

Landscape Ontario Horticultural Trades Association - AGM  
 Tuesday, February 8, 2022 @ 11:00 a.m.  
 via Zoom: <https://landscapeontario.zoom.us/j/81425584501>

**All Landscape Ontario members are invited to attend the AGM but only Active and Honorary Life members can make a motion and vote.**

Agenda Item	Whom
<p>1. President's Call to Order and Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Welcome to the 48th AGM for Landscape Ontario Horticultural Trades Association. We're so glad you could join us. My name is Dave Wright and I am your Landscape Ontario President.</li> <li>● Before we get started, I will run through a few technical considerations. Please begin by typing your full name and organization in the chat function so that we can accurately include you in our AGM Minutes. We have a lot of people joining us today so we've muted participant lines to reduce noise disruptions.</li> <li>● I would like to start with a minute of silence to remember those members who have passed away this year.</li> <li>● If you experience any issues, you can email <a href="mailto:membership@landscapeontario.com">membership@landscapeontario.com</a> or call 1-800-265-5656 for assistance.</li> <li>● Our quorum is 35 members. I can report that we have more than [35] members present, therefore quorum is met. Please also note that this meeting is being recorded. 148 registrants</li> <li>● If you would like to speak during the meeting, I ask that you kindly use the Chat box to indicate that you'd like to say something and our team will unmute you when it is appropriate to do so.</li> </ul>	<p>Dave Wright</p>

## 2. Introduction of the 2021 Board

Dave Wright

- **I would like to introduce the 2021 board and thank them for their service.**

- **Executive/Finance Committee:**

- Warren Patterson- Past President
- Dave Wright - President
- Lindsay Drake Nightingale- 1st Vice President
- Ed Hansen- Second Vice President
- Lindsey Ross- Treasurer

- **Members at Large 2021**

- Jeff Olsen
- Blake Tubby

- **Chapter Board Representative 2021**

- Chris Muller - Durham
- Margot Byers- Georgian Lakelands
- Fran MacKenzie - Golden Horseshoe
- Pam Cook - London
- Steve Neumann- Ottawa
- Pamela Cooze - Toronto
- Terry Childs- Upper Canada
- Jason Dietrich - Waterloo
- Liana Desmarais- Windsor

- **Industry Sector Group Representatives 2021**

- Beth Edney - Landscape Designers
- Michael Van Dongen- Garden Centres
- Brad Paton - Grounds Management
- Andrew Barbour - Growers
- Steve Macartney - Irrigation
- Peter Guinane - Landscape Contractors
- Jamie Riddell- Lighting
- Jon Agg - Snow and Ice Management
- Alan White- Turfgrass Management

- **Past President's of Landscape Ontario**

I would like to acknowledge the Past Presidents of Landscape Ontario. They made a foundation for the success of the Association. The legacy of their continued support is appreciated.

- 1973 Glenn Peister
- 1974 Casey van Maris (Honourable Mention)
- 1975 Marc Thiebaud
- 1976 Gord Shuttleworth
- 1977 John Van Staveren

- 1978 Gord Shuttleworth
- 1979 Karl Stensson
- 1980 Frank Kearney
- 1981 Barry Benjamin
- 1982 Harold Deenen
- 1983 Jim McCracken
- 1984 Doug Taylor (Honourable Mention)
- 1985 Bob Allen
- 1986 Peter Olsen (Honourable Mention)
- 1987 Monica Van Maris
- 1988, 1989 Neil Vanderkruk (Honourable Mention)
- 1990, 1991, 1992 John Peets
- 1993 Linda Sheely/Frans Peters
- 1994, 1995 Frans Peters
- 1996, 1997 Paul Olsen (Honourable Mention)
- 1998, 1999 David Turnbull
- 2000, 2001 Joan Johnston
- 2002, 2003 Nick Solty
- 2004, 2005 Gerald Boot
- 2006, 2007 Bob Tubby
- 2008, 2009 Bob Adams
- 2010, 2011 Tom Intven
- 2012, 2013 Phil Charal
- 2014, 2015 Dave Braun
- 2016, 2017 Paul Brydges
- 2018, 2019 Warren Patterson

- **Life Members**

Honourary Life Members are distinguished individuals of outstanding accomplishment or contribution to the Horticultural Profession or the Association. I invite those members present to wave your hand in acknowledgement

