



RDHS September 18, 2023 Monthly meeting
Location: Marionville Community Centre

Pegi Holtz greeted all attendees and identified washroom facilities along with exits. Linda Duhamel continues to accept 2023 RDHS memberships for the cost of \$10/year. Although memberships habitually renew in the month of January, Pegi did highlight that there are benefits to renewing before year end as certain local garden centers do provide members who present their membership card with 10% off their purchases.

June 19, 2023 minutes were acknowledged and accepted. There are workshops taking place before year end. The **Glass on Glass** workshop was so popular in June that another one is scheduled for Wednesday, October 4. Location: Pegi's home at 8730 Victoria Street in Metcalfe from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. **The Pine Cone Art Board or Frame** workshop took place on September 13.

Garden tours were well received over the summer. A lovely time was had by all on July 18th at La Chasse-Gardee du Marais in beautiful Chelsea, nestled in the Gatineau hills. 40 acres of sunflowers greeted those who visited Fields of Gold Sunflower Farm on August 10 where participants took home a bouquet of sunshine.

Pegi shared a small snippet of the different presentations, etc. that formed part of the agenda at the OHA 2023 Convention in Kanata this past July 21-23, 2023. A small group of RDHS members attended this OHA annual event which was hosted this year by District 2. The event took place at the Brookstreet Hotel. Habitually RDHS pays for the registration, the Friday night meal along with the Saturday night banquet for those RDHS members who are interested in attending. As with many things these days, the cost of this event continues to rise and RDHS will need to re-evaluate whether this practice will continue next year.

A big thank you to those who provided 4-inch planting pots and trays to Matt, teacher at St. Thomas Aquinas High School. Your donations were greatly appreciated.

Lisa Deacon, Township of Russell Council Member, shared information about a get together being organized by Eco East and Chris Craig at the Native Plants and Reconciliation Garden scheduled from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. on Monday, October 2. Everyone is welcome, where people can help tend the gardens, etc. People are encouraged to bring along a picnic lunch. Should the weather not cooperate, the event will move to Thanksgiving Monday, October 9. Note Post Meeting: the date of Monday, October 2 was changed to Wednesday, October 4. Lisa also made mention of September 30 – Day of Truth and Reconciliation.

Pegi also made note of the request of the Russell Legion to have oversight of the flower beds fall on RDHS. A show of hands voted to not provide this service. RDHS has habitually donated money to the Women's Institute to offset the cost of planting hanging baskets and planters in the core of the Village. A unanimous show of hands agreed to continue this custom.

Congratulations to RDHS for placing 1st at the OHA Convention for the cover of their 2023 Yearbook, 2nd place for their bookmark and 3rd place for the March it on Out poster. Pegi handed out prize money to RDHS members who won first prize in the 3 mini flower shows held in February, March & April of this year along with 1st place winners in the big June Flower show. Kudos to all the winning entrants as well as to those who participated.

Pegi mentioned the November 20 meeting where the Annual General Meeting takes place and the membership is encouraged to step up and volunteer to become a member on the Board of Directors. We're a fun group so don't be shy. A BIG thank you to the all the Junior Gardener leaders. It was a very successful program thanks to your contributions. RDHS will look into potential monies that may be available to this program for next year.

Grace Stapper is looking for volunteers to help close up the community garden at the Russell Library. The food from the garden is harvested and donated to the Foodbank. Such a wonderful community undertaking. The Affordable Housing Committee meets on Thursday, October 19 – Embrun Library Board.

Next meeting to ne held on October 16, 2023 where there will be a presentation on planting for success with Mary Ann Van Berlo.

Minutes taken by Christine Bourgeois, Secretary