



2024

Y  
E  
A  
R  
O  
F  
G  
R  
O  
W  
I  
N  
G

The Russell and District Horticultural Society is dedicated to engaging and educating gardeners of all ages. We encourage the improvement and beautification of our community through gardening, recycling, and supporting local businesses. Our goal is to enhance our community by making it even more beautiful while protecting the environment.

The objectives of the Russell and District Horticultural Society are to encourage interest and education in horticulture by:

- holding meetings and educational workshops;
- encouraging the planting of trees, shrubs and flowers in our community;
- promoting outdoor beautification;
- arranging field trips, competitions and exhibitions related to horticulture;
- distributing seeds, plants, bulbs, flowers, trees and shrubs;
- promoting the protection of the natural environment;
- promoting the circulation of horticultural information through any media;
- stimulating an interest in the study of horticulture in gardeners of all ages.

Russell and District Horticultural Society  
8730 Victoria Street, Metcalfe, ON, K0A 2P0  
russellgardeners@gmail.com  
russellgardeners.ca

Cover photo by Gloria Biickert

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In 2014, I had the privilege to serve the Russell and District Horticultural Society as president.

It is hard to believe 10 years have already gone by. Life has changed tremendously since then. More than ever, climate change and saving the planet are a huge concern and top priority for everyone.

The RDHS has always been very dedicated to good stewardship of Mother Earth. With events such as the Living Locally Fair, March It On Out, tree planting, plant sales and monthly speaker meetings, we have encouraged purchasing locally, recycling, sharing resources and know-how for a healthier community. Promoting camaraderie and joy of gardening through workshops, day trips and garden tours have also been important aspects. I am proud to be a member of such an active and dedicated group.

This year, our society is hosting the District 1 AGM. Eight other societies from the area will be joining us on Saturday, April 13th, at the Camille Piché centre in Embrun. We will be “Leaping into Leap Year” with interesting speakers, floral and photo competitions and fun exchanges with like-minded gardeners. I hope you can join us!

Louise Houle, RDHS President



## PLANT ORANGE IN 2024!

The Communities in Bloom organization invites everyone to plant orange in 2024 in honour of our Indigenous communities. Whether you prefer wild flowers or cultivated ones, there are so many possible choices: butterfly milkweed, gladiolas, zinnias, geraniums, cosmos, roses, canna and calla lilies, mums, dahlias, marigolds, calendulas, heleniums, hibiscus, nasturtiums, geums, lantanas, sunflowers, Asiatic lilies, begonias, portulaca, coneflowers and more. In the vegetable garden there are carrots, squashes, tomatoes, pumpkins and others, some of which produce orange blossoms.

# DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Maxville Society hosted our District 1 AGM in April amid a year-long celebration of their 100th Anniversary. We gave our second District 1 Service Award to Wendy Grant, an outstanding leader of the Cornwall Society and a great support to me as the District Director.

We had an enthusiastic group start the Seaway Valley Horticultural Society, which draws from five small communities along the St Lawrence River from Morrisburg to Prescott. They have plans for several community gardens and hope to receive their incorporation through OMAFRA soon, so that they can officially join the OHA. The boundary between District 1 and District 3 was changed at the OHA Convention and AGM in July to include all five communities in District 1.

The Society Presidents met by Zoom in October and decided it was still the best way to meet as a group. It certainly saved a lot on travel time.

Our societies continued with their community work, plant sales, garden tours and flower shows. Several Societies held Zoom-only meetings during January and February, then returned to in-person meetings for the rest of the year.

It was a great pleasure to attend a meeting of each society at least once during the year. Thank you very much to our presidents, their directors and society members. 2023 was a very rewarding year and I look forward to more adventures in 2024 visiting each society and seeing their members at the District 1 AGM in April, hosted by the Russell and District Horticultural Society.