- Burke McNeill (Honourable mention)
- Neil Vanderkruk (Honourable mention)
- Marc Thiebaud
- Karl Stensson
- Monica Van Maris
- Casey van Maris (Honourable mention)
- Harold Deenen
- Paul Olsen (Honourable mention)
- John Wright (Honourable Mention)
- Hank Gelderman
- Gerald Boot
- Gord Shuttleworth
- Bob Tubby
- Mark Cullen
- Bob Allen

- Jim Bauer

- **LO's Milestone Membership**

The following are celebrating 25 years of membership with Landscape Ontario:

- Greg Varcoe
- Peninsula Construction Inc
- Green Things Landscaping 2010 (1893872 Ontario Ltd)
- Novak Property Maintenance Inc
- Clintar Head Office Toronto
- Bernie Wolfe Investments
- The Gardener Inc
- Green Design Landscaping Inc
- The Beaudry Group
- Karl J Wiker & Sons Landscaping Ltd
- Omega Landscape Gardening Ltd
- Turf Plus Inc
- Innovative Surface Solutions
- Pefferlaw Peat Products Inc
- Coleman Equipment Inc
- Wildrose Gardening
- DGAF Trucking
- Garden Grove Landscaping
- Uxbridge Nurseries Limited
- Outdoor Maintenance
- Crimson Leaf Landscaping Ltd
- Redleaf Landscape Inc
- Crewson Corners Landscaping & Home Maintenance

Congratulations to you all! 25 years is a big deal in the Landscape industry.

### 3. CNLA Report

- Winter board meetings occurred approximately two weeks ago. It will be Paul's last CNLA Board meeting as the Provincial Rep to the CNLA.
- Dave Wright as Past President will be taking on that traditional role. Dave sat in on the last meeting.
- Overall, very successful meetings.
- Some of the big highlights:
  - There was a large ask that came into the CNLA for a budget to continue projects and extra work.
  - The finance committee tried to create a balanced budget and it was determined

Paul Brydes

and discussed that there was so much energy and opportunities in projects (especially working with government) that CNLA was willing to run a deficit budget for the year.

- Very unusual for CNLA but there is a lot of opportunity to advance the profession.
- Therefore it was voted through to run a deficit budget to support many of these new projects.
- The CNLA report is available in the archives.
  - Strategic plan was done approximately four weeks ago.
  - Strategic plan was shared with all Provincial Presidents to review and ensure each province was represented in the plan.
  - At the same time, Communities in Bloom and Green Cities Foundation did their strategic planning session; so it was a joint strategic plan put together.
  - Three main points:
    - On-going importance of communication
    - Government relation strategy
    - Create new strategies to help improve the environment
  - Both the Board of Directors for Communities in Bloom and Green Cities Foundation are looking for additional volunteers.
    - If interested, please reach out to [Rebecca Doutre](mailto:Rebecca.Doutre@canadanursery.com) ([rebecca@canadanursery.com](mailto:rebecca@canadanursery.com)) at the CNLA
- Alan White is interim rep for Communities in Bloom
  - He is now on the board of CNLA as the incoming Treasurer
- From Alan White:
  - Highlighting the 2 Billion Tree Program which Ontario is participating in via Highway of Hero Program.
  - As it relates to climate adaptation and the opportunities that plants and horticulture are starting to play in the equation at the federal (and hopefully provincial and municipal) level with participation of Communities in Bloom.
  - Lots of exciting activity that is lining up

<p>with opportunity as it relates to horticulture in the urban environment.</p>	
<p>4. Procedural Announcements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● If a vote is required, only Active and Honorary Life Members of the Association can vote. Joe Sabatino and Joe Salemi will act as scrutineers.</li> <li>● We will be using “poll questions” for voting purposes. When there is an opportunity to vote for a motion, you will be asked to vote “in favour, opposed or abstain”. Use your keyboard to choose the option you prefer.</li> <li>● To make a motion or second a motion, please use the “chat” function on the side of the screen and type in “I move, or I second” and include your full name and organization.</li> <li>● At this time we require <u>Confirmation of a Quorum</u>: In accordance with By-law No 1, Article 11, Section 1, there must be 35 Members present to hold a meeting.</li> <li>● Quorum was confirmed by Joe Salemi, Deputy Executive Director.</li> </ul>	<p>Dave Wright</p>
<p>5. Additions to Agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A copy of the Agenda was published and made available on the website. It is also available at the link in the chatbox</li> <li>● The Agenda is also on screen. At this time, I would ask if anyone has anything to add to the agenda under New Business.</li> <li>● Jason Dietrich: In regards to what a member of the chapter has brought to his attention. Specifically, the political statement during the Awards of Excellence. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Added under the New Business agenda item.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>MOTION: TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR THE FEBRUARY 8, 2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AS PRESENTED.</b>  Motion by: Alan White  Seconded by: Margot Byers  Discussion: None  Vote: All in favour. None Opposed.  Carried</p>	<p>Dave Wright</p>
<p>6. Acceptance of Minutes from AGM, March 17, 2021</p>	<p>Dave Wright</p>

