

Minutes of Russell and District Horticultural Society Meeting

Monday, April 15th, 2019

Meeting was called to order with approximately 48 people in attendance.

The following guests were welcomed: Laurel Wightman, Luckie Frechette and Angela ?

It was moved by Marianne Vedder and seconded by Linda Duhamel to accept the minutes of the March 2019 meeting as presented.

President, Carol Van Die reported on the District Annual General Meeting held on the weekend of April 13th. It was a very successful meeting with three of our members taking prizes. Rosie Grigiatis, Gloria Biickert and Grace Stapper all won for their photography entries. The President of the OHA presented the Russell Horticultural Society with a certificate to commemorate the 100th anniversary. The Bee Pollinators created by Hub and Grace Stapper were very well received and sold for \$52 in the silent auction which was held to cover expenses of the AGM.

Louise Houle reported on the recent "March It On Out". Once again, it was very successful raising \$1047.00. Many thanks to St. Thomas Aquinas High School, teacher Ann Jackson and the many student volunteers.

Everyone was reminded of the showing of "Call of the Forest" movie with author Diana Beresford-Kruger on April 29th, 2019. Diana will be in attendance at St. Thomas Aquinas High School to sign her book. Expenses for this event will be covered by the Horticultural Society. All were encouraged to attend and bring friends and enjoy the party cake. Information tables will be set up including Trees for Tomorrow, etc. Flyers and posters were available for those wishing to help post them to advertise the event.

Lindley McPhail will be selling raffle tickets for the Raven sculpture at the Metcalfe Farmer's Market on Saturday (April 20th) at the Greely Community Centre from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. Anyone interested in assisting Lindley that day were asked to let her know.

The annual plant sale will be held on Saturday, May 18th at McDougall Park, Craig Street, Russell. Anyone with extra plants in their gardens were encouraged to donate them and reminded that they are much more visually pleasing if they are potted approximately one week in advance. Plants can be dropped off by 7:30 a.m. on Saturday. The local 4H Club will also be selling plants at the park that day with proceeds from the sale going to their club. "Rudy" will be making his debut at the Plant Sale. This huge metal sculpture of a rudbeckia flower (the Society's emblem) created by Ed Bowkett, Robert Laporte and Scott Cluett from materials salvaged from the Prime Minister's residence and the roof of the parliament buildings, named will travel to different sites within the Russell and Embrun area. The value of this sculpture is \$5000-\$7000. The contest named "Where's Rudy" will be held from May until September. People who spot "Rudy" and report the location on the website, will be entered in the contest to win "Rudy".

Connie Johnston talked about the upcoming function entitled "Down East Kitchen Party". It will be held on June 1st at the Russell Arena. Tickets are \$30 each and will cover the cost of a full eastern dinner – fish, chips, coleslaw, baked beans and scrumptious home made desserts including blueberry buckle, blueberry tarts and maple syrup tarts. There will be an amazing Newfie band entitled "Steady Belt", screeching in, kissing the puffin, playing the spoons and ugly sticks. Tickets are limited so please let Connie know if you are interested.

Jacqueline Wyss has prepared cards explaining the purpose of the Russell Horticultural Society and all were encouraged to take and distribute them.

Linda Duhamel reported that the original calendar girls were celebrating 20 years. Linda contacted them to thank them for the idea (has received three responses). There are still three calendars from our society for sale.

A very impressive flower show was held. Category 1 – "Spring's a Comin'" – winners: 1st – Pegi Holtz; 2nd – Johanne St. Denis; 3rd – Marilyn McMillan. Category 2 – "Hens, Chicks and Bunnies" – winners: 1st – Pegi Holtz; 2nd – Marilyn McMillan; 3rd – Johanne St. Denis. Category 3 – "All Next! A Parallel Design" – winners: 1st – Pegi Holtz; 2nd – Johanne St. Denis; 3rd – (a tie) Grace Stapper/Marilyn McMillan.

The meeting concluded with a very interesting talk on "How to Make Over Tired Garden and Tired Gardeners" by our guest speaker Mary Reid.

Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Johnston, Secretary, Russell Horticultural Society