



Carleton Place & District Horticultural Society

June 2026

President's Message

Another sales record was broken at the CPDHS Annual Plant Sale this year. A total of \$5130.00 was earned... Wow! Our Treasurer reports that the total breaks down to \$ 5,005.00 for plants and \$125.00 for birdhouses.

The lineups of enthusiastic gardeners who queued up early were an encouraging sign of how the day would turn out. When the gates opened at 8:30 am sharp, a huge surge of buyers, arriving with wagons, laundry baskets, and boxes, rushed to find the best buys. They were an excited and motivated group!



Success like this doesn't happen by accident. It happens because dedicated volunteers put in the work to make it happen. Our Society and our community commend those hard-charging volunteers who donated plants, dug up donor gardens, potted up more than 1000 plants, gathered pots and moving trays, created and distributed advertising, handled online and face-to-face promotion, transported plants, tagged and priced items, set up on Friday evening, worked the sale, and left the Victoria School Garden neat

and tidy at the end of the day. What a crew... thank you so much!

We also extend a big thank you to the Town. We are especially grateful to Joanne Henderson and her team, who ensured we had enough tables and tent canopies, which were delivered precisely on time and collected at the end of the sale. Thank you as well to Linda Seccaspina, also a CPDHS member and Town Councilor extraordinaire, for bringing her special energy and excitement to the emcee role. Finally, thank you to the Carleton Place Men's Shed for their contribution of several bird houses again this year.



Income from this sale helps our Society invest in our community through meaningful initiatives. Thanks to your support, we can continue to fund, design, and maintain the Victoria School Gardens, provide post-secondary bursaries for local graduating high school students, and offer gardening and horticultural education for all ages. It also allows us to host engaging guest speakers at our monthly meetings and organize youth activities. Best of all, it keeps fantastic events running, like the upcoming Summer Flower Show and Strawberry Social on June 20!

In closing, I offer my personal thanks to the fantastic team I had the privilege of working with this year. You knocked it out of the park!

Happy Gardening, Rick

Garlic Mustard Pull

By Daniel Brumar and Irene Tobis, Climate Change Committee

Photos: Irene Tobis

The Climate Change and Biodiversity Interest Group organized a garlic mustard pull on Saturday, May 30th. Thanks to the nine people who helped out with the garlic mustard removal. We removed this invasive species from the Mississippi Riverwalk trail we all share.



It's important to remove Garlic Mustard from our trails and gardens because it is allelopathic: it releases chemicals from its roots that alter soil

chemistry, actively inhibiting the growth of surrounding plants and beneficial soil fungi. We had a number of people who were walking on the trail stop to talk and thank us for the work we're doing. In some patches, we see a big improvement from last year, and other spots clearly have a lot more work to do next year.

We tried two control methods recommended by the Ontario Native Plant Council: 1) pulling, recommended for smaller areas, and 2) cutting, preferred for larger



areas, since it avoids disturbing the soil where

seeds are already present from previous years—they're viable for up to 10 years! We took geo-located "before" photos to compare the methods' effectiveness next year.

This was our 2nd annual Garlic Mustard Pull. We hope to repeat the process each spring for at least 5 years, in line with best practices.



This young woman with the dark hair in the before/after photos, in the patch she & Irene worked on together, is Lily Richards, our new student volunteer from Notre Dame High School. As you can see, as a young person, she knows how to ham it up for social media.

September 2 Meeting - Invasive Plants and Other Pests



Guest speaker: Wendy Asbil, National Manager of CFIA's Invasive Alien Species and Domestic Plant Health programs, board member of the Canadian Council of Invasive Species, & was a University of Guelph professor/lecturer and researcher for 18 years on topic of Invasive plants and other pests in the garden, forest and environment.

Weeds Be Gone

Dale Odorizzi, Lanark County Master Gardeners

The most effective way to keep weeds out of your gardens is to combine prevention-focused strategies rather than relying on one single method. Research shows that the integrated approaches—mulch, dense planting, soil preparation and seed bank reductions provide the strongest long-term results. The following are the top strategies that work.

