

Minutes of Russell Horticultural Society Meeting
Monday, November 25th, 2019

Meeting was called to order with approximately 70 people in attendance.

President, Carole Van Die welcomed everyone including the many visitors in attendance: Charles Freeman, Vice-President, Ontario Horticultural Society; his wife Louise Freeman, Assistant Director, District 1; Candace Dressler, District Director; Sandra Mitchell, President, Cornwall Horticultural Society and her sister Donna Lemay from Sault Ste. Marie and Betty Dugdale, Russell Horticultural Society Lifetime Member.

Moved by Pegi Holtz and seconded by Marianne Vedder to accept the minutes of the October 2019 meeting. Voted on and passed.

It was noted that annual memberships for 2020 could be purchased in the new year.

Treasurer, Peter Van Die presented his Financial Report. The bank balance as of October 31st, 2019 is \$14,819.08. This balance is less than previous years due to expenses to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Russell Horticultural Society. Moved by Louise Houle to accept the Financial Report as presented. Seconded by Margaret Helliker. Voted on and passed.

Connie Johnston informed everyone that a fundraiser would be held on November 29th with proceeds to the Russell Fire Department to improve communication electronics. She also asked if anyone would be interested in purchasing tickets to the Marie-Claire Roast - November 30th.

Cindy Saucier made everyone aware of the Russell Tree Lighting Ceremony to be held on December 8th in the Russell Public School parking lot.

Lindley McPhail discussed the "Quarry Lake" and the possibility that the owner of this land, Taggart/Miller, is considering a housing development at this site. (This is the land that was originally earmarked for the Dump.) She stated the fact that this property is the home to many animals and unusual plants. Talks under the direction of Candice Vetter have been held to discuss the possibility of Taggart/Miller selling this land and have it become a conservation area. This subject hopefully will be included on the agenda for the Township of Russell meeting on December 2nd and Lindley urged all in attendance to attend this meeting. Everyone was advised to check the website to see if it is on the agenda as Jacqueline Wyss, our website manager, would post it.

Louise Houle spoke on workshops and day trips for the year 2020. A planning meeting will be held. She is looking for ideas and suggestions - perhaps from Pinterest or repeat workshops (i.e. hypertufa containers, stained glass, etc.). She also asked for possible locations for the 2020 Garden Tour. If you know of someone with a garden, could you please approach the owner to find out if they would be willing and get this information to Louise.

AT THIS POINT IN THE MEETING A FABULOUS CHRISTMAS DINNER WAS ENJOYED BY ALL. NORMALLY WE HOLD A POT-LUCK TO CELEBRATE THE SEASON BUT BECAUSE OF OUR 100TH ANNIVERSARY, THE MEAL WAS CATERED BY THE MISSION IN OTTAWA.

Marcel Beauchamp, Past President, then conducted the Election of Officers for 2020. The new board consists of:

Carole Van Die - Past President; Grace Stapper - President; Manja Bastian - Treasurer; Connie Johnston - Secretary; Directors - Peter Van Die, Pegi Holtz, Lindley McPhail, Marianne Vedder, Linda Duhamel, Marie-Claire Ivanski, Louise Houle, Julie Keravel, Susan Barr, Marcel Beauchamp. Jacqueline Wyss - Website Manager; Margaret Helliker - Historian

The annual meeting of the newly appointed executive will be held in January after the Living Locally Fair.

Carole Van Die presented Grace Stapper with the President's pin.

Carole thanked everyone for their assistance during her three-year term as President. Special thank you to Louise House for introducing her to her art work.

Grace Stapper discussed the "Spread the Joy" program. Innovative Community Support Services social purpose is to provide the support and means for adults with a developmental disability and mental health disorder, who face significant barriers for sustainable and meaningful employment with the opportunity to gain skills, training, programs and social inclusion for all. A secondary element of their social purpose is to be environmentally conscious and use as much as possible of our own grown produce for the creation of our merchandise, along with ensuring we use all our farming and land resources by recycling, up cycling, and creatively thinking outside the box to craft new products. Spread the Joy products include homemade preserves (salsa, jams, dill pickles, pickled beets, Lady Rose pickles, Bread & Butter pickles, pickled beans), homemade dog treats, homemade soap, sewing projects (bags, heat/cold rice & lavender packs, cat nip toys, pillows, adult bibs, aprons, fresh flowers & produce. They have crafted wood coasters and candle sets along with, landscaping services, small catering services and baked goods such as pies, muffins, fresh baked bread and loaves. One of their locations is in the former Russell House Hotel in Russell. Grace encouraged attendees to keep these items in mind when considering Christmas gifts.

Candace Dressler mentioned that the OHA is holding a fundraiser selling seeds. More information would be provided in January.

Huge thanks to the Society for providing gifts for all attendees tonight - most of which came from Lindley McPhail's "tickle trunk".

The evening concluded with a Christmas decoration workshop under the leadership of Louise Houle, Johanne St-Denis and Julie Keravel.

ON BEHALF OF THE RUSSELL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY,
I WANT TO WISH EVERYONE A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Johnston
Secretary, Russell Horticultural Society