

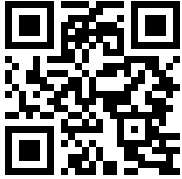
Russell & District Horticultural Society

# 2022

Yearbook



This special edition includes summaries on 2019, 2020 and 2021



Scan this QR code to go to our website for a digital copy of this yearbook in full colour.

Russell and District Horticultural Society  
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[www.russellgardeners.ca](http://www.russellgardeners.ca)

Cover photos by Grace Stapper, RDHS President

#### Note from the Editors

This is a special issue of the Russell and District Horticultural Society yearbook. In March 2020, it felt like everything stopped while we were all doing the best we could to deal with a global pandemic. No RDHS yearbooks were produced for 2020 and 2021, but life and the Society did go on.

This 2022 edition of the RDHS yearbook, includes articles and info on the things that we would have included in our 2020 and 2021 yearbooks if we had them.

This has been a challenging time, and we all dealt with sadness and frustration at how our lives were changed. For a lot of people, gardening became a refuge from all that was going on. Many people discovered what RDHS members have known all along - that gardening is a wonderful and healing activity.

We are a group dedicated to our community, but being a member of the RDHS is so much more to many of us. These past two years have made us realize the incredible value of this wonderful group of like-minded people we call friends.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this yearbook and we hope that you will enjoy looking back on what the RDHS members accomplished during this time - despite the challenges.

Happy gardening!

Jacqueline Wyss and Pegi Holtz  
RDHS Yearbook Editors



The official flower of the Russell and District Horticultural Society is the Rudbeckia.

The Russell and District Horticultural Society is dedicated to engaging and educating gardeners of all ages. We encourage the improvement and beautification of our community through gardening, recycling, and supporting local businesses. Our goal is to enhance our community by making it even more beautiful while protecting the environment.

The objectives of the Russell and District Horticultural Society are to encourage interest and education in horticulture by:

- holding meetings and educational workshops;
- encouraging the planting of trees, shrubs and flowers in our community;
- promoting outdoor beautification;
- arranging field trips, competitions and exhibitions related to horticulture;
- distributing seeds, plants, bulbs, flowers, trees and shrubs;
- promoting the protection of the natural environment;
- promoting the circulation of horticultural information through any media;
- stimulating an interest in the study of horticulture in gardeners of all ages.

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## MACDOUGALL PARK

### A history of the bridge and cairn

Russell Village, previously called Duncanville, or by some Duncansville, had been served continuously by at least one doctor since the census of 1861. A succession of doctors and surgeons looked after the residents of the village from 1861 until 1888, when Doctor Dugald S. MacDougall purchased the house that now stands at 502 Concession and opened up his practice. He served the community for 50 years and it is estimated that he delivered 7000 babies in that time! It is told that Dr. MacDougall was so dedicated to his patients that he slept in his buggy between house calls during the care and treatment of the village and area residents during the 1918 outbreak of the Spanish Flu.

Dr. MacDougall was also very community minded, so it came as no surprise to anyone that before his retirement in 1938 he arranged for the leveling of an unsightly area near the centre of town that was, for all intents and purposes, the unofficial dump for the village. He arranged for 100 trees to be planted in the park and some of these trees are still in the park today, standing as a tribute to his vision.

The Russell Horticultural Society took on the responsibility for the upkeep of MacDougall Park and were instrumental in having Arthur Fraser build a stone cairn in the park in honour of Dr. MacDougall. Mr. Fraser also built an ornamental cedar foot bridge and benches for the park. In the summer of 1940, there was an opening ceremony where the cairn was unveiled while Thyra Warner, a local resident, sang a song. Over 600 people were in attendance that day as MacDougall Park became the first park in the township.

The Russell and District Horticultural Society have remained committed to maintaining MacDougall Park as one of their community involvement services since that time. Over the years there were many changes in the park. Flower beds were added and maintained, a flag pole and signs for the park were installed, new benches were added but eventually the wooden bridge became too dilapidated and was removed.

In the summer of 2009, construction on the dry stone bridge began after years of planning and fundraising. As far as we know, it is the first of its kind in a public park in Canada. The work took place as part of a hands-on course in dry stone walling over a two-week time span, using local granite fieldstone and at least some local labour. In order to cover the cost of the bridge we hosted a number of fund-raising events throughout the year and were helped greatly by local donations and a large gift from the Lions Club.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring is here again, hurray! I feel this 'bubbling' inside me as I look forward to another season of being outdoors, nurturing plants and enjoying all the benefits. I so enjoy gardening!

I wonder if the seedlings that were planted last fall will re-emerge? Which new variety of flowers or vegetables will I try to cultivate this year?

A headline in the paper reads, "Covid inspired gardening was a worldwide phenomenon". You likely noticed this too as your favourite retailers could not keep up with the demand for seeds, plants and garden supplies during the last two years.

