Mid America meeting or the AOS, those organizations take 100% of the auction profits.

In further discussion of the treasurer's report, a suggestion was made to lighten the very heavy load carried by the treasurer and reassign non financial items to other positions with lesser duties, in particular the two vice president positions. It was agreed the first vice president would be asked to review previous AGM minutes and gather the policies and procedures in one document to be made available, possibly on the website.

A motion was made by Jean Hollebhone that the second vice president form a committee to review , modernize and distribute the slide programs, and that he report back with a proposed plan of action within three months;

Seconded by Peter Poot . Carried.

Margaret Hewings indicated that she would donate a slide presentation on wild orchids of Canada for review. The president indicated she was aware of two new programs as well as the taxonomy program in development.

5.2 President's report: The president's report was presented and accepted. In the discussion following, a new role for a membership liaison person was discussed and accepted. This position will be responsible for keeping the COC representative list current and will liaise with societies to ensure that their executive information is kept current with the COC .

Howard Ginsberg had questions about CITES issues with respect to comments in the report about travellers from the WOC. Howard felt that the 'houseplant rule' was an unofficial means to circumvent legal rules. Faithe recognized his comments and pointed out that the 'houseplant rule' is the legal rule set up for people bringing in small quantities of plants. It is not intended for commercial vendors.

5.3 Newsletter and website report. The website and the Chebucto provider are working well.

There was a discussion regarding accepting advertisements on the website. Jerry Bolce is concerned that it is not a job for the webmaster to administer, e.g. collecting fees and setting parameters for the ads. He also wished to propose that the webmaster retire and someone else take over.

Discussion followed. Highlights: Let's not eliminate the free listing of vendors. It was agreed that advertisements would be accepted within newsletter. Jerry will investigate how this could be achieved (possible rules and rates commensurate with other similar advertising).

The issue of providing articles for the newsletter was raised. Jerry Bolce reaffirmed that one of the duties of each COC rep is to provide updates of 'news' within their society to the editor. COC reps were asked to take note and be more proactive.

There was a request to the webmaster to provide a notification that the newsletter is ready on the site.

It was agreed to establish an editorial committee under Jerry to help review articles and get them for the newsletter.

Jerry indicated that a new Logo in vector form is needed for general use, especially for the posters. The present logo is of low resolution and pixilated. Judy Adams provided the original pen and ink drawing which was later reworked. He is working with an individual to create a new logo.

5.4 Western Speakers tour. Report attached. It was noted there had been no tour in the east and Marilyn Light undertook the western tour which was very successful.

Note : there appear to be issues related to the criteria for application for the \$200/ society for 3 or more societies joining together to bring in a speaker which were raised to the new President after the AGM and hence will be discussed by the new Executive and reported back to the COC membership. JEH

5.5. Report from new AOS judging center in west. This report was provided for information.

5.6. Conservation Report: Accepted as provided.

The COC was invited by Marilyn Light in her role as representative on the Canadian CITES Stakeholders Committee; to be more active in providing comments on COC positions re CITES issues affecting orchidists. Jean thanked Marilyn for the invitation and indicated an interest in Society participation.

6.0 New business:

6.1. Review of general guidelines on hosting a COC meeting. A draft had been circulated for comment but not finalized. The President urged that it be completed to encourage societies to host an upcoming event. Jean Hollebome indicated it was her intent to make additional comments related to the Ottawa experience after the joint meeting was over and undertook to have the final document completed by autumn for use by those responsible for the next COC meeting. Agreed

6.2 Upcoming hosts for COC meetings:

Oct 2009- Fraser Valley Orchid Society in Langley B.C.

2010 – RBG is considering hosting

2011- Alberta Orchid Society in Edmonton. AB.

Edmonton also indicated it would host in 2010 if an Eastern society cannot be found.

6.3. Orchid Importation:

Marilyn Light spoke on this issue. A lively discussion ensued because she indicated these are not just COC issues. One must follow the regulations as they are presented. 'Park in a fire zone, you pay the consequences.' Marilyn will continue to provide input on CITES and invited the COC to participate in broader consultation on CITES issues.

Jean clarified that she is continuing to work with the CFIA on orchid importation requirements to and from the European Union and Asia. A good relationship was established during the development of the WOC guidelines. She will continue to liaise with them to ensure that requirements are as clear as possible. Importation problems also can occur when the Canadian Border Services Agency is not kept informed. Michael Lum thanked Marilyn and Jean for their efforts trying to achieve an understanding on all sides. Howard Ginsberg suggested that the COC start to liaise with the Border Patrol(CBSA) rather than CFIA, however Jean pointed out that it is important to work with each: CFIA and Environment Canada make the rules for import and CITES, respectively and CBSA enforces them. Marilyn Light has actively trained Canadian conservation officers. More of this is seen as being helpful.

6.4. Financial Issues. The president raised the issue of how and whether the COC needs to raise additional revenues. It was discussed with no conclusions. For now, advertising in the newsletter was discussed as an appropriate new source of revenue.

The issue of providing funds to executives to attend meetings was vigorously turned down.

The president elect indicated it was her intent to establish an operating budget for 2008 as soon as possible and will also explore the costs of teleconferencing to improve communication among the executives. RBG asked for costing information on hosting a COC meeting. Jean agreed that the Ottawa Orchid Society treasurer would be asked to provide cost figures to Margaret Hewings as soon as available.

6.5 Appointment of the auditor . Janette Richardson and the new treasurer Margaret Hewings will work together to appoint a new auditor for 2008. Arrangements will be made to transfer the books and signing authorities.

7.0 Election of Officers: The following slate of officers was presented by Faithe Prodanuk for Margaret Blewett, past president:

Officers for election:		
President	Jean Hollebone	Ottawa Orchid Society
1 st Vice President	Elsie Gerdes	North Okanagan Orchid Society
2 nd Vice President	Peter Poot	Southern Ontario Orchid Society
Treasurer	Margaret Hewings	Royal Botanical Garden Orchid Society
Secretary	Carole Gert	Foothills Orchid Society
Membership	Valerie Tribes	North Okanagan Orchid Society
Continuing Officers		
Past President	Faithe Prodanuk	North Okanagan Orchid Society
Webmaster	Jerry Bolce	Central Ontario Orchid Society
Education	Mark Elliott	Vancouver Orchid Society
Conservation	Marilyn Light	Ottawa Orchid Society
Newsletter	Jerry Bolce	Central Ontario Orchid Society
Insurance	Lynne Cassidy	Fraser Valley Orchid Society

There were no additional nominations from the floor. The president’s motion to accept the slate was carried. The Executive was declared as nominated. The President thanked Margaret Blewett for her work in successfully recruiting volunteers for these positions.

8.0 Concluding business:

Motion by Howard Ginsberg to present Janette Richardson, long time COC treasurer with an award in recognition of her long and dedicated years of service to the COC.

Seconded by Jean Hollebone. Carried with applause.

Motion by Jean Hollebone to thank Faithe Prodanuk for her all her hard work on behalf of the COC in her difficult role as President. Applause.

Peter Poot made a motion of thanks to recognize the Ottawa Orchid Society for hosting the COC this year.

Seconded By Faithe Prodanuk. Carried

Peter Poot suggested that as the time until the next AGM is long (17 months), that interim executive meetings be held in conjunction with Shows. Agreed.

Adjourned at 12:45 p.m.