<p><b>MOTION: TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 17, 2021 AGM AS PRESENTED</b> Motion by: Alan White Seconded by: Curtis Hutten Discussion: None Vote: All in favour. None Opposed. Carried</p>	
<p>7. Business Arising from March, 2021 AGM Minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No action items from the last meeting</li></ul>	Dave Wright

## 8. Reports

### a) President's Report

#### - [Full President's Report](#)

- Take a minute to talk about an initiative that we've worked on this year. After we were asked by the CNLA to create a policy on land acknowledgments, it was discussed at the Board that we needed to have an inclusivity statement. So we didn't need to make a statement for or against every cause that comes around. Our focus must be on the landscape and horticulture profession.
- I set up a committee to dive into this task, and they were named the Inclusivity, Diversity and Belonging committee. They developed a statement that was approved by the Board. Once the statement was complete, I tasked the committee with looking at everything the Association does through the eyes of inclusivity, diversity and belonging and give recommendations on where we can do better. This task is ongoing.
- I believe that in order to grow our profession and membership, we need to be as relevant to a wide cross section of people as possible.
- With this mindset, we will be able to attract more people to the profession and hopefully ease our labour issues.
- As we can see in our politics and just about everywhere else in the world, any time there is change there is resistance.
- My hope is that some of the division that has occurred over the recent past will lessen, as we all realize that the changes are being introduced to make our profession bigger and stronger with a shared voice.
- With that inclusive, diverse but shared voice, there will be nothing that can stop us from building on the legacy of our Founders and achieving great things.

### b) [Executive Director's Report](#)

- This is my 32nd annual report and my last. In that time there have been many changes to our profession and Association, however, something stayed the same.
- When I started in 1989 the top priority was attracting people to our profession. It is still the top priority!
- The labour situation has gotten worse, at the same time as the demand for our services and products has never been higher. The shortage of employees has become the limiting factor in our growth. I know a number of companies that have exited the

Dave Wright

Tony DiGiovanni



profession because they did not have the resources to do the work.

- Landscape Ontario's actively and directly dealing with this issue in many ways. Sally Harvey's report outlines the many projects and initiatives related to narrowing the labour gap.
- We have a multi dimensional plan and we're devoting extensive resources. I'm confident we are doing more to deal with this issue than any other similar organization in the world. The problem is large, complex and won't be easily solved.
- However, I'm convinced that one of the best ways to deal with the labour gap is for individual members to embrace responsibility and ensure they are providing the absolute best experience possible for their employees. We also have to look at immigration for part of that solution.
- Brief summary of our our industry advancement activities last year:

**1. Insurance Sector:**

- We're in the midst of an insurance crisis. The insurance sector is experiencing one of the hardest markets in their history.
- Insurance payouts due to COVID, severe weather events and increased slip and fall litigation has caused many insurance companies to exit our sector, especially the snow business.
- Many members are experiencing increases of up to 600%. In some cases, insurance is not available at any price. Even our endorsed program with Marsh Canada, with over \$10 million in collective premiums, had difficulty finding an insurance company to underwrite the risk.
- Landscape Ontario's dealing with this in three main ways.
  - a. You, the members, successfully supported MPP Norm Miller's Private Member Bill 118. Which reduced the statute of limitations from two years to 60 days. This is a huge win and will eliminate many frivolous slip and fall claims. The bill has already had a positive impact, and it will take a number of years to really show results. MPP Miller told us that Bill 118 was successful because our members were actively supporting the bill at the local level. Grassroots politics and activism is important.
  - b. We're trying to get the government to

look at the New Hampshire model. In the New Hampshire model, contractors with green snow pro accreditation enjoy liability protection. We're asking the government to adopt that same idea.