It seems that everyone had an urge to dig in the dirt and plant a garden. A common reason was that they wanted to get outdoors and gardening relieved stress. Others were worried about food shortages, food safety and rising prices. Many agree that the flavour of homegrown produce tastes better.

Thankfully gardening and its many rewards and benefits are accessible to everyone. You can do it on a large scale or a very small one. You can have an 'urban garden' by using pots on planters on your patio or balcony. You can share a community garden with many others. Raised beds are helpful if you have mobility difficulties. Young and old can enjoy getting their hands in the dirt.

The Russell and District Horticultural Society is a great group to join, to learn and share, to get involved and to have a great time,

We look forward to "2022, the Year of the Garden". This is a centennial celebration of Canada's horticultural sector. The celebration invites everyone across our country to acknowledge all the benefits that gardens and gardening provide. We're all encourage to be involved and to plant something red.

As a society we hope to enjoy regular meetings with interesting topics and speakers. We have planned exciting activities including day trips, workshops and a garden tour.

Accept our invitation to come and join us. We look forward to meeting you and sharing our love of gardening with you.

Grace Stapper, President, RDHS

## DID YOU KNOW?

Grace Stapper, our President, is a great photographer and has been making weekly posts of her garden over the last couple of growing seasons on our Society Facebook page. Grace shares what is blooming and growing in her own garden. Make sure to follow our Facebook page so that you can see photos of Grace's garden.

## MESSAGE FROM THE OHA PRESIDENT

Greetings to the Membership of Russell and District Horticultural Society.

Like many Societies/Clubs across this province, Russell has started to hold in-person meetings and from what I have seen, they are very well attended which is a great indicator of the dedication of the membership. The Executive have done a sterling job in managing all of the COVID issues throughout the pandemic and continue, as always, to put forth that extra effort to ensure the safety of everyone as meetings and events have now started to unfold and move forward.

Thank you to all of you for your enthusiastic endeavors and energetic plans for an exciting and vibrant year in support of the Russell and District Horticultural Society and the community as you return to what has been referred to "normal times".

Take care and stay safe.

Charles Freeman, President, Ontario Horticultural Association



[www.gardenontario.org](http://www.gardenontario.org)

## MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Although we couldn't meet for most of the year 2021, our Societies certainly adapted to the circumstances and either started or continued holding their meetings online. It certainly wasn't ideal, but because they shared their speakers with other Societies, it gave us all an opportunity to take part in more presentations than usual. As an added bonus, some Societies booked speakers from more distant parts of the province.

I was very pleased to attend the in-person Annual General Meetings of 4 Societies, the virtual AGM's of 3 Societies and, unfortunately, missed out on the AGM for 1 Society. Attending many of the virtual meetings of each Society throughout the year definitely cut down on travel time!

I encourage you to share information with the rest of our District 1 Societies as you resume your regular activities and celebrate 2022, The Year of the Garden. I know that we are all looking forward to holding our meetings and events in person. Because COVID-19 is still around, please take care and stay safe.

I look forward to visiting with each Society at least once this year.

Susan Ramsay, OHA District 1 Director

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Carole VanDie, Past President  
(613) 821-3096



Grace Stapper, President  
(613) 445-5737



Manja Bastian, Treasurer  
(613) 821-3096



Connie Johnston, Secretary  
(613) 445-3587



Lindley McPhail, Co-1st Vice-President  
(613) 445-0754



Marianne Vedder, Director  
(613) 445-5341



Pegi Holtz, Co-1st Vice-President  
(613) 821-0364



Louise Houle, 2nd Vice-President  
(613) 443-0514



Linda DuHamel, Director  
(613) 443-3756



Marilyn MacMillan, Director  
Tel: (613) 445-3069



Marie-Claire Ivanski, Director  
(613) 443-5627



Christine Lanthier, Director  
(613) 835-3397



Peter VanDie, Director  
(613) 821-3096



Diane Sharp, Director  
(613) 447-0468



Julie Keravel, Director  
(613) 443-6308



Susan Barr, Director  
(613) 496-3009



Jacqueline Wyss  
Communications Officer



## COMMITTEES

### Spring Plant Sale

Louise Houle  
Pegi Holtz

### Juniors Liaison

Julie Keravel

### Library Liaison

Lindley McPhail

### High School Awards

Marilyn MacMillan

### Flower Shows

Louise Houle  
Pegi Holtz

### Garden Tours

Louise Houle

### Day trips

Louise Houle

### Workshops

Louise Houle

### Membership

Manja Bastian  
Linda DuHamel

### Historical Records

Margaret Helliker

### Refreshments

Marilyn MacMillan

### Sunshine

Linda DuHamel

### Yearbook

Jacqueline Wyss  
Pegi Holtz

## MEMBERSHIP

Our membership year runs from January to December.

Adult membership is  
**\$10** per person per year.