Mulch is your number one defense. A 5-10 cm layer of organic mulch can suppress weed emergence by up to 95%. Mulch blocks sunlight, prevents weed seed germination, reduces watering needs and improves soil structure over time. Good options are shredded bark, composted mulch, straw and wood chips. Often, arborists have an abundance of wood chips and are happy to dump a load in your yard. Do not use coloured mulch. In the fall or spring, when you are raking your leaves, rake them into your gardens.



Prevent weeds from going to seed. A single lamb's quarters plant can produce up to 57,000 seeds that can remain in the soil for years. If you remove weeds before they flower, you drastically reduce next year's weeds.

Plant densely. Close spacing of your plants shades the soil and leaves little room for weeds to establish. This works very well in both ornamental and vegetable gardens. If you are starting a new perennial bed, your plants are often not full-size, so you leave room for them to grow. This is a great opportunity to fill the gaps with annual plants or add more mulch, rather than leaving the space bare for weed seeds to take hold.



Use natural weed barriers to block light and smother weed seeds. Cardboard and newspaper are often used to start a garden bed. They smother everything under them. I find them less useful with established beds. You can plant through these for your perennial plants. Moisten them well. Straw is a great addition around your plants. It helps keep the soil moist and prevents light from reaching it. Take care to keep the straw slightly away from the plants, as it uses nitrogen to decompose, reducing the nitrogen needed by the plants to grow. I have always recommended

against using landscape cloth. It does provide shade to the weed seeds, but over time, soil accumulates on it, and weeds grow. If you plant through the landscape cloth, it becomes difficult to remove. There are natural fibre landscape clothes available. Likely worthwhile to use in a vegetable garden. Not sure how well it would work in an ornamental garden.

Improving soil structure by aerating or loosening soil makes it harder for weed roots to anchor. Healthy soil with good tilth favours your plants over opportunistic weeds.

Water strategically using drip irrigation. This reduces weeds by 50-70% compared to overhead watering. Only water where your plants are, not the whole bed.

Cover crops for vegetable gardens or fall preparation reduce early-season weed pressure by 60-90%. Cover crops are non-harvested crops grown during the off-season. Common types and

their benefits include:

- Legumes (clover, vetch)—fix nitrogen in the soil.
- Grasses (rye, oats)—protect the soil from erosion.
- Brassicas (radishes, mustard) –break up compacted soil.

Cover crops contribute significantly to climate change mitigation. They help to capture atmospheric carbon and store it in the soil as organic matter, turning the fields into carbon sinks. They reduce greenhouse gas emissions by fixing nitrogen in the soil and improving soil health, and reduce the need and expense for synthetic fertilizers. By improving soil structure and water retention, they withstand extreme weather events such as heavy rains and droughts.

Hand-pull weeds when the soil is moist and remove the entire root, especially for perennials such as dandelions or thistle. If it is very difficult to get the entire taproot, a better approach is to slice the plant slightly below ground level. The root will have nothing to feed it. It will put up a new plant, but repeated below-ground-level slicing will weaken the plant until it can no longer reproduce. Works well for many invasive plants, BUT you must be persistent.

What not to do!

- Do not leave bare soil. Mother Nature wants to protect the soil, and weed seeds love open ground.
- Do not till repeatedly, as this will bring buried weed seeds to the surface. It also damages soil structure.
- Do not rely on only one method. Even mulch, the number-one weed protector, is only partially effective on its own.

Flower Show Committee Report

By Barbara Fowler, Flower Show Committee

The Flower Show Committee in conjunction with the Hospitality Committee will be holding a Summer Flower Show and Strawberry Social on Saturday, June 20th, 2026 at the Zion Memorial Church. The Schedule is available on-line. We are looking forward to seeing all the beautiful blooms from your gardens and your creative designs. Please, participate as this will be a public event. See the poster on the back page.

