

October 1, 2025 CPDHS General Meeting Recap

Opening Remarks

President Rick Roberts called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., *We would like to begin by acknowledging that the territory where we live, raise our families, and grow our gardens is on the unceded lands of the Algonquin Anishinaabe Nation. In the spirit of this week's **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation**, may we each take time to reflect on the legacy of residential schools, the ongoing impact of colonialism and to commit to learning and doing more to advance reconciliation.*

The theme for the evening is "**Penny Foster** owner of **Beckwitch Farm Canning Jams and Jellies**". Refreshments will be served.

Currently the Flower show judging is underway, remember to submit your Photography Competition photos and if you could help clean up at the end that would be great.

Rick Introduced Karen Finkler - 1988 founder and photos

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Linda Bartlett presented the budget for the fiscal year spanning from October 1, 2025, to September 30, 2026.

We have items that are \$500.00 or more that require approval of the members.

Youth Program \$500.00, Speakers Expense \$1000.00, Flower Shows \$1100.00, OHA Dues \$550.00, Plant Sale \$500.00, Youth Bursary Program \$500.00, Elementary School Grants \$500.00, Victoria School Museum \$600.00, Heritage Museum Garden \$600.00, Meeting Expenses \$900.00, Publicity \$1000.00.

Motion by Linda Bartlett October 1, 2025 for approval of the October 1, 2025 to Sept 30, 2026 operating budget with approval for items \$500.00 or more. Seconded by Sandra Roberts . All in favor. No Abstains No Nos

We had 50 members in attendance at the General Meeting.

Irene Tobis – Field trip - The Ottawa Wildflower Seed Library

Irene invited members to the Fletcher Wildflower garden tour. They will teach us how to gather seeds. Contact Irene Tobis if you're interested in joining the tour..

Committee Update - Margaret Coombs

The Climate Change and Biodiversity Group is holding the Jams and Jellies contest at the November 5, 2025 meeting. The main judge will be Helen Halpenny. Biscuits will be provided for tasting.

Guest Speaker

Penny offered a fascinating look into her journey, from her roots in gardening to running her unique food business today.

Her career began simply: with gardening and managing rental gardens and canning, which led to producing and giving away numerous homemade jams and jellies. This passion blossomed into a business focused on unique preserves, including dill pickles, innovative recipes featuring flowers, and both ultra-hot and mild jellies. She also produces products such as rare horseradish, relish, specialty seeds, and seasonal items like lacto-fermented rhubarb, puff balls, asparagus, and Glass Gem corn. A particular favorite is the Paw Paw, a non-tropical fruit that falls from the tree around late September and tastes like a blend of banana, mango, and pineapple. Penny often uses a special, low-sugar pectin to reduce sugar content in her products.

Penny emphasizes quality and safety: she is Food Safety Certified and works closely with the Public Health Nurse to experiment with new products and keeps very detailed records. She maintains an excellent relationship with the Health Inspector.

She also highlighted important changes in home preservation, noting that current canning regulations advise against canning certain items yourself. In response to a question she stressed that when water bathing, the rings should be placed on lids *loosely* to allow air to vent, and one must always ensure the rim of the jar is perfectly clean before making the final seal.

For those who want to learn her craft, Penny offers three courses covering Jams & Jellies, Pickles, and Random techniques.

Refreshment Break

Members enjoyed some desserts, drinks, social time and viewing of the Flower Show and Edibles entries. What a show that was!

Anne Harbord Announcement D2

Current District 2 Secretary Anne Harbord announced a Flower Show coming on June 13, 2026 in Stittsville, Ontario. This will be the largest flower show east of Toronto.

History of the Carleton Place and District Horticultural Society

Karen Finkler spoke briefly about how happy she was that the Horticultural Society is still going strong after all these years. It started in 1988 at the CP Canoe Club location. That is when the "Iris" became our chosen flower. She would like to gather more photos and info and come back to a meeting to show us all.

Closing Remarks

Rick Roberts extended his gratitude to the Flower Show Committee specifically Doreen Harris, Barbara Fowler, Barb C., Valencia Logan, and Heather Lebeau, and the amazing volunteers whose efforts were essential in preparing for this highly successful event.

Rick extended his thanks to the Hospitality Committee (Margaret Coombs and Lucas Kilby) and a thank you to Sarah James, Anita Ruus, Ann Cochrane and Amanda Woolham for providing the evening's excellent refreshments.

Rick concluded the meeting by reminding everyone about the next Meeting on November 5th,2025 with Guest speaker (march-in padlev-ski) **Marcin Padlewski**, who is a doctor of **Naturopathic Medicine**. Holistic Health & Gardening.

There will also be the Jams and Preserves Competition and the Annual Photography Competition results.

Meeting Adjourned

The meeting ended at 8:30 p.m.