For juniors the fee is \$10 per child for the first two children per household, \$5 per child for additional children

## LIFE MEMBERS

Life memberships are awarded to someone with a long-time membership in a Society, usually with a minimum of 15 years, who shows a continued interest in horticulture and who participates in the Society and contributes to its programs. We are proud to have the following Life Members in our Society:

Elizabeth Baas, Barbara Boland, Margaret Helliker, Pegi Holtz, Ann Jackson, Dorothy Kinkaid, Lindley McPhail, Alice Proper, Grace Stapper and Marianne Vedder.



## SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

Our society is all volunteer run and we have several committees that are tasked with leading various activities (plant sale, flower shows, awards, workshops, etc.) We also like to acknowledge major events in our members lives and to that end, we have a Sunshine Committee who send messages of congratulations for births, anniversaries, significant birthdays etc., as well as sending messages of condolence to families at the death of one of our members. If you know of an event that should be acknowledged, please contact either our president or the Sunshine Committee.



## MONTHLY MEETINGS

Our regular monthly meetings are usually held at 7:00 pm, the third Monday of each month excluding July, August and December.

Keep up with everything that's going on by checking our website at [www.russellgardeners.ca](http://www.russellgardeners.ca) and/or following us on [Facebook](#).

## DID YOU KNOW?

Our society funds the maintenance of both MacDougall Park on Craig Street and the gardens at the Russell Public Library branch on Concession Street.



Even though 2021 was a challenging year, the Russell and District Horticultural Society continued to contribute to make our community even more beautiful!



**\$853**  
to plant trees, shrubs  
and flowers

**\$2003**

for the maintenance  
of MacDougall Park  
& the Russell Library  
Branch gardens

**190**

volunteer hours  
dedicated to  
community  
events

**74**  
members

**18**  
junior  
members

**\$400**

In bursaries for  
the study of  
horticulture

**\$374**

In prizes for  
exhibitions  
and competitions

**9**

meetings,  
workshops  
and fieldtrips

**We're looking  
forward to  
making 2022  
even better!**

## MINI FLOWER SHOWS

Mini Flower Shows will be held in June 2022 and February, March and April of 2023.

Judges will be the members attending the meeting. No artificial flowers, please. Prizes and ribbons will be awarded as follows: First - \$10, Second - \$5, Third - \$3.

For tips on how to prepare your flowers for a flower show, go to the Resources page on our website at [www.russellgardeners.ca](http://www.russellgardeners.ca).

### June 20, 2022 meeting – 4 categories

1. “Picnic Day” (In honour of International Picnic Day June 18th) – An arrangement in a basket, may include accessories.
2. “Flip Flop” (In honour of International Flip Flop Day June 10th) – An arrangement incorporating a flip flop.
3. “Red Rose” (In honour of Red Rose Day June 12th) – A corsage using red rose(s).
4. Specimens – a single red flower in a clear container (examples are peony, rose, poppy, iris, geranium, geum, columbine, tulip, etc.) You may enter more than once in this category so long as the flowers are different species.

### February 20, 2023 meeting – 3 categories

1. “Love’s in the Air” (in honour of Valentine’s Day, February 14th) – A dining table arrangement.
2. “Remembering When” (in honour of Heritage Day February 21st) – a dried plant material arrangement with accessories.
3. “Winterlude” (celebrating Canadian winter) – an arrangement using white flowers.

### March 20, 2023 meeting – 3 categories

1. “Sugaring Time” a small (5 ½”–10”, 14cm – 25.4cm) arrangement, may include accessories.
2. “In honour of World Poetry Day March 21st) – An arrangement reflecting your choice of poem – show poem.
3. “In honour of International Women’s Day March 8th” – An arrangement in a purse.

### April 17, 2023 meeting – 3 categories

1. “Jazzy” in honour of International Jazz Day April 30th – A multi coloured arrangement.
2. “Welcome Bats” in honour of Bat Appreciation Day April 17th – An arrangement using weathered wood and other elements from nature.
3. “From the Space Station” in honour International Earth Day April 22nd – An arrangement using predominately green, blue, white and brown.

## GARDEN TOUR

Saturday, August 6th, 2022

Starting around 11:00 am until 4:00pm.

Visit a variety of gardens in and around the Russell area.

From farm to country to urban style, each garden has its own flavour and offers interesting ideas. The visit ends with a social event with snacks and prizes.

Tickets \$10.

For more info [louhou51@gmail.com](mailto:louhou51@gmail.com) or 613-443-0514

Come join us for a day of fun and wonder.

## DID YOU KNOW?

In 2022

**Herb of the year**

Violas include the violets, pansies, and Johnny-jump-ups

**Annual of the year**

Graceful Grasses® Prince Tut

**Perennial of the year**

Schizachyrium scoparium and cultivars

**Tree of the year**

Musclewood

**Flower of the year**

Tulip

## DAY TRIPS

*For members only*

You must register for these daytrips, on sign-up sheets at monthly meetings or by contacting Louise at [louhou51@gmail.com](mailto:louhou51@gmail.com) or 613-443-0514.

