



Russell and District Horticultural Society meeting

Location: Marionville Community Centre

January 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 November 20, 2023 meeting.

Moved by Diane Sharp and accepted by Cathy Pitruniak.

3. Reminders of upcoming events:

District 1 AGM, hosted/organized by RDHS, is fast approaching. Date: Saturday, April 13, 2024. Location: Camille Piché Community Centre, 8 Blais Street, Embrun. Lead organizer: Diane Sharp. Theme: Leaping into leap year. Anyone interested in attending please inform Louise. *Note:* If attending, you may be asked to help out prior to and/or during the event. Invite to District 1 AGM to be shared with all Societies in District 1 no later than February 15th. Mug donations are welcomed and will be collected for use during this event. AGM attendees will be encouraged to take home their mug afterwards.

2024 Membership (calendar year) is now open with a minimal increase to \$15. Linda DuHamel will accept memberships at the monthly meetings. *Note:* Everyone purchasing a RDHS membership agree to conduct themselves in accordance with the Code of Conduct found on the RDHS web page at russellgardeners.ca

Mini Flower Shows will take place on February 19, March 18 and April 15, 2024. Further details are outlined on page 15 of the 2023 Yearbook. Louise reviewed specifics of next month's Mini Flower Show. *Note:* Real and dried flowers are suitable (no artificial flowers). Official colour theme is orange.

Pegi Holtz provided details of the upcoming Living Locally Fair on Saturday, January 20th from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Location: St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic High School, 1211 South Russell Road, Russell. RDHS will have a booth and all are welcome to stop by and say "hello".

March it on Out will take place on Saturday, March 23rd. Donations will be accepted on Friday, March 22nd. 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.

Christina Enright, aka the Monarch Lady, made mention that the monarch butterfly is now on the endangered list and encouraged people to grow milkweed to help out.

February 19, 2024 meeting will include a talk on creating native plant havens in your garden. Guest speaker: Hugh Metcalfe of Naturaide

4. Signups-volunteers

March it on out sign up sheets were made available.

5. Presentation of speaker

Diane Sharp introduced Rebecca Boyar, Retail Sales Partner, West Coast Seed Representative who provided information and a Q & A session on growing seedlings, equipment requirements, etc.

Johnny Genetix and associate presented a growing tent, equipment, etc. that have available at their warehouse on Star Top Road. *Website:* growingwithjohnnygenetix.com

6. Social, snacks provided by – to be discussed further at the upcoming RDHS Board Member annual meeting at the end of this month.

Attendance: 57 participants

Minutes prepared by Christine Bourgeois, Secretary