

Good evening members,

We had a fun and educational evening at our first meeting of 2025 that was held last Wednesday. It was a full agenda due to so many programs and events being planned for this spring. There are lots of activities to enjoy this year!

Many thanks to Debbie Guthro for taking the notes that made this recap possible...and to Rob Drapeau for taking the photos that are included here. Enjoy :)

#### Call to Order and Welcome

Rick Roberts called the meeting to order with the acknowledgement that the territory where we live, raise our families, and grow our gardens is part of the unceded lands of the Algonquin Ani-shin-aabe Nation. "May we show respect for the land, its people, and our shared history in this community".



Rick formally introduced the new executive that was chosen at the January Board meeting and 2025 directors elected at the December AGM.

#### Committees & Officers Reports

**Financial report:** Treasurer Linda Bartlett presented the Financial Report, which shows a balance of \$7,186.00. We are still awaiting the \$1,000 cheque from OMAFRA, which should arrive soon. Linda also prepared and distributed printed copies of this month's newsletter..

**Design Award:** Linda Bartlett was then presented with a framed photo gift from Cindy Zorgel (D2) for the "Best in Design" winner at the August 2024 D2 Flower show.



**Flower Show Workshops:** Barbara Clarke spoke to us about the upcoming Flower Show Workshops. We listened to feedback from the past flower show and based on the feedback we were able to provide an opportunity for introductory and novice level workshops to be made available. The workshops are on March 29 and April 26, 2025. The Registration table is set up at the back of the room for anyone who is interested in joining.

**Social Committee** member Margret Coombs informed us about the delicious treats available during the break. She also kindly requested that anyone with food allergies notify the committee for future meetings.



**Earthfest:** Director Irene Tobis, coordinator for Earthfest on May 3, 2025, at Carleton Place Market Square, shared that there will be two tables. One will focus on Climate Change and Biodiversity, featuring "Invasive Plants - Grow Me Instead" booklets and handouts. Members are invited to volunteer to fill pots with soil and herbs, nurture them at home, and bring them to Earthfest. The second table will promote the Spring Plant Sale, Membership, and herb giveaways. Anyone interested in helping should contact Irene.



**Seedy Saturday:** Irene Tobis will also be attending the Seedy Saturday March 15, 2025 as asked for volunteers to assist at the event.

**Youth programs - Earthfest:** Director Bri Logan discussed the Children's table at Earthfest, featuring recycled materials and themed mugs. She is seeking donated flower seeds and welcomes volunteers to help at the event.



**Youth programs - Pasta Sauce Garden, Girl Guide program:** Bri will also coordinate the Garden Youth Program at Rona on March 29, 2025, focused on planting tomatoes, peppers, and herbs (Pasta Sauce Garden). Bri is working with local Girl Guides for an event on May 12, 2025

**CP Signup Night:** Bri Logan will coordinate the Carleton Place Sign-Up Night on March 6, 2025 along with volunteers Valencia Logan and Barbara Fowler.

**Annual Photo Contest:** Director Rob Drapeau announced the theme for this year's Annual Photo Contest: "Canadiana," with three categories: "Red & White," "Structures/Buildings with Foliage," and "Food for Thought Container Gardening." The deadline is October 2025, and Rob is seeking judges to assist.

**Volunteer hours:** Rob is also coordinating volunteer hours reporting. He will collect the data from event coordinators, including prep work, and send it to the Treasurer. An email with details will be sent out soon.

**Plant Sale:** President Rick Roberts indicated that we will need volunteers for the following "Duties" in respect to the upcoming Plant Sale in May 2025.

1. Organizers
2. Boxes for carrying plants to and from gardens to Potting up to Victoria School Gardens
3. Digging Donor Gardens coordinator
4. Transporting Plants
5. Potting Up coordinator
6. Pricing and Labeling
7. Coordinator tables through the Town of Carleton Place
8. Signs being placed around town the day of the sale
9. Transporting Plants to VSG (Friday before Plant Sale)
10. Day of Sale coordinator

#### Refreshment break

Kilby McCann and the hospitality volunteers put on a nice spread of homemade treats. Bri Logan donated an extraordinary garden themed cake.



