

Minutes of Meeting
Russell Horticultural Society
Monday, January 21st, 2019

Total of 28 people in attendance

President, Carol Vandie welcomed everyone;

She encouraged all in attendance to purchase their yearly memberships if they had not already done so;

A total of 160 calendars featuring members of the Horticultural Society have been ordered and all have been sold. Anyone wishing to order one is encouraged to contact the executive and have their name added to the list.

Members Speaking:

Lindley McPhail reported on the 11th year of **Living Locally** on Saturday, January 19th, 2019. Some changes were made this year. No classrooms were used. More sustainable due to the increasing number of hours spent by teachers and volunteers in years past. Wonderful feedback from both exhibitors and those attending, with many exhibitors saying it was the best year ever.

Jacqueline Wyss reported that the Horticultural Society **Website** is redesigned to be more user friendly. She encouraged all to give her feedback. She asked if anyone would be interested in assisting her with the facebook page as it is the Society's 100th anniversary and she would like to see more pictures. John Jackson asked how one would post a picture and Jacqueline suggested making him an Administrator of the page. RECAN (Russell Embrun Community Awareness Network) is beneficial in posting events on their calendar. The OHA has apparently revamped their site and would also post events.

The huge metal sculpture of a rudbeckia flower (the Society's emblem) created by Ed Bowkett, Robert Laporte and Scott Cluett from materials salvaged from the Prime Minister's residence and the roof of the parliament buildings, named "Rudy" will travel to different sites within the Russell and Embrun area. The contest named "Where's Rudy" will be held from May until September. People who spot "Rudy" and report the location on the website, will be entered in the contest to win "Rudy". Helpers are needed to work on this fun project as many entries are anticipated.

Grace Stapper reported on the **Junior Horticultural** component of the Society. A total of 48 children were registered – 8 of them for the first time. There are also some pre-sprout (those who are too young to join but still receive plants). All registrants are given plants. They plant them in a 2 metre x 2 metre garden. Towards the end of August, leaders visit the gardens and give feedback. Much of the produce is taken to the Russell Fair in September. Last year 29 gardens were visited. They are currently looking for another leader. Computer and finance skills would be an asset. Leaders meet 2 or 3 times during the summer. Thanks was extended to the Horticultural Society as well as Meadow Greens Nursery. Meadow Greens Nursery provides seeds and advice free of charge. Thanks to the Russell Agricultural Society as well. Last year the junior gardeners worked on a project called “Soil Your Undies”. 100% cotton underwear were planted in the garden for 3 months. If the soil is healthy, the underwear will be completely eaten by earthworms and microscopic organisms. This project was originally sponsored by Stanfield Underwear.

Louise Houle reported that she has one **day trip** planned. Trips and workshops are to be determined and everyone was encouraged to check the website.

There will be **Flower Shows** at each of the January, February, March and April regular meetings. Regular flower show rules apply. All flowers are to be live except in instances where it is indicated that they are dried. During these flower show meetings, all attendees will be given a ballot to vote on their favourite. Winners will be determined by numbers of votes. These votes are to be cast prior to the refreshment break with ballots placed in the containers on the exhibit tables. There will be a draw in May with the winner receiving \$100. Each entry will receive a ballot to win.

The 2019 **Garden Tour** will be held on August 13th. To commemorate the 100th anniversary, the tour will begin in the morning, stopping for lunch at Russell Meadows and then continuing to further gardens, ending at Johanne's house in Bourget.

Refreshments for tonight's meeting were provided by Marilyn McMillan and Diane Norman.

The annual Executive Meeting will be held on Saturday, January 26 – 9 am - at Carol Van Die's house, 7916 Dawn Tara Drive (telephone: 613-821-3096)

Linda Duhamel introduced the guest speakers, Tony and Jane Hendriks of Meadow Greens Nursery

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Johnston
Secretary, Russell Horticultural Society