



Russell and District Horticultural Society meeting

Location: Marionville Community Centre

March 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 February 16, 2026 meeting.

Moved by Julie Keravel and seconded by Carole VanDie. All were in favour and last meeting's minutes were accepted.

3. Business concerns.

- Certain concerns were raised regarding the presentation at February's meeting. These points regarding certain content and message conveyed by the speaker were taken into consideration and addressed accordingly.
- Cancellation of monthly meeting protocol was reviewed and RDHS will continue to use notifications by email and Facebook when applicable.
- Algonquin College suspension of 30 programs which include horticultural programs were suspended and these cuts will take effect in Fall 2026. Regretfully attempts to avoid this decision by the board of governors for Algonquin College were not successful.
- Great News! RDHS now has a new projector that is made available for presenters. Thank you to Jay for helping make this happen. (*note* RDHS does not provide a laptop for presentations)
- Honorarium for presenters has been increased to \$200.
- Public service announcement – don't get caught! Keep tabs on renewal dates for health cards and driver licenses. Register with Service Ontario to receive reminders for renewal.

4. Reports from committees.

- Mini Flower show highlight for today's meeting. Members are asked to vote after the meeting if they have not done so beforehand.

Post meeting. 14 entries were submitted and a list of the flower show winners are as follows:

Class 1

1st: Marilyn Macmillan
2nd: Gloria Biickert
3rd: Grace Stapper

Class 2

1st: Pegi Holtz
2nd: Rosie Farrell
3rd: Gloria Biickert

Class 3

1st: Tracy Porteous
2nd: Rose Sicard
3rd: Marilyn Macmillan

- Yearbook and bookmarks – a huge thank you to everyone who made it possible!
- Louise reminded members of the **March It on Out** event that will take place on Saturday, March 28th from 9 a.m. noon. Items can be dropped off on Friday, March 27th between 5 - 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. Volunteers are always appreciated for Friday and/or Saturday. Sign up sheets are available.
- **Annual May Plant Sale** will take place on Saturday, May 16th 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. RDHS provides seeds and potting soil to St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic High School (STACHS) science class for their seedling contribution to the plant sale.
- **Garden tours** – Please let Louise know of anyone who would be willing to showcase their garden(s) this year.
- **Special Events** – Workshops. Page 14 of the 2026 Yearbook. **Note** : The **Glass on Glass** date has changed from Saturday, June 13th to Saturday, June 20th. The Grapevine Wreath or Topiary Making date is Thursday, October 15th not Saturday.
- **June Flower Show** – members are encouraged to take a look at the details of the flower show highlighted on pages 18 & 19 of the yearbook. Additional information is also available on the website. This is open to all RDHS members and we hope that members are inspired to take part.
- The next mini flower show is being held at the April monthly meeting. Information is detailed on page 17 of the yearbook.
- **District #1 AGM** is being held on Saturday, April 18th 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'. This is the last chance to sign up for any interested members.
- **Seedy Saturday** at the Chesterville Legion will be held this coming Saturday, March 21st. Lunch is provided by donation. There will be a swap table, tools, seeds, etc. Information is available on the RDHS Facebook page.
- **Veggie Share Project** was introduced by Johanne and Rosanne who initiated this venture in the Greely area. They shared the history of this project, its implementation and resulting success. RDHS has an interest in replicating this program in our area. Extra produce is donated to the local food bank. They are available to provide support and advice any time.
- RDHS will be buying and planting a serviceberry tree at the Russell Library community garden. Please bring forth any other community project ideas you may have.

5. Presentation of speaker

Marilyn MacMillan introduced Tracey Bray-Bercier of Lavande Braydale Lavender who will be sharing her presentation about her farm and business.

Next meeting – April 20, 2026. Presentation by Lee Ann Smith on Wildscaping: Wild planting in a Strong Design.

** Big thank you to Gloria and Rose for the evening's refreshments.

Minutes prepared by Christine Bourgeois, Secretary