RIDEAU HALL GARDEN TOUR BY BUS

The Tour of the Governor General's Rose Gardens and grounds will be on Tuesday, June 23, 2026. This will be a joint adventure with the Carleton Place & District Horticultural Society and the Perth & District Horticultural Society. We will travel by coach bus. The bus's maximum capacity is 56. We have 46 interests so far. The bus will leave Perth at 9:00 AM and stop at Carleton Place at 9:30 AM. We will return around 3:00 PM. The cost per member for the bus will be \$35.00 and payment needs to be made by June 9th. You can pay by cheque (payable to Perth & District Horticultural Society), cash or e-transfer to pdhsmembers@gmail.com. Everyone has to be a member of one of the societies. For more information, contact Linda Bartlett by email at pdhsmembers@gmail.com or by phone at 613-285-1117 (text or call).

Membership Benefit Horticultural Discounts

As a member of the Carleton Place and District Horticultural Society and upon presentation of your current year membership card, you will receive a discount on **PLANTS** only at the following Garden Centres (including Ottawa and surrounding areas).

Garden Centre	Discount
Budd Gardens 2832 Innes Road, Ottawa	10%
Gemmell's Garden Centre 11862 ON-15, Smiths Falls	10%
Green Thumb Garden Centre 17 Tristan Ct, Nepean	10%
Kiwi Gardens 687 Harper Rd, Perth	13%
Reid Gardens 142 Pick Rd, Carleton Place, ON	10%
Rideau Woodland Ramble 7210 Burritts Rapids Rd, Merrickville	10%
Stoneridge Gardens & Nursery 1851 Galbraith Rd, Clayton	10%
Whitehouse Perennials 594 Rae Rd, Almonte	10%

Note: Canadian Tire Garden Centre, Carleton Place usually gives 10% discount on plants only to CPDHS members upon presentation of their membership card.

These garden centres do not offer discounts to horticultural society members.

Carleton Place Nursery - they have their own points system

Peter Knippel Nursery & Garden Centre Inc

Ritchie Feed & Seed Inc.

When you are at a Garden Centre, anywhere in Ontario, all you have to do is ask if they offer a discount to OHA Horticultural Members upon presentation of their membership card. It never hurts to ask.

Laura Cupper
Membership Coordinator

Don't forget the 2026 CPDHS Photo Competition

As we take a break from monthly meetings for the summer and we spend time in the gardens and outdoors remember to take photos in anticipation of entering our photography competition.

Theme: The Joys and Tranquility of Horticulture

Class1: Plant source containing white as a colour.

Class 2: Vegetation containing fruits and or vegetables.

Class 3: Sunrise or sunset containing horticulture content.

For full details visit our website <https://cphorticulture.ca/events/> and scroll down to Photo Competitions or contact Rob.

Photography convener: Rob Drapeau,
613 206-4316 drapeau@bell.net

This newsletter is published by the Carleton Place and District Horticultural Society and is distributed to its members free of charge.

We depend on our members for its content. If you would like to contribute, please send your submissions to:

cphorticulture@gmail.com

Editor and Design and Layout: Linda Bartlett

Contributors: Rick Roberts, Daniel Brumar, Irene Tobis, Barbara Fowler, Dale Odorizzi, Laura Cupper, Linda Bartlett

Photos: Rick Roberts, Linda Bartlett, Irene Tobis

Follow us on:

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

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/cp_and_district_hort_society/

Visit our website: www.cphorticulture.ca

Carleton Place & District Horticultural Society

SUMMER FLOWER SHOW



Open to the Public

1:00-4:00 PM

FREE ADMISSION



Saturday, June 20, 2026

Zion Memorial United Church
37 Franklin Street, Carleton Place

STRAWBERRY SOCIAL



Admire the Flower Show
Enjoy a Fresh Strawberry Dessert
(Donations Accepted)

For more information visit www.cphorticulture.ca

Find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/carletonplaceanddistricthorticulturalsociety>