- c. The third major initiative is a CSA Standard. We're supporting the efforts of a group of members trying to initiate a CSA Standard for snow and ice operations. Once a standard is established liability protection naturally occurs for contractors who can prove that they follow the standard.

## **2. COVID Task Force:**

- The task force has met over 160 times. At the beginning of COVID in March 2020, it provided the energy that resulted in having our profession declared essential.
- Since then, the committee has initiated the 'Don't Let Your Guard Down' Campaign, the Garden Makeover Program for frontline workers, the COVID Task Force resource website and many popular town hall meetings.
- Hopefully, the task force will be able to dissolve in the near future. The task force has gone way beyond the call of duty and will probably always hold the record for meetings held in a volunteer capacity.
- Thank you to Chair Alan White, Jeff Olsen, Jon Durzi, Dave Wright, Peter Guinane, Margot Byers, Terry Childs, Lindsey Ross and James Riddell. You've excelled!
- As part of the COVID Task Force Peter Guinane conceived of the idea to provide garden makeovers for frontline workers.
- The public was asked to nominate exemplary frontline workers and we received thousands of entries. 10 projects were chosen, one for each chapter and one provincial winner.
- Although the makeovers were supposed to be valued at \$5,000 each, typical of our members' generosity, most projects were worth many multiples of that amount.

## **3. Green Infrastructure Coalition:**

- I also want to talk about the Green

Infrastructure Coalition that Landscape Ontario is a founding member.

- The coalition was formed to advocate for the benefits of living green infrastructure at the government level.
- The coalition has been very successful. One of the most important documents produced is the Economic Impact Study of Green Infrastructure, you can find it on their [website](#).
- You will be surprised and impressed at the size of our sector and the future is bright!

#### **4. Highway of Heroes**

- This wonderful project has reached its goal of raising \$10 million to pay for the planting of 2 million trees to honour our Canadian Armed Forces members.
- By Remembrance Day this year, November 11, 2022, it is anticipated that all 2 million trees will be in the ground. Thank you to our fearless leader, Mark Cullen for leading this venture.

#### **5. Trees For Life**

- Based on the success of the Highway of Heroes campaign, the Highway of Heroes living tribute, under the inspirational leadership of Mark Cullen decided to use the experience, relationships and goodwill associated with the Highway of Heroes project to create a new national foundation called Canadian Trees for Life.
- The goal is to work with community tree organizations, local and regional governments and local businesses across Canada to realize the federal government's 2 billion tree program.
- We look forward to promoting urban tree cover across the country. This year we received \$2 million to start the process and we've planted hundreds of thousands of trees; and we've raised money in addition to go towards the 2 million tree program.

#### **6. Vineland**

- Landscape Ontario has long been a supporter of the mandate of Vineland Research and Innovation Center.
- We sponsored a permanent horticultural research chair position. It was one of the best things we have

ever done.

- Our small investment has been leveraged many times over. Dr. Darby McGrath is dedicated to enhancing the success of our sector.
- Dr. McGrath's newest initiative is called the Greening of the Landscape Research Consortium. Landscape Ontario is proud to be a charter member. The consortium includes many partners focused on building the collective capacity of the urban tree value chain.

#### **7. Canada Blooms**

- For over 25 years Canada Blooms Flower and Garden Festival has inspired millions of people. It has also elevated the entire profession.
- The pandemic has forced the show to take a break. However, we continue to keep the brand alive this year through the publication of a 25th anniversary magazine, a series of videos and also sending out regular e-news to over 30,000 people.
- We look forward to reviving the festival in 2023.

#### **8. Maple Leaves Forever**

- This group was formed by Ken Jewett. Ken's vision is to bring back native maples.
- The way it works is that anyone who plants a native maple from a certified nursery member, receives a subsidy.

#### **9. Labour Assessment for Nurseries**

- With the help of OMAFRA and the Landscape Ontario grower consultant Jeanine West, a number of resources were made available to growers related to alleviating the labour challenges. The resources can be found at [lolanursery.ca](http://lolanursery.ca).

