



Carleton Place & District Horticultural Society

November 2023

President's Message

It's about time. According to the weather report it was supposed to be snowing today! There were two flakes that I saw come down. Lol. But seriously the plants could be paying for this warm weather we have had.



Common Witch Hazel
Paul Pietsch, Oct 2023

Our speaker for tonight's meeting is Janet Johns from the Ottawa Orchid Society. Her talk will be on the care of orchids. The Ottawa Orchid society puts on an amazing orchid show. If you have never been, it is the place to go in the spring. I'm looking forward to her talk.

We will once again have refreshments after the speaker. Daniel Brumar has an idea he will explain. I'll bring in a couple of door prizes.

Something to think about. December is our AGM. If you would like to be part of the board, please put your name forward, or if you have questions, please ask any of our board members.

Paul Pietsch
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CPDHS December Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) will take place on Wednesday, December 6, 2023 at 7:00 PM. We will conduct the business part of the meeting first - review of the financials, election of Board members and greetings from the District Director and OHA. We will then have a Seasonal Floral demonstration by Leah Gibson. After the demonstration, we will have the Annual Society Awards, refreshments and door prizes.

Once again, we will be doing a collection for the Build a Mountain for the Hunger Stop Food Bank. Please see inside for more information on the items that are most needed.

Membership 2024

We will be renewing the 2024 Memberships at our December meeting. The price for Annual membership is \$15.00 per person. In order to keep our records up-to-date, we ask that you complete a 2024 Membership form.

Beat the spring rush and renew early! New memberships are always welcome.

Naming of Names

Yes. Let me try this explanation about giving plants their names and at the end a connection to one of our society members.

Identifying plants throughout history has always been important. Not because of their beauty and landscape value, but their medical importance. This identifying of plants has been going on for thousands of years. Even Neanderthals did it. Finally, it is the Greeks that tried to make some sense of this with limited success. Coming up with a system for the names was difficult because so little was understood about the relationship of plants to each other. What similarities put plants in the rose family for instance. Along came the Swedish botanist Carl von Linne or as he is better known in Latin Carl Linnaeus. He is known as the father of modern taxonomy who formalized the Latin binomial nomenclature we use today. The naming of names. Not only is this system used for plants but also for everything living or has lived. You and I are *Homo sapiens* and then there is *Tyrannosaurus Rex*.

When Marco Polo went to China, he brought back plants never seen before. Many others, like Darwin, did too. Before binomial names, when a new plant came back to Europe, a new descriptive word was added to the name of a similar already known plant. These names became very cumbersome. But through Linnaeus's insight into botany, he came up with the binomial system that identifies plants through their flowers and fruits. The binomial names are the genus and species. It was determined through this the Latin plant names. For instance, roses (*Rosa*) have five petals and five sepals. Plus, other identifiable features. Oftentimes the genus name does not even relate to the plant but to the name of a patron of plants. Like Begonias are named after a French man Michel Begon.

The really neat thing about all of this is the plant pictured and the photo taken by Anita Ruus, one of our members, when we went for a hike to Purdon Conservation (put this place on your bucket list) which is close to McDonald's Corners. Aside from the native orchid that this place is known for, there are many other native plants. Twin flower or *Linnaea borealis* (meaning northern) is one of my all time favourites. Yes, the genus is named after, of all people, Carl Linnaeus the father of modern taxonomy!! This tiny plant native to northern Ontario is named after him.

To finish this off on a warm note, Anita who took these pictures was so excited. Her mother who is also Swedish, her name is Sonya Mary Linnea and her daughter's name is also Linnea. Hopefully, this did not get too long-winded, but it seemed like a nice plant story to me.



Twin flower (*Linnaea borealis*) - photo credit: Anita Ruus

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Climate Change and Biodiversity Group Summary of Activities 2023

The Climate Change and Biodiversity Group is a small working group of five members who belong to CPDHS.

The group meets monthly to discuss ideas and endeavors to positively impact climate change action in the community.

- This year the group participated in EARTHFEST, a four-hour event on April 22nd at the Market Square Pavilion. With two Master Gardeners on hand, a display, a quiz, and handouts, the initiative was a successful way of engaging interest and conversation of how we can use gardening solutions to address Climate Change.
- The Group trialed a project at the Victoria Gardens to incorporate vegetables into plots of flowers and perennials.
- The group has researched and suggested guest speakers for the 2024 Schedule of CPDHS meetings.
- One of the members volunteered with the town's Urban Forest River Corridor committee in the summer, which completed a tree inventory of the parks in Carleton Place.
- Another Volunteer worked at the Recycling Depot at the Stewart Park Festival on behalf of the Climate Change Group.
- The Climate Change Group is working to initiate a project to remove invasive species from Carleton Place parks and has contacted the Town of Carleton Place for permission.

