



## **Russell and District Horticultural Society meeting**

**Location: Marionville Community Centre**

November 17, 2025

### **1. Welcome, New members, exits and washrooms.**

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

Special welcome to Susan Ramsay, District #1 director, Becky Campbell and Louise Freeman, both serving as District #1 assistant directors. Charles Freeman, Past President of the OHA and a member of our Society was also in attendance.

### **2. Acceptance of minutes of October 20, 2025 meeting.**

Moved by Cynthia Anderson and seconded by Diane Sharp. All were in favour and last meeting's minutes were accepted.

### **3. Reports from committees.**

- Kathleen Pitruniak, member of the **March it on Out** team, reminded everyone to start saving items for the sale taking place on Saturday, March 28, 2026. There is a request for volunteers on Friday, March 27th and a sign-up sheet will be made available at the January 19, 2026 meeting. Students from St. Thomas Aquinas High School will be helping out and contributing to their volunteer hours. Cost is \$15 ppn, Any contributions of furniture can be advertised on the post-it board (please include all relevant contact information and photos). Electronic devices are accepted. Any leftover items will be donated to the Diabetes Association. More specific details will be shared at the aforesaid meeting in January.
- **Volunteer hours** – please send your volunteer hours to Carole VanDie by end of this month.
- **Living Locally Fair** is scheduled for Saturday, January 17, 2026 from 9 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. Grace mentioned that there is a need for volunteers to set up and dismantle the RDHS booth. A sign-up sheet is available with time slots for volunteers who will be manning the booth. Please note that the Living Locally Fair takes place before the January 19<sup>th</sup> meeting and it would be appreciated if anyone considering helping out sign on this evening.
- **OMAFSA Anniversary Grant** – Laurie LeChasseur graciously accepted to prepare and submit the application and was successful. RDHS received the \$1,500 grant in record time and with no hurdles. Congratulations Laurie. Great job!

- Friendly reminder for the holiday season that Innovative Community Support Services located on Mill street have items available for purchase. Proceeds go towards helping young adults with physical/mental disabilities.
- **Treasurer's Report** – Manja Bastian presented the year ending October 31, 2025 Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Reconciliation of Statements and Bank Reconciliation. Once again, the net income for the year indicated that RDHS can definitely support some future community projects/causes. RDHS Financial Statement was accepted as presented. Reviewers yet to be determined.
  - Grace would like members to 'put on their thinking caps' as to where RDHS can support future projects to beautify and enrich our community.
- Members enjoyed a slide show prepared by Jacqueline Wyss, Web Designer, that portrayed highlights from 2025. It was enjoyed by all and a big thank you to Jacqueline for putting this together. Kudos!
- At the virtual District Presidents' Meeting, each society shared their annual report of 2025. Grace read our society's annual report.
- **Life Members** – Margaret Helliker, Historial Record Keeper, presented life memberships to: Jacqueline Wyss, Web Designer. A long-time valued member for almost 20 years providing her time and efforts with the RDHS website and social media, yearbook, bookmarks, etc.  
Louise Houle, Past President. Louise held many committee positions while being President and continues to oversee the annual RDHS plant sale, Flower Shows and workshops.

We thank both Jacqueline and Louise for their commitment to our society and their unwavering support.

### **Election of RDHS Board Members and Executive**

A big thank you to Susan Ramsay, District #1 Director who chaired the election and to Louise Houle who shared the results of this election as follows :

President: Grace Stapper  
 Past President: Louise Houle  
 Vice-president – Frances McCormick  
 Second vice-president – remains vacant  
 Treasurer - Manja Bastien  
 Assistant Treasurer – Peter VanDie  
 Web Designer - Jacqueline Wyss  
 Secretary – Christine Bourgeois  
 Assistant Secretary – Chris Lanthier  
 Director – Cynthia Anderson  
 Director – Susan Barr  
 Director – Linda DuHamel  
 Director - Julie Keravel  
 Director - Laurie LeChasseur  
 Director – Marilyn MacMillan  
 Director - Kathy Pitruniak  
 Director - Diane Sharp

Director – Marianne Vedder.

- Pegi organized and coordinated the draw for door prizes. Prizes were donated by Gloria Biickert, Christine Bourgeois, Linda DuHamel, Margaret Helliker, Pegi Holtz, Marilyn MacMillan, Rose Sicard, Elaine Newton and RDHS.
- Susan Ramsay, District # 1 Director, made mention of the OHA Board Meeting held in October where they introduced business cards that outlined non-invasive plant substitutions. She also highlighted the 50-50 quarterly draw a wonderful fundraising activity that will include, for the first time, an OHA bursary (for a student's future academic study in the field of horticulture). She revealed the redesigned District # 1 banner. There are currently 9 OHA members studying to become future judges and 4 are from District # 1.

Today's seasonal craft was organized by Louise Houle.

Grace wished everyone a wonderful Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

Next meeting – January 19, 2026. Presentation by Lavande Braydale Lavender.

Minutes prepared by Christine Bourgeois, Secretary