

Minutes of Russell Horticultural Society Meeting
Monday, February 17th, 2020

Meeting was called to order at approximately 7:05 with approximately 40 people in attendance.

Motion was made by Linda DuHamel to accept the minutes of the January meeting as presented. Seconded by Lindley McPhail. Voted on and passed.

President, Grace Stapper welcomed everyone. She reported on the very successful 5 hour executive meeting held on Saturday, February 1st at Julie Keravel's house in St. Albert. At this meeting discussions were held regarding the speakers, events, etc. for the upcoming year.

Everyone was reminded to send their articles to Pegi Holtz, electronically if possible, for the 2020 Horticultural Society yearbook.

Grace reported that a new leader is needed for the junior program. Please contact her if you would like additional information in this regard. Approximately thirty-five children participate in this program. They are given plants to grow in their garden. The gardens are judged and all are encouraged to enter their produce and flowers in their own show held during the Russell Fair.

Julie Keravel reported on the OHA Great Green Fundraiser. There are a variety of themed garden seed packets ranging in price from \$10 to \$15. Profits from the sale of these packets will be split between the OHA, Districts and Societies. Everyone was reminded that payment is required at the time they place their order. The deadline for placing orders will be the next meeting, in March.

Grace reported on the District AGM which will be held on April 18th in Cornwall. Anyone interested in attending were encouraged to sign up. The cost of \$25 (fully reimbursed from the Education Fund of our Society) would cover all the workshops as well as breakfast and lunch. Louise Freeman, Assistant Director, District 1 also spoke on the upcoming meeting entitled "Visionary Look at Gardening 2020" stating that there will be a creative section including composing a limerick or another category entitled "whatever". Some suggestions for this category would be quilt squares, sculptures, paintings, songs, etc. - anything small that you have created. She also said there would be a "Sweetie" draw where you would purchase a chocolate. This purchase would entitle you to a draw entry.

Grace informed all that there were items on the front table that attendees may be interested in: flyers for the upcoming "March It On Out" (John Jackson reported that 800 of these flyers have been prepared for students to take home), flyers for other events and seed packets.

Louise Houle spoke of tonight's flower show. The two categories are "Winter Wonderland" and "Valentine's Day". Everyone was encouraged to vote on their favorites. She spoke on the judging criteria: balance and harmony; proportion and scale; condition and quality; contrast; interpretation and originality. At next month's regular meeting (March 16th) the categories will be: "March Winds Bring" and "You Made Me Love You". The winners were chosen by votes cast by those in attendance.

Louise also spoke on the upcoming “March It On Out” event on March 28th. This is the 8th year for this event and it is very well received by the community. Everyone was encouraged to bring their items to St. Thomas Aquinas High School on Friday night (March 27th) between 5 and 8 pm. Doors open at 8 am on Saturday and the price of admission is \$10. Attendees are then free to take as much of the treasures as they wish. Everyone was reminded that we no longer accept big pieces of furniture. If you have larger items, please take a picture and place it on the bulletin board. Also please no baby items, televisions or computer monitors with tubes, propane or gas cans.

Lastly, Louise spoke of the day trips and workshops. She has provided some suggestions and asked that those who are interested please indicate on the sign-up sheet at the front of the room.

Pegi Holtz reported that a considerable amount of money was donated in remembrance of Pat Stachon (our former President and District Director). Pat’s family asked that the Russell Horticultural Society be considered as recipient in lieu of flowers. Louise Freeman reported that the District had also made a donation in Pat’s name. It was suggested that a tree or something similar be planted in one of our parks in Pat’s name with the possibility of John Jackson preparing a plaque.

Marcel Beauchamp discussed the possibility of holding another Forest Bathing outing in Pegi’s woodlot similar to the one held in 2019. We will have a speaker at our June meeting discussing this topic.

Everyone then went into the chapel of Russell Meadows to listen to a talk on the “Art of Rock Gardening” by Rob Stuart and Josie Pazdzior.

The evening concluded with refreshments provided by Kathleen Pitryiak and Jane Thibaudeau.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Johnston
Secretary, Russell Horticultural Society