#### **10. Box Tree Moth**

- Over the last number of years Landscape Ontario has been trying to control a local outbreak of the serious pest of boxwood in the Etobicoke area.
- There was an extensive program of scouting, door to door awareness activities and free spraying.
- Unfortunately, the pest has spread beyond Etobicoke and into the Niagara area.
- This resulted in the shutdown of all

exports to the USA which was something we were trying to avoid, but unfortunately couldn't.

- Growers have lost millions of dollars and Landscape Ontario is now working with CNLA, growers across Canada and the Canadian food inspection agency to develop control programs that would allow experts to continue.

#### **11. Congress**

- In 2021 we were not able to host Congress, because of the pandemic. Our Congress staff, under the leadership of Heather MacRae quickly shifted into hosting an online trade show and conference. We found that the virtual conferences can be successful because they are easy to access from anywhere.
- However, virtual trade shows are challenging because attendees will not sit for hours, moving from one virtual booth to another.
- The conference and awards programs were virtual and they were amazing.
- The cancelling of the trade show has devastated our staff who worked all year with the hope of hosting this show. At the last minute, we could not resist the tsunami of media attention on the Omicron variant.
- The government declared a lockdown and LO is refunding all exhibitors.
- We're looking forward to 2023!

#### **12. Neil Vanderkruk**

- LO created the Neil Vanderkruk Innovation and Scholarship Fund this year.
- His legacy will be recognized in a number of ways.
- Our goal is \$100K and we have raised over \$70K so far.
- Please consider donating to the Neil Vanderkruk scholarship fund.

#### **13. Staff Team**

- I am proud of our staff team!
- They are the best in the association world. They are passionate about serving the membership. They embrace the mission of Landscape Ontario.
- Communications:
  - Under Scott Barber's leadership, the team

embraces all forms of communication and telling the stories of our members, events programs and issues.

- Communication builds community!
- Landscape Trade magazine continues to be Canada's premier magazine. The redesign is aesthetically pleasing and the increased fonts makes it easier to read.
- Social Media efforts are second to none. We offer content in a way that is relevant to our readers.
- Workforce Development
  - Landscape Ontario has been very fortunate to receive a number of grants, aimed at finding solutions to our labour shortage. The grants were managed by Sally Harvey, Director of Workforce Development.
  - GROW Program: made up of three parts,
    1. New entrant training, where we attract new people to our profession and it provides six weeks of basic training before they are available to employers. Over the last two years, we have trained about 160 people that we've made available to our members.
    2. Supervisor and crew leader training, a program focused on developing crew leaders and supervisors. 85 individuals have completed the supervisory and crew leader training.
    3. Employer of Choice, which 71 members have taken the step towards the Employer of Choice program.

- Apprenticeship Program: the program will elevate the skills of your staff team at no cost to you if you use the government incentives. There are incentives for both you and your employees.

#### **14. One Bench One Tree**

- Landscape Ontario is proud to support the One Bench One Tree project.
- This project was conceived by the landscape architecture masters students at the University of Guelph.
- Their mission is to give back to frontline heroes, by offering a moment of rest in nature.
- Their goal is to add at least one bench and one tree to the landscape of hospitals across Canada because heroes need healing to.

#### **15. Growth**

- Landscape Ontario is pleased to report that we've enjoyed a record year of new members.
- This is due to several reasons including the CNLA affinity programs, difficulty in obtaining insurance except through membership and the work done to declare the industry as essential so our members could work during the pandemic.
- We look forward to welcoming these new members in the LO family!
- Dave Wright
  - 2021 marked the second term of President David Wright.
  - His theme for his presidency was legacy. Dave encouraged all members and staff to leave a positive legacy of benefit by focusing our efforts on enhancing lives, bringing people together, improving the landscape and developing relationships.
  - Dave has demonstrated calm and wise visionary leadership amidst huge challenges with respect to COVID, labour shortages and the insurance crisis.
  - His legacy is assured!
- The Future
  - In many ways the COVID pandemic has brought the profession into the spotlight.
  - The value of nature, parks, gardens, landscapes and green spaces has been rediscovered.
  - There has been a steady and increased

awareness of the economic, environmental, aesthetic, therapeutic, social, recreational and spiritual benefits of gardens, landscapes and green spaces.