Susan Ramsay, District 1 Director

## DISTRICT 1 SOCIETIES

Cornwall & District Horticultural Society  
Gloucester Horticultural Society  
Kemptville Horticultural Society  
Martintown and District Horticultural Society  
Maxville and District Horticultural Society  
Russell and District Horticultural Society  
Seaway Valley Horticultural Society  
Vankleek Hill and District Horticultural Society  
Williamstown Green Thumb Horticultural Society



# 2024 PLANTS OF THE YEAR

## Perennial of the year

The Phlox paniculata 'Jeana' is an exceptional garden phlox reaching five feet tall and four feet wide, although size will geographically vary. It is known for its impressive lavender-pink flowers, held on tall and sturdy stems from midsummer to early fall. Hummingbirds, butterflies – especially Eastern Tiger Swallowtails – and other pollinators are attracted to the nectar-rich flowers. It was discovered by Jeana Prewitt along the Harpeth River near Nashville, Tennessee.

## House Plant of the Year

Philodendron There are two main types of philodendron, vining and non-climbing. Vining philodendrons require a structure to crawl up, while non-climbing grow upright and don't require additional support. The easy-to-care-for plant generally requires minimal watering and indirect sunlight.

## Herb of the Year

Yarrow The botanical name for Yarrow (Achillea) comes from the great war hero Achilles of Greek mythology. Legend has it that Achilles used the leaves of this plant to heal his wounded warriors during the battle of Troy.

## Vegetable of the Year

Purple sweet potato is packed with fibre, vitamins A and B, and antioxidants.



The Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA) has a publication which is produced quarterly and can be accessed online at their website.

[www.gardenontario.org](http://www.gardenontario.org)

# 2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Louise Houle  
President  
(613) 443-0514



Pegi Holtz  
Past President  
(613) 821-0364



Manja Bastian  
Treasurer  
(613) 898-1801



Peter VanDie  
Assistant Treasurer  
(613) 821-3096



Christine Bourgeois  
Secretary  
(613) 247-7878



Christine Lanthier  
Assistant Secretary  
(613) 835-3397



Cindy Anderson  
Director  
(613) 857-2287



Susan Barr  
Director  
(613) 496-3009



Linda DuHamel  
Director  
(613) 443-3756



Marilyn MacMillan  
Director  
(613) 445-3069



Kathleen Pitruniak  
Director  
(613) 448-3388



Diane Sharp  
Director  
(613) 447-0468



Grace Stapper  
Director  
(613) 445-5737



Carole VanDie  
Director  
(613) 821-3096



Marianne Vedder  
Director  
(613) 445-5341



Jacqueline Wyss  
Director  
(613) 293-0447



# COMMITTEES

## District 1 AGM 2024

Diane Sharp, Chris Lanthier

## Flower Shows

Louise Houle, Pegi Holtz, Marilyn MacMillan, Kathy Pitruniak

## Day Trips

Chris Lanthier

## High School Awards

Marilyn MacMillan

## Historical Records

Margaret Helliker

## Liaison with Russell Township

Carole Van Die

## Library Liaison

Cynthia Anderson

## March It On Out

Louise Houle, Pegi Holtz

## Memberships

Manja Bastian, Linda Duhamel

## Plant Sales

Louise Houle, Pegi Holtz, Julie Keravel, Grace Stapper

## Sunshine

Linda Duhamel

## Website and Social Media

Jacqueline Wyss, Grace Stapper

## Workshops and Garden Tour

Louise Houle

## Yearbook

Jacqueline Wyss, Pegi Holtz

# LIFE MEMBERS

Life memberships are awarded to someone with a long-time membership in a Society, usually with a minimum of 15 years, who shows a continued interest in horticulture and who participates in the Society and contributes to its programs. We are proud to have the following Life Members in our Society:

Elizabeth Baas, Barbara Boland, Margaret Helliker, Pegi Holtz, Ann Jackson, Dorothy Kinkaid, Lindley McPhail, Alice Proper, Grace Stapper and Marianne Vedder.



# MEMBERSHIPS

Adult membership for the Russell and District Horticultural Society is \$15 per person per year (January to December).

For juniors the fee is \$10 per child for the first two children per household, \$5 per child for additional children.

