



RDHS March 20, 2023 Monthly Meeting
Location: Marionville Community Centre

Pegi Holtz welcomed all attendees to this first day of spring meeting. Washroom facilities and exit points were identified. February 20, 2023 minutes were acknowledged and accepted as motioned by Christine Lanthier and Grace Stapper.

Mention was made of the ongoing membership renewal efforts by Linda Duhamel and the recent completion of the 2023 Yearbook by Jacqueline Wyss which document was distributed to all members.

There were many 'sign up' sheets on hand where volunteers were encouraged to add their names as helpers as outlined below:

- Upcoming **March it on Out!** event for the drop off of items on Friday, March 24th from 5-8 p.m. and Saturday, March 25th from 8-10 a.m. Note: volunteers are not to set aside items of personal interest on the Friday night or before the official opening on Saturday, March 25th. All public attendees will be advised not to set aside their boxes/wagons/storage bins in one area when looking for their treasures but will need to ensure they carry their storage units with their person.
- **2023 Plant Sale** - May 20, 2023 at MacDougall Park. Members were reminded/encouraged to bring any surplus vegetable seedlings they may have in an effort to provide a diverse selection and a wonderful addition to perennial contributions.
- **South Nation Conservation** request for aid in tree planting at Burton Conservation area on Friday, May 26, 2023.

Pegi reminded everyone of the **Russell Police Village** 125th anniversary party to be held on June 23, 2023. RDHS would like to participate with an 'information about RDHS' table. Pegi would very much appreciate having someone sit with her. A sign-up sheet will be made available closer to the event date.

Clean up session at MacDougall Park in collaboration with the Russell Scouts will be coordinated when the snow disappears and things dry up. No confirmed date at this time – stay tuned as a sign-up sheet will be forthcoming.

Maple Day is scheduled for March 25th at Oshmann Forest on Ormond Road from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

The first meeting for the RDHS Committee regarding the District 1 AGM 2024 which will be hosted by/organized by RDHS was held. There is a sheet available for members to share any ideas as to prospective speakers, topics, etc. Please take the time to share your thoughts as all inputs from members are very much appreciated.

Louise recapped the March Mini Flower Show and explained how the categories were selected. The three categories were, Sugaring Time; In Honour of World Poetry Day (March 21st) and In Honour of International Women's Day (March 8th). A BIG thank you to all who participated. Louise encouraged attendees to vote for each of the 3 categories. She highlighted

how it was important when judging to bear in mind that the accessories for the arrangements were to accent the collection and are not intended to take over the whole arrangement.

Another mini flower show will take place at the next meeting on April 17th and Louise described the 3 categories: 'Jazzy' in honour of International Jazz Day, April 30th; 'Welcome Bats' in honour of Bat appreciation Day, April 17th; and 'From the Space Station' in honour of International Earth Day, April 22nd.

The Garden Tour this year is *not* open to the general public and will be for members only. This special garden tour is scheduled for Tuesday, July 18th at La Chasse-Gardee du Marais located in Chelsea, Quebec. (Further details available in the 2023 Yearbook, page 20.) We anticipate visiting the gardens in the morning then take time for lunch (BYO) and visit the mountain area afterwards. We are privileged to be invited to visit this property as it is not open to the general public.

Louise reviewed the 2023-2024 Workshops and made mention of the sign-in sheets. Further details are available on page 21 of the 2023 Yearbook.

- **Glass on Glass**, Wednesday, June 28, 2023. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. \$20 pre-registration fee required.
- **Pine Cone Art Board or Frame**, September 13, 2023, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. \$20 pre-registration fee required.
- **Painted Clay Pot Snowman Plant Holder**, Christmas decoration; Wednesday, October 4, 2023, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. \$20 pre-registration fee required.

Two announcements of interest were presented. Christina Enright of the **Butterflyway Project**, SDG/Prescott Russell spoke about this valuable project where emphasis is on growing native plants for butterflies and pollinators. This association provides insight on how to plan and grow a native garden. Should any member know of someone who has a native garden on their property that would be of interest and showcase worthy, please share with Christina. Julie Keravel mentioned the **150th anniversary of St. Albert** which will be celebrated on May 13, 2023 with a Spring Market where over 100 vendors are anticipated in participating. Entrance to market is free.

Debbie Courneyea brought some of her vermi-composting worms for viewing for anyone who is interested in vermi-composting.

Julie Keravel introduced our guest speaker, Chris Craig – Senior Forestry Technician who presented a wonderful presentation on Native Plants and Reconciliation Garden.

April 17, 2023 – next monthly meeting with guest speaker Cindy Cluett of Beyond the House Garden Centre. Subject: What's new in the garden centre this year.

Minutes taken by Christine Bourgeois, Secretary