



# Russell and District Horticultural Society meeting

Location: Marionville Community Centre

October 21, 2024

## 1. Welcome, New members, exits and washrooms.

Louise Houle greeted all attendees with special mention on returning members, identified washroom facilities as well as exits.

## 2. Acceptance of minutes of September 16, 2024 meeting.

Moved by Christine Bourgeois and accepted by Kathy Pitruniak

## 3. Reports from committees.

- **Report on Covid reflection spot at museum** Grace Stapper gave a brief description of the reflection spot at the museum. The bird house was contributed/made by Bob Proper. Future plans are in progress by Marilyn MacMillan and Grace to have a plaque installed.
- **Election/Volunteering at the RDHS November 18<sup>th</sup> meeting** The annual General Meeting where members of the Board of Directors for 2025 will be sworn in. Pegi Holtz is in search of volunteers to serve for the 2025 season. Louise will assume the role of Past President, however, there remains the vacancy of President, First Vice President and Second Vice President. Any interested parties are to contact Pegi. We would love to have you join the Board.

Christine Lanthier will lead us in a craft and Board Members will supply the treats! We look forward to spending a wonderful evening together.

- **Grapevine Workshop** October 17<sup>th</sup> workshop was a winner and enjoyed by all participants. Grapevines were harvested at Pegi's home. Due to its overwhelming success, this workshop will be a redo for next year.
- **OHA Fundraisers** Next 50/50 draw is on Saturday, December 14, 2024. Great opportunity to try your luck! For further information and tickets, go to <https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/ontario-ha>

**OHA Sipology** The OHA has teamed up with Sipology (a remarkable tea company located in Ontario) as a fundraiser opportunity commencing now until November 30, 2024. For further information go to <https://gardenontario.org/oha-and-sipology-fundraiser/>

## 4. Reminders of upcoming events.

**Free Native Wildflower Seed Giveaway** Sponsored by the Butterflyway Project. Event takes place on Saturday, November 23, 2024 at 9 a.m. *Location:* Russell Flea Market at the Russell High School. If you are looking to help pollinators, stop by and pick up some free seeds!

**Community Gardening Knowledge Exchange** Sponsored by Eco East takes place on Saturday, November 23, 2024 at 10 a.m. Lisa Deacon, Township of Russell Councillor, invited all interested to attend the two hour session which is free for residents of Prescott-Russell. For further details and to register visit [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYudOirpjOih90jgivyRfP0jW-f\\_zwsCH1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9101812200?pwd=ZlRlYUdOirpjOih90jgivyRfP0jW-f_zwsCH1)

**Living Locally Fair** Saturday, January 18, 2025. *Location:* St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic High School. For further information, visit <https://www.livinglocallyfair.ca>

**March It On Out** Saturday, March 22, 2025. *Location:* St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic High School. For further information check out the RDHS website <https://russellgardeners.ca>

**Earth Day 2025 Celebrations** April 25, 2025. More information when available.

**OHA Annual General Meeting** to be held on Saturday, July 19, 2025. For further details visit <https://gardenontario.org/2025-annual-general-meeting/>

## 5. Sign ups & volunteers.

Sign up sheet for volunteers for the **Living Locally Fair** on Saturday, January 18, 2025 are on hand.

Charles Freeman updated members on ongoing activities by the OHA regarding Regulation 16, Section # 6. He shared his views regarding the unfair guidelines regarding the Province of Ontario distribution of grants in reaching a milestone of 100 years of existence for Horticultural Societies -vs- Agricultural Societies. At present, grants of \$1,500 are made available to Agricultural Societies only. However, due to the diligence of OHA Board Members, and in the near future, every Horticultural Society in the Province of Ontario reaching 100 years of existence will also receive this grant. Bonus – it's retroactive!

Grace suggested that members bring indoor plants for any members interested in adopting them as a fundraiser for RDHS. Please remember that those not sold will need to return home with their owners.

Carole VanDie shared a recent experience when visiting an area near the installation of the new Russell Township Recreation Complex. Three trees had been planted previously in that area by RDHS and were no longer in that location. Thankfully they had been relocated. Carole and Grace will work on furnishing plaques for these trees.

## 6. Presentation of Speaker.

Christine Lanthier introduced Janet Johns from the Ottawa Orchid Association who had a wonderful presentation on orchid care which was very much enjoyed by all members.

Next meeting is on Monday, November 18<sup>th</sup> where we will have the RDHS Annual General Meeting and fun festive workshop held by Christine Lanthier.

Minutes prepared by Christine Bourgeois, Secretary