- The future is bright!

c) Budgets & Finance Report

- A copy of the audited financial statement was distributed as part of the package that everybody had access to via the website.
  - [Link to the Audited Report](#)
- If you take a look at the audited financial statement you know we remain on very solid financial footing. Thanks to the efforts of all those who came before us.
- With the loss of Congress again this year, it looks very much like we may run the first deficit in over 30 years.
- However, there is a good solid plan to weather the storm as we have a rainy day fund for a reason.
- Motions:
  - **September, 2020 – August, 2021 Audited Financial Statement**

**MOTION: TO ACCEPT THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR SEPTEMBER, 2020 TO AUGUST, 2021**

Motion by: Lindsey Ross - Treasurer

Seconded by: Paul Brydges

Discussion: None.

Vote: None opposed.

Motion Carried

- **September, 2021 – August, 2022 Revised Budget**

**MOTION: TO ACCEPT THE REVISED BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR SEPTEMBER, 2021 to AUGUST, 2022**

Motion by: Lindsey Ross - Treasurer

Seconded by: Paul Doornbos

Discussion: None.

Vote: None opposed.

Motion Carried

- **September, 2022 – August, 2023 Proposed Budget**

**MOTION: TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR SEPTEMBER, 2021 to AUGUST, 2022**

Motion by: Lindsey Ross- Treasurer

Seconded By: Peter VanDerLey

Discussion: None.

Vote: None opposed.

Motion Carried

Lindsey Ross



- **Appointment of Auditors**

**MOTION: TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF SMITH, CHAPPELL, MARSH, VILANDER AS AUDITORS FOR SEPTEMBER, 2021 to AUGUST, 2022.**

Motion by: Lindsey Ross- Treasurer

Seconded By: Paul Brydges

Discussion: None.

Vote: None opposed.

Motion Carried.

- A note to congratulate Joe Sabatino for the work he has done. In the last two years, the auditors have not had to make a single edit to the books as submitted by Joe Sabatino.
- Congratulations on the great work you do for LO!

d) Annual Report Approval

- This year we distributed the Annual Report by email.
  - [Link to Annual Report](#)

**MOTION: TO APPROVE THE 2021 LANDSCAPE ONTARIO ANNUAL REPORT AS PRESENTED**

Motion by: Ed Hansen

Seconded by: Peter VanDerLey

Discussion: None.

Vote: None opposed.

Motion Carried.

Dave Wright

**9. 2022 Directors Positions & Representations**

- The Board of Directors of the association are appointed by the respective Chapters and Sector Groups. Out of this group the Board chooses their Executive. At the November meeting all positions were declared vacant and the board voted. Here are the results of the election:

Past President: Dave Wright

President: Lindsay Drake Nightingale

1st Vice President: Ed Hansen

2nd Vice President: Lindsey Ross

Treasurer: Jeff Olsen

- The Chapter and Sector Groups appoint their own representatives. Here are the new representatives for 2022

Dave Wright

Chapter Board Representatives 2022  
Durham - Christopher Muller  
Georgian Lakelands - Margot Byers  
Golden Horseshoe - Tim Cruickshanks/Fran Mackenzie  
London - Pam Cook  
Ottawa - Steve Neuman  
Toronto - Pamela Cooze  
Upper Canada - Terry Childs  
Waterloo - Jason Dietrich  
Windsor - Liana Desmaris

Sector Group Representatives 2022  
Designers - Beth Edney  
Garden Centres - Michael Van Dongen  
Grounds Management - Brad Paton  
Growers - Nick Winkelmolten  
Irrigation - Steve Macartney  
Landscape Contractors - Peter Guinane  
Lighting - Jamie Riddell  
Snow & Ice - Jon Agg  
Turfgrass Management - Alan White

a) New President Address to the Members

- Thank you! I'd like to thank those Presidents that have come before me, and more recently Dave Wright, Warren Patterson and Paul Brydges.
- As their humility, leadership and diligence to the wider membership, staff of Landscape Ontario and the Board of Directors are great inspirations for the foundation of our future.
- With that solid foundation, I will try to honor those before me as we continue to grow stronger.
- Thank you to the new Board of Directors and the membership for your trust. My presidential theme for the next two years is defining the future.
- COVID, labour shortages, insurance, Truth and Reconciliation, climate change and diversity are all leaving a strong impression on Landscape Ontario and our membership.
- How will we propel our profession into the future? How will we dismantle barriers, become innovative, break down ignorance, promote horticulture and enhance our world.
- As a unified membership, we can all work towards defining our future. I really look forward to seeing everybody in person soon.
- I look forward to the next meeting, where we can gather, discuss and network and be part of a great membership.