Kilby McCann
Member of Climate Change Group

December Flower Photo Contest

The CPDHS's Climate Change and Biodiversity Group challenges you to a new contest. Starting December 1st, we want your photos of flowers blooming outside in the darkest, gloomiest month of the year! Entries should be:

- fresh blooms (not dried flowers),
- growing outdoors (don't take your tropical houseplant for a patio photo-op),
- in Lanark county or Ottawa (no pictures from Niagara or your Florida vacation),
- anywhere in your garden, parks, lawns, forests, fields, roadsides, cracks in the sidewalks, etc.

Submit your photos by email to DB_4321@yahoo.com with the subject "***December Flower Photo Contest***" with a date and location of your flower. Winners will be announced at the March meeting. There will be an award for the latest bloom, and another award for most types of flowers found. Two tips to help you get started: (1) weeds are perfectly acceptable, and (2) carry a magnifying glass.

Good luck!

Daniel Brumar
Director, CPDHS and
Member of Climate Change Group

CPDHS Elementary School Grant

We received this letter of gratitude from J-L-Couroux School, one of the elementary schools who received a grant from our society this year. This is all part of our mandate to promote and educate in our community.



September 28th, 2023

Good morning,

We would like to thank the Carleton Place Horticultural Society for their generous grant. With this money we were able to purchase two apple trees which were planted near the main entrance of our school and two hydrangeas for our outdoor classroom.

The older kids enjoyed digging and planting the trees and the little kids are having a great time being responsible for the watering of all our plants. We look forward to adding plants to our outdoor classroom next year.

Thank you,
Jo-Anne Jacques
EA, J.L.Couroux School



2023 CPDHS Photo Competition Results

Class 1 – Colour Purple (Purple flower or shrub) – Susan Burke 1st prize, Debbie Guthro 2nd prize, and Susan Burke 3rd prize.

Class 2 – Indoor Gardening, Indoor plant or herb – Debbie Guthro took 1st and 2nd prize, with Sheila Gibson 3rd prize.

Class 3 – Catch me if you can! Photo of animal or insect – Brianna Logan took 1st and 2nd place with Sheila Gibson 3rd place.

Best in Show – Brianna Logan with bee on flower.

Well done everyone. Please take a few minutes to view all the photo competition on display.

Notes from the Judges:

The judges would like everyone to know how pleased they were to see the increased number of entries this year, and also how impressed they were with the overall quality and creativity of those entries!

That made selecting the winners more difficult but also more enjoyable, and generated long and interesting discussions over the relative artistic and technical merits of each photograph. It is also why there are more “Honourable Mentions” than usual!

We would like to congratulate all competitors, and look forward to a similar turn-out next year!

Doreen Harris
Director, CPDHS



Best in Show
Brianna Logan

Food Bank Donation

The Carleton Place & District Horticultural Society will be doing a Food Drive at our December 7th Meeting. Please consider bringing in an item or two to help support those in need during the holiday season.



Here is a list of the items most needed:

- ▶ canned ravioli or spaghetti, pasta sauce, canned tomatoes
- ▶ Mr. Noodle (or no-name) packets
- ▶ pantry items (condiments, flour, sugar, cake/cookie/muffin mix, jello, pickles, etc.)
- ▶ pudding cups
- ▶ cereal
- ▶ Boost/Ensure

Cash donations are always appreciated (larger cash donations of \$20 or more will receive a charitable receipt). Our society will be making our annual cash donation as well.

Thank you for your generosity in advance!

5th Annual Rights of Way – Canada Wildlife Federation (CWF)

I was fortunate to recently attend the Rights of Way (ROW) Workshop, hosted by CWF on October 26th in Picton.

According to CWF.... roadsides, utility corridors, industrial lands, solar installations, windfarms and pipe lines could all be managed to create and maintain a network of thousands of hectares of pollinator habitat. As we all know, pollinators are critical for the economy, the environment and for food production.

I cannot possibly summarize a day's worth of extremely useful information so I thought I would provide you with some interesting facts.

Did you know that....

- The ETR 407 Highway is restoring 12 hectares along the roadside for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.
- If we increase the species in our gardens then we attract more pollinators; 26 species seems to be the ideal number.
- 70% of our native bee species make nests on the ground.
- Flower flies which resemble bees have 2 wings while bees have 4 wings.
- Dog strangling vine mimics milkweed and when the eggs are laid on it, the monarch larvae starves because the vine does not provide adequate nutrition.
- Hydro One is involved with restoring ROWs for pollinators; the choice of where this occurs can originate from the local residents or where major work is already being done.
- Since spring 2023, some (123) Loblaw's garden centers are selling native plants. These garden centers are in southern and eastern Ontario with 7 centers in Quebec. The plants are labelled with a tag In the Zone.
- Buckwheat and oats can be planted to "hold space" for pollinator restoration.
- Mowing can be tailored to offer pollinators the best survival opportunities.

I would be delighted to discuss this further.

Laura Cupper
Director, CPDHS
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This newsletter is published by the Carleton Place and District Horticultural Society and is distributed to its members free of charge.

We depend on our members for its content. If you would like to contribute, please send your submissions to: cphorticulture@gmail.com

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