Lots of conversations and an opportunity for those interested to sign up for the Flower Show Workshops and to pick up herb planting supplies for the herb giveaway at Earthfest. I planted my pots on the weekend. The dill and basil are already germinated and growing. Hope I can keep them alive until Earthfest.

#### December plants in Bloom Photo Contest

Daniel Brumer presented the Photo Contest Results from the Winter Contest. There were several photos from December 3, 2025 to December 31, 2025. Winners were Heather Lebeau (Coneflower), Janet Cain (Primrose), Sheila Gibson for Most Variety (2 different plants), Irene Tobis and Rob Drapeau tied for Best Photo.

Dec 31



Winner!

Latest Flower

Heather Lebeau

Cornflower



Winner!

Latest Flower

Janet Cain

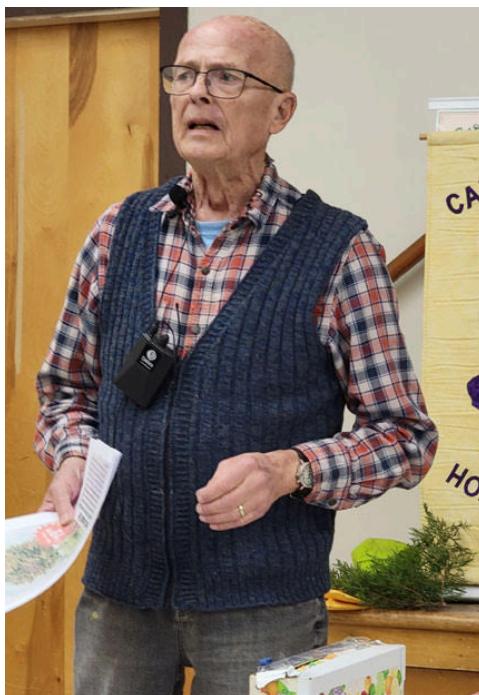
Primrose





### Guest Speaker

Our scheduled guest speaker injured herself in a recent fall on ice, so was unable to present her talk on African Violets. Paul Pietsch generously agreed to fill in on short notice to do a demonstration on Grafting & Budding.



Paul provided much valuable information, answered questions from the audience and shared interesting experiences. We were relieved that he didn't cut himself with the razor knife he was using, though he told an amusing story of a female student who faked a major injury during one of his classes at Humber College. The ruse involved ketchup.



I learned enough about grafting to be enthusiastic and dangerous. An apple tree in our yard may regret my unfounded confidence.

### Door Prizes

Door Prize winners were Kirby McCann and Margaret Coombs who each received a pretty plant.

### Display Tables

Honorable mention to Valencia Logan, Barbara Fowler and Heather Lebeau for manning the Registration table for the upcoming Flower Show Workshops on March 29, 2025 and April 26, 2025.



The Seeds and Pots table was manned by Irene Tobis and Anita Ruus.



### Meeting Wrap Up

We got all of that done and still adjourned the meeting at 9pm. Great job everyone!

In closing the meeting I shared that I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at next month's meeting on April 2nd when we will host **Chloe Hurst** who will speak on ***This Gothic Garden Lives in Carleton Place***. Chloe and her Gothic Garden went viral on social media and international print & broadcast media in 2024.

Happy gardening, Rick

PS Don't forget to **renew your membership**. You can do it at the April meeting or check out the options on the [CPDHS web site](#)

### Member Communications

#### Carleton Place & District Horticultural Society

Communications Coordinator: Rick Roberts, President

Website: <https://cphorticulture.ca/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/carletonplaceanddistricthorticultursociety>

Instagram: [https://www.instagram.com/cp\\_and\\_district\\_hort\\_society/](https://www.instagram.com/cp_and_district_hort_society/)