



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

**Location: Marionville Community Centre**

February 16, 2026

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

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

### **2. Acceptance of minutes of November 17, 2025 meeting.**

Moved by Pegi Holtz. All were in favour and last meeting's minutes were accepted.

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

- Regretfully January 19, 2026 was cancelled due to the weather.
- The Living Locally Fair held January 17<sup>th</sup> was a big success!
- The Executive and Board Planning Meeting was held on January 24, 2026. It is anticipated that the 2026 Yearbook that will hopefully be available for the March meeting. Members are encouraged to check out the website for its articles, minutes of previous meetings, and other subjects of interest. The RDHS Facebook page currently has 1116 followers.
- It is wonderful to have new members and it is fantastic to see so many members at today's meeting. We encourage members to share any ideas they may have for future projects that would not be too onerous to member volunteers.
- Julie gave a brief overview of the 2026 Junior Program and thanked Debbie, Laurie and Genevieve for their help and enthusiasm. The theme for this year is 'dragonflies' and the cost remains at \$10 per child. They hope to launch the membership April 20<sup>th</sup> and anticipate meeting with the kids at the Russell Library sometime in July. Julie will be hosting the Juniors at her home/yard one Saturday late summer. Once a date/location is confirmed for the junior flower show, she will share with members. There is a trip planned to Manja's home to take a look at the flowers and see which ones would be of interest to dragonflies.
- Kathy reminded members of the **March It on Out** event that will take place on Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. noon. Items can be dropped off on Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup> between 4 - 8 p.m. as well as the day of the event between 8 – 9 a.m. Donations must not be too cumbersome. Specific items that must adhere to safety code regulations (e.g. baby items, etc.) will not be accepted. There will be a post-it board for large items (e.g. furniture) – please include all relevant contact information and photos. Cost is \$15/ppn. Children under 12 years are free. No wagons will be permitted within the event area. Sign up sheets were made available.

- Alanna's schooling as flower show judge is being sponsored by RDHS. The course is held over six weekends. She has joined the RDHS flower show committee and she gave a recap of the upcoming flower shows. The next mini flower show is at the March meeting followed by another mini flower show at the April 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. The theme for these mini shows are outlined on page 17 of the 2025 Yearbook. Information is also available on the website. She mentioned that the mini flower shows are practice for the June Flower show and she hopes members are inspired to take part. She has tags available for any interested members.
- Carole has been encouraged to empty her stash of items being stored in her basement that were previously used for the Living Locally Fair and are no longer required. Should anyone have any ideas as to where these items can be donated, please let her know.
- **District #1 AGM** is being held on Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup> in Vankleek Hill. The cost is \$40/ppn. RDHS will subsidize any member interested in participating for \$25 and the balance of \$15 will need to be paid by the participant. The topic will be 'pollinators'.
- **Annual May Plant Sale** will take place on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at the Russell fairgrounds. There will be the usual contributions by members including any garden related items. Native plants will be made available through the Butterfly Way Project as in previous years. Further details will be shared at the next upcoming meeting.
- Diane Sharp had info regarding the give away of old hay for gardens, etc. Contact number she has is 443-0325.
- Cynthia, Library Liaison, passed around one of the recommended books "ABCs of Canada's Invasive Species" by Decklyn Borderson. She also shared the following recommended book titles : Natural Habitats and Wildlife Gardening by Shawn McCoshum PhD -ecologist/ reseracher/author - book is available begining March 3, 2026 along with The Year-round Vegetable Gardener by Nikki Jabbour. The Society donates \$100 per year which is normally enough for a contribution of three to four books.
- **Seedy Saturday** at the Chesterville Legion will be held on Saturday, March 21st. Information will be made available on the RDHS Facebook page.

#### 4- Presentation of speaker

Diane Sharp introduced Lia Lindeman who will be sharing her presentation 'Growing Herbs for Medicine'

Next meeting – March 16, 2026. Presentation by Lavande Braydale Lavender.

Minutes prepared by Christine Bourgeois, Secretary