

Russell and District Horticultural Society

Minutes of meeting Monday, October 16, 2017

7 p.m. at Russell Meadows

1. Carole van Die welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Russell Meadows for the use of their building to hold tonight's and future meetings.
 - a. There were 30 members present
 - b. There were 6 guests/new members: Caroline Cyr, Aline Leduc, Dev DasGupta, Elizabeth ?, Muriel Elliot, Valeria Major
2. Marilyn MacMillan approved the minutes from the September meeting, seconded by Lindley McPhail.
3. Lindley gave a brief recounting of the tree planting at the Russell Library Playground. 6 trees were planted by Tree Canada in partnership with Home Hardware and RDHS. The planting was done by Beyond the House. More trees are to be planted later as prizes from the July 1st parade. They are to be planted on the other side of the pathway.
4. Louise Houle showed the group the gourds that were decorated at the workshop on October 1st. A question was asked as to how long they will last. Pegi Holtz answered that if they are shellacked they can last for years.
5. Marianne Vedder gave an update about the trees for sale. They were planted 2 years ago, there were 60 trees. 20 have been sold, with another 10 tentatively sold. More maples may be purchased as they are all sold out.
6. Charles Freeman (District 1 director) let everyone know that a lady from the Gloucester Horticultural Society has a District 1 website up and running. On it we can find information about who is speaking where and when. He also spoke about sights of a pollinator project on 7/10ths of an acre next to a landfill. He also promoted the 2018 convention which is to be held in Kingston July 27-29, 2018. Lindley spoke up to say that RDHS helps fund people who want to attend the convention. Louise Freeman talked a little more about the convention next year which has the theme 'from Shore to Shield'. District 3 is holding a fundraiser to help cover the costs of the convention. They are selling teas, and if anyone were to want some, to let Charles know and he can pick some up at the next district meeting.
7. Marcel spoke of the Bebs Oak at the experimental farm which lost a huge branch during a storm. The friends of the farm are thinking of some special way to use the wood.
8. Marcel also spoke of the AGM and elections. Carole has agreed to remain as President, Grace Stapper as Vice-President, Peter Van Die as Treasurer, Erin Holtz as Secretary. There will be an annual planning meeting in January. Anyone who wants to be a director is welcome to join.
9. Lindley spoke about the AGM to be held November 20. It is to be potluck. People can bring their own wine if they wish. People are to bring their own place settings and there is a competition for the best setting in three categories: Canada's 150th,

Christmas, Bling, Bling, Bling. You are to RSVP to Carole by Nov. 10 since supplies need to be purchased for the night's craft. Louise is to write an email for Jacqueline to send to all members.

10. A question was brought up as to how to get on the email list. Three options were listed:
 - a. Sign up on website
 - b. Email info@russellgardeners.ca
 - c. Talk to Jacqueline
11. Carole talked about the calendar that is in the planning stages and to be printed for 2019. If you would like to participate, please contact Carole.
12. Treats were provided by Marianne Vedder, Sue Barr, and Christine Bourgeois.
13. Marianne introduced the speaker for the evening: Odette Ouellette. Her topic was 'How it was in the Olden Days'. She talked about how it was growing up in a house as the 15th child in a family with 16 children. How they had to learn to do things at a young age with no procrastination such as sewing, canning, preserving, and economizing. She gave tips on various household remedies as well as some interesting stories. She had a book about her life and some recipes for sale for \$30.