As a member of the Russell and District Horticultural Society, you can get discounts on live plant material at businesses in the surrounding area. Present your membership card before your purchase is completed at any of the following businesses:

Beyond the House (10% off)

144 Craig Street, Russell

(613) 445-5214 [beyondthehouse.ca](http://beyondthehouse.ca)

Floral Design Landscaping (15% off on trees, shrubs and perennials)

2860 Donnelly Drive, Kemptville

(613) 258-7270 [floraldesignlandscaping.com](http://floraldesignlandscaping.com)

Rideau Woodland Ramble (10% off)

7210 Burritt's Rapids Road/County Road 23, Burritt's Rapids

(613)258-3797 [rideauwoodlandramble.com](http://rideauwoodlandramble.com)

Whitehouse Perennials (10% off)

594 Rae Road, Almonte

(613)256-3406 [whitehouseperennials.com](http://whitehouseperennials.com)

There are likely other nurseries that offer this discount too....just ask!

## Did you know?

Every year the Society sponsors (pays for) books to be purchased for the Russell library. Please visit the library and see all the beautiful and educational material that there is for gardeners at our lovely library on Concession Street. While you're there, go into the delightful Children's Fantasy Reading Garden that the Society created several years ago. One of the favourite places in the garden is a stone bench on which you can enjoy a good book on a beautiful summer's day.

# YEAR IN REVIEW

2023 was full of excitement as our Society had over 160 new and returning members. Let's look back at all the fun we had together in 2023!

We kicked off the year with the Living Locally Fair in January, where some of our members manned a booth to let people know about our Society.

We all got a much needed boost of colour at the three mini flower shows that were held at our meetings in February, March and April. In March, we hosted the March it-on-Out! event to encourage reusing items instead of tossing them away.

The Society held three plant sales this year. Our big sale in May was held at the Russell Fairgrounds this year due to construction at MacDougall Park and we had two smaller plant sales at our meetings in June and September.

We also stayed connected with other gardening groups in our region and across Ontario. In April, 12 members went to the District 1 Annual General Meeting hosted by Maxville and in July, seven members attended the Ontario Horticultural Association Annual Convention in Kanata and had a great time, sharing knowledge and good times.

To encourage our members to show off what they grew in their gardens, we held the big spring flower show in June and a special Junior Gardeners' show in September.

We held our very popular workshops again this year where members made pine cone art and tried out glass on glass techniques. We also enjoyed two day trips, one to Fields of Gold Sunflower Farm and one to Green Corners Farm, u-pick flower farm and for Earth Day in April, we teamed up with the Scouts to clean up MacDougall Park after a storm.

We did a little something different this year for our garden tour. In July, we went to La Chasse-Gardée du Marais in Chelsea, Quebec. This stunning garden, created by Adrien Clavet and Réjean Lyrette, was a highlight, inspiring us with beautiful designs.

Members volunteered at the library community garden and we had a fun seed swap at one of our meetings, sharing our gardening successes.

Throughout the year, we had amazing speakers at our meetings, sharing their knowledge and passion with us. Cathie Moreau Clarke spoke to us about her love of African Violets and how to take care of them, Cindy Tracy Clint-Chapman showed us a presentation about Attracting Birds to Your Garden and Keeping them Safe.

Guest Chris Craig showed us a presentation on Native Plants and the Reconciliation Garden and Debbie Courneyea gave us a demonstration on vermi-composting. Local garden centre owner Cindy Cluett spoke to us on the topic of 'What's New in the Garden Centre', Danielle Monroe from Nested Acres Flower Farm spoke about Growing Ranunculus and Mary Ann Van Berlo taught us about Planting for Success.

To help green up our community, we received grants from the Russell Police Village Fund and Russell Township for upgrades to MacDougall Park. The Society made donations to Russell's 125th anniversary celebrations and to the Russell Women's Institute for the planters and hanging baskets in the town of Russell and we teamed up with the South Nation Conservation Authority to plant some trees.

