



Russell and District Horticultural Society

Records of Decision

Meeting held on Monday, May 16, 2011

Location: Russell Legion / Lions Hall

Lindley motioned for the adoption of the previous minutes dated March 21, 2011 and April 18, 2011 duly accepted by Robert Auger and Marcel Beauchamp.

RDHS events

- Alliums are available for sale as a fundraiser for the upcoming OHA Convention. Cost is \$5.00 per package. Order sheets will be made available at the end of every monthly meeting.
Note: RDHS makes \$0.50 per order.
- Friendly reminder to all regarding the June Flower Show being held on Monday, June 20 from 7 – 9 p.m. For complete details (including new categories and areas of interest), please visit the RDHS website at the following link: <http://www.russellgardeners.ca/flowershows.html>
 - Now is the time for RDHS members to show off the fruits of their labour from the echevarian shoots that were handed out to interested members during previous monthly meetings in preparation for the flower show. Good luck to all!
- Plant sale is to be held on May 21, 2011 in MacDougall Park at the corner of MacDougall and Craig Streets in Russell. As members are aware, this plant sale is different from previous sales held by RDHS and will feature heritage vegetables as well as selections from member's gardens. Cindy Cluett (Beyond the House) will honour the 10% RDHS member discount on the day of the sale on all regular priced material. Annual RDHS memberships will be made available at MacDougall Park and Beyond the House.
 - *Note:* Rob Caron and Dave Dunn at Woodland Ramble also honour the RDHS 10% discount on all regular priced material. For further information on Woodland Ramble visit their website at: <http://www.rideauwoodlandramble.com/index.asp>
- **Upcoming events:** Alfred Bog Guided Tour with Naomi Langlois-Anderson, Senior Fish and Wildlife Technician, takes place on Thursday, June 23, 2011. Nut Grove Guided Tour takes place on Wednesday, July 13. Local Garden Tour takes place on Saturday, August 20.
- Russell Fair takes place from September 8-11, 2011. The plowing match will take place at Chutes à Blondeau in Prescott Russell.
- Members were made aware of the Giving Garden at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic High School. Vegetables are grown and the produce is given to anyone in need.
- Robert and Anne Auger sent their best wishes to all RDHS members as they are moving to British Columbia and will no longer be attending RDHS monthly meetings. Robert expressed his appreciation to all and commented on how RDHS provides an opportunity to meet local people, participate more fully in the community through special initiatives (e.g. Living Locally Fair), and offers a sense of community and friendship. Thank you RDHS!

OHA events

- Annual convention to be held in Sudbury from July 15-17, 2011. RDHS has set aside four rooms for members interested in attending. This conference is filled with horticultural information

and any members interested in attending are to contact Lindley as soon as possible. Registration forms need to be filled out and forwarded to OHA.

Guest Speaker: Sandy Marshall of Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)

Bio: Sandy graduated with an Honours B. SC. in Biology from Queens University, Kingston, ON, with specializations in ecology and population genetics. For 12 years following graduation she worked in laboratories, both at the University of Guelph, and at Agriculture Canada in Ottawa in various research capacities.

In 1994, she accepted a job as an examiner in the Plant Breeders' Rights Office, CFIA.

Sandy's current position is senior policy specialist of Plant Breeders' Rights, and in this capacity she also participates in a number of international activities through the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV). There are 68 member countries of this organization, which has its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. For three years (2005-2008) she was the chair of a UPOV technical working group for ornamental plants

Topic: Registration of new plant varieties, what's hot!

- Sandy provided a very informative presentation on the patent process involved when registering new plant varieties. Her power point presentation contained very detailed photos of different plant varieties and provided RDHS members with a more clear understanding of how intricate the methodology is for CFIA to register and control introduction of new plant varieties.
- Sandy introduced RDHS members to the legal parameters that are integral in protecting plant breeder rights and are necessary in the development of new ornamental plant varieties. A plant variety is similar genus with different varieties and genetically determined similar characteristics.
- Why breed new varieties? Agriculturally it provides food sources with potential better yields, more hardy and disease resistant. Horticulturally it provides ornamentals with new and more vibrant colours that can be grown in different climates, drought conditions, longer flowering periods, etc.
- Some of the topics covered provided explanations on how new varieties are developed, introduction of 'who plant breeders are' (could be anyone), and different reproduction methods (e.g. propagation, etc.).
- Sandy explained how long it takes to develop a new variety and what time and money are invested in this process. A narrative on 'plant breeder rights (PBR)' was shared. Rights are enforced by the holder and Sandy provided RDHS members with a description of what rights breeders have. There are two restrictions (exemptions) to breeder's rights and they are Farmer's Privilege and Research Exemption. All plant species are eligible for Canadian PBR protection. Variety eligibility criteria: new, distinct, uniform and stable.
- CFIA publishes a plant variety journal on its website and where new releases for 2011 can also be found. <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/toce.shtml>

A big thank you to those members who prepared the delicious snacks.

Next general meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 20 at 7 p.m. Plant auction and spring flower show.