

**Russell and District Horticultural Society**  
**Minutes of meeting Monday, February 19, 2018**  
**7 p.m. at Russell Meadows Retirement Centre**

1. Carole van Die welcomed everyone to the meeting.
  - a. There were 28 members present, including 2 guests from Russell Meadows
2. Pegi Holtz approved the minutes from the previous meeting, seconded by Linda Duhamel. Minutes were adopted by everyone.
3. Pegi made a motion to send \$200 to the *Bee Cause Project*, a program supporting pollinator health. The motion was seconded by Lindley and Grace and accepted by all.
4. Marcel announced that there will be a garden tour August 18, 2018. He is looking for gardens and can be contacted at [marcelb225@hotmail.com](mailto:marcelb225@hotmail.com) if anyone would like to volunteer their garden or know of anyone who may be willing to be a host. Jacqueline is to send an email requesting people to recommend gardens. Carole made a note that gardens do not need to be pristine and small gardens are great as well.
5. Carole reminded people that the district AGM will be held Saturday April 21 at St. Mary's Centre in Williamstown. People needed to sign up as the club pays for the meal.
6. Carole also reminded people to sign up for the OHA Convention to be in Kingston. Speakers and events at the convention can be found on the website [http://www.gardenontario.org/sho/up\\_conf.php](http://www.gardenontario.org/sho/up_conf.php)
7. John Jackson showed the members what the plaque that is to be put up that the Children's Reading Garden at the Russell Library will look like.
8. Lindley explained that the plaque is going up because there was a lot of confusion over who paid for the garden.
9. Connie Johnston announced that the fundraising trivia nights for good causes are up and running again. There are upcoming ones February 24 in Embrun, March 3, and March 24 at the Russell arena. \$10/person and tables are teams of 6, or people can be matched to make up a table.
10. Carole reminded everyone that the March it on Out event will be taking place March 24. Items can be dropped off Friday night from 5-8pm. Doors open from 8-noon Saturday. Enter for \$10 and leave with however much you want. Lindley had posters and handouts for those who wanted to help with advertising.
11. The speaker for the evening was Marcel Beauchamp. He spoke about how plants and trees communicate. A few points from the evening:
  - a. Above ground communication via VOC's (volatile organic compounds)
  - b. Below ground communication via roots and mycorrhizae
  - c. New research taking place into bioacoustics

- d. When plants are attacked by insects, the plants change the chemical composition and nutrient density around the wound. This signal gets transmitted to the rest of the plant as well as others.
  - e. Plants have symbiotic relationships with fungal mycorrhizae. The plants receive water and nutrients from the fungal hyphae and the mycorrhizae receive carbohydrates and sugars from the plant roots.
  - f. Sometimes referred to as the 'wood wide web'
  - g. Mycorrhizae look like white threads in organic matter
  - h. Saprophytes decompose dead wood
  - i. There are mother trees in woods. Trees are not individuals but live collectively.
  - j. Bioacoustics:
    - i. Roots of corn plants emit clicking sounds
    - ii. Flowers can emit negative charges that attract positively charged bees and encourage them to return
    - iii. Buzz pollination: Plants hear the buzz of wings and eject pollen to encourage the bee to land.
    - iv. Society of plant signalling behaviour
    - v. Videos can be found on YouTube. Search for 'How trees talk' or 'Language of Plants' or something similar.
12. Cindy Saucier said that there is a book 'Wisdom of Trees' at the Russell Library
13. Treats were provided by Diane Norman, Carole and Wanda