### Picking Tulips

Wednesday, May 11th, or 18th, 10:00 am, to be determined by Mother Nature

Green Corners, U Pick Tulip Farm, 1259 Yorks Corners Road  
[www.greencorners.ca](http://www.greencorners.ca)

### Garden Party

Sunday, June 5th, 10:00 am

Garden Path Homemade Soaps, 284 Pleasant Corner Road, Vankleek Hill  
Self-guided tour of beautiful grounds, old buildings, gardens ... artisan vendors will be displaying their wares in the afternoon.

[www.gardenpathsoap.com](http://www.gardenpathsoap.com)

Lunch at Beau's Brewery Patio, beer sampling available, 10 Terry Fox Drive, Vankleek Hill

[www.beaus.ca](http://www.beaus.ca)

### Lavender Fields

Thursday, July 7th, 10:00 am

LouLou Lavender Farm, 19918 Maple Rd., Williamstown  
100-acre farm in the heart of South Glengarry, home to multiple cultivars of lavender. Possible U Pick opportunity. Lunch option at nearby restaurant. (tbd)

[www.lavenderontario.org/purple-road-business/loulou-lavender/](http://www.lavenderontario.org/purple-road-business/loulou-lavender/)

### Flower Farm

Thursday, August 18th, 10:00 am

Ganden Gardens, 1416 Rodney Lane, Winchester  
20+ field beds of annuals, 100 varieties of dahlias and more.  
Make your own bouquet from harvested selection. (min \$20)

[www.gandengardens.com](http://www.gandengardens.com)

### Art Appreciation

Thursday, September 15th, 10:00 am

Humanics Sanctuary and Sculpture Park, 3468 Old Montreal Rd, Cumberland

Sculptures from around the world nestled in nature. A place for reflection, meditation and appreciation of art and nature.

[www.humanicsinstitute.org/Sanctuary/](http://www.humanicsinstitute.org/Sanctuary/)

A visit to Cumberland's Black Walnut bakery and gift shop to follow.

[www.blackwalnutbakery.ca](http://www.blackwalnutbakery.ca)

## WORKSHOPS

*For members only*

Please make sure you register for these workshops on sign-up sheet at monthly meetings, call Louise at 613-443-0514 or email at [louhou51@gmail.com](mailto:louhou51@gmail.com).

**Payment prior to workshop required to save your place.**

Limit of 8 to 12 participants as indicated. Bring your own lunch and beverages.

### Glass on Glass

Wednesday, June 8th, 10:00am to 4:00pm,

At Pegi's 8430 Victoria St, Metcalfe

Choice of frame/window, mobile or totem. Supplies of multi-colored glass pieces, baubles, glue, wire, and cutters included. Bring your own totem pieces or frame/window (not exceeding 12"x24"), gloves and cutters/pliers for mobile. Limit of 8 participants. Pre-registration fee of \$20.

### Leaf Print Cement Coasters

Wednesday, July 13th, 10:00am to 4:00pm

At Pegi's 8430 Victoria St, Metcalfe

An easy hostess gift! You will need large, fresh leaves with a pronounced vein pattern and a CD case. You may wish to bring a mask and gloves to mix the cement and apply paint. All other supplies included. Limit of 12 participants.

Pre-registration fee of \$20.



### Painted Clay Pot Nutcracker, Christmas decoration

Wednesday, October 12th, 10:00am to 4:00pm

At Pegi's 8430 Victoria St, Metcalfe

Add whimsy to your porch or tabletop. All supplies included. You may bring gloves for painting. Limit of 10 participants. Pre-registration fee of \$20.

# 2019 THE YEAR IN REVIEW

by Pegi Holtz

2019 was our big 100th Anniversary and celebrate it we did! We must have looked like we were having fun too, because the number of people coming to our regular meetings increased steadily throughout the year. We have over 200 members however not everyone makes it to every meeting but we had a lovely variety of speakers, workshops, day trips, garden tours and other activities so that there was something for every kind of gardener.

We thoroughly enjoyed using our special RDHS calendars throughout the year and had many enquiries as to whether or not we would put out a 2020 edition....but, no, the 2019 edition was a once in a lifetime production.

The 11th annual Living Locally Fair, held in partnership with St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic High School had a few changes (no exhibitors in classrooms and no soups provided by our Society) but it was still a great success. Lindley McPhail spends countless hours preparing everything for this day, for which we are very grateful.



