



Russell and District Horticultural Society meeting

Location: Marionville Community Centre

May 18, 2026

1. Welcome, New members, exits and washrooms

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

She also mentioned the passing of Jake Vedder, a long-standing member of RDHS. Marianne and Jake administered the tree sale program fundraiser for RDHS. Our deepest sympathy to the Vedder family. Jake loved trees and it is only fitting that on behalf of the horticultural society and in memory of Jake, a tree will be planted in memorium of this wonderful person. Details will be forthcoming.

2. Acceptance of minutes of April 20, 2026 meeting.

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

3. Reports from committees.

- **May Plant Sale** was a success and the weather sure did cooperate. Grace thanked all the volunteers for their time and donations to this fundraiser. The student volunteers were very helpful and they were able to answer any questions about their plants by using QR code identification. We raised \$2,100.
- **June flower show** is coming up! Louise encouraged members to participate. This is the 'big one' and we hope that members are inspired to take part. Details are outlined on pages 18 & 19 in the yearbook. This is the one show that will be judged by a qualified judge and students that have been undertaking judging courses will shadow her to learn. These judges need to judge 5 arrangements for each category so we need all the entries possible. It is suggested that entry tags are completed beforehand for ease of time. Anyone who is interested in participating and have any questions, do not hesitate to reach out to Pegi or Louise.
- **Veggie Share project** - Christine B. shared details of this initiative with attendees and there were copies of the poster at each table. RDHS will be working alongside the Russel library harvest program that will deliver produce from gardeners in Russell and district to the local food bank. Anyone interested in learning more or helping out with this community project may email russellgardeners@gmail.com.
- **Workshops** – Are outlined on page 14 in the 2026 RDHS Yearbook. Sign up sheets are available and members must pay ahead of the workshop to secure their participation spot. Please note the following amendments:

Glass on Glass workshop is scheduled on Saturday, June 20th.

Grapevine Wreath or Topiary Making workshop is scheduled for Thursday, October 15th.

- **The Butterflyway Project** will be providing native plants for the Russell library garden. Laurie was hoping that there may be 4 possible volunteers willing to help prepare the plot for planting and weeding if needed. If anyone is able to provide support, please contact Laurie directly or Grace who will be glad to pass along your contact info to Laurie.
- **Garden tours** – Laurie is organizing the program this year. There will be gardens of all sizes to view in Casselman, Embrun & Russell. Saturday, July 25th is the date so don't forget to mark it in your calendars. The cost is \$10 ppn and hopefully tickets will be available at the June meeting. However, tickets will also be available at Beyond the House garden centre and Russell Pronto. Louise will have tickets as well.
- **Suggestion box proposal** – Grace shared that Linda Duhamel introduced the idea of a 'suggestion box'. It is a wonderful idea to have one available for members to share their thoughts on possible workshops, road trips, etc. with board members for review by the RDHS executive and board meeting in January. This suggestion box and ballots will reside with Linda at each monthly meeting.
- **Day trips** – Christine L. is overseeing this program and members will visit Braydale Lavender farm in Moose Creek on Tuesday, July 14th at 10 a.m. This is a private tour for RDHS and the cost will be \$8 ppn. There will be various items for sale and members are reminded to bring a lunch.

On Saturday, August 1st members can visit the home of Christine Enright of the Butterfly Way Project in South Dundas where we will learn about monarchs, native plants and trees. Who knows? We may also plan a picnic along the seaway. As soon as details are finalized for both day trips, they will be posted on the RDHS website. Sign up papers will hopefully be available at the meeting in June.

Francis McCormick introduced Judith Cox, master gardener, shared her presentation on Vegetables in all Situations / Gardening in smaller places.

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

Next meeting – June 15th. Presentation by Wendy Batson on Ikebana – Japanese flower arranging.

Minutes prepared by Christine Bourgeois, Secretary