

Russell and District Horticultural Society

Minutes of meeting on October 16, 2023

55 members were in attendance.

Pegi Holtz opened the meeting with safety and housekeeping notes and introduced Susan Ramsey, District 1 Director, Charles Freeman, OHA Past President and Louise Freeman, Assistant Deputy Director.

Carole Van Die introduced our guest speaker MaryAnn Van Berlo and her topic "Planting for Success". We especially learned a lot about the proper way to transplant trees and shrubs as well as some perennials.

A motion to pass the minutes of last meeting was made by Kathy Pitruniak and seconded by Julie Keravel.

Louise Houle spoke about the past OHA Convention (Provincial Conference) in July. There were 7 attendees from our Society. It is very worthwhile attending to hear wonderful speakers and something of interest for all. The next convention is in Guelph on July 12-14, 2024. Charles Freeman suggested going to the Garden Ontario website, first page, right hand corner you will see "Convention" and the speakers are usually posted by February. He said there are not a lot of rooms so best to make a reservation early.

Glass on Glass Workshops – two workshops were well attended and hope to have another next year.

Organic garlic was for sale tonight organized by Louise.

Alice Proper and Marilyn MacMillan walked around the village of Russell this summer and looked for outstanding gardens and put a door knob tag on several houses (31 properties) congratulating them. The tag "We think your property is fantastic" was passed around at the meeting for our members to see.

The upcoming AGM that we are hosting on April 13th 2024, was mentioned. Louise showed the plastic terrariums (130 in total) that we hope to fill with an air plant as a gift to the attendees, and we will need volunteers to put these together in the new year. Camille asked that we describe the AGM. The AGM is a great day and members are invited to attend, your day is paid by our Society. It starts with a business section, morning speaker, catered lunch, afternoon speaker, a flower and photography contest and lots of fun draws and raffles.

Living Locally Fair, started by the RDHS – is always a huge success. It is now run by St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic High School in Russell and will be held next year on January

20th, 2024. Volunteers will be needed to sit at our table to meet and greet. A sign-up sheet was passed around at the meeting.

Members were encouraged to join the Board of Directors as we welcome new ideas and inputs. The annual election of the board will take place at our AGM next month. Please come forward.

Manja Bastian, Treasurer asked for two non board members to review our finances for 2023. Daniel Munroe and Frances Williams accepted.

Minutes by Christine Lanthier