We were also busy spreading the word about our wonderful growth by printing yearbooks and bookmarks, updating our website and sending out email newsletters. Throughout the growing season, Grace Stapper shared wonderful photos of her garden on the RDHS Facebook page for all of us to enjoy (and maybe envy a little).

As we look ahead to the new year, let's keep growing together and making our community greener and brighter. Here's to another year of gardening adventures!


### Did you know?

Russell has a community garden and several of our members volunteer time to help make this worthy cause a success. It is located on the east side of the Russell Library Branch building.

The **Library Community Garden** aims to provide opportunities for people of all ages to learn how to care for the earth and for themselves by growing and eating healthy, local food. The Library will manage the garden, but volunteers will set-up, plant and maintain the garden throughout the season.

We want to share the abundance of our harvests with the whole community. A weekly delivery of fresh produce will be donated to the Good Neighbour's Food Bank and all volunteers will be welcome to their fair share of the harvest.

Give a little, take a little!

A stylized illustration of a garden scene. At the top left, a bee is flying. In the center, a large flower is the focal point. Below it, three signs are planted in the ground. The background is dark with white and light gray elements. The overall style is clean and modern.

The Russell and District Horticultural Society continue to gain more members and contribute to our beautiful community.

2023

\$270

for the maintenance of MacDougall Park & the Russell Library Branch gardens

\$400

In bursaries for the study of horticulture

\$453

In prizes for exhibitions and competitions

18

meeting workshops and field

ues to  
ntribute

# 1334

volunteer hours  
dedicated to  
community and  
special events

## 165

members

## 28

junior  
members



# 8

ngs,  
shops  
ldtrips



# GARDEN TOUR

Saturday August 17th, 2024 from 12:30 to 4:30

Come visit private gardens, each with its own charm. End the tour with a social which includes snacks and prizes. More information, including price of the tickets will be available soon.

# WORKSHOPS

Please make sure you register for these workshops on sign-up sheet at monthly meetings, or call Louise at 613-443-0514 or email at louhou51@gmail.com. \$20 fee per workshop, payment prior to workshop required to save your place. Places are limited so sign up early. Bring your own lunch and beverages. You must have a 2024 RDHS membership to participate.

May 4, 2024 – 9:30am-3pm

**“So you want to enter a flower show!”**, at Pegi’s 8730 Victoria St., Metcalfe

Please join us to learn how to select plant material and condition it and then arrange it in containers for a flower show. Copies of the judging standards will be available. Bring secateurs if you have them.

July 10, 2024 – 9:30am -3pm

**Glass on Glass**, at Pegi’s 8730 Victoria St, Metcalfe

Choice of frame/window, mobile or totem. Supplies of multi-colored glass pieces, baubles, glue, wire, and cutters included. Bring your own totem pieces or frame or window (not exceeding 12”x24”), gloves and cutters or pliers for mobile. Limit of 8 participants. Pre-registration fee of \$20.

October 17, 2024 – 9:30am-3pm

**Grapevine Wreath Making**, at Pegi’s 8730 Victoria St, Metcalfe

Please bring secateurs or loppers and any decorations you would like to include or share. We will provide the grapevine and cedar greenery and may have some decorative balls and ribbon.

# DAY TRIPS

Friday, June 21 at 10am

**Rideau Woodland Ramble**, 7210 Burritt's Rapids Rd, Merrickville, Ontario

The Ramble is a display garden and sales centre. We will be given garden maps and an orientation and then we are free to ask questions and ramble along the trails. They are known for their hosta collection and a range of trees, shrubs and perennials. We can have lunch at the picnic tables near a babbling pond with many dwarf conifers, lots of grasses, a labyrinth, walk the lake ramble and then the totem trail where we can walk in the woodland and find lots of surprises. We get a 10% discount in the garden centre.