We held a draw for a large metal sculpture of a rudbeckia flower, our Society's emblem, created by Ed Bowkett, Robert Laporte and Scott Cluett. The sculpture is made from materials salvaged from the Prime Minister's residence and the roof of the parliament buildings and we named it Rudy. Rudy travelled to different sites within the Russell and Embrun area from May until September. People who spotted Rudy and reported it's location were entered in the contest to win Rudy. In September the winning entry was drawn and Rudy went to live with Wilma Baas. She was thrilled!



The Junior group of our Society had a total of 48 children registered – eight of them for the first time. There were also some pre-sprouts -- those who are too young to join but still received plants. All registrants were given plants

which they planted and maintained in a 2 metre x 2 metre garden. Towards the end of August, leaders visited the gardens and gave feedback. Much of the produce was entered in the Russell Fair in September. Thanks are extended to our Horticultural Society, Russell Agricultural Society, as well as Meadowgreens Nursery (which has for years provided seeds and advice free of charge).

There were mini Flower Shows at the January, February, March and April regular meetings where regular flower show rules applied but the entries were judged by the people attending the meetings. Each entrant received a ballot to win a \$100 and at the draw in May, Marilyn MacMillan was the lucky winner.



There was also our big June Flower Show and despite the cold, wet spring, we saw some magnificent flowers, vegetables, potted plants and enjoyed reading interesting prose and poetry and seeing some interesting art work.

The 2019 Garden Tour was held on July 13th. To commemorate the 100th anniversary, the tour began in the morning at MacDougall Park where Jon Funston gave a very interesting talk on the history of the park and our society's involvement with it. Next

we went to the Children's Reading Garden at the Russell Library so that we could all see this unique space that our society has worked on for several years and listen to Marcel Beauchamp give some information about the plants there. We toured several gardens big and small and enjoyed a delicious catered lunch at Russell Meadows. The day wound up at the home of Johanne and Guy St. Denis' in Bourget where we toured their extensive property and then settled in their "party palace" for exquisite desserts and draws for door prizes. We extend a big thank you to Louise Houle for organizing this delightful day.

Throughout the year we had numerous interesting speakers including Tony and Jane Hendriks, of Meadowgreens Nursery, who talked about how they started and grew their business; Heidi Oeschger, demonstrated how to make lovely flower arrangements; David Cooper of the Ottawa Orchid Society spoke on both wild and cultivated orchids; Mary Reid on "How to Make Over Tired Garden and Tired Gardeners"; Grace Stapper on making bee boxes and bug hotels; Cindy Cluett, owner of Beyond the House in Russell on Ornamental Grasses; Marc Gagne, co-owner of J. L. Cannabis Supply in Casselman on the cannabis industry.

In another attempt to increase the woefully low tree cover in the Russell area we launched the "100 Trees for 100 Years" project to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Russell Horticultural Society. The Society made a 30% donation to any card carrying member of the Society towards the purchase of any of the trees or shrubs listed on the website and purchased from Beyond the House in Russell. Sadly, only a few members took advantage of this marvellous offer.

Our 7th annual “March It On Out” was held on March 23rd and we encouraged the whole community to donate unwanted items and then pay \$10 and come and buy other people’s treasures. All left-over items were picked up by the Diabetes Society at the end of the day. This is a great event which supports our mandate of protecting the environment by keeping things out of the landfill and again, is done in partnership with St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic High School. We were pleased that over \$1000 was raised.

The District 1 Annual General Meeting was held in April at Greyhawk Golf Course. The fees for our members to attend were covered by our Society. We had a good contingent of members attending this day.



Grace Stapper and her husband Hub created a lovely pollinator hotel as a door prize for the meeting. The President of the OHA presented our Society with a certificate to commemorate the 100th anniversary.

The Ontario Horticultural Association Convention was held in July in Windsor, Ontario. Two of our members attended to represent our Society. RDHS helps offset the cost of attending through our Education Fund and this covers the cost of registration and evening events.

Marcel Beauchamp led a “Forest Bathing” experience where we walked and communed with nature in Pegi’s woodlot. There is an association based in California that is concentrating on the Japanese study of the effects of the energy of the forests. It is focusing on the obvious beneficial effects of plants on people including stress release, providing a quiet place amongst the tall trees, promoting a slow pace, etc. perhaps wearing Indian moccasins, and taking the time to stop, sit and experience the tranquility.

Lindley McPhail encouraged everyone to experience growing plants from seed. For those who had not, she gave a package containing soil, small pots, rubber gloves and a package of rudbeckia seeds, our society’s emblem. Let’s hope they all grew!

The beautiful Raven garden art sculpture was created by Steve Lyall and won by Elizabeth King who was delighted to receive it.



At the “Call of the Forest” movie with author, botanist and scientist Diana Beresford-Kruger on April 29th at St. Thomas Aquinas High School we had 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. An information table was set up by Trees for Tomorrow.

This same evening, Margaret Helliker, the Horticultural Society’s archivist and lifetime member, presented Ann Jackson with a life membership certificate and a rudbeckia 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.

