Russell and District Horticultural Society meeting

Location: Marionville Community Centre

October 19, 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 September 21, 2026 meeting.

Moved by Kathleen Pitruniak and seconded by Diane Sharp. All were in favour and last meeting's minutes were accepted.

3. Reports from committees.

- **Treasurer's report** – The financial year end is October 31, 2026. Draft has been completed and the report will be reviewed at the AGM held at the upcoming November meeting.
- **Media and Communications -** Jacqueline suggested that members who are not receiving newsletters via email from RDHS visit the website and scroll down to the end of the Home page. On the left-hand side, you may click on the caption 'sign up for the newsletter' to ensure you are on the newsletter list. Another option, is to send an email directly to russellgardeners@gmail.com.
- **RDHS AGM –** November 16 monthly meeting. Linda Duhamel needs to step down as director. Linda has been involved in many facets of RDHS including but not limited to overseeing memberships, sunshine committee, volunteering at the RDHS booth for events, etc. Louise Houle is also stepping down as director. Louise has been a past president, involved in the following committees; flower shows, garden tours, plant sales and workshops. Grace asked members to consider stepping up and joining as a director or being involved in a committee. You do not need to be a board member in order to work on a committee.
- **House plant and garden item sale** – will take place at the November meeting. Please label and price your item(s). Proceeds will be donated to the Embrun Food Bank. Remember that any items not sold must return home to their owner. *Note:* last year this event took place at the October meeting and we may want to consider moving it back next year.
- Louise asked that Grace share her thoughts/comments at the meeting tonight as she will not be in attendance.
  - ➢ The recent grapevine wreath or topiary making workshop was a success and all participants left happy with their creations. The weather was spectacular and it is anticipated that RDHS will hold this workshop again in a couple of years.
  - ➢ Please let me (Louise) know asap of any members who may be interested to join the board, participate in a committee or perhaps do both!

- ➢ We will have a craft for everyone to make after the swearing in of the new board for 2027 and the general meeting agenda.

- **Living Locally 2027 –** Saturday, January 16, 2027 from 9 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. Looking for volunteers to help with the set up/take down of the RDHS table as well as sitting at the table and helping to promote our society. A sign-up sheet is available. Please consider helping out.
- **Veggie Share project –** Was a success. Congratulations! 432 pounds of fresh produce was donated to the Embrun food bank harvested from the library community garden and donations from resident gardens. We will definitely do it again in 2027.
- **Volunteer hour submission –** Continue to count and record your volunteer hours for submission to Carole VanDie.
- **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. More details to follow closer to the event.
- **2027 District 1 AGM -** Martintown will be next year's host on Saturday, April 10, 2027.
- **Library Liaison –** Cynthia highlighted and gave a brief description of the books RDHS has contributed this year to the Library 'Adopt a book' program. It was pleasing to see a variety of books which included children's books. RDHS donates $100 to this event yearly.
- **Vedder tree sale initiative –** A big thank you to Marianne and Jake. Over $1,000 was raised this year.

Grace mentioned that Frances and her will be attending the presidents' Zoom meeting this coming Saturday to conduct the business of OHA District 1, including a time of sharing/ discussion among the societies.

Cynthia introduced guest speaker Rebecca Last-Guenette who presented on The Edible Garden Garden.

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

Next meeting – November 16th. Annual General Meeting.

Minutes prepared by Christine Bourgeois, Secretary