



RDHS February 20, 2023 Monthly meeting
Location: Marionville Community Centre

Pegi Holtz greeted all attendees and identified washroom facilities. Attendees were reminded 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. January 16, 2023 minutes were acknowledged and accepted.

2023 Yearbook production is moving forward. Pegi mentioned that the yearbook commences in April of the current year until April of the next year. She also presented the Martintown Horticultural Society calendar as another example of how another horticultural society highlights events, etc.

Linda Duhamel continues to accept 2023 RDHS memberships for the unchanged cost of \$10/ year. Jacqueline Wyss, Web Master, made mention of how popular the RDHS Facebook page is and has close to 900 followers. As this is an excellent medium for RDHS exposure, she is looking for people to help out. Jacqueline asked that anyone who would be interested in providing some assistance contact her by email at info@russelgardeners.ca.

March it on out - March 25, 2023 at St. Thomas Aquinas High School. Louise Houle recapped details of this event and flyers were distributed outlining details. Drop off: Friday, March 24th from 5-8 p.m. and Saturday, March 25th from 8-10 a.m. Shop: Saturday, March 25th from 9 a.m. to noon. \$15 entrance fee per person (Age 11 and over; couples - \$30). Children under 11 years of age are free. There are 2 volunteer sign-up sheets in circulation.

2023 Plant Sale - May 20, 2023 at McDougall Park. Pegi recapped details of this event. A sign-up sheet was available for volunteers. This is a large fundraiser and takes place rain or shine. Members were encouraged to bring any surplus vegetable seedlings they may have in an effort to provide a diverse selection and a wonderful addition to perennial contributions.

South Nation Conservation request for aid in tree planting at Burton Conservation area on Friday, May 26, 2023. Grace Stapper made mention of how well organized this event is and RDHS would like members to consider volunteering.

May 20, 2023 – Special Trivia Night Linda Duhamel made mention that there will be a special trivia night to raise funds to finance the creation of a mural that will be displayed in the downtown core. This mural will depict the history of Russell and surrounding area. This project will help to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the Village of Russell.

Vermi-composting Debbie Courneyea made mention of a wonderful workshop/info session she attended at Ritchies Feed & Seed. This subject matter was of great interest to attendees and it is possible that there may be additional workshops/info sessions held there in the future. Workshops are outlined on their website <https://www.ritchiefeed.com/collections/workshops>

Pegi mentioned that, in the past, RDHS would present a certificates to homeowners within the community whose gardens would *stand out* from the crowd as noticed by members of RDHS when walking/driving through the neighbourhood. Perhaps this could be presented seasonally (Spring, Summer & Fall). Everyone thought it was a great idea and should be resurrected once more. Alice Proper and Marilyn MacMillan volunteered to launch this initiative and would welcome any volunteers.

Russell Police Village 125th anniversary party to be held on June 23, 2023. Pegi Holtz recapped details of this event with more details to be shared once available. No rain date will be scheduled 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 made available closer to the event date.

Junior Gardeners Julie Keravel continues oversight of this program and has lost a volunteer/leader from a very minute pool of volunteers. Hopefully more volunteers will be able to provide assistance to help keep this program running. *Note:* volunteers/leaders will need to undergo a police check and follow a code of conduct. Although this may sound daunting, the process is uncomplicated and can be done on line. There should be no cost to the volunteer/leader; however, if costs are involved, RDHS will cover them. Grace Stapper provided details and interested parties can contact her for further information.

Participants need not have a large garden to participate. A small raised garden bed or planters are also ideal. RDHS will provide the plants, seeds, and anything they might need to maintain their individual gardens. Once gardens have been established, RDHS sends 'judges' to evaluate the gardens and prizes, ribbons, etc. are distributed for the junior gardeners efforts.

Liaison Library Grace continues to volunteer as liaison and shared that RDHS contributed \$100 for books that are of a *horticultural* nature. She shared some titles of the books that were purchased. She encouraged members to keep a lookout for the books next time they visit the library.

Mention was made of a mentorship program in the past where Grace had also volunteered her time where the community garden behind the library was used to grow vegetables that were harvested and donated to the Food Bank in Embrun.

Mini Flower Show Louise Houle highlighted the categories of the flower show held at the meeting (also outlined in the 2022 Yearbook) and encouraged attendees to vote for each of the 3 categories. She highlighted how it was important when judging to bear in mind that the accessories for the arrangements were to accent the collection and are not intended to take over the whole arrangement.

Another mini flower show will take place at the next meeting on March 20th and detailed the 3 categories: Sugaring Time; In honour of World Poetry Day; and, In honour of International Women's Day – March 8th.

Marianne Vedder introduced the evening's speaker, Tracy Chapman, who despite a speedbump with technology, presented a very informative power point presentation on "Attracting Birds to your Garden and keeping them safe". Tracy is a volunteer with Safe Wings Ottawa.

Pegi shared that Christina Enright will be holding a presentation in April at the Russell Library where she will discuss planting and taking care of native plants and highlighting the Ottawa Flower seed library. Further details will be forthcoming.

March 20, 2023 – next monthly meeting with guest speaker Chris Craig, Senior Forestry Technician. Subject: Native plants and reconciliation garden. Included will be a mini flower show, categories highlighted above.

Minutes taken by Christine Bourgeois, Secretary