This year’s very successful annual plant sale was held at again at MacDougall Park. We had very

generous donations from 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. Members also potted up and brought any extra plants they had from their gardens and donated them to the sale. We raised over \$1600.



On June 22nd, the Society hosted “Children’s Rock Painting” at MacDougall Park. Grace Stapper gave 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. Linda Duhamel organized the “Children’s Rock Painting” and we had lemonade and cookies to celebrate.



## 2019 JUNIOR GARDENERS

by Karen Lines

34 children registered: 14 sprouts, 12 juniors, 8 seniors

12 new gardeners: 7 sprouts, 4 juniors, 1 senior

23 gardens were visited and judged in August

In total \$417 was awarded in prizes - the breakdown is as follows:

- 24 children/gardeners won prizes
- 5 gardeners received 4 trophies (there was one tie)
- 3 gardeners received awards for highest points in each category (sprout, junior, senior)
- \$338 was awarded in program prizes
- \$79 was awarded for recognition of participation including special prizes for exemplary garden displays and prizes to acknowledge effort

Each participant with a fair entry and/or a garden won at least one prize.

For more information, check out the Russell Junior Gardeners on Facebook.

WELCOME  
NEW JUNIOR  
GARDENERS



Good Luck!

In September there was a trip to a local vineyard in Alexandria; Stonehouse Vineyards. There was a pot-luck lunch and a wine tasting included as well as a lovely walk through the vineyard.

In October we had a lunch and learn at Academie Du Gourmet in Embrun. They showcased different products providing samples, canapes, and kombucha, etc.

The very popular "Painting of the Rudbekias" workshop was at Pegi's house. Thanks to Peter Van Die for cutting out the wooden flowers and leaves and for attaching the metal stems after the painting was finished.

The flower show at the 2019 Russell Fair was very well received. The Russell Agricultural Society presented a certificate to the Russell Horticultural Society commemorating the 100th anniversary and also expressed thanks to our Society for the flower show involvement over the years.

Our September "Gifts from the Garden" auction was a bit different this year as we held a silent auction rather than a live one. There were many items on offer and any that didn't sell, went back home with the person who had donated them.

Because it was our 100th Anniversary, we splurged and had a catered meal at our AGM in November. It was prepared and served by the Mission from Ottawa and was enjoyed by all. Everyone attending received a wrapped gift and the evening concluded with a Christmas decoration workshop under the leadership of Louise Houle, Johanne St-Denis and Julie Kavel.

What a year we had!

## 2020 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Grace Stapper

Our Society activities in 2020 started on Saturday, January 18 with our 12th Living Locally Fair! It was a huge success, with 102 exhibitors and an estimated 4,500 attendees.

At our regular January monthly meeting, Ivan Garland of Garlands Sugar Shack, a local maple syrup producer was our speaker. Everyone enjoyed the video, and talk about their business.

On a Saturday morning in February, our board of directors met, brainstormed and planned activities for the upcoming year. The whole team was on board, all 15 members participated and made it happen.

Our February monthly meeting was attended by approximately 40 people. "The Art of Rock Gardening," presentation by Josie P. and Rob S. was most informative. A number of members participated in two classes of the mini flower show. Entries were voted on by those in attendance. This was a good way to encourage participation and establish a feeling of comfort in submitting entries for shows.

In March, three keen and enthusiastic leaders met and organized the Junior Program for the year.

Then the COVID-19 pandemic hit! Virtually all events were cancelled and no meetings could take place.

Thanks to the leaders, the junior program was offered, minding the safety protocols set out.

There were 21 children registered. They were provided with seeds and plants. Despite a challenging summer, the juniors worked hard and had good results. Pictures of their gardens, flower and vegetable exhibits were submitted virtually and then were judged by two of our Society members.

In June, several members masked up and planted the flower boxes at the Serenity Gardens at Russell Meadows.

A small group met outdoors in September to discuss best ways to move ahead into the year. We decided to focus on connecting our membership and beyond, by sending out monthly email newsletters. We sent out four newsletters in 2020 and received positive feedback in response.

We received a \$300 grant from the South Nation Conservation Authority (SNCA) Community Environmental Outreach to plant trees/shrubs in public areas. Mayor Leroux generously made us the recipient of another \$300 grant. This enabled the partnership between Russell Township, SNCA and us to plant three native, caliper trees along the path at the Russell Sports Dome on Castor Street.

Two glass on glass workshops, were held in October, led by Louise Houle. Attendance was kept to 6 participants. Some inspired works of art were produced.

Two years ago, the Society bought trees from the Ferguson tree nursery in Kemptville and planted them in a member's yard. They have grown to 4 or 5 feet tall and were sold as a fundraiser.

2021 was an unusual year with the restrictions of COVID-19, but we worked, learned and enjoyed our Society.

