



Russell and District Horticultural Society meeting

Location: Marionville Community Centre

September 21, 2026

1. Welcome, New members, exits and washrooms

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

Grace made mention of the opportunity for members to purchase garlic from Genevieve at \$14/lb or \$35/braid.

2. Acceptance of minutes of June 15, 2026 meeting

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

3. Reports from committees

- **Junior Gardeners program** – Julie wished to thank Jo-Anne, Laurie and Debbie for all their help with the program. She also shared a power point presentation on all the fun activities that the juniors were up to this season. There were three in-person meetings and a road trip to Green Acres in Edwards.

Perhaps a write up on the junior gardeners program would be a welcomed addition to the winter edition of the Trillium newsletter. The Trillium newsletter is sent to all OHA societies in the province.

- **Awards and grants** – Louise Freeman recommended that RDHS should explore more opportunities to apply for grants. She made mention that there are numerous awards and grant opportunities available; however, there never seems to be enough applications to fill the allotments. The process is not difficult – simply read the criteria and answer the questions. Food for thought! Information is available on the Garden Ontario website: <https://gardenontario.org>

Look under 'resources' – awards and grants.

- **Treasurer's report** – Peter reported nothing to add.
- **2026 Flower Shows** – Pegi distributed prize monies and thanked all those that participated.
- **Ikebana arrangements** – Christine made mention of an opportunity to see Ikebana arrangements at the Japanese Embassy at 255 Sussex Drive on October 3 from 10

a.m. to 4 p.m. and October 4 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free and open on a first come first served basis. *Note* – this is *not* an organized outing.

- **2027 Day Trips** – Christine Lanthier is looking for someone to take over the organization of these outings for the 2027 season. Anyone interested, please reach out to her.
- **RDHS 2026 membership** – Grace welcomed new members and made mention of that 2026 memberships are free for this calendar year as memberships run from January to December in a calendar year. At present, there are approximately 120 members.
- **Workshops** – Louise mentioned that there is still space available for the Grapevine Wreath or Topiary Making workshop scheduled for Thursday, October 15th from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. This workshop will take place at Pegi's. Please note that payment in advance is required and that there are a few members who signed up for this workshop that have yet to pay.
- **Annual General meeting** – November 16 is election time for the new RDHS board. We are always looking for volunteers to take part in existing committees as well as be part of our wonderful board of directors (maybe even both).
- **RDHS Tree sale** – There are trees available for sale – spruce, red maple and catalpa. All looking for a good home. Only \$30 each. For pickup appointment please contact Marianne at jakemved@gmail.com
- **2027 Living Locally Fair** – January 16, 2027. Volunteers are needed to help organize this successful event and/or to be available to man the RDHS booth. Sign up sheet will be available at the next meeting.
- **2027 March it on Out** – March 5 (Friday – set up) & 6 (Saturday – 9 a.m. to noon). Volunteers will also be needed for this much anticipated event. Start collecting now.

The **Healing Place** located at 8040 Shanly Road in Edwardsburgh/Cardinal is asking for help in harvesting their gardens on Friday, October 2nd. Registration is required. Please visit the website for SNC (South Nation Conservation) and Indigenous Partnership and Land Stewardship, <https://www.nation.on.ca> or visit their facebook page for details.

Marilyn read aloud a thank you note from a bursary recipient at St. Thomas Aquinas High School.

Keep counting and recording your volunteer hours for eventual submission to Carole VanDie.

Diane Sharp introduced Berit Erickson whose presented on how to have a bird friendly garden.

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

Next meeting – October 19th. Presentation by Rebecca Last-Guenette on The Edible Garden.

Minutes prepared by Christine Bourgeois, Secretary