

I wasn't sure that I would be able to provide a meeting recap this month because the virus I caught returning from vacation excluded me from attending the meeting. However Rob Drapeau stepped up to snap some pictures to share here. Others provided an overview of proceedings. So... here we go...

March 6th Meeting kicked off our 2024 season.

This was a busy meeting with Paul Pietsch launching the meeting with President's remarks Board members then provided their business updates which were kept as brief as possible to allow adequate time for the generous agenda.

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

- President's Message - Paul Pietsch
- 2024 Board of Directors
- 2024 Program
- CPDHS 2024 Photo Competition. Theme: *A Colourful Year*
- Climate Change Group December Photo Contest
- Article: Forcing Bulbs
- CPDHS Member Benefits - Horticultural Discounts - List of participating vendors
- 2024 District 2 AGM
- 2024 District 2 Flower Show

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

Carleton Place and Beckwith Museum Update: Jennifer Irwin

Jennifer Irwin, curator of the Carleton Place and Beckwith Museum, shared a slideshow and presentation about the museum and the Victoria School Gardens (VSG) that are designed and maintained by CPDHS volunteers. She discussed artifacts that are placed around the property. Then she showed the concept for the renovations of the building .



Photo credit - Rob Drapeau

December Plants in Bloom Photo Contest: Daniel Brumar

Daniel Brumar showed a PowerPoint presentation of the December Plants in Bloom Photo Contest entries and winners in all categories. His remarks included:

"Thank you to everyone who participated in the December Flower Photo Contest. I hope you were amazed at the tenacity of some of the plants around us. For me, seeing flowers in December feels like visiting old friends again, and reminds me of warm memories of summer."

"Recording flowers in December makes us keenly aware of the weather at this important time of year, and gives us a visual record that we can compare to winters past and future. As our climate continues to warm, I expect this contest will become easier over time. I hope this contest has sparked your curiosity, and you continue to take a closer look at some of the plants we take for granted throughout the year. Well done everyone!"

Here is Daniel congratulating **Janet Cain** for winning **Best Photo**:



Photo credit - Rob Drapeau

Winners:

- Best Photo: Janet Cain
- Best Photo, 2nd Place - Rick Roberts
- Best Photo, 3rd Place - Anne Harbord
- Latest Flower -- Anne Harbord
- Most Varieties - Anne Harbord

Attached **please find the attached PowerPoint presentation** that includes all entries' photos and winners of each category... really interesting pictures :)

GUEST SPEAKER: Hugh Metcalf - Native Plants

Hugh brought much helpful information as a certified Fish & Wildlife Technician, Certified Nutrient Management Consultant, and Certified NASM Plan Developer. His talk was especially informative to those who are interested in bringing native plants into gardens.



Photo credit - Rob Drapeau

Paul Pietsch reported that he liked how Hugh made a point of saying that growing natives is a learning curve. *"They are not as easy as they first sound. Do some research. Once you get it right it's quite rewarding. The diversity of native plants is quite a factor in what to plant where."*

More gems of good advice that Hugh offered included not to expect a garden composed of native plants to look like a regular garden, and that a benefit to both pocketbooks and the environment is that no fertilizers are needed.

Irene Tobis pointed out that there will be native plants available at the annual CPDHS plant sale in May.

Hugh's background: He's worked on several avian research projects for graduate students across Canada and the United States. In 2020 he launched his own company [NATURAIDE](#) which is located in Winchester, Ontario. Naturaide provides ecological and agricultural services within eastern Ontario, all of which help to protect sensitive environmental features and encourage good land stewardship.

Membership Renewal for 2024

Laura Cupper accepted membership renewals from several members. She was also delighted to welcome three new members which increases our ranks to 55 new and renewed members for 2024

- Jennifer Irwin, Carleton Place & Beckwith Museum
- Bernd Kuelz
- Sandra Kuelz

If you weren't able to attend the March meeting, but would like to renew your membership please [check out the options on the CPDHS website](#). We look forward to having everyone one back on board for 2024.

Six CPDHS volunteers are manning an information/registration table at **Seedy Saturday** in Almonte this coming Saturday. CPDHS volunteers also signed up new members at **Sign-Up Night** at the Carleton Place Arena March 7th.

If you would like to help out on future information/recruiting events please contact Laura Cupper (cuppscol@rogers.com)... it's a great way to get involved and meet interesting people.

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: Dawn Bone, Wanda Campbell, Vinnie Krieber and Kilby McCann. Also to Dianne Elliott for keeping everything organized.

Please reach out to Dianne Elliott (dianneelliott78@gmail.com) if you are willing to contribute to a future refreshment break.

I'm sure I've missed some interesting things. Best way to get the whole story first-hand is to come out to the next monthly meeting which is on April 3rd. More on that to follow, closer to the meeting date. Again, I was not able to attend this meeting, so all errors, omissions and oversights are mine

Happy gardening :)

Rick

Member Communications

Carleton Place & District Horticultural Society

Coordinator: Rick Roberts

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

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