

Minutes of Russell Horticultural Society Meeting

Monday, May 20, 2019

Meeting was called to order with approximately 29 people in attendance.

The following guests were welcomed: Ida Fay and Helga (Helga is a resident of Russell Meadows)

It was moved by Pegi Holtz and seconded by Louise Houle to accept the minutes of the April 2019 meeting as presented. Voted on and passed.

Reports from the President, Carole VanDie:

Carole reported on the showing of “Call of the Forest” movie with author, botanist and scientist Diana Beresford-Kruger on April 29th, 2019 at St. Thomas Aquinas High School. It was a very successful evening. Cindy Saucier received a \$100 grant from the TD Bank in Cornwall. She used this money to purchase 50 white spruce trees from the Raisin River Conservation Authority. These trees were given to attendees free of charge. Master Gardener Lee Boltwood donated common hop trees and instead of a fixed price for these trees she asked for a donation. \$89 was raised for the Horticultural Society from the sale of these trees.

This same evening, Margaret Helliker, the Horticultural Society’s archivist and lifetime member, presented Ann Jackson with a life membership certificate and a rudbekia plaque made by Shirley Van Dusen. Ann has provided valuable assistance to the Horticultural Society over the years by providing a venue (at St. Thomas Aquinas High School) and volunteer workers for such events as the annual Living Locally Fair and “March It On Out”, just to name a few.

Certificates were also presented to the Horticultural Society that evening from both the Mayor of the Township of Russell, Pierre Leroux and our Federal Member of Parliament, Francis Drouin to commemorate the 100th anniversary.

The annual plant sale held on Saturday, May 18th was again very successful. With very generous donations made by Erin Holtz (dahlia bulbs), Steve Mihok (trees grown in his yard), Cindy Saucier (red pine trees from South Nation Conservation), Ann Jackson and her students who grew plants in class and donated them to the Horticultural Society, over \$1600 was raised. The local 4H Club also participated by selling plants with the profit going to their club. "Rudy" made 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 \$500-\$700. 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".

On June 22nd, the Society will be hosting "Children's Rock Painting" at MacDougall Park. Grace Stapper will be giving a demonstration on how to make nesting boxes. Grace applied for and received a \$300 grant from South Nation Conservation to help promote this event.

The 161st Russell Fair will be held on September 5th to 8th. Carole reported that she will be away on vacation at that time so is actively looking for volunteers now to work in both the lobby of the arena for the plant show for the duration of the fair as well as the Horticultural booth in the Curling Club.

Carole also advised everyone of the sudden passing of the husband of one of our Directors - George St. Pierre - spouse of Christine Mercier. Visitation was today, May 20th in Embrun.

Reports from Louise Houle:

The annual Garden Tour will be held on July 13th, 2019. In order to celebrate the 100th anniversary, it will be different this year. It will start in the morning - everyone will go to Russell Meadows for lunch and then continue in the afternoon - finishing at Johanne's house in Bourget. Louise encouraged everyone interested in attending to purchase their ticket before the end of June so numbers of attendees for the luncheon would be determined.

There will be a day trip on July 5th to the Lavender Ridge Farm (and vineyard) in Luskville, Quebec. There is a sommelier (a trained wine professional) at the farm who would be happy to teach all how to taste and appreciate fine wine. There is also a gift shop with homemade soaps, etc. Price per person will be approximately \$30.

On September 11th there will be a trip to a local vineyard in Alexandria, Stonehouse Vineyards. There will be a pot-luck lunch so there is no charge for this trip.

On October 2nd, a lunch will be held at Academie Du Gourmet in Embrun. They will be showcasing their different products providing samples, canapes, etc. They also have kombucha on tap. Cost will be \$35 plus tax per person.

Sign up sheets for all of the above outings will be at the front door and anyone interested was encouraged to sign up as soon as possible.

Reports from Pegi Holtz:

Pegi announced that the annual large flower show will be held at our next regular meeting on June 17th.

She also distributed the prize money to the winners of the flower shows held at our January, February, March and April 2019 regular meetings. Everyone's name who had entered in these shows were entered in a draw to win \$100. The draw was made and the lucky winner was Marilyn MacMillan.

Following the business portion of the meeting a very interesting presentation was held on how to make bee boxes and bug hotels by 1st Vice-President, Grace Stapper.

The meeting concluded with delicious refreshments supplied by Gloria Biickert.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Johnston, Secretary, Russell Horticultural Society