Thursday, July 18 at 10:15am

**Maitland Garden of Hope**, 1 Jones Court, Maitland, Ontario (past Brockville)

Maitland Garden of Hope is a 1.5 acre garden with a delightful variety of theme gardens such as wildflower, orchids, woodland, perennials (5000), daylilies, butterfly, culinary, touching, fragrance and magnolia. Their mission is to provide a garden habitat that will aid in the conservation and enjoyment of our native butterflies, birds and honey bees. No charge but a donation to "Our Kenyan Kids" would be appreciated.

September, (date to be determined)

**Ferguson Tree Nursery**, 275 County Rd 44, Kemptville, Ontario

Ferguson Tree Nursery is Ontario's largest supplier of high quality tree seedlings and nursery stock. They only grow native or proven non-invasive naturalized trees and woody shrubs and perennials produced from local seed sources that have the greatest chance for success in eastern Ontario. They are a non-profit corporation and so any profits are used to promote forestry as well as supporting conservation and recreation. We will have a guided tour of the nurseries and trees and there are hiking trails on the property for those interested.

## Did you know?

There are present and past members of our society who are also Master Gardeners. For more information on this dedicated group please visit their website at [mgottawa.ca](http://mgottawa.ca).

Russell and District Horticultural Society  
**2024 JUNE FLOWER SHOW SCHEDULE**

June 17, 2024

**CLASS: Flowers**

Prizes: 1st \$5, Ribbons for 1st, 2nd, 3rd

1. Allium, 1 stem
2. Campanula, 1 cultivar, 3 stems
3. Euphorbia, 1 stem
4. Flowering shrub or tree, 1 branch
5. Flowering vine, under 40cm (over the edge of container)
6. Iris, 1 stem
7. Lilacs, 3 stems
8. Peony, red, double, 1 bloom
9. Peony, pink, double, 1 bloom
10. Peony, white, double, 1 bloom
11. Peony, Itoh, 1 bloom
12. Peony, any other colour, 1 bloom
13. Papaver (poppy) – 1 stem
14. Rose, red
15. Rose, pink
16. Rose, any other colour
17. Any other flower not mentioned above, 1 stem

**CLASS: Foliage**

Prizes: 1st \$5, Ribbons for 1st, 2nd, 3rd

18. Fern – collection minimum 3 varieties
19. Heuchera (Coral Bells) - 1 cultivar, 3 leaves
20. Heuchera Collection – minimum 5 leaves
21. Hosta – 1 giant leaf (measuring from the tip of the leaf to leaf base over 10 inches)
22. Hosta – 1 large leaf (measuring from the tip of the leaf to leaf base 6 to 10 inches)
23. Hosta – 1 medium leaf (measuring from the tip of the leaf to leaf base 4 to 6 inches)
24. Hosta – 1 small leaf (measuring from the tip of the leaf to leaf base 2 to 4 inches)
25. Hosta, miniature, any 1 cultivar, 3 leaves (measuring from the tip of the leaf to leaf base under 2 inches)
26. Hosta - any 1 cultivar, 3 leaves
27. Hosta Collection – minimum 3 varieties, 2 leaves of each



### **CLASS: Arrangements**

Prizes: 1st \$5; Ribbons for 1st, 2nd, 3rd

28. "Cheers" – an arrangement in a wine glass
29. "More than Just Green" – an arrangement using only foliage
30. "Boxed In" – a small arrangement (5-10 inches)

### **CLASS: Fruits and Vegetables**

Prizes: 1st \$5, Ribbons for 1st, 2nd, 3rd

31. Collection of freshly cut herbs in 1 container, minimum 5 varieties, named on a separate card
32. Display of salad greens
33. Rhubarb, 5 stalks
34. Any other fruit or vegetable

### **CLASS: Photography**

Prizes: 1st \$5, Ribbons for 1st, 2nd, 3rd

35. "Colour of the Year" – featuring orange
36. "Bird's Eye View"

### **CLASS: Writing**

Prizes: 1st \$5, Ribbons for 1st, 2nd, 3rd

37. Acrostic. A form of poetry that is written vertically in capital letters. Please print "JUNE" in 14 point font in bold print with the rest of the poem in 12 point font

### **CLASS: Art**

Prizes: 1st \$5, Ribbons for 1st, 2nd, 3rd

38. A garden element you created

# MINI FLOWER SHOWS

Judges will be the members attending the meeting. No artificial flowers, please. Prizes are \$5 (1st), \$3 (2nd), \$2 (3rd).

