

April 1, 2026 CPDHS General Meeting Recap

Recap prepared by Debbie Guthro, CPDHS Secretary

Opening Remarks

President Rick Roberts called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., We would like to begin by acknowledging that the territory where we live, raise our families, and grow our gardens is on the unceded lands of the Algonquin Anishinaabe Nation.

Rick reminded us that it is Membership renewal time at \$15.00 which includes a list of nurseries where we can receive a 10% discount.

Rick advised us that the D2 April 18, 2026 meeting registration has been extended. If you're interested in going please advise Linda Bartlett. There will be 2 speakers, light lunch with the cost being \$25.00. We have four board members attending.

The annual plant sale is coming up on May 23, 2026. Email communications will begin next week, looking for volunteers to donate plants, diggers for donor garden beds, potting up, pricing, flyer distribution, transportation and setup on the evening before and helpers for the sale. If you have a donor garden and are unable to divide plants, we can come in and help dig and retrieve the plants on your behalf.

We have had great success in the past (up 1500 plants donated) and it's due to the many volunteers who make it happen.

Directors, Committees & Coordinators

Laura Cupper - Volunteer Request

The Station Active Living Center has invited us to give a presentation this May. We are looking for a volunteer to assist Linda Bartlett with a session on '**Container Gardening.**' If you are comfortable speaking to a group and would like to help, please reach out to Laura Cupper to express your interest.

Irene Tobis - Victoria School Museum Gardens

The Hackberry Men's Shed has generously donated a variety of birdhouses, now available for purchase with prices ranging from \$20 to \$65. The collection features designs tailored to different species, including houses with smaller entries for chickadees, larger openings for bluebirds, and open nesting shelves for robins. To help you get started, sawdust is also available to include with your purchase.

We are always looking for volunteers to join Anita Ruus at the Museum Gardens! We meet Tuesday mornings from 9:30 to 11:00 (stay for tea!) and Thursdays from 3:00 PM onwards to accommodate those who work during the day. Please note that garden work will begin once the temperature reaches at least 13°C. To join our volunteer list, please contact Irene

Tobis. Even if you can't volunteer, we encourage all members to visit and enjoy the gardens—it is a truly lovely spot for a quiet moment

The Environmental Committee of the Climate Change and Diversity Interest Group is hosting an Earth Day Trivia Night on Wednesday, April 22. The event will be held at the Foundry Coffee Shop and hosted by Michael Tobis. Admission is \$5.00 at the door, and with only 29 spots available, we recommend arriving early! The coffee shop and kitchen will be open for refreshments throughout the evening, and there will even be a door prize.

Barbara Fowler - Flower Show Report

Flower Design Workshop A Flower Design Workshop will be held on Saturday, April 25, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Independent in Carleton Place. Registration is \$10.00 and is limited to 20 attendees. To reserve your spot, please email cpdhsflowers@gmail.com.

Summer Flower Show Mark your calendars for our Summer Flower Show on June 20, 2026! We invite you to showcase a favorite bloom or a full garden bouquet in a clear glass container. Detailed communications, including the full schedule, rules, divisions, and design classes, will be sent to all members shortly.

Spotlight Speaker

We were thrilled to have Deb Crosby join us (introduced by Debbie O'Mally) to discuss how our gardens can support native pollinators and birds. Deb's message was clear: by providing essentials like food, water, and nesting spaces, we can all create a positive impact. She reminded us that native plants are the best way to provide 'baby food' (bugs!) for growing birds. Plus, she gave us permission to be 'lazy'—leaving leaves, creating berms, and keeping hollow stems are all simple ways to help our feathered friends thrive!

Guest Speaker

Our meeting featured guest speaker Nicholas Bott of Aquatopia Water Garden Conservatory, who introduced us to the versatile world of water features. Nicholas explained how adding water to a landscape—regardless of the space's size—can create a "spa-like" atmosphere while providing significant environmental benefits. For instance, water features attract birds and dragonflies, the latter of which are natural predators of mosquitoes.

Nicholas showcased several portable and indoor-friendly options, including tabletop ponds, lightweight fountain bowls, and mini Aqua gardens (which should be drained in winter). He

also highlighted more dramatic elements like spillway bowls with underground reservoirs and "fire and water" fountains designed to create a resort-like mood.

A key takeaway was that plants make up 50% of a successful water feature, as they control algae by providing shade and absorbing excess nutrients. Nicholas shared specific care tips: Canna varieties thrive in shallow water above 10°C, while "the royalty of the water garden," the Tropical Water Lily, requires fertilizer and very warm water. He also noted that Lotus roots need 1–2 inches of water to start, but the crowns can be overwintered in two feet of soil if kept in a sunny spot. Interestingly, he advised against using native plants in these specific features, as their deep root systems can quickly become invasive.

Refreshment Break

Beautiful bird houses for sale, enjoyed treats and drinks. Lots of chit chat.

Door Prizes & Plant Giveaway

Margaret Coombs has a very large plant *Monstera deliciosa* (Swiss cheese plant) to give away. If anyone is interested, please let her know.

We had three door prizes of Pussy Willows, a Herb Growing Kit and Maple Syrup. Congratulations to the winners Lorraine Filipowich, Debbie Rose and Joellen Shroeder.

Closing Remarks

Rick Roberts extended his thanks to the Hospitality Committee (Margaret Coombs and Kilby McCann)

Rick concluded the meeting by reminding everyone about the next Meeting on May 6, 2026. The Guest Speaker will be Thoughtful Gardening: Design Ideas for Any Space. Spotlight speaker is Carlo Beaudoin on What to plant in May.

Meeting Adjourned The meeting ended at 8:40 p.m.