



Russell and District Horticultural Society meeting

Location: Marionville Community Centre

February 19, 2024

1. Welcome, New members, exits and washrooms.

Louise Houle greeted all attendees, identified washroom facilities as well as exits.

2. Acceptance of minutes of January 15, 2024 meeting.

Moved by Linda Duhamel and accepted by Cindy Anderson.

3. Reports from committees.

The board had a great planning meeting on Saturday, Jan 27th and the different committees have been busy putting in place the activities for the upcoming year.

District 1 AGM - Chris Lanthier on behalf of Diane Sharp gave an overview of the committee activities. Russell Foodland will be providing the breakfast and lunch meals. Mini terrariums will be provided as gifts to participants. Any members interested in volunteering their time to help committee members create these terrariums are asked to touch base with either Chris or Diane. An invite has been extended to all Societies in District 1 (9 Societies in total including RDHS). Gift baskets will be presented to speakers and will be supplied by 'Spread the Joy' along with 3 raffle prizes. Mug donations to date have been generous and the committee does not anticipate the need for further donations at this time. Reminder: date of event is Saturday, April 13, 2024. Location: Camille Piche Community Centre, 8 Blais Street, Embrun. Theme: Leaping into leap year.

Day trips – Next recent day trip is to Nascent Hydroponics located at 955 Eadie Road. The June trip is planned for Rideau Woodland Ramble in Merrickville where participants will receive a savings of 10% on any purchases. July's day trip is to Maitland Garden of Hope in 1000 Islands. The last day drip of the calendar year will be in September at Ferguson Tree Nursery in Kemptville.

Workshops – Anyone interested in attending a workshop must pay in advance – cost \$20. Sign up sheets should be made available at the next meeting scheduled for March 18th. The workshop in May will be "how to prepare entries for flower shows" organized by Pegi and

Louise. July's workshop will be "Glass on Glass" and the last workshop in October will be "grapevine wreaths". All workshops are at Pegi's home in Metcalfe.

Garden Tours – The garden tours are scheduled for Saturday, August 17th and, so far, the last garden tour will be hosted by Carole & Peter VanDie. If any members know of a garden that would be interesting to visit, please let Louise know.

Sunshine – Louise gave details of the purpose of this committee and asked members that if they know of member experiencing loss, illness, trauma, etc., please let Linda Duhamel know.

2024 Yearbook – Jacqueline Wyss continues to be our Webmaster and together with Pegi Holtz expect to have the yearbook ready for distribution to participating members for the March 18th meeting. *Note:* members should not wait for the Yearbook to submit photos and are encouraged to contact Grace Stapper for details on submissions (i.e. format, etc.). Showcasing photos on the website are encouraged.

Flower Shows – Pegi and Louise are looking for another member or members to join this committee to share ideas for topics/themes and same day set up.

Junior Gardeners – Program is looking for a leader this calendar year as Julie Kavel has stepped down; however, she will continue as support along with Genevieve Tamas. It is anticipated that Rose Farrell will also assist the group.

4. Reminders of upcoming events.

Mini Flower shows in March and April, refer to the 2023 Yearbook page 15 along with the June Flower Show Schedule that will be highlighted in the upcoming 2024 Yearbook. The criteria/rules governing the flower shows is available on page 18 & 19 of the 2023 Yearbook.

March it on Out! - Saturday, March 23rd. Donations will be accepted on Friday, March 22nd as well as the day of the event between 8 & 9 a.m. Donations must not be too cumbersome. Specific items that must adhere to safety code regulations (e.g. baby items, etc.) will not be accepted. Admission is \$15 and attendees may take away as many items as they can carry.

Seedy Saturday – March 9th. Location: The Gathering House, 2 Water Street in Chesterville. 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Info sessions, vendors, swap table & more.

Members wishing to participate in monthly meetings but unable to provide their own transportation are encouraged to contact Marianne Vedder who will be able to assist with carpooling options.

5. Sign ups & volunteers.

Sign up sheets for various events where volunteers are requested will be made available at the monthly meetings; however, members can touch base with Louise at any time.

6. Presentation of Speaker.

Grace Stapper introduced Hugh Metcalfe of Naturaide who talked about creating native plant havens in your garden.

Thank you to all members who brought in goodies for all to enjoy. Mini flower show winners were announced.

Attendance: 46 participants

Minutes prepared by Christine Bourgeois, Secretary