

**Okanagan Xeriscape Association
President's Report
AGM October 11, 2023**

2023 has been a time of growth and change for OXA and we're glad you all were along for the ride! We also have been able to return to normal activities post pandemic and look forward to that continuation.

Here are some of the highlights:

We want to acknowledge the efforts of Judie Steeves in her role as president for many years and the valuable contributions she has made. At the 2022 AGM she stepped down from her role as President and is now serving as a director. Joan Byrne was appointed in her place. Sharon Spring was appointed as Vice President.

At the beginning of the year, we hosted a workshop for landscape industry professionals that included informative and interesting speakers who presented on climate resilience and how to think differently about our landscapes in the face of climate change and water restrictions. It was well received and attended with a sold out crowd. Well done all!

Our executive director, Sigrie, continued writing her column for Castanet which has been very well received and has generated even more interest in Xeriscape gardening and principles. Our social media posts have increased, thanks to the efforts of Sharon Spring. There are now even more likes and comments with engagement at an all time high. We also saw an overall increase in membership once again. The OXA website and plant database keeps growing views and has now become the go to for anyone needing information on xeriscape and xeriscape and native plants.

Once again, OXA continued working with the Make Water Work outreach program at various garden centres and events throughout the Okanagan Valley. This has had a beneficial impact on our public

presence and educational efforts to get the message across about purposeful and intentional water use.

We were able to once again host in person workshops and saw good attendance at these events. All good signs for future engagement with the public and inspires our continued efforts in hosting future events.

Fundraising efforts through the spring and fall plant sales have boosted our revenues and broken old records. Definitely plan on more of the same this coming year.

We are so very proud of this garden and the West Kelowna garden. They just keep getting better and better every year. Wouldn't you agree? Sigrie and her helper Brad Parks, who was hired on again this year, along with a dedicated crew of volunteers, have kept them looking the very best in the city.

Joan Byrne
President