

Carleton Place & District Horticultural Society

November 2024

President's Message

Hello everyone.

Incredible! It's November and over Twenty degrees Celsius outside. We have had several of these days with an odd frost day thrown in!

As usual, our monthly meeting is on the first Wednesday of the month, November 6. We meet at Zion Memorial Church, 37 Franklin Street.

I look forward to this meeting and to hearing Janet Johns from the Ottawa Orchid Society speak on the broader topic of orchids in general. At this meeting, we will also show off the pictures entered in our photography competition. Thank you, Doreen, for organizing this. While I have your attention, please remember that our Annual Meeting is in December. We are always looking for new board members. At the meeting, we will have refreshments and door prizes.

Paul Pietsch
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CPDHS December Annual Meeting

Our next meeting is on December 4th, 2024. We will be our Annual Meeting (AM), Elections, and Christmas Potluck. The meeting will start earlier than usual at 6pm, doors open at 5:30. Cindy Zorgel, the Assistant District Director will be attending our AM as the District 2 Representative on behalf of Sheila King, the District 2 Director. Cindy Zorgel is also our guest speaker. She will present Christmas Designs, a demonstration of floral arrangements for the festive season.

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

Membership 2025

We will be renewing the 2025 Memberships at our November and December meetings. 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 2025 Membership form, only if you are a new member or if any of your information has changed. Beat the spring rush and renew early! New memberships are always welcome.

Preparing Gardens for Winter Slumber

Our autumns have become milder, providing us with extra days to prepare our gardens for their winter slumber. I hope this list provides some helpful tips that you can add to your list of winter preparations. It will set you up for an awesome summer garden in 2025.

Save seeds: Save seeds of plants that you would like to share or grow next season. We are harvesting seeds from Kentucky Wonder beans (both for eating and growing), balloon flowers, hyssop, plus a few others. If you clean up your garden beds for winter, consider cutting off the seed heads first so you can put them out so birds will enjoy the bounty.

Preserve Tender Bulbs and Roots: If you haven't dug up your gladiolas, dahlias, cannas, and other tender bulbs and tubers yet, it would be best to get it done right away.

Prune Roses: The most common damage to roses in our region is wind damage. Winter winds whip long canes, causing often irreparable damage to the roots and bud union. I cut our roses back to about two feet, then remove all damaged or crossing canes. Our snow load mostly covers the shortened canes, protecting them from the freeze-thaw cycle in the coming months. Climbing roses are treated differently. If you grow hardy climbing roses, make sure that the canes are tied in, so they don't whip in the wind. One method to discourage rabbits from nesting and eating the bark off roses is to cut removed canes into pieces and scatter them around the base of the plants.

Garden Cleanup: Gardeners debate the topic of autumn garden cleanup. Some leave fallen plants in place to provide additional refuge and food for wildlife and to protect the roots of perennials. We clean up gardens in autumn to reduce the disease load in spring because our borders include many plants that are susceptible to various forms of fungus and mildew. After that, we add a layer of compost and then a generous layer of mulch, which provides much-needed insulation for plant roots and winter homes for bumble bees and other species that need winter refuge.

Water Recent Transplants: There were lots of great bargains on perennials and shrubs at plant sales and garden centers this Fall. If you added some to your garden be sure to give them a generous watering before the ground freezes. It will help supercharge spring growth.

Clean up and Sharpen Garden Tools: As the cold of late autumn pushes us indoors, it is the perfect time to clean garden tools and put them safely away. Also, it's time to bring the batteries for your battery-powered garden tools indoors... extended cold shortens their lives. Remove all soil from your tools. Sharpen those that need it. Use steel wool to clean the surfaces of shovels, spades, hoes, etc. and then rub in a bit of oil with a rag for rust protection. Used lawnmower oil does the trick. Hand tools such as pruners, loppers and shears benefit from good cleaning and lubrication too. If you use a gas lawnmower, drain the fuel and then run the mower until it quits. Then remove the threaded plug on the bottom of the carburetor bowl to drain the last of the fuel.

Rick Roberts
Director, CPDHS

Winter Book Club

The Climate Change and Biodiversity interest group is organizing a new activity for our Society – a “Winter Book Club”!

Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer has been chosen, to give us some common reference, to kick off discussion on topics of common interest. A professor of botany as well as an Indigenous woman and mother, Kimmerer explores reciprocal relationships between humans and the land, with a focus on the role of plants and botany in both Native American and Western European traditions, in beautifully-written short chapters.

We will meet once in February (and/or perhaps March), either in members’ homes if the group is small, or at the CP library.

The library will provide us with copies of the book via inter-library loan. The book is also available as download via Hoopla.

Two other titles are highly recommended for your winter reading:

Nature’s Best Hope, by entomologist and wildlife ecologist Douglas W. Tallamy. Two versions, one for adults, and one for young readers (age 8-12).

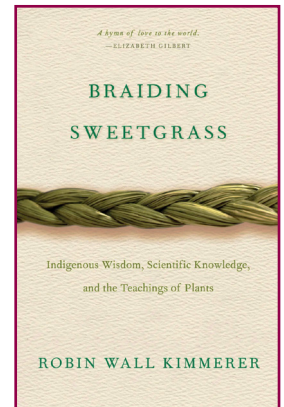
Climate Changed, a graphic novel (non-fiction), by French author/artist Philippe Squarzoni.

Watch for an email coming soon with more detail and sign-up info. The library needs up to 6 weeks to fulfill requests; if we put ours in by Monday, November 11, we can have the books in hand before the holidays.

Irene Tobis

Director, CPDHS and

Member of Climate Change Group



December Flower Photo Contest

It’s almost that time of year again. The CPDHS’s Climate Change and Biodiversity Interest Group challenges you to enter our 2nd annual December Flower Photo 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 or frostbitten flowers
- ▶ growing outdoors in Lanark County or Ottawa

Flowers may be found anywhere in gardens, parks, forests, roadsides, and cracks in the sidewalks. Blooming annuals, perennials, shrubs, and weeds are all appreciated equally. If you participated before, this is a great chance to see what’s still in bloom compared to last year.

Submit your flower photos by email to DB_4321@yahoo.com with the subject “December Flower Photo Contest” and include the date you took the pictures. Winners will be announced at the March meeting. There will be awards for the latest bloom, the most artistic photo, and the most types of flowers found.

Good luck!

Daniel Brumar

Director, CPDHS and

Member of Climate Change Group

2024 CPDHS Photo Competition Results

Class 1 – Flowers: 1st Place: Susan Burke
2nd Place: Rick Roberts
3rd Place: Debbie Guthro

Class 2 – Bridges: 1st Place: Doreen Harris
2nd Place: Laura Cupper
3rd Place: Laura Cupper

Class 3 – Invasive: 1st Place: Rob Drapeau
2nd Place: Rob Drapeau
3rd Place: Barb Clarke

Best in Show: Rob Drapeau for Invasive Photo

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

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

Doreen Harris
Director, CPDHS



Class 1: Flowers: Susan Burke



Class 2: Bridges: Doreen Harris



Class 3: Invasive: Rob Drapeau

Food Bank Donation

The Carleton Place & District Horticultural Society will be doing a Food Drive at our December 4th 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:

- ▶ Cereal
- ▶ Nut free granola bars
- ▶ Canned salmon
- ▶ Brown beans
- ▶ Pantry items (condiments, flour, sugar, cake/cookie/muffin mix, jello, pickles, etc.)

Cash donations are always appreciated (cash donations will receive a charitable receipt). Our society will be making our annual cash donation as well.

Thank you for your generosity in advance!