## **March 17, 2025 - 3 categories**

1. In honour of World Candle Day on March 1, an arrangement in a candle holder.
2. In honour of National Cereal Day, an arrangement in a bowl.
3. In honour of March Break, an arrangement with Tropical Flair.

## **April 21, 2025**

1. "All Cracked Up" – an arrangement featuring egg shells.
2. "Spring Wreath" – a handmade wreath decorated with flowers (fresh or dried).
3. "H2O" – a water viewing design.

### **Did you know?**

RDHS has a long standing partnership with St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic High School (STASH). We have a tremendous partnership with the students and staff at the school. They start heirloom seeds for our May plant sale and also provide the heavy lifting for our March it on Out event. We couldn't do it without them!

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

August 15-18, 2024 Russell Fair [russellagriculturalsociety.com](http://russellagriculturalsociety.com)

October 3-6, 2024 Metcalfe Fair [metcalfefair.com](http://metcalfefair.com)

August 10-13, 2024 Navan Fair [www.navanfair.com](http://www.navanfair.com)

July 12-14, 2024 OHA Annual Convention in Guelph, Ontario  
[gardenontario.org/convention](http://gardenontario.org/convention)

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The society wishes to acknowledge and thank the following people and organizations for their cash donations, gift certificates, prizes and/or their professional talents that were donated during 2022 and 2023.

Government of Ontario  
Beyond the House Garden Centre  
Green Corners, U Pick Tulip Farm  
Township of Russell

We would also like to thank all those members and their families without whom our programs would not be as successful as they are.



[russellgardeners.ca](https://russellgardeners.ca)

Keep up with everything that's going on at the Society. Scan this code and go to our website.

# RUSSELL AND DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

**Saturday, March 23, 2024** March it on Out!

**Monday, April 15, 2024** Meeting and Questions & Answers with Grace Stapper

**Saturday, May 4, 2024** Workshop “So you want to enter a flower show!”

**Saturday, May 18, 2024** RDHS Plant sale at the Russell Fairgrounds

**Monday, May 20, 2024** Meeting and talk titled “Plant for Bees and Butterflies” by Eco East

**Monday, June 17, 2024** Meeting, Flower Show and guest speaker Judith Cox on “Gardening for Continuous Joy”

**Friday, June 21, 2024** Day Trip Rideau Woodland Ramble, Merrickville, Ontario

**Wednesday, July 10, 2024** Workshop Glass on Glass

**Thursday, July 18, 2024** Day Trip Maitland Garden of Hope, Maitland, Ontario

**Saturday, August 17th, 2024** Garden Tour

**September** (date to be determined) Day Trip Ferguson Tree Nursery Kemptville, Ontario

**Monday, September 16, 2024** Meeting and presentation on “Pruning Plants for Enhancement” by Jennifer Glenn

**October 17, 2024** Workshop Grapevine Wreath Making

**Monday, October 21, 2024** Meeting and talk on “Orchid Care” by Janet Johns

**Monday, November 18, 2024** Annual General Meeting

**Monday, January 20, 2025** Meeting and presentation on “Horticultural Therapy” by Alexsa Ashworkth

**Monday, February 17, 2025** Meeting and talk on “Urban Potager” by Odette McIntyre

**Monday, March 17, 2025** Meeting and guest speaker Rebecca Boyar on “Grow Like A Pro – Hydroponic Gardening”

**Saturday, March (TBA), 2025** March it on Out!

**Monday, April 21, 2025** Meeting and topic of Fusion Landscaping with guest speaker Benjamin Stapper, Landscape Designer and garden lover

**DON'T MISS A THING!**

**GO TO [RUSSELLGARDENERS.CA](http://RUSSELLGARDENERS.CA) AND SIGN UP TO RECEIVE OUR EMAILS.**