



Russell and District Horticultural Society meeting

Location: Marionville Community Centre

May 19, 2025

1. Welcome, New members, exits and washrooms

Grace Stapper greeted all attendees, new members, and identified washroom facilities including exits. 41 members attended.

2. Acceptance of minutes of April 21, 2025 meeting

Moved by Kathy Pitruniak and seconded by Linda Duhamel. All were in favour and last meeting's minutes were accepted.

3. Tip of the Day

Grace introduced this new topic for the monthly meetings and the topic for May was pepper and tomato seedlings and planting tips. Members also offered up some of their tips.

- An unusual but effective way to plant your 'leggy' tomatoes is setting them in a shallow trench. Pinch off most of the lower leaves, leaving just the top cluster. Cover the root ball and exposed stem with 2 to 3 inches of soil. Careful not to disturb the roots when hoeing.
- Crushed, washed and dried eggshells and placing them into the planting hole reduces the risk of blossom end rot.
- Tomatoes are the most popular garden fruit around the world.

4. Reports from committees

- Louise commented on the success of the annual plant sale held on Saturday despite the wet, cold and stormy weather. The community support was very much welcomed and RDHS made \$2,034.00 in sales. A big thank you to all the volunteers, and the teacher and students from St. Thomas Aquinas High School who provided vegetable seedlings.
- The 'So, you want to enter a flower show' workshop was successful and offered some valuable insight/learning all about tricks and tips for flower arranging. There are extra booklets for sale, \$5.00 each, that were provided to all attendees and are a valuable source of information for any interested members. Focus is on 'conditioning' your specimens is very important. *Note:* this workshop will not take place next year.

- The 2025 June Flower Show will take place at the June 16th monthly meeting. Details can be found on pages 22-23 of the yearbook. Louise suggested that anyone interested in participating should take a gander ahead of time.
- The Box frame succulent workshop will take place on Saturday, June 28th from 9 a.m. to noon at Louise's home (details on page 21 of the yearbook). Louise suggested packing a lunch as it might go beyond the noon deadline eliminating the need to carry over to Sunday, June 29th.
- The Glass on Glass workshop is scheduled for Thursday, September 25th (details on page 21 of the yearbook).
- All workshops need to be paid up prior to the event and Louise made mention that there are some members who signed up for various workshops but have yet to pay for them.
- Garden tour – to date, Louise has not received any input from members on suggested venues and, as a result, this event may not materialize this year.
- Cindy made mention of the community seed library and how interested residents can take part in this initiative. (fyi: take some seeds and bring some seeds back. They don't need to be the same type of seed taken). The Russell library community garden is always looking for volunteers for gardening activities (i.e. weeding, maintenance, etc.). For contact and/or further information on the above, visit the Township of Russell Library website at www.russellbiblio.com
- Marilyn reminds all to record their volunteer hours spent on the recent plant sale – don't forget.
- Grace gave a brief update on the junior gardeners program administered by Genevieve and Laurie. There are 12 juniors and 5 sprouts registered for this program. Plants and seeds were distributed at the plant sale.
- Irises were brought to the meeting, donated by Alice, for any interested members ('Immortality', white, reblooming, bearded).
- Grace shared that MacDougall Park discussions between RDHS and township are ongoing. With any luck, areas will be rejuvenated and quotes to renew the 2 main flower beds are pending. RDHS has offered their display boards to the Russell Agricultural Society for use at the Russell Fair.
- Carole mentioned that there is an inventory of RDHS aprons for sale for anyone interested. Cost \$10.
- Day Trips – **Purdon Conservation Area** in Lanark scheduled for Thursday, June 19th (rain date Friday, June 20th). Largest colony of showy Lady Slipper orchids in Canada. **Ornamental Gardens** at the Experimental Farm in Ottawa scheduled for Thursday, July 3rd (rain date Friday, July 4th). Further details are on page 19 of the yearbook. **Perrault Winery** in Navan scheduled for Wednesday, August 27th. Further details on the RDHS website www.russellgardeners.ca

5. Presentation of speaker

Christine Lanthier introduced the guest speaker, Josie Pazdzior, whose presentation was on 'Rock Gardens'.

Next meeting – June 16th guest speaker Lia Lindeman 'Mini Hostas and Hosta Tips and the June 2025 Flower Show

Minutes prepared by Christine Bourgeois, Secretary