# 2021 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Grace Stapper

Although it was another challenging year, as we were not able to meet in person which made it hard to maintain a vibrant and exciting program. In spite of this, we were active and busy in carrying out our objectives.

We continued sending out informative monthly newsletters in January, February, March, April, May and September. Each newsletter was filled with gardening information, advice and stories along with local announcements photo contests.

One way we used to stay connected and still get the chance to talk about gardening, was to host virtual meetings with guest speakers.

Our first guest in March was Lia Lindeman who taught us how to grow winter seeds. Lia wanted to demonstrate to us how to do it, and set up her camera so we could see her plant seeds in containers to go out in the snow. It was great to see a live demonstration. Lia was so enthusiastic she made us all want to go out and start planting right away!

Our April guest speaker was Jennifer Glen from Pick, Plant and Prune, who talked to us about growing microgreen sprouts. Jennifer was so knowledgeable and gave us great tips but also advice on equipment and where to buy seeds. Jennifer also runs a local community garden and told us all about it.

Master Gardener Nancy McDonald joined us virtually in May to talk to us about growing herbs and edible

flowers. Nancy shared all sort of interesting information on both growing herbs and edible flowers, but also about eating them. Delicious!

Finally in October Christina Enright was our virtual guest speaker and shared her passion for monarch butterflies with us. Christina explained all sorts of fascinating information about monarchs and told us about her own journey and the influence these beautiful insects have on her life.

We had a day trip to learn about the monarch butterflies plus a visit to Stonecrop Acres Vineyard. We also had workshops on how to make cement pumpkins, rudbeckia garden stakes, and a fall floral arrangement workshop.

We organized several fundraisers. In the spring we sold 12 birdhouses at \$35. each, made from repurposed lumber coming off the Russell Museum. We also hosted a truckload rain barrel sale and earned \$1,750.

We had an active junior program again this year. There were 18 children signed up. Native pollinator plants were ordered through Ferguson tree nursery and distributed.

We applied for and received a tree planting grant from the OHA. We bought a serviceberry bush and worked with the Russell Historical Society to plant it on the museum property.

Our Society continues to maintain the Children's Fantasy Reading Garden at the library and the plantings at MacDougall Park. Members assisted with spreading mulch at the reading garden and our sign at the park was renovated. We planted a commemorative tree in the park to honour Pat Stachon, a long-time and

very active member of our Society who was instrumental in the rejuvenation of the park some years ago.

Society members planted up the flowerboxes at Russell Meadows, our local seniors' residence.

Since we usually sell our memberships at our meetings, and we were not able to meet in person, we needed to find an easy and contactless way for people to pay for their memberships. Our Treasurer came up with the solution of using e-transfer. A digital membership card is sent by e-mail and can be printed.

We held a virtual sunflower show where we were able to vote for our favourite entries online at a virtual meeting. Gift certificates to Beyond the House, a local nursery and great supporter of our Society were given out as prizes.

Our Annual General Meeting was held in November in person. We were so happy to be able to get together once again! The new Board of Directors was sworn in by our special guest, Susan Ramsay, District 1 Director. Everyone who attended enjoyed themselves very much.

## 2021 JUNIOR GARDENERS

by Karen Lines and Laura Leifso

The Russell Junior Gardeners program went ahead despite the cancellation of the Russell Fair. There were challenges in sourcing seedlings in the spring, but we were rewarded with donations from many sources and were able to provide our junior gardeners with a good supply of seeds and seedlings in the spring. Payment and pickup were modified to be contact-less and adhere to physical distancing.

We had 21 children registered: 9 sprouts, 10 juniors, 2 seniors. Five gardeners were new to the program this year.

Prize categories were limited this year to gardens and exhibits from the gardens; the craft categories were eliminated. Gardeners submitted photos of their gardens, vegetables and flowers. Ten children submitted photos. Judging was ongoing.

Thanks, as always, for all that you do for us!

### DID YOU KNOW?

Boxelder bugs are nuisance pests. They do not sting or transmit disease, and are generally not known to bite, though there are rare reports of defensive biting. Boxelder bugs are not known to cause damage to homes or significant damage to plants. However, their feces can stain light colored surfaces.

For more information go to: <https://www.pestworld.org/pest-guide/occasional-invaders/boxelder-bugs/>

## YEAR OF THE GARDEN 2022

You're invited to join in the fun and "Live the Garden Life" during the Year of the Garden 2022, a celebration of everything garden and gardening related in Canada.

The Year of the Garden was publically launched on March 20, 2022, the first day of spring. Now members of Canada's Garden-Family – from growers to garden centres and retailers, designers, landscapers, the garden experience sector from public gardens, horticultural societies and garden clubs, to garden communicators, and educators – are all invited to engage with Canada's Year of the Garden 2022 activities.

Canadians, whether you already enjoy gardening, recently discovered the pleasure of spending time in a garden because of the pandemic, or want to learn more about how gardens impact so much of life, there's something for everyone to commemorate our country's rich garden heritage, and create important legacies for a sustainable future.