Lindsay Drake Nightingale

b) Election of 2 Members-at-Large to serve on the Provincial Board of Directors

- All positions on the Board of Directors are appointed by the Chapters and Sector Groups except for 2 Members at Large positions which are voted on at the AGM. Last year the Members at Large were Blake Tubby and Jeff Olsen.
- The purpose of the positions is to allow for two individuals to serve on the Board of Directors without having to go through the Chapters and Sector Groups.
- I now declare the two positions vacant and ask for nominations from the floor. Candidates must be "Active" members of the Association.
- Point of order - Past President, Warren Patterson is not present, therefore, Dave Wright will run Member At-Large elections.
- I now open the floor to nominations.

**MOTION:** I nominate Blake Tubby for Member at Large

Motion by: Paul Doornbos

Seconded by: Lindsey Ross

Discussion: None

Accepted by Blake Tubby

**MOTION:** I nominate David Milne for Member at Large

Motion by: Jon Durzi

Seconded by: Matt Govve

Discussion: None

Accepted by David Milne

**MOTION:** I nominate Jon Durzi for Member at Large

Motion by: Jon Agg

Seconded by: James Riddell

Discussion:

Accepted by Jon Durzi

Dave Wright: Is Jon Durzi eligible to be a member at large?

Tony DiGiovanni: He is not able to be in this forum, but he would be able to be considered as a representative of a sector or chapter group

Dave Wright: The nomination of Jon Durzi is void.

Nominations are acclaimed.

Dave Wright

<p>David Milne: Very honoured. 44 years in the industry and working with the Toronto Board has also been an honour. At a point in his career where giving back is the best thing he can do. The industry has given him a great life and he just wants to be able to give back.</p> <p>Blake Tubby: Thankful for being elected again as Member At Large. His tenure has been lengthy but well served. He serves on a lot of subcommittees lending advice and his experience. He looks forward to further servicing the profession and members.</p> <p>c) Indemnify of Board of Directors 2020-2021  <b>MOTION TO INDEMNIFY ALL ACTIONS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR SEPTEMBER, 2021 TO AUGUST, 2022:</b>  Motion by: Beth Edney  Seconded by: Margot Byers  Discussion: None.  Vote: None opposed.  Motion Carried.</p>	<p>Dave Wright</p>
<p>10. New Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Paul Brydges: Reason for raising new business is in regards to the opening of the Awards of Excellence on February 3, 2022.</li> <li>● The show was absolutely astounding as always and great to see the work of all our members.</li> <li>● He and other members as well, have concerns about opening the awards ceremony with the land acknowledgement.</li> <li>● There was no vote or discussion put before the Board of Directors to approve that direction being taken.</li> <li>● Land acknowledgements have been an ongoing discussion at CNLA for almost four years as well as continued discussion at Landscape Ontario among the Social Awareness and Ethics Committee.</li> <li>● However, there was nothing ever brought before the Board to let members know that LO would be speaking on their behalf by doing a land acknowledgement and speaking on a political item.</li> <li>● The question is: how could something such as this get put out to the public and the world at large in our membership without members being made aware that something like this is being put forth on their behalf.</li> <li>● Dave Wright: There have been conversations with people on the Board and LO leadership, that a mistake has been made. We're hoping this doesn't happen again as things like this should go through the Board because it is a procedural issue.</li> </ul>	<p>Dave Wright</p>

- Any political statements like that need to be reviewed by the Board before being made public.
- Paul Brydges: As this meeting is being recorded, then that will be reflected in the minutes that it was an error and as such, until being put before the Board to be fully discussed and voted on, that will not occur again.
- Ed Hansen: Is the land acknowledgement being argued, or the process?
- Jon Durzi: Asked the same question as Ed Hansen.
- Ed Hansen: As this is being recorded, I'd like it on record as to what you are arguing.
- Paul Brydges: I'll put it on record that I am not in favour of a land acknowledgement being done, at any time, by Landscape Ontario on any format or any venture as a political statement from a trade association.
- However, this is about the process not being followed on something that is obviously controversial and opens our association up for some amount of risk.
- Terry Childs: It was not a land acknowledgement, it was a thank you to the First Peoples for their stewardship of the land we are attempting to steward now.
- There was never any acknowledgement of unceded territories or anything else.
- Paul Brydges: Trying to keep this about process as this is obviously something we know will create controversy, not only at the provincial level but national as well.
- There are some members that are not interested in having Landscape Ontario represent them in something that does not pertain to horticulture.

