# Process

I apologize for my sporadic communication and work on website. It has been a challenging past year between family issues and an internship. I had a pocket of time between contracts in early year and revisited the website.

**2024**

* I did a horticultural audit March 18th to see what other horticultural societies were using to host their websites. I sent to Rick and Anna for feedback.
* Anna sent me a PDF of possible website branding (colours and layout) and went through and picked the sites that she responded to from the audit. Most of these sites were responsive and used software (pagebuilders) like Wix or Wordpress.
* You must pay for Wix and while Wordpress has free templates, WP can be buggy and is more technical. As it might make it harder for other volunteers to update the site, I researched other possibilities.

**2025**

* In January, I asked Anna to look at the list once more and pick 5 sites and I studied them and analysed the DHES site architecture and content.
* I then looked at some free w3.css templates that were responsive.
* I chose one that was “mobile-first” and over a busy two weeks, migrated all the content (website and some content from newsletters and forms). Kudos to Rick and the team who works on the newsletter, as the clear, bilingual information facilitated the process.
* I tested the site on various screen sizes (desktop, tablet and mobile) for look and feel and accessibility and sent to Anna. We met briefly so that I could explain how the site works (as I was going to travel to Sudbury).

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| **Responsive Web Design** – The approach that suggests that design and development should respond to the user’s behavior and environment based on screen size, platform and orientation.  <https://www.smashingmagazine.com/2011/01/guidelines-for-responsive-web-design/>  **Mobile-first Design** – A mobile-first approach encouraged designers to begin the website designing process for the smallest devices first and then add more functionalities for bigger screen sizes.  Mobile-first design simplifies interfaces, prioritizes essential content, and enhances readability with legible fonts and high contrast, making it easier for users with disabilities to navigate and interact. Touch-friendly elements like larger buttons improve accessibility for those with motor impairments.  <https://www.browserstack.com/guide/how-to-implement-mobile-first-design> |

## Importance of responsive site

As more and more people navigate sites on their phones and tables, responsive sites can be adjusted for many screen sizes and behaviours. Responsive sites are also better indexed by Google. Using a “mobile-first” template helps simplify content and layout (bigger buttons, lists, bigger text) and are more accessible.

Updating  
I put in a good 50+ hours of volunteer work on the website building already, so I do not have the time capacity to do major updates to the template, just content updates. Plus, the more you edit a template, the more bugs come up!

I would like to meet with Alexandra (who will be the next webmaster?) and see how comfortable she is with updating the site. I could help with the transition if needed; explain the logic. Though the HTML code looks tricky, once the site is documented, it is easy to see which sections you need to update by hand in the code.

If she wants to take the site as a stepping stone, and design something else, I am happy to pass things over. I am proud of what I did, and it at least gives you an idea of a responsive site. But I am not attached to it if she wants to take it over. You might want to pay and use Wix etc. Websites are evolving mediums.

I suggest you launch it and see how it grows with your activities. I could do the edits with Alexandra in the beginning if she wants. This way we could document how many hours it takes to do weekly edits. For the credit card information, she as the webmaster can be the contact Rick for SSL, domain name?

French  
All of the FR content should be reviewed page by page for errors or better formulations?

# Tour of site

Site architecture

<https://cuckoografik.org/dorval/>

Simplified EN/FR page to match newsletter logo/new website logo. This can be re-designed. The EN/FR pages are now separated in folders.

[https://cuckoografik.org/dorval/en](https://cuckoografik.org/dorval/en/)

<https://cuckoografik.org/dorval/fr>

## Homepage

<https://cuckoografik.org/dorval/en/index.html>

It is important to have a main top navigation that is short and concise (which is why I made the About section which scrolls down).

I suggest that all the image banners be the same in EN/FR. I put many so that you can pick 6 banners out of these. Of course, you can change these with the seasons.

If you click on the title on the top banner, a pop-up window opens. As people might miss it, I would not put information in there that is not elsewhere on the site. I thought constitution and brochure made sense – both promote DHES.

The four flower buttons on top and the three sections in the middle can be different content. This is merely a suggestion. Perhaps you can start with this and change as needed?

The Contact us is no longer a page but simply a section in the footer at the bottom of each page.

This menu item (as well as History) are examples of linking to an #anchor on an existing page.

The bottom image could show the evolution of the Pollinator Garden (there is a slight desaturated filter that could be removed). This came with the template. If you do not want it, we can take out.

The teal plus sign is a pop-up menu on mobile (that closes with the X). The Hamburger (top right) is another navigation option on mobile.

## About

<https://cuckoografik.org/dorval/en/about.html>

We can make this a 2-column page if the width is too wide for reading.

History is at the bottom of the page. This content could be updated (current Dorval mayor, pollinator garden, etc.) We could also add images to make it more interesting.

## Executive Committee

<https://cuckoografik.org/dorval/en/executive.html>

We could add a team photo of the executive and add more content (request for new members, etc.)

## Membership

<https://cuckoografik.org/dorval/en/membership.html>

I thought this warranted a separate page.

## Events

<https://cuckoografik.org/dorval/en/events.html>

I suggest putting at least a year of past events because that gives new members an idea of what the year looks like and what sort of activities you plan (and entice them to become members!) You can then link to presentations or photo galleries.

Because you are already developing this content for the newsletter, it is just repurposing the information for the web.

## News

<https://cuckoografik.org/dorval/en/news.html>

I added the full archive of newsletters because it is the history of your society (for new members). There are also many great tips and information.

The useful information at bottom could be updated with new content? Perhaps some of you can do a content audit to determine if the information is still timely? For instance, you can take down PDFs and links with no author or date.

## Gallery

<https://cuckoografik.org/dorval/en/gallery.html>

This is also a great archive page that gives an idea of the society’s activities over the years. Kudos to Rick for hosting the images on another platform. It is time-consuming to add photos manually to a site. This way you are just linking out to your galleries.

## Demonstration Pollinator Garden

<https://cuckoografik.org/dorval/en/native-plants.html>

As you have ready to use content in the newsletters, you may choose to make a HTML version sometimes. This is a 2-column example.