

## Minutes of Russell Horticultural Society Meeting

Monday, June 17, 2019

Meeting was called to order with approximately 34 people in attendance.

The following guests were welcomed: Samara Taschereau, Sylvia Spasoff, Judy Adams and Lynn Ransome

It was moved by Louise Houle and seconded by Grace Stapper to accept the minutes of the May 2019 meeting as presented. Voted on and passed.

### **Reports from the President, Carole VanDie:**

Volunteers are needed on June 22<sup>nd</sup> to help Linda Duhamel with the “Children’s Rock Painting” in MacDougall Park. Grace Stapper will also be giving a demonstration on how to make nesting boxes. Linda has ordered river rock from Essential Soils and purchased sealer for the completed project. She will submit her receipts for reimbursement. Those attending will be Linda Duhamel, Grace Stapper, Lindley McPhail, Denise St. Jean, Louise Houle and Wilma Baas. Lemonade will be served. If there is heavy rain, the event will be cancelled.

### **Update on Day Trips - Louise Houle:**

Louise reported that the trip to the **Lavender Ridge Farm and Vineyard** in Luskville, Quebec has been cancelled as the venue is closing. With the recent flooding in the Pontiac, Quebec, the owner (who is also the Mayor of the area) has been extremely busy and decided to close.

The Horticultural Society **Garden Tour** will be held on Saturday, July 13<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are on sale at Beyond the House and Pronto at \$25 per person. The reason for the increase in cost is to cover the luncheon at Russell Meadows. There will be 8 stops, beginning at 10 am until approximately 4:30 pm, ending at Johanne’s house in Bourget where everyone can enjoy decadent desserts and door prizes. Each stop is to be visited at the appointed time to allow the home owners to be free at all other times than the 1.5 hours slotted for each visit. Tickets **MUST** be purchased prior to July 10<sup>th</sup> so exact numbers can be provided to Russell Meadows for the luncheon. It was stated that all those attending the garden tour must be Russell Horticultural Society members for insurance purposes. (Please note that since the meeting, Louise Houle contacted the Ontario Horticultural Association and they have advised that this is NOT the case - people who are not members CAN attend.)

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. There was a sign-up sheet for those interested.

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.

The **Painting of the Rudbekias** will be held on June 19<sup>th</sup> at Pegi's house. Thanks to Peter for cutting out the flowers. As this is an all-day event, everyone is encouraged to bring their lunch.

### **Report on Living Locally Fair by Lindley McPhail:**

The Living Locally Fair has been extremely successful for the past 11 years. Treasurer Peter VanDie reported that we normally earn \$6000-\$7000 each year. St. Thomas Aquinas High School (where the event is held) has changed their policy in regards to rentals. All parties renting the facility **MUST** have a credit card. The question came up about acquiring one. Lindley had inquired at Scotiabank (where our bank account is held) and they would agree to issue a credit card to the Russell Horticultural Society only if we were to purchase a GIC which could then be held as collateral. The point was raised that a non-profit organization cannot purchase GIC's. Lindley would be contacting the Ontario Horticultural Association to get approval. It was moved by Louise Houle and seconded by Alexandra DeQuimper that if allowed, we purchase a GIC - possibly in the amount of \$3000 - for this purpose.

At this point all business was completed.

The speaker scheduled for this evening had recent surgery and was unable to attend so in his absence Grace Stapper gave a very interesting talk on pollinators. She concluded with beautiful pictures of her gardens during the various stages of spring and summer.

During the time of the business part of the meeting, the judges were in the main party room at Russell Meadows determining the winners of the annual spring flower show. Huge thanks to Pegi Holtz for organizing this always popular event.

There was a bit of a delay so some other items were discussed.

Everyone was reminded of Rudy the Rudbeckia and encouraged to submit their entries. "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 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".

Lindley McPhail mentioned that Cindy Cluett owner of Beyond the House had donated some items (flower pots, slug bait traps, etc.) that members could take free of charge.

Louise Houle sold Garden Tour tickets to those in attendance.

Grace Stapper mentioned that a judge is needed to view the junior gardeners entries. Their role would be to visit the garden, give positive feedback, judge the best garden and write the report. No date has been set for this at this time. The Junior Horticultural leaders will let us know of the date.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30

Delicious treats prepared by Marie-Claire Ivanski and Linda Duhamel were enjoyed by all.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Johnston

Secretary, Russell Horticultural Society