

Minutes of Russell and District Horticultural Society Meeting

Monday, February 18th, 2019

The evening began in the chapel of Russell Meadows with David Cooper of the Ottawa Orchid Society speaking on both wild and cultivated orchids. There will be an Orchid Show at the Ottawa RA Centre on April 27th and 28th and all were encouraged to attend.

Everyone then moved to the main reception hall at Russell Meadows for the regular meeting including the beautiful flower show. In addition to the flower show, there was an exhibit of the amazing watercolour paintings created by the members who took the painting course.

President, Carole VanDie mentioned that the minutes of the November Annual General Meeting had not been voted on at our January meeting. It was moved by Lindley McPhail and seconded by Louise Houle to accept the minutes as presented. Voted on and passed.

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Marcel Beauchamp discussed "Forest Bathing". There is an association based in California that is concentrating on the Japanese study of the effects of the energy of the forests. It is focusing on the obvious beneficial effects of plants on people including stress release, providing a quiet place amongst the tall trees, promoting a slow pace, etc. Discussion was held on the possibility of experiencing this in the summer at Pegi's place where one would walk barefoot through the forest, perhaps wearing Indian mocassins, and take the time to stop, sit and experience the tranquility. Asked who might be interested in this.

Lindley McPhail asked if anyone in attendance who had experienced growing plants from seed. Those who had not, were given a package containing soil, small pots, rubber gloves and a package of rudbeckia seeds.

Lindley also discussed the "100 Trees for 100 Years" project to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Russell Horticultural Society. The Society will be making a 30% donation to any card carrying member of the Society towards the purchase of any of the trees or shrubs listed on the website and purchased from Beyond the House in Russell.

Lindley also asked who might be willing to sell raffle tickets on behalf of the Society for a chance to win the Raven garden structure. Tickets are \$3.00 each, two for \$5.00 or four for \$10. Envelopes were passed out to those willing to sell with 3 books of 10 tickets in each envelope.

Louise Houle reminded all in attendance to use the pink slips on the table to vote on the flower show. One vote for each category: 1. Love Abounds; 2. Flag Proud; 3. Keep it in the Family.

Louise also reminded everyone of "March It On Out" on March 23rd and encouraged all to bring items on Friday (the 22nd of March) from 4:30-7:30 at St. Thomas Aquinas High School. Once again this year, price of admission is \$10 per person and there is no limit to the amount of new found treasures you can take home. She also encouraged those with large items to take a photo of the object and place that photo on the bulletin board at the sale with your contact information.

Everyone was reminded of the District 1 – Annual General Meeting to be held on April 13th at Greyhawk Golf Course on Boundary Road. Registration fees are \$25. These fees will be covered by the Horticultural Society as well as the cost of the lunch. But if you sign up to attend and don't show, you must reimburse the Society. The title of the competitions for the event is "Sex in the Garden".

The Ontario Horticultural Society has produced a judging standard booklet. The cost of the booklet is \$10 and all members were to let Carole VanDie know if you were interested in purchasing a copy and she would order it on their behalf.

District 1 Vice-President, Charles Freeman and his wife, Assistant Director, Louise Freeman were in attendance and reminded everyone to consult the Gloucester Horticultural Society's website for information regarding the Literary and Photography competitions of the convention.

Marianne Vedder reminded everyone in attendance of the computer course put on by the T. Leger School to be held the next morning (February 19th) at Russell Meadows which would include an introduction to computers. There would be a limited number of computers provided by the school so all were encouraged to bring their laptops if possible.

It was also mentioned that there would be hostas for sale for the upcoming OHA District 11 Convention. These hostas are \$10 each and the different varieties are: Hosta Autumn Frost; Hosta Lakeside Paisley Print; Hosta Maui Buttercups; and Hosta, Pocketful of Sunshine. These hostas must be picked up at the convention in Windsor in July.

Louise also thanked Jacqueline Wyss and Pegi Holtz for the great work on the new yearbook.

Everyone was reminded of the showing of "Call of the Forest" movie with author Diana Beresford-Kruger on April 29th, 2019. Diana will be in attendance at St. Thomas Aquinas High School to sign her book. All expenses for this event will be covered by the Horticultural Society.

Meeting adjourned

Connie Johnston, Secretary, Russell and District Horticultural Society