



# Canadian Organic Growers

*Canadian Organic Growers Inc. is Canada's national membership-based education and networking organization representing farmers, gardeners and consumers in all provinces*

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## **Annual General Meeting** **January 24, 2003 - Guelph, Ontario**

Chairperson Janine Gibson. Welcome and call to order.  
Everyone introduced himself or herself.

**Present:** Janine Gibson, Jean Burbidge, Marion Marcus, Gudela Tailhe, Katrina Simmons (Wentworth-Burlington), Gordon Usipiuk (South Island Organic Producers Association), Doug Bone (Saskatchewan Organic Directorate), Arnold Taylor (SOD), Debbie Miller (Sask.), Allan Webber (Alberta), Connie Kehler (Sask.) Don Singer (Ont.), Gerard Daechsel (Ottawa), Paul Bousfield (W-B), Loic Dewavrin (Quebec), Eleanor Heise (PEC), Jean Arnold (N.B.), Diane Baltaz (Perth-Waterloo-Wellington), Anne Slater (Ont.), Andrea Berry (N.B.), Susan Feryn-Perkin (PWW), Larry Maughn (PWW), Ralph Martin (OACC), Michael L.P. Tremblay (Essex-Kent), Anne Macey (Island Natural Producers), Theresa Schumilas (PWW), Marina S. Buchan (Alta.) Jean-Claude Rey (PWW), Tom Manley (Ottawa), Achim Mohssen-Beyck (PEC), Becky Lipton, Paula Anderson (Kawartha), Diane Hurst (PWW)

**\*Moved by Anne Macey and seconded by Theresa Schumilas to adopt the agenda as amended. Carried.**

**\*Marina Buchan moved that the minutes of the 2002 AGM be approved. Seconded by Jean Arnold. Carried.**

### **Chapter or Area Reports:**

*Wentworth-Burlington, Katrina Simmons*

*Ottawa, Gerard Daechsel and Tom Manley (coglist)*

*Perth-Waterloo-Wellington, Jean-Claude Rey and Diane Hurst*

*Essex-Kent, Mike Tremblay*

*South Island Organic Producers Association, Gordon Usipiuk*

*Kawartha, Paula Anderson*

*New Brunswick, Jean Arnold who introduced Andrea Berry COG's membership coordinator/office manager who works at the COG Administration centre at Falls Brooke Centre in Knowlesville, NB*

*Quebec, Loic Dewavrin*

*Manitoba (Organic Food Council of Manitoba), Janine Gibson*

*Saskatchewan Organic Directorate, Arnold Taylor who reported on their SOD Monsanto Campaign*

**\*Eleanor Heise moved that COG renew its support of SOD in their campaign. Seconded by Mike Tremblay. Carried.**

*Alberta, Marina Buchan who reported that the Organic Producers Association are considering becoming a chapter of COG*



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*Prince Edward County, Achim Mohssen-Beyck  
Island Natural Growers, Marion (Max) Marcus*

## **Executive Reports:**

*President's Report -Janine Gibson*

*Vice President's Report- Marina Buchan*

*Treasurer's Report- Marion Marcus (see separate section 'Reports')*

*Secretary's Report-Jean Burbidge (see separate section 'Reports')*

*Membership Coordinator's Report- Andrea Berry (see separate)*

## **Financial Planning:**

\***Tom Manley** brought a proposal to the floor that "attempts to establish and internal cash flow for COG to finance core expenses.... and replace the 15% admin fee". After much discussion he **moved:**

- **That the current 15% admin fee be replaced by this proposal.**
- **That the COG National financial report be organized by profit center.**
- **That admin, support, accounting, and other services delivered by the central staff explicitly to the profit centers be charged to the budget of the profit centers, projects and chapters.**
- **That the treasurer then calculate the remaining core costs that cannot be charged out, report them as general overhead and determine their percentage relative the total COG gross revenues of all sources, projects, and chapters.**
- **That, for the sake of definition, this percentage be called "contribution" to the general overhead.**
- **That this contribution be charged to all internal profit centers, projects, lines of business, etc.**
- **That all chapters pay this contribution to National, calculated as the determined percentage of their gross revenues from all cash sources including membership revenues, grants, donations, sponsorships, sales of merchandise, etc.**

**Seconded by Larry Maughn. Carried.**

It is understood that the present arrangement will remain in place until this proposal can be implemented.

