

In spite of a wet and snowy Wednesday evening, fifty or so members defied a nasty weather forecast to attend the meeting... wonderful turnout for a snowy evening. Included in that number forward to getting to know you

#### Opening - Paul Pietsch, President

Paul & Carolyn arrived home from a long road trip just in time for him to lead the proceedings. Paul welcomed everyone to the meeting. He closed with a recommendation for the upcoming orchid show is attached to this email.

Paul turned the floor over to CPDHS Directors and Coordinators to share announcements and updates for upcoming activities and events. CPDHS has a fantastic start to the season line up.

- **Linda Bartlett - District 2 AGM** to be held in Perth on May 4th. Linda, who is VP and Treasurer of CPDHS is also the President of the Perth & District Horticultural Society. The AGM is open to all CPDHS members and others are encouraged to attend. Attached document has all the details.
- **Laura Cupper - Membership update** Laura shared that 8 new members signed up before the meeting and two longtime members renewed bringing our membership up to 77.
- **Doreen Harris - Plant Sale** to be held May 25th at Victoria School Garden. Doreen informed members of the dates and needs for the plant sale which is our most important fundraiser. Attached document has details and how to volunteer to help out. You will see regular emails about timing and volunteer needs leading up to the actual sale date. Last year was very successful. We plan to have a great sale this year.
- **Heather Lebeau - Bird houses fundraiser** The volunteers at The Hackberry Men's Shed built several bird houses for CPDHS to sell as a fundraiser. Heather brought a variety of birdhouses for members to look at and consider what they would like to buy a birdhouse. Makes a great home for birds and helps CPDHS fund the good works we do for our community. Here are pics of three of the designs... others are available.



- **Heather Lebeau - Flower Shows** Heather highlighted that our **CPDHS Spring Flower Show** will be held at the May 1st meeting. Please see the attached April newsletter for more details. Let's see what is in bloom! Heather also reminded that CPDHS along with Almonte and Pakenham are co hosting the **2024 District 2 Flower & Edibles Show** on August 17th in Pakenham. Please see the attached document 'District 2 Flower Show Schedule' for more details.
- **Bri Logan - Childrens' Programming for Earth Fest 2024** On April 20, 2024, from 11am to 3pm, CPDHS will be participating in the second annual Earth FEST in Carleton Place. Bri is leading the programming for children. She is looking for volunteers to help out with the children's table activities (painting, planting, etc.). Please reach out to Bri if you are interested in volunteering. She is also looking for seed packages, leftover yarn, and recycling. Preference for recycling is: cereal boxes and 1-2 litre clean drink cartons (e.g. square orange juice or milk cartons). Thank you for your support!
- **Irene Tobis - VSG** Irene spoke about how much she enjoyed volunteering in the Victoria School Garden (VSG) in 2023. She encouraged others to join in with the Tuesday morning workdays. Paul Pietsch is the lead coordinator for VSG. He'll instruct a notice to go out via email once a firm start up date is known.

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#### Refreshment Break

Everyone enjoyed meeting and mingling while enjoying a treat and a beverage during the refreshment break. Many thanks to those who provided this month's refreshments... without you, we would not be able to have a great meeting.

Please reach out to Dianne Elliott ([dianneelliott78@gmail.com](mailto:dianneelliott78@gmail.com)) if you are able to contribute to a future refreshment break.

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#### GUEST SPEAKER: Brittany Lepage, the Dahlia Darling

Brittany is an exceptional grower, hybridizer and seller of dahlias who lives and works right here in Carleton Place. Her deep knowledge and infectious energy was much appreciated by all.



Brittany shared advice and strategies in selecting, growing and caring for all forms of Dahlia's. Her presentation was supported by wonderfully illustrated Powerpoint slides which she used for hybridizing. Discussion included winter storage, pest control, and more.

Two lessons that stood out for me are that a dahlia leaf cutting can grow to a full plant that produces both blooms and multiple tubers in the first season. Going to try that. The second is tubers... turns out I could have had a lot more dahlias. This fall I'll split our clumps into single tubers for storage. Everyone learned something new.



It was especially interesting to see examples of some of the named varieties that Brittany has developed in her Carleton Place garden. It's no surprise that the names of the Dahlia Darling



Dahlia tubers were available for purchase in bags that included 5 varieties. They sold out quickly to appreciative members & guests. Perfect timing to pot them up for plenty of showy blooms.

Here is some contact information for Brittany if you would like to source dahlia's for your garden that you are not going to see at the big box stores. She also produces and sells flower arrangements.

Email: [brittinylepage@hotmail.com](mailto:brittinylepage@hotmail.com)

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/TheDahliaDarling/>

Youtube Channel: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJ7j\\_vPJ2J\\_5UW3q8-Qat\\_g](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJ7j_vPJ2J_5UW3q8-Qat_g)

#### New Members and Membership Renewal for 2024

Laura Cupper accepted membership renewals from several members. She was also delighted to welcome eight new members which increases our ranks to 77 new and renewed members.

If you weren't able to attend the April meeting, but would like to renew your membership please [check out the options on the CPDHS website](#). We look forward to having everyone one

New members were also signed up at Seedy Saturday in Almonte, and at the Carleton Place Signup Night that was held at the arena last month. If you would like to help out on future it's a great way to get involved and meet interesting people.

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#### April Newsletter

Linda Bartlett distributed the *April Newsletter* to members attending. It is attached to this recap as a PDF file. This month's newsletter includes:

- Vice President's Pen, Linda Bartlett 'A garden comes from the heart of the person planting it"
- Plants NOT for the Plant Sale [invasive species] - Dale Odorizzi, Master Gardener
- Childrens' Programming for Earth Fest 2024 - Brianna Logan
- 2024 District 2 AGM
- Spring Flower Show May 1 - Doreen Harris, Barbara Fowler, Barb Clarke, Valencia Logan, Heather Lebeau
- 2024 Plant Sale May 25 - Doreen Harris, Rick Roberts
- 2024 District 2 Flower & Edibles Show August 17
- Earth Day April 22
- City Farmer Lorraine Johnson lecture May 2 at the Carleton Place Arena

Many thanks to Linda Bartlett and contributors for another excellent newsletter!

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#### Door prizes & Meeting Wrap Up

Door prizes of packages of garden bulbs plus a bag of dahlia tubers donated by our guest speaker were happily accepted by several appreciative winners.



Paul closed the meeting by thanking all for their attendance and contributions, encouraging everyone to mark their calendar for the May meeting which will be held at the same place and on **Invasive Plants**. Dale is a Lanark Master Gardener. This will be a timely subject just as we begin to source additional plants for our gardens.

I'm sure I've missed some things in this recap. Best way to get the whole story first-hand is to come out to the next monthly meeting on May 1st. More on that to follow, closer to the meeting.

Happy gardening :)

Rick

#### Member Communications

##### Carleton Place & District Horticultural Society

Coordinator: Rick Roberts

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

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

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4 Attachments • Scanned by Gmail



**Carleton Place & District Horticultural Society - Member Communications**

Thx Heather, Cheers, Rick

**Carleton Place & District Horticultural Society - Member Communications** <cpdhsmembers@gmail.com>

to Debbie 

Hi Debbie,

I hadn't updated your email address so am forwarding this members email to you

Rick

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