

## Carleton Place & District Horticultural Society Meeting Recap – November 5th, 2025

A great time was had by those attending our November Meeting. We enjoyed an interesting guest speaker, got to taste entries from the Jams, Jellies & Preserves Competition, and viewed the photos entered in this year's Annual Photography Competition. All in all, it was another fun evening at the Carleton Place and District Horticultural Society.

Thank you to Debbie Guthro for providing the notes for this recap and to Rob Drapeau for his photos.

### Opening Remarks

President Rick Roberts called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., He opened with a Land Acknowledgement then welcomed attendees and shared a brief agenda of the meeting.



### Director and Committee announcements

- **Rob Drapeau – Annual Photography Competition:** Rob announced that panels of photography entries were on display with winners identified. He thanked Doreen Harris for her guidance as Rob takes on this new role. Formal presentations to the winners will be awarded at the December AGM on Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>. Rob is planning to launch a new contest for 2026, and hopes members will continue to take lots of photos and submit them for the competition next year.
- **Irene Tobis - Victoria School Museum Garden Coordinator Report:** Irene thanked Paul Pietsch for his hard work all through this past summer, creating a wonderful new rock garden at Victoria School Garden. Paul donated many plants from his extensive personal collection that thrive in the rock gardens at his home. Paul also contributed miniature early spring bulbs whose blooms we look forward to enjoying each Spring. *Thank you Paul!* Irene also reported that we had a total of 594 volunteer hours donated at the VSG during 2025. The volunteer work at VSG is finished for this year.
- **Barbara Fowler - Flower Show Committee Report** Barbara Fowler reported there were 26 participants in the Fall Flower and Edibles Show. *'Heart-warming for us'*, Barbara spoke to the high quality of the exhibits and thanked all for participating.
- **Margaret Coombs – Hospitality Committee: Jams, Jellies & Preserves Competition** Margaret highlighted the environmental impact of purchasing out-of-season produce, including carbon footprint and reliance on migrant labor. Participants are encouraged to share recipes and tips after the event to promote food preservation practices. Margaret informed that judging of the contest would be done during the meeting and that winners would be announced before the refreshment break. Margaret thanked all who assisted in making this event a success (Cindy & Tim, Hannah, Nicole Roper, Donna Lahey, Cindy McBride, Amanda Woham, Anita Ruus, Laura Cupper, Valencia Logan and Kilby McCann). Hearty applause followed the announcement that entries would be available to try during the break.



## Guest Speaker

Our guest speaker was Marcin Padlewski N.D. who practiced as a registered doctor of Naturopathic Medicine with the College of Naturopaths of Ontario, follows a holistic approach towards wellbeing. He shared practical medicinal information about plants that grow in our local communities.

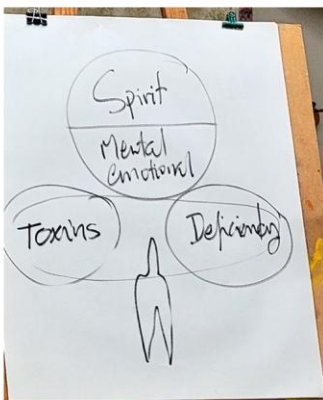


Preferring a hands-on casual style to meetings, Marcin encouraged attendees to rearrange their chairs around the presentation table and exhibits so there would be closer interaction during the presentation. Based on much member participation, it was a popular choice



The focus of the discussion was on community engagement through discussions on food preservation, local sourcing, and the benefits of medicinal plants. Highlights included a presentation by Marcin on local medicinal plants, particularly stinging nettle and plantain, white pine and balsam fir, emphasizing their health benefits and culinary uses. Participants engaged in discussions about the quality of home-grown plants versus store-bought options, the properties of chaga fungus, and various herbal treatments.

Live plants and books were available for viewing by the members. A handout was provided to the members as an overview of the selected plants and their therapeutic applications (not to be used as medical advice). References were made to several books including: *Naturopathic Botanical Medicine*, *The Healing Trees*, *Medicinal Plants of Canada*, *Health Through God's Pharmacy*, *Medical Herbalism* and *The Fungal Pharmacy*



Paul Pietsch formally thanked Marcin for his presentation and generous response to questions while presenting a thank you card and honorarium.



