



Russell and District Horticultural Society meeting

Location: Marionville Community Centre

April 15, 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 Kathy Pitruniak and accepted by Linda DuHamel.

3. Reports from committees.

- **AGM-** Diane Sharp -Kudos from other societies

Feedback has been numerous and very positive following the District 1 AGM held on Saturday, April 13, 2024. 135 participants had registered for this event and a whopping 131 attended! Kudos to Diane & Chris for organizing this affair and to their team. Louise was a wonderful Master of Ceremonies ensuring everything adhered to schedule and ran smoothly. A big thank you to Linda for arranging the catering with Russell Foodland. *Speaker*, Asha Hingorani, President of Canadian Sphagnum Peat Moss Association presentation was very informative and she opened our eyes to the many properties of peat moss cultivation, rejuvenation and Canada's role as the #2 global producer of this commodity. *Speaker*, Jeannie Ford, Green House Manager of Aquatopia Water Garden Conservatory by way of her comical approach to the many phases of creating mini ponds, fountains and eco-systems along with a *hands on* audience participant demonstrating how easy and individualistic projects can be.

There were 40 arrangements and 32 photo competition entries. In conclusion, the AGM was a very successful event where participants shared their experience

through word of mouth and emails. Thanks to the volunteers who also were on hand to clean up and close off this event.

- **Frog Fun Facts** – Thank you Chris Lanthier for researching and sharing these frog fun particulars that were enjoyed by all.
- **March It on Out** – Kudos to all the volunteers that helped make this event so successful. Just a ‘friendly reminder’ on the protocol involved with taking items in advance of Saturday morning. Any items of interest are to be purchased on the Saturday and the \$15 entrance fee is also required. *Exception:* if any volunteer members see any items that may be used by RDHS the Friday night, they may pick them up for the Society. RDHS raised close to \$2,000.00.
- **Workshops**- see Louise to pay in advance of attending any of the workshops that are identified on page 14 of the 2024 Yearbook. Signup sheets are filling up fast so don't delay.
- **Garden Tour** - Louise, still looking for interesting gardens to visit and would appreciate any input on proposed hosts. The garden tour is scheduled for Saturday, August 17th.
- **Day trips** - Chris Lanthier is overseeing day trips and signup sheets are available at the monthly meetings. Details are identified on page 15 of the 2024 Yearbook. Rideau Woodland Ramble is scheduled for Friday, June 21st, Maitland Garden of Hope is scheduled for Thursday, July 18th, and Ferguson Tree Nursery, is scheduled for sometime in September (details have yet to be finalized).
- **Membership – Yearbook** - Hope everyone has had the chance to peruse this year's yearbook. If a member has not received a hard copy of the yearbook, please see Linda. Should anyone not be receiving emails on various RDHS activities/info, please go to the website and sign up for these communications. The RDHS Facebook page has reached 1,000 followers! A big thank you to Jacqueline our webmaster and to Grace for posting her beautiful pictures and points of interest. Louise to review the new policy and subsequent waiver

implementation regarding posting pictures of people on the RDHS website and will share this guideline in the near future.

4. Reminders of upcoming events.

- **May Plant Sale** – Russell Fairgrounds on Saturday, May 18th. Reminder to members contributing plants to repot them by May 10th. Please include the plant name (common or botanical), light requirements and your name. This is a major fundraiser for RDHS and anticipated by residents and members alike.
- **Workshop** – ‘So you want to enter a Flower Show’ (Preparing for a Flower Show) will be held at Pegi’s home on May 4th from 9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. More workshops are detailed on page 14 of the Yearbook.
- **June Flower Show** schedule is outlined on pages 16 & 17 of the Yearbook. This is the ‘big’ one! *Note*: there will be only two mini flower shows in 2025 and are outlined on page 18 of the Yearbook.
- **Trivia Night** for the Lion’s Club is scheduled for Saturday, May 11th. Connie Johnston Trivia Master of Ceremonies extraordinaire will be hosting this event at the Russell Arena.
- **Climate Action Summit** initiative by intermediate students from Russell High School in collaboration with students from Cambridge Primary School. Will be held on May 6th & 7th. This event would be a wonderful opportunity to highlight the RDHS Junior Gardeners program. Volunteers are needed. Anyone interested in helping out, please contact Louise.
- **Earth Day April 22nd** – Carole Millet of the Russell Township Environmental Committee shared that local schools have been invited to participate in Earth Day activities. Earth Day Clean Up is scheduled for Saturday, April 20th (rain date of Sunday, April 21st) at the W.E. Burton Conservation Area from 10 a.m to noon. This is an excellent opportunity for students regarding their obligatory volunteer hours. There is also scheduled a clean up day for the Recreational

Trail scheduled for May 28th from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Organizers will be set up various entrances to the Recreational Trail.

- **Sale of Red Maple Trees** – Marianne Vedder is offering 5-6ft Red Maples for sale at \$30/each. There are only 12 available, so if you are interested, contact Marianne asap.

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 had a wonderful presentation of the many beautiful flowers on her property and was available for questions.

Thank you for all the lovely leftovers/treats from the AGM. Mini flower show winners were announced – congratulations to all!

Attendance: 41 participants

Minutes prepared by Christine Bourgeois, Secretary