



Russell and District Horticultural Society meeting

Location: Marionville Community Centre

June 15, 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 May 18, 2026 meeting.

Moved by Cindy Anderson and seconded by Frances McCormick. All were in favour and last meeting's minutes were accepted.

Note Mention was made of an amendment to the May minutes as follows: Louise is overseeing the garden tours and Laurie is assisting her.

3. Reports from committees.

- **Suggestion box** – Last meeting Grace shared that Linda Duhamel introduced the idea of a 'suggestion box'. We are happy to announce that the suggestion box is now available and on the table at the front.
- **Workshops** – Louise mentioned that 2 places have become available for the Glass on Glass workshop this Saturday, June 20th. Anyone interested on attending, please contact Louise.

The Grapevine Wreath or Topiary Making workshop is scheduled for Thursday, October 15th and there are still spots available.

- **Garden tours** – Louise had tickets available at tonight's meeting for anyone interested in participating in the 2026 Garden Tours that will take place on Saturday, July 25th from 12:30 – 5:00 p.m. There are 5 private gardens that will be highlighted within District #1 in Casselman, Vernon, Metcalfe, Embrun and Russell. The cost is \$10 ppn and tickets are available at Beyond the House garden center, Russell Pronto and with Louise. Friendly

reminder to all attendees to please bring your own lawn chairs. Note: non members are also welcome to participate.

- **OHA 2026 Convention** - The convention will be held in Oshawa from July 24-26. There was no interest from RDHS members to attend. Grace will represent RDHS and will vote by proxy on any resolutions, changes to bylaws, etc. brought forth at this conference.
- **Day trips** – Christine L. provided further details about the upcoming day trips. On Tuesday, July 14th members can visit Braydale Lavender farm in Moose Creek commencing at 10 a.m. Cost will be \$8 ppn. There will be various items for sale and lavender lemonade will be available to sample. Members are reminded to bring a lunch.

On Saturday, August 1st Christina Enright (aka the monarch lady) of the Butterfly Way Project will showcase her gardens and butterfly home in south Dundas. Native plants will be available for participants to bring home.
- **Veggie Share project** - RDHS is 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. Grace shared that the first harvest of the 2026 will take place on Thursday, June 25th and anticipates that radishes will be the first veggies of the season.
- **Junior Gardeners Program** – Grace shared that seeds and seedlings were distributed to the twelve junior members that are participating in this year's program.

Grace encouraged members to take a look at all the beautiful entries on display and results of the June flower show.

Special mention - Raven Williamson, President of the Cornwall and District Horticultural Society, invited all to a flower show workshop on Tuesday, July 14th as well as their flower show on August 29th.

Lia Lindeman, President of the Williamstown Green Thumb Horticultural Society, invited all to their flower show.

Christine L. introduced Wendy Batson, certified master on Ikebana – Japanese flower arranging who along with two of her students held a live demonstration of this ancient art.

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

Next meeting – September 21st. Presentation by Deborah Doherty on how to have a bird friendly garden.

Minutes prepared by Christine Bourgeois, Secretary