

Russell and District Horticultural Society
Minutes of meeting Monday, February 20, 2017
7 p.m. upstairs at Russell Legion Hall

1. Carole VanDie welcomed everyone to the meeting
 - There were 29 members present
 - There were 3 new members: Anne and Deklan Carpen from Russell, Elaine Newton from Vernon
2. The minutes from January's meeting were approved by Marianne Vedder and seconded by Jeannine Langlois.
3. A reminder was given that the District 1 Annual General Meeting "Earth Day" is being held Saturday April 22, 2017 at 8:30 AM at the Kemptville Pentecostal Church, 1964 HWY 43, Kemptville. (sign-up sheet will be at the membership table) Your admission fee will be paid by the RDHS.
4. An announcement was made that the night's flower show winners would be determined by popular vote, and awards would be handed out at the end of the three months of flower shows. Tonight's categories were: "We Love Canada" and "Celebrate Winter"
5. John Jackson gave a brief overview of the possibilities of new aprons for the horticultural society. He has sourced an option for black aprons that have an adjustable neck strap and two pockets in front. The final price depends on how many are ordered and what type of printing is to be done (embroidery – most expensive, longest lasting; silk screening – may be most economical for longevity; vinyl printing – least expensive, shortest lasting). The horticultural society will be paying for the aprons and will have them available for volunteers to wear at the different events, but they are to be returned at the end of the event.
6. Carole reminded everyone about the March it On Out event being held March 25 at STA high school. We are looking for volunteers to help set up the Friday night as well as set up and pack up on the Saturday. Sign-up sheets were available at the membership booth.
7. Observations from the president:
 - Carole asked all those present who worked at the LLF to stand up. A great thankyou was given.
 - Carole pointed out that there were many members who did not volunteer and kindly stressed that it is through the work of these volunteers that make the society a success and she strongly urged members who have not volunteered in the past to step forward and lend a hand, particularly with a garden tour this year.
 - After many years of dedication to the position of webmaster, Jacqueline Wyss requests a new person to man the web page. Many thanks to Jacqueline for excellent work.
8. The next meeting will be held March 20, 2017. The guest speaker for the evening is Jola Price of the Invasive Plant Council and she will be speaking about the "Dog Strangling Vine".
9. Treats for the evening were provided by Marilyn MacMillan. Thank you.
10. Pegi reminded everyone how to vote for the flower arrangements. There was a sheet of paper with recommendations on what to look for when judging.

11. Guest speaker for the evening was Telsing Andrews from Aster Lane Edibles located in Kinburn, just west of Carp. The title of her presentation was: "Learn about seed starting edible plants from the basics- when, how and what to start". A few notes from the presentation:

- Seed quiz (Identifying seeds from photographs)
- Not all plants are the same, therefore seeds often need different conditions
- Frost to frost: May 6-Oct 5 (averages)
- Season extensions such as row covers, greenhouses, cold frames exist
- Buttoning – when plants make tiny cauliflower/broccoli, usually due to a stress on the plant
- Plants to sow outside: legumes, root crops, vines, greens; except when there are pest issues, heavy mulch, extra long season, cache crops, indoor gardening
- Examples of what to start in different months:
 1. January: strawberries
 2. February: peppers, alliums, anything needing stratification
 3. March: tomatoes, anything needing an 8 week start
 4. April: spinach
 5. May: potatoes, carrots, beets, etc.
 6. June: melons, sweet potatoes
 7. July: things for fall gardens
 8. August: succession plantings
 9. September: stratification seeds
 10. October: garlic
 11. November: winter sowing
 12. December: winter sowing
- Seed longevity and germination tests
 - Short-lived seeds – onion relatives
 - Long-lived seeds – cabbage relatives
 - Germination test: fold seeds into paper towel, moisten paper towel and put in sealable plastic bag, label. Keep an eye on the seeds.
 - Hard seed coats can be softened by scarification then soaking in hot water (wild legumes, mallow).
- Aster Lane Edibles sells seeds of rare edible plants such as Hablitzia, Perennial Leeks, Perennial beets
- Seedy Saturday is Saturday March 4 from 10-3 at the Ron Kolbus Lakeside Centre, Britannia Beach, 102 Greenview Ave., Ottawa.
- Her website is: asterlaneanedibles.ca
- Other websites mentioned: wintersown.org and robsplants.com

12. Results of the flower show: There were six people who entered, with a total of nine entries.

- We Love Canada:
 - First Place: Pegi Holtz
 - Second Place: Grace Stapper
 - Third Place: Erin Holtz
- Celebrate Winter:
 - First Place: Erin Holtz
 - Second Place: Nicole Patenaude
 - Third Place: Marianne Vedder and Pegi Holtz (tie)