

**Horticultural Society Meeting**  
**Monday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022**  
**Held in Community Hall, Marionville, ON**

President, Grace Stapper welcomed everyone. There were approximately 55 members in attendance. A motion was made by Marilyn McMillan to accept the minutes of the March meeting as presented.

Julie Keravel, Junior Horticultural Society Liaison, reported that there are two leaders of the junior group – Laura Leifso and Emily McLaughlin and they currently have seventeen members. She said they are very motivated. It was suggested that they be invited to attend one of our future meetings.

Alice Proper reported on the Russell Library Community Garden. The application for funds was successful. They expect to receive approximately \$5600. The Library has funds and needs above and beyond that. It is expected that the earth will be turned by the first week of May. Shortly after that, work will be done on the soil and mulch with the hopes that by the long weekend, planting and seeding will begin. Volunteers are welcome. Please contact Isabelle Camire at the Library. Her email address is [isabelle.camire@russellbiblio.com](mailto:isabelle.camire@russellbiblio.com). Isabelle is requesting that if anyone has any used garden tools they would like to donate, they can be dropped off at either library. There is also a need for mentors to be matched with students. To date she only has one high school student. The intention is to match the students with a Horticultural Society member. A police check would be required. The Library would provide the letter needed for volunteers to present to the police station. There is no cost for this police check. Please contact Isabelle at the above-noted email address providing her with your availability if you are able to volunteer for this.

Lindley McPhail reported on the District Annual General Meeting. It was a great day with 89 in attendance in person and 27 on Zoom. Attendance at such meetings falls under the Educational Program so the Horticultural Society will provide financial assistance to attend. Lindley reported that the meal was very good and the two speakers were very interesting.

Congratulations to Grace Stapper and Gloria Biickert. Grace received a first prize and Gloria a 3<sup>rd</sup> prize for their photographic contest entries at the AGM. Pegi Holtz received a prize for guessing the closest number of volunteer hours for the district.

Twelve attended from our Society. Many wore red clothing. Charles Freeman suggested that we look into grant money. The OHA suggested that each district plant a tree to commemorate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Queen Elizabeth's reign.

There is a 50/50 draw sponsored by the OHA. Tickets can be purchased on-line and the first draw will be July 16<sup>th</sup>. There will be a draw every three months.

The OHA (Ontario Horticultural Association) convention scheduled for July 16th in Guelph has been cancelled due to COVID. There will be a virtual OHA AGM that day.

The 2023 Convention will be held at the Brookstreet Hotel in Kanata. It is a full weekend event and as mentioned above financial support would be provided for those wishing to attend.

Everyone was reminded that 2022 is the "Year of the Garden" and all are encouraged to plant red flowers in their gardens.

Charles Freeman (President of the OHA) was in attendance and he reminded all of the importance of keeping track of your volunteer hours dealing with the Society. He said that 527,000 hours had been recorded across the province. This is a great saving to our Township in saved wages. It strengthens the argument of the importance of grant money being offered. Therefore, everyone is encouraged to keep track of them and report them to Carole Van Die.

An inquiry was made about the condition of the flag in MacDougall Park. Connie Johnston to contact Township to see if it can be replaced. An attendee suggested that it would be nice if a light could illuminate the flag. This may prove difficult as there is no electricity near the flagpole.

Louise Houle talked about the upcoming daytrips. It is assumed that the trip to Green Corners, U Pick Tulip Farm will occur prior to our next meeting. The Garden Party to Garden Path Homemade Soaps in Vankleek Hill will be on Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>. There were sign-up sheets available for each of these trips.

There were also sign-up sheets for the future workshops. "Glass on Glass" will be held on June 8<sup>th</sup> at Pegi Holtz's residence (8430 Victoria in Metcalfe, ON). This workshop will be of a frame or window (no larger than 12 x 24 inches) or a totem. The "Leaf Printing Cement Coasters" workshop will be held on July 13<sup>th</sup>, again at Pegi's house.

All workshops are \$20 and registration and payment must be received in advance.

Everyone was reminded of the plant sale to be held on the Saturday of the long weekend (May 21<sup>st</sup>). It was suggested that plants be placed in their pots soon so they will look their best for the sale. Reminder to identify the plants. Garden items will also be on sale that day. Louise Houle will bring the blind vanes or slats to the next meeting so they will be available to those wishing to use them for as plant identification markers.

President Grace reported that she listened to a horticultural talk on Earth Day sponsored by the OHA which lasted for two hours. Rose O'Dell spoke of a new product, Sideau, that is a bio-degradable replacement for floral foam. This would be useful for future meetings involving flower shows. A motion was made by Louise Houle and seconded by Marilyn McMillan to purchase a box of this item at a cost of \$90.

We are looking for a volunteer to look after promotion/media for future events. An example being our involvement in the Russell Community Market which is held once a month with the first one being Sunday June 12<sup>th</sup>.

Bookmarks and postcards were available to members showing the flower logo for each Society that is a member of District 1. They feature the new district logo as well.

President Grace shared information from Ed Lawrence regarding prevention of slugs on our hostas. He suggested putting egg shells on the earth where the plant will emerge or preparing a solution of 1/10 (1 part ammonia to 10 parts water), put in a bottle and spray around the plants as they first appear.

The evening concluded with Grace Stapper presenting a very informative talk on Irises.

Respectfully submitted,  
Connie Johnston, Secretary, Russell Horticultural Society