## Valencia Logan, Helen Halpenny – Jams Jellies & Preserves Competition Results

Valencia spoke briefly about the contest and then introduced Helen Halpenny. Helen is a Master Gardener and judge who volunteered to judge our Jams, Jellies, and Preserves Competition.

Here are the results:

- First Prize Winner: Barb Clark for her Rosemary Jelly
- Second Prize Winner: Laura Cupper for her Marmalade
- Third Prize Winner: Barbara Fowler for her Cucumber Relish
- Honorable Mention: Kilby McCann for her Cherry Jam
- Honorable Mention: Heather Lebeau for her Peach Relish

A gift of a flower, a book and a hand-made wooden box (boxes made by Lucas Doucette) was presented to the winners. Valencia also presented a token of our appreciation to Helen for contributing knowledge and expert judging to the completion.



## Refreshment Break

Over fifty attending members were invited to taste-test the entries from the Jams, Jellies, and Preserves Competition which were served on donated home-made biscuits, croissants and drinks by the hospitality committee. The different smells were incredible and the tastes delightful. It was hard to choose which ones to try with so many entries. A great success indeed!

Attendees were encouraged to check out **the Annual Photography Competition** photos on display for viewing during the refreshment break. The photos were exceptionally good this year. Winning photos and their photographers were identified. Here are the three first place winners. See the attached November newsletter for the complete list of winners.

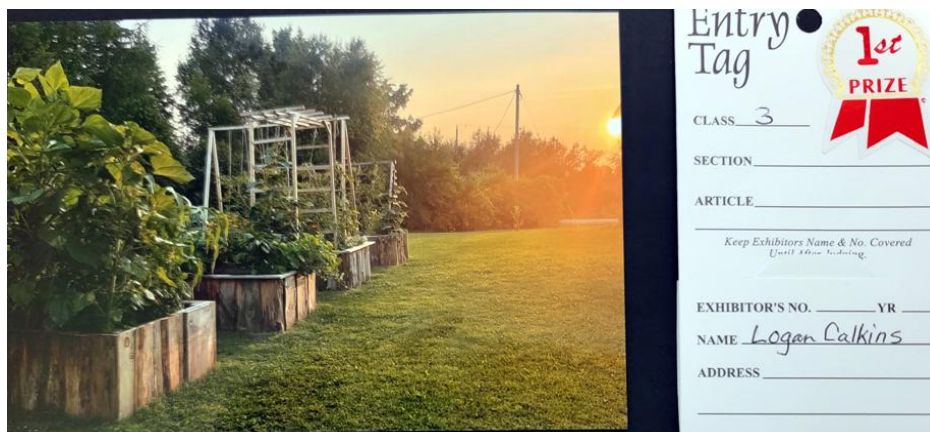
- Class 1 – Laura Cooper



- Class 2 – Cheryl Moore ( Best of Show)



- Class 3 – Logan Calkins



**Closing Remarks**

Rick extended his thanks to the Annual Photography Competition participants and competition organizers, Rob Drapeau and Doreen Harris. He also extended thanks to the Jams, Jellies, and Preserves competitors and the Hospitality Committee (Kilby McCann, Margaret Coombs and volunteers) for an outstanding event.

Rick concluded the meeting by reminding everyone about the next Meeting on December 3, 2025, which is the Annual Potluck and the Annual General Meeting (AGM) where we will present annual awards and choose our directors for 2026. The Guest Speaker in December will be Nora Kazda from Wild Blooms Farm. She will demonstrate seasonal wreath making. Door prizes!

**Meeting Adjourned**

The meeting ended at 8:40 p.m.

**Credits**

This meeting recap is brought to you by Debbie Guthro who took notes, Rob Drapeau who took all of the photos, and yours truly who added a few bits and did final setup..

Happy gardening, Rick