



RDHS January 16, 2023 Monthly meeting
Location: Marionville Community Centre

Pegi Holtz greeted all attendees and identified washroom facilities. Mention was made of the change to the refreshment handouts and how, moving forward, it will be BYO (bring your own). Until such time as the location remains as is and without access to any kitchen facilities, this BYO format will remain.

Linda Duhamel was busy with membership renewals and new members signing up for this calendar year. It was nice to see the return of many for this first meeting of the new year and there was a bonus of a chance to win a door prize or two.

Pegi Holtz asked if the minutes from the November 21, 2022 meeting were read and accepted and were approved as such from Diane Sharp. Request to add Diane Sharp's name to the Director list has been actioned by Christine Bourgeois and will be uploaded to the RDHS Google Drive.

Diane Sharp introduced the evening speaker, Cathie Moreau Clarke, President of the Ottawa African Violet Society. A very informative power point session was presented and was well received by all attendees. Cathie Moreau Clarke will provide Jacqueline Wyss with a *link* to her presentation that will be made available on the RDHS website.

The four main key elements of the presentation were the four issues for repotting African violets: long necked plants, restarting crowns, repotting a plant that has grown off centre and/or one that has suckered. More tips, tricks and information can be sourced, as mentioned above, at the *link* on the RDHS website. There was a brief Q & A after the presentation.

Pegi Holtz raised the following items of interest after Cathie Moreau Clarke's presentation.

Living Locally Fair 2023 - January 21, 2023 at St. Thomas Aquinas High School. A volunteer sign-up sheet was distributed with time slots for manning the RDHS booth – 2 people for each time allotment.

March it on out - March 25, 2023 at St. Thomas Aquinas High School. A volunteer sign-up sheet was distributed. Although this event takes place on Saturday, March 25th there is a need to also have volunteers available on the Friday night before (March 24th) as people start dropping off boxes of items. Items that are dropped off should not be too cumbersome. There will be an opportunity for people to showcase any larger items on a bulletin board (suggested to include picture of item(s) and contact information). Note: Items that require being 'up to current code standards' such as infant/child car seats, etc. will also not be accepted.

Entrance cost of \$15. There is no additional cost for items hauled away from the event.

Volunteer Hours – OHA (Ontario Horticultural Association) has reorganized their logging of volunteer hours into specific categories and once the RDHS Executive has whittled down a user-friendly template, a template will be distributed respectively.

Note: it is important for volunteers to keep track of their volunteer time and Pegi Holtz shared that it is overwhelming how many volunteer hours are logged by individuals – don't sell yourself short!

RDHS Membership – Information was shared that **OMAFRA** (Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs) provides a grant of \$1,000.00 to horticultural associations with a minimum of 100 members.

District 1 AGM 2023 is to be held in Maxville on Saturday, April 15, 2022. A sign-up sheet was distributed and Pegi encouraged members to attend this event as it is very informative and provides an opportunity for social networking, etc.

2023 Plant Sale - May 20, 2023 at McDougall Park. A sign-up sheet was distributed. This is a large fundraiser and takes place rain or shine. There are many tasks involved with this event and, as a result, it would be wonderful if there were a large number of volunteers available. More information will be shared over the next few meetings.

South Nation Conservation request for aid in tree planting at Burton Conservation area on Friday, May 26, 2023. Pegi Holtz said she would bring forth this request to today's meeting to see if there would be any interest.

District 1 AGM 2024 to be hosted/organized by RDHS. Both Christine Lanthier and Diane Sharp will need all our help to put this event together – please volunteer! A sign-up sheet to follow.

Russell Police Village 125th anniversary party to be held on June 23, 2023. Pegi Holtz shared that there is no rain date for this event and, in the event of inclement weather, the event will be moved to the arena. It was shared that Concession Road will be closed from Craig Street right up to the Arena. RDHS would like to participate and a sign-up sheet will be forthcoming.

Heritage Days (sometime in September) - RDHS would like to participate and a sign-up sheet and more information will be forthcoming.

OHA 2023 Convention in Kanata to be held on July 21-23, 2023 and hosted by District 2. To be held at the Brookstreet Hotel. Rooms have been set aside in preparation for those attending from the various Horticultural Associations. A sign-up sheet and more information will be forthcoming.

February 20, 2023 – next monthly meeting to include mini flower show highlights described on page 18 of the RDHS 2022 Yearbook.

Guest Speaker is Tracy Clint-Chapman. Subject: Attracting Birds To Your Garden and Keeping Them Safe.

Minutes taken by Christine Bourgeois, Secretary