

BCHGA Annual General Meeting Agenda 2024/2025

1. Call to Order
2. Establish Quorum
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Adoption of Previous Annual General Meeting Minutes – January 24, 2025
5. Presidents Report
6. Membership Report
7. Treasurer's Report
8. Resolution #1 – Amendment to Bylaws - Two Year Term for Directors
9. Resolution #2 – Amendment to Bylaws - Addition of a Voluntary Levy
10. Nominations Report
11. Election of Directors
12. Presentation on Industry Production and Market Update
13. General Business
14. Adjournment

BC Hazelnut Growers Association – 2023/24 AGM Summary

Quorum & Agenda

- Quorum established.
 - Agenda adopted (moved by Steve, seconded by Cornell).
 - Previous AGM minutes approved (moved by Peter, seconded by Brian). One question raised regarding participation in an initiative to be addressed later in the meeting.
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President's Report

Delivered by Charles. Key points:

- Industry moving from infancy to adolescence with increasing production.
 - Board focus over the past year: marketing and industry awareness.
 - Key initiatives:
 - Participation in trade shows.
 - Social media marketing campaign (ongoing).
 - Launch of consumer-facing website: bchazelnuts.ca.
 - BuyBC-funded signage and promotional materials.
 - Association merchandise (hats, shirts).
 - Continued grower support through orchard management events (pruning, irrigation workshops linked to UBC research).
 - Noted strong cooperation among growers as an industry strength.
 - Merchandise available by donation to cover costs.
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Membership Report

Delivered by Sue.

- 49 members in good standing (up from 20 two years ago).
 - 12 members not in good standing (likely exiting industry).
 - New membership portal implemented and functioning well.
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Financial Report

Delivered by Sue.

- Healthy opening bank balance.
- Major new expense: social media marketing (~\$1,000/month).
- BuyBC promotional expenses will be 70% reimbursed next fiscal year.
- KTTP event support funding also expected next fiscal year.
- Events generally break even with sponsorship + grants + fees.
- Future financial pressure anticipated due to:
 - Marketing costs
 - Wages
- Expectation that cash reserves will decrease and revenue diversification (e.g., levies) may be needed in coming years.
- Financial questions addressed on:
 - Directors' liability insurance (included)
 - Levies vs. membership fees
 - Cash forecasts (~\$52K currently; projected ~\$24K next year)
 - Government funding flows (some in/out next fiscal year)

Discussion items:

- Greg suggested revisiting levies as revenue source.
- Concerns about voluntary levy enforcement raised (Peter).
- Possible future shift to levy-only model discussed but not implemented.
- Year ahead expected lean for agriculture funding, but ministry outlook supportive.

Budget Adoption

- Budget for next year adopted after discussion (motion by Steve & Craig).

Bylaw Resolution Discussion

Proposal: Introduce corporate membership category with up to 3 votes and expanded eligibility (including associate members without voting rights).

Discussion highlights:

- Questions about voting fairness & fee structure.
- Concerns about clarity, legal wording, and decision-making process.
- Suggestions for lawyer review and clearer definitions.
- Confusion about applicability to couples vs. multi-family farms.
- Amendment attempt raised procedural issues.

- General consensus that wording needs refinement.

Outcome:

- Motion passed to shelve the resolution until next year for review and redrafting.

Board Elections

- One director (Ray Pedersen) stepped down.
- Other directors re-offered.
- Stuart Muxlow (Chilliwack) nominated and acclaimed to the board.
- Discussion raised about geographic representation (Interior/Okanagan/Kootenays).
- Suggestion to proactively recruit regionally prior to AGM.
- Haley confirmed intention to stand again and emphasized outreach importance.

Industry Production & Market Update

Shared by Steve (summarized by Charles for those absent):

- Strong production year and continued growth expected.
- Fraser Valley Hazelnuts (FVH) processing ~85% of volume; committed to scaling and supplying local markets.
- Multiple sales pathways available (farmgate, value-added).
- Positive market outlook with high consumer interest in BC/Canadian-grown products.
- Trade uncertainty with US creates incentive to grow domestic & interprovincial markets.
- Question raised about processor prices: approx. \$1.11–\$1.09/lb, plus bonuses.
- Discussion of regulatory barriers to interprovincial sales (BC → Alberta) and ongoing government communication noted.

Adjournment

- No additional comments.
- Motion to adjourn passed.
- Meeting adjourned.

President's Report

2025

Dear BCHGA members,

Similar to the previous year, our focus remains on increasing consumer awareness of locally grown BC hazelnuts. In this current time, pushing local products, where supply chains are visible and known, resonates with people. To achieve this, we have continued with a number of activities:

- Social media marketing campaign, which carried to the end of the year
- Received BuyBC funding for various promotional activities, one of which included six “tasty” style videos for different hazelnut recipes from our website.
- Hosted a booth in both the Pacific and Island AG shows
- Paid for new signage for our members to display near their orchards
- Hosted irrigation Webinars and Field Day (webinars are on the BCHGA website)
- Hosted an Agrologist Field Day
- Donated to Fresh for Less
- Ongoing hazelnut research: KPU Alley cropping, Living Labs Cover Cropping and Amendments and UBC Irrigation

Another emphasis our association has is grower support. This past year we hosted our annual mainland and island field days, as well as a pruning workshop over winter. We know that these events are an excellent opportunity for growers to connect, share ideas and feel reassured they are not farming in isolation. A particular highlight from the mainland field day was the tree removal demonstration. This was a timely and important presentation, as many growers were thinking about how to effectively remove their double density plantings.

