



RDHS April 17, 2023 Monthly meeting
Location: Marionville Community Centre

Pegi Holtz greeted all attendees and identified washroom facilities. Linda Duhamel continues to accept 2023 RDHS memberships for the unchanged cost of \$10/year. 2023 Yearbooks are available to all registered/current members. February 20, 2023 minutes were acknowledged and accepted.

Louise Houle provided details about the 2023 **Plant Sale** that will take place on Saturday, May 20, 2023. Please note that the location of this event is now at the fairgrounds (hopefully along the fence where more shade is available) and not MacDougall Park. There is a need for more tables and contributions will be welcomed. An early 7:15 a.m. arrival for all those members who signed up to volunteer would be greatly appreciated. A call out was made to those who have signs in storage advertising this annual plant sale to put them out one week before the sale and on private property. *Important note:* please change the venue location on the signs in a manner that can be easily altered back to the initial venue at MacDougall Park, as required (*i.e.* do not permanently cross out the venue location). Volunteers are to park away from the site and after they have dropped off any items they may have contributed to this event, if applicable.

All plant donations are to be dropped off at a single donation table which will be easily identified and where they will be priced accordingly. It would be most helpful if donated plants could be identified by name and light requirements (*i.e.* sun/shade). Please divide any outside plants now providing a preferred length of time for the plant(s) to acclimatize. There seems to be a large interest in day lilies, iris and Solomon's seal plants. As an aside, Louise is looking for any containers that would be suitable to hold any low ground cover plants and is willing to pick up from members if there are enough in quantity. Please contact her if you have any available.

There is a requirement for someone to sit at the 'membership' table. Included in the plant sale will be garage sale type 'gardening themed' items for sale so members are encouraged to donate any items that may fall under this category as well.

Grace Stapper has set up a seed swap at today's meeting. Feel free to browse as there may be something of interest to you. She also shared information on the Truckload Rainbarrel fundraiser. You may pre-pay for your purchase on their website: www.rainbarrel.ca/russellrocks. Cost: \$65 for a 55 gallon barrel.

Friendly reminder to all attendees of the request by South Nation Conservation for anyone interested in helping with tree planting at the Burton Conservation area on Friday, May 26th.

Clean up session to celebrate Earth Day will take place at McDougall Park in collaboration with the Russell Scouts and Township and is scheduled for this Wednesday, April 19th. Volunteers are encouraged and welcomed.

Louise encouraged attendees to check out the 2023-2024 Mini Flower Shows detailed in the 2023 Yearbook and provided a brief overview of the 2023 June Flower Show which event is also described in detail in the above-mentioned Yearbook (schedule on pages 16-17 / rules governing said show on pages 18-19). Please note that all specimens must be grown by the presenter, three cultivars must be identical (uniformity – size, form & colour). Entries will be judged by a single judge and not by voting members as is the norm for the Mini Flower Shows.

Pegi shared with members on how she provided part-time summer employment to a young member of the community who was willing to work in her gardens throughout the summer. Unfortunately, this young person is no longer able to commit to this task this year and she is looking for someone to replace this person. Please note that the 40-hour student volunteer program may not be applicable to this part-time employment by some high schools and it is best that the student confirm any requirements with their respective teacher/school.

Louise shared that she has an envelope for each of the three 2023-2024 workshops where those who registered their attendance can pay the pre-registration cost of \$20. Please note that the 2023 Garden Tour does not require pre-payment.

District 1 AGM 2023 was held in Maxville on April 15, 2023. Thirteen members attended. Samples of yearbooks from other horticultural societies are available for viewing at today's meeting – see side table.

District 1 AGM 2024 to be hosted/organized by RDHS. Sign up sheet looking for 'ideas' is available.

Russell Police Village 125th anniversary – celebration to be held on June 23, 2023 at the museum. Further details to be shared when available. Meet me on Main Street event to be televised by City TV Ottawa News and will be live on July 13th from 5-9 p.m.

The Russell Library has made a request to RDHS to have someone in the near future to provide a talk on gardening – one in English & one in French.

The Ottawa African Violet Society will be hosting an Open House on Sunday, May 7, 2023 from 2 – 4 p.m. Location: Rideau Park United Church, 2203 Alta Vista Drive, Ottawa. Further details available on their website: <https://oavs.org>

Lindley McPhail introduced tonight's speaker, Cindy Cluett of Beyond the House Garden Centre who provided the group with a wonderful presentation of 'What's New in the Garden Centre'.

May 15, 2023 Meeting and presentation on Wildflowers with Brian Carson.

Minutes taken by Christine Bourgeois, Secretary