

## Russell and District Horticultural Society

Minutes of meeting Monday, June 18, 2018

7 p.m. at Russell Meadows Retirement Centre

1. The meeting began with the guest speaker Scott Hopkins who gave an introduction to Cacti

Some of his topics included:

What is a cactus

Types of cacti (cactoid and opuntioid)

Cacti with leaves

Where they grow (temperate grasslands, rain forests, deserts, Canada  
to South America, fragile, inaccessible and popular locales)

Cacti that are native to Canada (*Opuntia humifusa*, *Opuntia fragilis*,  
*Opuntia polycantha*, and *Escobaria vivipara*)

How cacti proliferate (by cuttings, cacti can take decades to flower)

Why do cacti matter?

Perekiopsis (oldest prehistoric cactus, grows like a weed but doesn't  
flower or seed, used for grafting slower growing species)

2. Lindley McPhail thanked the speaker.
3. Carole VanDie welcomed everyone to the meeting.

There were about 27 members present plus a couple visitors

4. Lindley McPhail approved the minutes from the previous meeting, and seconded by Grace Stapper. Minutes were accepted by everyone.
5. Louise Houle announced that there was 1 slot left for the glass on glass workshop held June 21 from 9:30 to 3:30. Bring your own lunch.
6. Louise also reminded everyone who is attending the painting workshops that the next one was June 25 at 11am at Julie's place.
7. Louise also reminded those that are attending the convention that a get together to put together their costumes was to take place on the 28<sup>th</sup> of June.
8. Grace Stapper talked about the Junior's undies project/experiment called 'Soil Your Undies'. They are going to bury white cotton undies 6" in the ground and dig up the remains in 2 months. If their soil has good microbial populations they should be mostly decomposed. The remains will be shown at the Russell Fair in September.
9. Grace also let the group know that the current leaders of the Junior's (Diane Wade, Suzanne Leger and Marylynn Lackie) are mentoring the leaders for next year.

10. Grace also announced that the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Ottawa Water Garden Tours is coming up soon and more information can be found on their website as well as the pamphlets displayed at Beyond the House.
11. Carole announced that the next meeting, 'Gifts from the Garden', will be held September 17, 2018 at Pegi's.
12. Carole also reminded everyone of the President's Challenge: grow the largest zucchini, carrots, pumpkins and beets. More information can be found on the group's website.
13. Connie Johnston announced that the tree planting of the winning tree (a Burr Oak) from the 2017 Canada Day Parade Float will take place June 28<sup>th</sup> at 2pm.
14. Louise announced that Marcel is still looking for gardens for the garden tour. Anyone interested can email Marcel.
15. Treats were provided by Grace and Joanne

Have a great Summer!