Suggested motion brought by Tony DiGiovanni: Potentially controversial or political statements must go to the Board for debate and ratification, prior to being presented to the public.

Moved by: Paul Brydges

Seconded by: Beth Edney

Discussion:

- What is the definition of 'potentially political'.
- How will and who will define 'controversial'.
- Should every statement LO produces be clarified by the Board.
- Jon Agg: Land acknowledgments are a norm to

much of our society. Being honest, I'm shocked with the apology.

- I appreciate that this has caught some people off guard, but sometimes people need to be caught off guard.
- The fact that we are now apologizing for that is shocking and that is almost more of a political statement.
  
- Dave Wright: The apology was for a procedural error.
  
- Jon Agg: Once the first motion is done, I'd like to bring a second motion to then decide if LO should be doing land acknowledgements or not. Because this is going to keep on going, and we need to stand up for something at this point.
  
- Suggestions from the chat function that this conversation should be handled at the Board level.
- This is a Board motion and not an AGM motion.
  
- Tony DiGiovanni: So generally what happens at an AGM, is members have the right to speak about issues to the Board.
- Traditionally, any issues that are brought up at an AGM goes to the Board for discussion and then it comes back to the members; that's how it works procedurally.
- So there's an issue being brought up, whether or not to do land acknowledgements; that is a recommendation to the Board to discuss and then after the Board discusses it and votes on it, it comes back to the membership.
- It would have to come up next year at the AGM as 'Business Arising' but the Board could choose to bring it up as soon as they have decided.
  
- Jon Agg: This is delaying the decision.
  
- Tony DiGiovanni: This is not delaying the decision. It is the opportunity to give the Board of Directors - who the members have given responsibility - time to discuss it at the board level and make a decision.
- This would be doing it in a responsible way.
  
- Jon Agg: Is there a way to have an informal, off the record vote?
  
- Tony DiGiovanni: The issue is complex and emotional. There is contemplation that is needed.
- This is why it should be done at the board level with a lot of contemplation and discussion. This is the way it has always been done as the AGM is a place for members to direct their elected Board of

Directors.

- It is the Board that needs to be talking about this in a sober way and reporting back.
- Points from the chat function that a motion is still open on the floor.
- Gerald Boot: It is very dangerous to make a decision on a controversial issue at an AGM. My suggestion is that we move that this item goes to the Board for discussion and that the Board makes a decision on this and then takes this back to the next AGM.
- Ed Hansen: We appreciate that Paul Brydges brought forth the issue of process, and I agree that process should be followed and I don't think anyone wants to do otherwise.
- It makes sense to raise this at the Board level, however, I am not sure after the Board decides/votes, where it will go from there.
- I am comfortable with it being a Board item and not an AGM item.
- Paul Doornbos: Whoever made the motion has the opportunity to withdraw.
- Paul Brydges: I can withdraw the motion, so it goes to the Board, so long as it's reflected in the minutes.
- Jon Agg: I will withdraw as well if we are actually going to discuss this at the Board meeting today (02/08/2022).
- Dave Wright: We will discuss this matter at the Board meeting today (02/08/2022).
- A call to attending members for any new business remaining.
- Rohan Harrison: Since this is the last meeting for it may be appropriate for the general membership to say thank you to Tony DiGiovanni for a job well done over the past 32 years.
- The membership appreciates all you did to position Landscape Ontario where it is today. May the good Lord bless you always.
- Tony DiGiovanni: Thank you to Rohan and all the members. However, I will be here until September, 2022.
- For the last several years, the Board has asked me to create a succession plan. Last year, the plan was executed by naming Joe Salemi, Deputy Executive Director.
- The process has been seamless. Joe Salemi has the right values, passion, diplomacy and ownership.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● He's been a wonderful Deputy Executive Director.</li></ul>	
11. Announcements February 15 - LO Plant Symposium February 23 - Running a business during inflationary times February 24 - Landscape Lighting Virtual Town Hall	Dave Wright
12. Meeting Adjourned at 12:27 pm	Dave Wright