## **Budget-Marion Marcus:**

- 1) a 6 month report will be available by the end of February (budget and actuals), produced by Joan Scarrow and presented by Marion Marcus;
- 2) Marion will ensure that the finance committee (Janine Gibson, Theresa Schumilas, Jean Arnold) see the actuals as they come out;
- 3) Marion will present a quarterly report to the finance committee Eleanor Heise thanked Marion for her work.  
Janine called for finance committee members.



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**\*Janine Gibson moved that the COG time at Falls Brooke Centre be increased from 16 to 24 hours per week. Seconded by Theresa Schumilas. Carried.**

COG extends an official thanks you to Falls Brooke Centre, Jean Arnold and Andrea Berry for assuming the responsibility of the COG Administration Centre. Jean Arnold pointed out that COG should consider having the bookkeeper near the Admin. Centre for future efficiency. Theresa Schumilas suggested COG Office be referred to as the COG administrative Centre to allow for diversity in the organization.

## **Funding Initiatives:**

Eleanor Heise reported that the Core Proposal is at McConnell Foundation being considered at the present. If it is turned down she will revamp the proposal and keep sending it out to other funders. Thank you Eleanor.

**\*Moved by Eleanor Heise and seconded by Marina Buchan that COG invites members, in the next issue of EFG, to come forward with ideas to develop national project proposals that fall within COG's strategic directions. Carried.**

Marina Buchan read the slate of officers elect for 2003: Janine Gibson, Marina Buchan, Marion Marcus, Joanne Warren, Theresa Schumilas, Julie Belzile, Debbie Miller, Jean Arnold, Loic Dewavrin and Phil Ferraro.

**\*Eleanor Heise moved they be accepted, seconded by Janine Gibson. Carried.**  
Eleanor thanked Marina B. for all her work and Jean B. for assisting.

## **Strategic Planning Report - Theresa Schumilas:**

Several areas identified for attention:

- 1) marketing of COG as an organization
- 2) chapter/COG relationship as a partnership
- 3) long term vision for staffing
- 4) fundraising- need an enthusiastic committee and chair
- 5) partnerships with other organizations
- 6) effects if transition re financials

Janine thanked Theresa for her leadership and work in this area.

## **Team/Committee Reports:**

*Eco Farm and Garden* - Janet Wallace read by Katrina Simmons (separate).

Thank you to Janet for the high quality of the magazine and for her work in making it so.

*IFOAM* - Anne Macey. (separate)

*Membership*- no report, we need an enthusiastic committee and chair

*Website*- Theresa Schumilas (separate) Thank you to Ilana Winter for her work.

*Library*- discussed ways to increase use e.g. publish list to reach farmers, growers consumers. Janine will call Leanne McCormick, our librarian to discuss some of the ideas.

*Canadian National Organic Coalition/Organic Trade Association Liaisons* - Janine Gibson reported on her work with these two organizations.



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*Printed Resources* - Eleanor Heise reported on the status of the COG books and noted that Rodale is handling COG publications and said that "COG is an organization of the highest integrity".

*Statistics* - Anne Macey gather info from certifying boards and makes it available in EFG. Discussed possible ways to recoup some costs when other organizations use these.

*Mary Perlmutter Scholarship* - no report Janine will ask Gord Hawkes to forward info to EFG for publication.

*Projects Committee* - Theresa Schumilas reported the committee was revitalized. She asked for a committee to up-date by-laws.

*Q&A Team* - Phil Ferraro. Problem with unwanted email. Experts always needed to help with questions.

*Organic Agriculture Centre for Canada* - Janine thanked Ralph for all his work on the Board.

## **New Business:**

*Policy Manual Development* - Theresa Schumilas will confirm COG's Charitable status policy re Board members working at paid jobs for the the organization.

*Membership/Chapter Needs Assessment /Review* - Janine wants feedback on needs of members and the meeting discussed ways of doing this.

*Farmland Trust* - Gerard Daechsel announce workshop on this topic and Jean Arnold will attend and bring info back to COG Board.

*Support for International Organic Policy* - Jean Arnold announced the International Day held Jan. 23, 2003 at Guelph was the impetus for a draft of an "International Organic Policy" and the need to fight the GMO impact on the developing world.

**\*Moved by Anne Macey and seconded by Katrina Simmons that the meeting adjourn. Carried.**