



Russell and District Horticultural Society meeting

Location: Marionville Community Centre

June 16, 2025

1. Welcome, New members, exits and washrooms.

Grace Stapper greeted all attendees, new members, and identified washroom facilities including exits. She also highlighted the exhibits for the June Flower Show and shared that RDHS has 115 members to date.

2. Acceptance of minutes of May 19, 2025 meeting.

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

3. Tip of the Day

June's *tip of the day* was companion planting "the art of planting specific plants with each other for beneficial results, in gardens and pots, with vegetables and flowers.

An example of an annual flower that is a mainstay in this area is the **marigold (scented)**, 'the workhorse of pest deterrents', 'more than just a pretty face in the garden', repels: some harmful insects, rabbits, chipmunks, squirrels, attracts: beneficial insects such as parasitic wasps, hoverflies and ladybugs

An example of an annual herb that is beneficial in the garden is **dill**, edible, attracts parasitic wasps especially those that destroy cabbage worms, host plant for Eastern black swallowtail, re-seeds readily

4. Reports from committees.

- Day Trips (Chris) – **Purdon Conservation Area** in Lanark will take place on Friday, June 20th due to inclement weather prediction for Thursday this week. 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). **Perrault Winery** in Navan scheduled for Wednesday, August 27th. Further details on the RDHS website www.russellgardeners.ca **Ferguson Tree Nursery** in Kemptville scheduled for early September (most likely the first weekend in September).

Note: Further details on day trips are on page 19 of the yearbook with the exception of Perrault Winery.

- Box frame succulent workshop (Louise) - Saturday, June 28th commencing at 9 a.m. at her home (details on page 21 of the yearbook). Bring along a lunch as this workshop will carry on into the early afternoon. Louise will send an email to all registered attendees with details on suggested tools to bring. If you have succulents to share, start digging them up and putting them into small pots to share.

- Glass on Glass workshop (Louise) - Thursday, September 25th (details on page 21 of the yearbook). There are still a few spots left and some people who have registered have yet to pay. Any questions, see Louise.
- Mini flower shows held in the winter months (February, March & April) are judged by the assembly. However, June Flower shows are judge by a professional judge.
- Vankleek Hill & District Horticultural Society extended an invitation to any RDHS members interested in joining their group for local garden tours on Saturday, July 5th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cost: \$25. Details were sent in the recent RDHS newsletter.

Note: there will be no garden tours for RDHS this summer.

- McDougall Park update (Grace) – Estimates are forthcoming for the proposed cairn lighting and repointing of the brick (last done in 2003). To date, gardens have been weeded, mulched and soil has been added. Estimated budget is \$750; however, details will be worked out over the summer and any new information will be shared at the September meeting.
- 2025 Membership cards (Linda) – There remains a good number of membership cards that have been paid for but yet to be claimed.
- The Record News – Chesterville's community newspaper mentioned our society plant sale and a second article about our society.
- Russell Trivia had an event early June to raise funds for the Terry Fox Foundation. Over \$7,000 was raised. RDHS contributed a birdhouse as a silent auction item which brought in \$80. Big thanks to Linda and Carole for their contribution to making this happen.
- If anyone is interested in becoming an OHA Flower judge, touch base with Grace.

5- Presentation of speaker

Kathy Pitruniak introduced the guest speaker, Lia Lindeman, whose presentation was on 'Mini Hostas and Hosta Tips'.

Once the official judging of the flower show was complete, Grace encouraged attendees to view the entries and results and enjoy refreshments provided by fellow members.

Next meeting – September 15th, guest speaker Candace Dressler presenting 'Dreams to Reality, A Gardener's Dream versus Nature's Reality'.

Minutes prepared by Christine Bourgeois, Secretary