



Russell and District Horticultural Society meeting

Location: Marionville Community Centre

November 18, 2024

1. Welcome, new members, exits and washrooms.

Grace Stapper on behalf of Pegi Holtz greeted all attendees and any new members, identified washroom facilities including exits.

Susan Ramsay, District 1 Director, extended her apologies (as the result of illness) for not being able to attend tonight's meeting.

2. Acceptance of minutes of October 21, 2024 meeting.

Moved by Cindy Anderson and accepted by Kathy Pitruniak. All were in favour and last meeting's minutes were accepted.

3. Reports from committees.

Treasurer's Report – Manja Bastian presented the year ending October 31, 2024 Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Reconciliation of Statements and Bank Reconciliation along with the District 1 – AGM Meeting Financial Statement event held April 13, 2024. The increase of the annual membership fee from \$10 to \$15 was beneficial and the Annual District 1 AGM made money. Net income for the year indicated that RDHS can definitely support some future community projects/causes. This determination was echoed by Charles Freeman who implied that this course of action would be prudent and suggested moving \$5,000 to the special fund for the aforementioned community projects/causes. Motion to accept RDHS Financial Statement was moved by Charles Freeman and seconded by Marianne Vedder. Sanctioned and voted by all, carried. Financial books are to be reviewed by our Society members Francis Williams and Jane Thibodeau. Motion to accept reviewers was moved by Carole VanDie and seconded by Diane Sharp. Sanctioned and voted by all, carried.

President's Report – Submitted by Louise Houle and presented by Pegi Holtz.

- Membership has reached a total of 142 members with 36 new members joining this calendar year.
- RDHS organized or participated in the following for 2024: Living Locally Fair; March It On Out; Plant Sales in May & September; OHA Convention in Guelph (attended by 1 member); Hosted District 1 AGM in Embrun, April 30th with 130 attendees; three mini flower shows in January, February & March, Large Flower Show in June; ran a successful Program for Junior Gardeners with a Junior Gardeners Flower Show and Awards meeting in September; three workshops (i.e. How to Prepare for a Flower Show,

Glass on Glass and Grapevine Wreath/Obelisk); two day trips – Rideau Woodland Ramble and Maitland Garden of Hope; and garden tours of local gardens.

- Speakers at monthly meetings – Hugh Metcalfe of Naturaide on creating native plant havens in your garden; Meghann Baker of Fiat Farm on Permaculture; Grace Stapper on pictures from my garden; Trevor from RiverOak on SORS (School of Rural Skills) and skating trails; Rebecca Boyar from West Coast Seeds and Johnny Genetix on growing seedlings; Christina Enright a.k.a. the Monarch Butterfly Lady on Plants for bees and butterflies; Judith Cox on Gardening for Continuous Joy; Jennifer Glen on pruning Plants for Enhancement; and Janet Johns on Orchid Care.
- Projects – Post Covid reflection spot at museum; three trees planted at the Sports Dome along with inclusion of projected signage; installation of electrical power at McDougall Park; and Russell Police Village's 125th anniversary.
- President's Thank You – 'As I finish my term as President of the Russell and District Horticultural Society, I would like to thank everyone who has given of their time to make this society such a productive and fun group. Without the work of all the board members, none of the activities and events previously mentioned would have been possible. I will be staying on as past-president and will certainly help the new Executive and Board to organize and plan for the upcoming year. Again, I am inviting you to become involved with this dynamic group of people and stand in as a director on the Board for 2025. I wish you all a holiday season filled with joy as you celebrate with your loved ones. See you all in January!' Louise Houle

Volunteer Hours – Carole VanDie. It is important that members document their volunteer hours as reaffirmed by the OHA. All Societies must enter their volunteer hours via the Annual Information Report. Hours are required for OHA annual report and OMAFRA report. Carole tabulates hours for those who prepare the reports. She would like to receive all volunteer hours by the first week of December either by hard copy or electronically. Diane Sharp drafted a template to mirror OHA's document and this will be provided to Jacqueline Wyss for electronic distribution to all. Mention was made that some members do not have the means to print this electronic copy and it was suggested that a hard copy be made available to those members. Members are encouraged to contact Carole or Grace if applicable.

Member plant sale – members brought indoor plants, seeds, bulbs, reference material, etc. to the meeting. Proceeds to be donated to the local food bank.

Quilt Raffle – Cindy donated a beautiful quilt. Members can purchase a raffle ticket and proceeds will go to RDHS. Tickets will be made available at the January 2025 meeting to members who were unable to purchase tickets at November's meeting.

Election of RDHS Board Members and Executive

A big thank you to Louise Freeman who chaired the election. Results of this election are as follows:

President: Grace Stapper
Past President: Louise Houle
Vice-president – Frances McCormick

Second vice-president – remains vacant
Treasurer - Manja Bastien
Assistant Treasurer – Peter VanDie
Web Designer - Jacqueline Wyss
Secretary – Christine Bourgeois
Assistant Secretary – Chris Lanthier
Director – Cynthia Anderson
Director – Susan Barr
Director – Linda Duhamel
Director - Laurie LeChasseur
Director – Marilyn MacMillan
Director - Kathy Pitruniak
Director - Diane Sharp
Director - Carole VanDie
Director – Marianne Vedder

Charles Freeman reminded members of the following OHA Fundraisers below:

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/>

He also mentioned that there is a \$1,000 family scholarship available with details and application on the Garden Ontario website <https://gardenontario.org> Garden Ontario is also offering a Vegetable Garden journal for 2025. Normally a perennial of the year is identified for the upcoming calendar year; however, in 2025 the theme is 'the vegetable garden'. Look out for upcoming docu-info sessions from across the province with sessions being posted on the website as of November 21st. OHA holds Four 50/50 draws a year. April 25, 2025 is Earth Day and OHA will be hosting an Earth Day Webex info session. OHA will host a 'virtual' general meeting in 2025 but there will be no convention. There is a new aquatic invasive plant that is slowly invading waterways. It was a popular aquarium plant back in the day and is not fussy on habitat or environmental conditions. Charles encouraged members to take a look at the OHA website to see what's new and interesting.

Grace made mention that Pegi & Julie Keravel will be stepping down as Directors for the year but will remain involved.

4. Reminders of upcoming events.

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.

Santa hat craft was presented, made and enjoyed by everyone. Thank you to Chris Lanthier for organizing this fun event.

Next meeting is on Monday, January 20, 2025. Presentation on “Horticultural Therapy” by Alexa Ashworkth.

Minutes prepared by Christine Bourgeois, Secretary