

Russell and District Horticultural Society

Minutes of meeting Monday, January 16, 2017

7 p.m. upstairs at Russell Legion Hall

1. Carole Van Die, as new president opened the meeting with greetings and expressing hope that with the support of others she will do a great job and the year will be a good one.
2. 3 new members were welcomed to the group: Elke Bilks, Mae Rowe, and Christine Lanthier. Pegi then stood to expand on some of the advantages of being a member of the Russell and District Horticultural Society: 10% off live plant material at Beyond the House, Whitehouse Perennials, and Rideau Woodland Ramble.
3. Two notes to be added to previous meetings minutes: The meeting was begun with a fantastic potluck dinner, and to add Lindley's name to the list of directors. The minutes were then adopted and seconded by Marianne Vedder and Marie-Claire Ivansky.
4. Lindley took the stage to talk about the Living Locally Fair to be held this Saturday, January 21. There are about 130 exhibitors this year, and she had to put another 75 on the waiting list. Last year drew nearly 5000 visitors, so come out and enjoy. There are sign-up sheets for volunteers, and on the day of, volunteers are to park behind the fire hall facing evergreens, not in front of the big doors the fire trucks come out of. Also a big thanks to Marie-Claire Ivansky, Nicole Patenaude, and Jacqueline Wyss for taking over the advertising for the LLF. This year a radio advertisement has been placed on Rebel 101, which should reach the 30-40 year old demographic. There are 8 signs to give out for advertising on main road. Please take one and let Lindley know where they will be placed. Please pick them up after the fair and arrangements will be made to return them to Lindley.
5. Lindley then spoke of the *March it on Out* event to be held March 25, 2017. This is a recycling program where people donate unwanted items then the public can enter the space for \$10 and take home whatever they want. The remainders are picked up by Diabetes Clothesline. Connie Johnston is to look into a Facebook Campaign to advertise the event.
6. Carole said a reminder about the February meeting and thanked Diane Norman for tonight's treats
7. Lindley made an announcement to watch in early to mid February for new event to celebrate Canada's 150th. This will be a floral competition where there will be two categories at each of the February, March, and April meetings. Each category will have a Canadian theme. For each category that is entered, the participant will receive a ballot to put their name in a draw for \$150. Get your creative juices flowing!!

8. Connie announced that there will be a parade this year July 1st for Canada's 150th. She is asking for members of the society to put thoughts together for a float.
9. Connie also announced that she is looking for teams of 6 to participate in a trivia night at the hotel this Saturday in support of the Optimist Club of Russell.
10. Grace Stapper then introduced the speaker for the night: Dr. Owen Clarkin.
11. Owen Clarkin trained as a Chemist, but had a love of trees which developed as a child and as Dutch Elm Disease was taking on toll on the trees in the area. He made the statement that 'you are what you plant' - if you plant exotics, they will spread. Also he made a point that Canada and Ottawa are often lagging behind in the trends started in the States. Two articles were referenced in his talk, the first being about inbreeding depression occurring in trees, particularly in Southern Canada resulting in 52-60% of trees now need active conservation. The second article referenced an invasive plant database. He also referenced a book with the title: Growing Trees from Seed, Author: Henry Kock. Next, a website was referenced: Global Forest Watch which shows forest loss and gain over the last 20 years. It shows that the loss and gain are very different from each other.

The following is a list of the names of the trees and shrubs that Owen talked about during the rest of the presentation:

- Mountain or Green Alder
- Speckled Alder
- Black Ash
- Blue Ash - most resistant ash to ash borer
- Green Ash - first to die from ash borer
- White ash - less common - turns purple in fall, seeds purple
- Basswood (Linden)
- Beech
- European Birch - not native, not resistant to birch borer, but native birch are
- Heart leaf Birch (*Betula cordifolia*) - resistant to birch borer
- American Bladdernut - attractive
- Ohio Buckeye (*Aesculus glabra*) - attractive
- Buttonbush - wetland species
- Eastern White Cedar
- Black Cherry
- Choke Cherry
- Pin Cherry
- Canadian Plum - root spreading
- Sand Cherry
- Choke Berry
- Dogwood
- Bunchberry
- Grey Dogwood
- Red Osier Dogwood
- Round leaf Dogwood
- Silky Dogwood
- Red Elderberry - toxic, flowers in spring
- Common or Black Elderberry
- American Elm - fast growing

- Rock Elm - very corky bark
- Slippery Elm - medicinal, often misidentified, leaves like tacos (often folded in half)
- Balsam Fir
- Hackberry
- Hawthorn
- Beech Hazelnut
- Hemlock - most shade tolerant
- Bitternut Hickory - sulphur yellow buds, yellow in fall
- Pecan
- Shagbark Hickory - slow growing, long lived
- Mountain Holly (*Ilex lucronata*)
- Hophornbeam (Ironwood, *Ostrya*) - smaller tree
- Hoptree (*Ptelia trifoliata*)
- Hornbeam/Blue Beech
- Huckleberry
- Red Cedar/Juniper
- Common Juniper
- Kentucky Coffee Tree
- Magnolia acuminata
- Black Maple - twin to sugar maple but can grow along salt roads, leaves more drooping.
- Mountain Maple - shade tolerant shrub
- Red Maple
- Silver Maple
- Striped Maple - prefers not full sun, cool soil, acidic
- Mulberry, Red and White
- American Mountain Ash
- Canada Yew

12. Grace thanked Owen and a brief Question and Answer period Followed. Owen offered to give a few trees away and is offering to come to people's homes and help identify trees. He can be reached at owen.j.clarkin@gmail.com . Cindy Saucier also pointed out that South Nation Conservation also has a free service to help identify trees.

13. Meeting was adjourned and refreshments enjoyed.