

Meeting Minutes - Russell & District Horticultural Society

April 21, 2025 7-9 pm

Marionville Community Centre

Flower Show set up.

Grace Stapper, President, welcomed all members and guests in attendance. 39 total (Easter Monday)

Acceptance of minutes from March 17th, 2025 meeting. Moved by Linda DuHamel and seconded by Diane Sharp.

Updates and Reports by Grace S:

St Thomas Aquinas High School teacher Matt, was pleased with the soil and a fan delivered to him for seed planting for our plant sale.

March it on Out was a great success. We made over \$2000 profit and Diabetes Association took what did not sell. Students at the high school were a tremendous help.

AGM in Kemptville on April 12th – 21 of our members attended. Next year it will be held in Vankleek Hill on April 18th.

Ontario Horticulture Association (OHA) Judging School – the executive has agreed to cover the cost of \$800 for our new member Alanna Groen-Brunsting to take the 2 year course. She has offered to help us with judging and presentations.

Russell Legion – has asked our assistance in helping to plan a garden around the Cenotaph. They are looking for ideas and suggestions. We are asking for a volunteer to help with this. No one came forward this evening.

MacDougall Park in Russell – we have been involved in maintaining the park since 1930's – Grace is having a meeting with the Township (they own the park) to see what has to be done.

Junior Gardeners – Genevieve and Laurie are leading. They have 10 Sprouts and 4 Juniors who have joined. They will be at the plant sale as well as at our September meeting to show and tell.

Up Coming Events:

Earth Day – April 22nd – encourage all members to do something. Saturday April 26th 9-11am they need help to clean up the Recreational Trail. At every entrance, bags and gloves will be provided, wear long sleeves and pants. This is run by the Environmental and Sustainability Committee of the Township.

Workshop on May 7th at Pegi Holz, on Preparing for a Flower Show. You must pay before the date. Contact Louise Houle.

Garden Tours – Louise is absent tonight but she would like suggestions of gardens to tour please.

OHA – webinar coming up Friday, April 25th at 7pm via WebEX about Invasive Species – Spotted Lanternfly and Box Tree Moth. See OHA website for details. Also, Garden Ontario is having a 50/50 draw – purchase tickets before July 19th.

Plant Sale – coming soon on May 17th at the Russell Fairgrounds, rain or shine. Pot up your plants. Several empty pots available tonight for anyone to take. Volunteers are needed at 8am to organize plants, price and marking. Folding tables and wagons are needed. Bring any garden related items for the sale table. Sale starts at 9am-noon. The Butterflyway Project will be joining us as usual and will be promoting their group and giving away native plants.

Volunteer Hours – remember to track – may use the centre page of the Year Book

Christine Lanthier:

Outings for June, July and August announced. The Vineyard tour and wine tasting is scheduled to be on August 27th at 11am at Perrault Winery in Navan. Please add to your RDHS calendar. Cost is \$15 if you just do the tour. \$45 for the tour as well as wine tasting and charcuterie.

Presentation: Cindy Anderson introduced Sarah Shapiro speaking about Horticultural Therapy. She spoke about the education and qualifications needed to be a Horticultural Therapist or a Technician and how the practice uses plants, horticultural activities and garden landscapes to promote well being. Sarah works at Perley Rideau Long Term Care Home.

Flower Show – we all voted for our favourite arrangements

1. “All Cracked Up” – an arrangement featuring egg shells.

Winners were Pegi Holtz, Christine Lanthier, Marilyn MacMillan

2. “Spring Wreath” – a handmade wreath decorated with flowers.

Winners were Pegi Holtz, Gloria Biickert

3. “H2O – a water viewing design

Winners were Gloria Biickert, Marilyn MacMillan, Pegi Holtz

Minutes by Christine Lanthier