Discover the many ways you can celebrate today's vibrant garden culture at home, at work, in school, in your community, and at public gardens across the country from the Planter's Moon in the spring of 2022, to the Frost Moon in the fall.

Year of the Garden 2022 website: <https://livethegardenlife.gardenscanada.ca>

**Plant Red – Show Your Garden Pride** during the Year of the Garden Invitation: Inviting all Canadians to plant something red to express their Canadian garden pride and join the Year of the Garden 2022 celebrations. Across Canada, the goal is to see the land awash with gardens featuring red, Canada's colour. Flowers, fruits, shrubs, vegetables - just Plant Red! From parks to playgrounds, front yards, back yards, balconies, baskets, boulevards and planters, wherever there's an empty space, there is room to Plant Red and join the celebration of the Year of the Garden 2022! In 2022, anyone and everyone, including municipalities, organizations, schools, churches, colleges and universities, clubs, businesses, and individuals can participate by planting red and showing their Canadian garden pride. Share photos of what you have planted on YOTG's social media platforms with the hashtag #PlantRed.

**WHY:** The Plant Red and Show Your Canadian Garden Pride Campaign is a rallying point that is simple, inclusive, easy, and fun with a positive outcome for whoever participates. A fun way to acknowledge how gardens and gardening have contributed and continue to contribute so much to our life and who we are.

**WHEN:** January 1 to December 31, 2022

**WHERE:** Everywhere in Canada, indoor or outdoor. Inviting all Canadians to join Canada's biggest garden and gardening celebration, the Year of the Garden 2022 and Plant Red! **Contest:** Opportunity to win prizes for those who Plant Red.

For more information: visit [www.yearofthegarden.ca](http://www.yearofthegarden.ca) or contact us at [marketing@gardencouncil.ca](mailto:marketing@gardencouncil.ca)

**Note:** This campaign is inspired by the Communities in Blooms Hope is Growing program

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The society wishes to acknowledge and thank the following people and organizations for their cash donations, gift certificates, prizes and/or their professional talents that were donated during 2020 and 2021.

Government of Ontario  
Ontario Horticultural Association  
Beyond the House Garden Centre  
South Nation Conservation Authority  
Mayor Leroux, Russell Township

We would also like to thank all those members and their families without whom our programs would not be as successful as they are.





## 2022 - 2023 UPCOMING EVENTS

More details inside

**Monday, April 25, 2022** - Meeting with guest speaker "An Iris to Match Almost Every Gardening Situation" by Grace Stapper

**Saturday, May 21, 2022** - Plant Sale 8 am to noon at MacDougall Park on Craig Street in Russell. Plant sale with plants from members' gardens, a yard sale and seedlings started by the students at STA.

**Wednesday, May 11 or 18, 2022** - Picking Tulips Day Trip

**Monday, May 16, 2022** - Meeting with guest speaker "Discovering Bonsai" by Marc Martin from Dragon Bonsai

**Sunday, June 5, 2022** - Garden Party Day Trip

**Wednesday, June 8, 2022** - Glass on Glass Workshop

**Monday, June 20, 2022** - Meeting with guest speaker. "Spread the Joy" by Crystal Martin, from Innovative Support Community Services plus a mini flower show

**Thursday, July 7, 2022** - Lavendar Fields Day Trip

**Wednesday, July 13, 2022** - Leaf Print Cement Coasters Workshop

**Saturday, August 6th, 2022** - Garden Tour

**Thursday, August 18, 2022** - Flower Farm Day Trip

**Thursday, September 15, 2022** - Art Appreciation Day Trip

**Monday, September 19, 2022** - Meeting with guest speaker "Composting and Cold Storage" by Myra Van Die

**Wednesday, October 12, 2022** - Painted Clay Pot Nutcracker, Christmas decoration Workshop

**Monday, October 17, 2022** - Meeting with guest speaker "Fall pruning and putting the garden to bed" by Marcel Beauchamp

**Monday, November 21, 2022** - RDHS Annual General Meeting with fun craft and entertainment by Louise Houle

**Monday, January 16, 2023** - Meeting with guest speaker "Repotting Basics and Growing Issues with African Violets and how to deal with them" by Cathie Moreau Clarke, President of the Ottawa African Violet Society

**Monday, February 20, 2023** - Meeting with guest speaker "Attracting Birds To Your Garden and Keeping Them Safe" by Tracy-Clint Chapman plus a mini flower show

**Monday, March 20, 2023** - Meeting with guest speaker "Native plants and Reconciliation Garden" by Chris Craig Senior Forestry Technician plus a mini flower show

**Monday, April 17, 2023** - Meeting with guest speaker "What's new in the garden centre this year" by Cindy Cluett of Beyond the House Garden Centre plus a mini flower show