This past year we also worked through another opportunity assessment with Chris Bodnar. Our last opportunity assessment was completed in 2020 and it was time for a renewal. Many of you participated in the grower survey, which helped guide and inform the updated assessment. This assessment will help direct our industry as it matures. We anticipate the final copy will be released early this year.

As we look forward, our focus is unchanging: we will continue to support growers in our industry through field day events and other demonstrations. We will also creatively strategize effective ways to bring more growers into our industry and continue to promote hazelnuts in BC.

Thank you once again for making this industry what it is and caring to be involved. It wouldn't exist without your support. I also want to acknowledge the support and dedication of our board and executive director. They are an excellent group of people who are passionate about seeing our industry thrive and continuously improve.

Charles Dick
President, BC Hazelnut Growers Association

Membership Report 2024/25

Membership to the BCHGA runs on an annual basis from the date of signup or renewal. Membership fees provide our baseline operating budget; members support us in supporting them. Our current membership fees are \$100/year. Our success depends upon your participation and support.

- We have two types of members:
 - Members In Good Standing whose dues are up to date, and
 - Members Not in Good Standing who have failed to pay their membership dues for the current year. Members Not in Good Standing cease to be members of the association after 12 consecutive months of outstanding dues.
- We have 52 Members In Good Standing (up 5% from last year)
- We have 5 Members Not In Good Standing
- Our total membership is 57

BC HAZELNUT GROWERS ASSOCIATION

NOVEMBER 1, 2024 TO OCTOBER 31, 2025

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

NOVEMBER 1, 2024 - BEGINNING CASH: \$ 52,711.21

FUNDS RECEIVED:

<i>BCHGA Memberships</i>	5,572.65	
<i>Funding</i>	9,999.85	
<i>Field Day Sponsorship</i>	4,618.86	
<i>Interest</i>	1,581.99	21,773.35

FUNDS PAID OUT:

<i>AGM & Field Day Expenses</i>	6,390.96	
<i>BC Agriculture Council</i>	1,110.90	
<i>Research Trial</i>	4,820.00	
<i>Advertising</i>	18,004.66	
<i>Insurance</i>	1,535.00	
<i>Miscellaneous</i>	551.18	
<i>Program Coordinator</i>	13,280.00	
<i>Website</i>	4,729.62	(50,422.32)

OCTOBER 31, 2025 ENDING CASH: \$ 24,062.24

SUMMARY OF BANK ACCOUNTS:

<i>Savings Cdn \$</i>	703.73	
<i>Chequing Cdn \$</i>	21,736.08	
<i>Equity Shares Cdn \$</i>	132.50	
<i>Savings US \$</i>	1,489.93	
<i>Term Deposit #2 Cdn \$</i>	-	
		\$ 24,062.24

RESOLUTION #1 - AMENDMENT TO THE BYLAWS

Regarding Director Term

WHEREAS the current bylaws of the Society state that:

(2) A director so appointed holds office only until the conclusion of the next annual general meeting of the society, but is eligible for re-election at the meeting.”

AND WHEREAS the Society wishes to amend the bylaws to provide for two-year terms for directors and to establish staggered terms to ensure continuity on the Board;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the bylaws be amended by deleting the existing subsection (2) and replacing it with the following:

(2) A director so appointed holds office for a two-year term and shall hold office until the close of the second Annual General Meeting following their election, but is eligible for re-election at the meeting. Terms shall be staggered to ensure continuity of the board.”

RESOLUTION #2 - AMENDMENT TO THE BYLAWS

Regarding Implementation of a Voluntary Levy and Associated Annual Reporting Provisions

WHEREAS the Association wishes to establish a voluntary levy mechanism to support industry development activities for the benefit of hazelnut growers;

AND WHEREAS the Association further wishes to establish annual reporting requirements to ensure transparency in the administration of the voluntary levy;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the bylaws of the Association be amended by adding the following clauses:

Voluntary levy

2 (1) A voluntary levy of 0.8¢ per pound of hazelnuts may be paid by a hazelnut grower to the association for the purposes of supporting industry development activities.

(2) A hazelnut grower who elects to participate may authorize payment of the levy to the association through the first receiver at the time the hazelnuts are delivered to the first receiver.

(3) Where authorized by the hazelnut grower, the first receiver may

(a) deduct the levy from the proceeds otherwise payable to the hazelnut grower for the delivered hazelnuts, and

(b) remit the amount collected to the association, less any collection fees agreed upon between the first receiver and the association.

(4) Participation in the voluntary levy is optional, and no hazelnut grower is required to pay the levy as a condition of selling hazelnuts.

(5) A hazelnut grower participating in the levy shall submit the grower's name and address with the payment.

(6) The association shall retain names and addresses received under subsection (5) for a period of 2 years.

Annual report

3 The association shall, annually, on or before January 31, prepare and make available to its members:

(a) an annual report of its activities, including a financial statement of revenues and expenditures related to the voluntary levy, and

(b) a summary of levy participation for the year ending the previous October 31.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors be authorized to take any necessary steps to implement and administer the voluntary levy, including agreements with first receivers for collection and remittance.