



Carleton Place & District Horticultural Society

May 2026

President's Message

What a wonderful time of year to be a gardener! As our gardens burst into their full spring glory, May is the perfect time to enjoy time in our gardens and get involved in upcoming society events.

Our Spring Plant Sale is coming up on Saturday, May 23rd, in the Victoria School Garden at the Carleton Place and Beckwith Museum (267 Edmund Street). As our biggest fundraiser of the year, visitors will find hundreds of healthy perennials, vegetables, native plants, and houseplants. It's the perfect opportunity to fill those garden gaps you've been thinking about all winter!



This event, and the money it raises for the society's good works, is only possible because of the generous volunteerism of our members. I encourage you to come out and be part of the fun of putting this event together... no experience is necessary. Many hands make light work. Potting up schedule and volunteers needed:

The momentum continues into June with an exceptional lineup. It all begins with our monthly meeting on June 3rd. We are thrilled to welcome Professor Jessica Forrest from the University of Ottawa. She will speak on Pollinators and their Habitats, a timely and fascinating topic for anyone looking to support the wildlife that helps our gardens thrive. Additionally, our June Member Spotlight will be presented by the Flower Show Committee, featuring a special look at Floral Design and Specimen Highlights. We will have our Summer Flower Show and Strawberry Social on Saturday, June 20th.

Check the CPDHS website and this newsletter for details of upcoming meetings and special events. We have a spectacular few months ahead, and I hope you all get involved and have some fun!

Happy Gardening, Rick

June 3rd Meeting - Pollinators and Their Habits



Professor Jessica Forrest will speak on how pollinators and animal-pollinated plants are coping in a world that is getting hotter and more densely populated by humans. Jessica studies the evolutionary ecology of plant-pollinator interactions. She is interested in the causes and consequences of variation in species' life histories and seasonal phenologies—particularly as these traits relate to species interactions, climate change and other forms of global change affecting pollinators.

Hardening Off Seedlings

Dale Odorizzi, Lanark County Master Gardeners

For the last few weeks or even months, we have been looking after our seedlings and envisioning where they will be planted in our gardens. Now, we are coming to what many experts believe is the most crucial stage of their growth—Hardening off.

Hardening off is the gradual training of indoor seedlings to handle real sun, wind and temperature swings so they do not scorch, wilt or stall when planted outside. You can think of this as progressive exposure conditioning. After all the love and caring you have been giving to your seedlings, you do not want them to die from exposure to the outside world. The following schedule will get you started.



Day 1—Shade only for 1 hour—put the seedlings outside in full shade, sheltered from the wind. Bring them back in. Plants growing under grow lights cannot handle UV just yet.

Day 2—Shade only for 2 hours. Use the same conditions as Day 1.

Day 3—Bright shade or dappled light for 3 hours. You still don't want direct sunlight but for now, a light breeze is fine.

Day 4—First direct sunlight for 1 hour and then move back to shade for the remaining time 2 hours.

Day 5—Morning sun for 2-3 hours. Add a bit more breeze exposure. Total outdoor time 4 hours.

Day 6—4-5 hours of sun. They should be able to tolerate half a day of real light BUT keep an eye on leaf edges for signs of stress.

Day 7—Full day outside. By now they should be used to sun and wind and temperature swings. You can leave them outside overnight if the temperature is consistently above 10°C. If it looks like it will drop below 10°C, bring them back inside.

Temperature rules: If the temperature is below 10°C, it is too cold for your tender plants such as tomatoes, peppers, basil and annuals. If it is below 5°C, it is too cold for most seedlings except maybe hardy brassicas.

Watering rules: Keep the soil slightly moist, never dry. Remember they will need watering more often outside than they did in. Sun and wind have a drying effect on your plants. Water the plants before you put them out in the first week. Dry seedlings will scorch faster.

When to plant: You will know when they are hardened off and ready to plant in their summer homes when the leaves feel thicker and slightly tougher. The stems should not sway dramatically in the wind, and the colour should be deep and even. There should be no wilting after several hours in the sun.

Avoid jumping straight to direct sun as this will cause bleaching or crispy edges. Leaving them out on a cold night too early will stall their growth for weeks.

If you saved your plants, bulbs and corms from last year (Gladiolas, Dahlias), and have started them indoors, apply the same principals as you do to the seedlings. They are usually more able to handle the sun and wind but keep a close eye on them.

Enjoy your plants as they grow over the summer providing food and beauty to your garden.

Flower Show Committee Report

By Barbara Fowler, Flower Show Committee



The Flower Show Design Workshop held Saturday, April 25th, was a great success. Helen Halpenny shared her knowledge, expertise and tips for creating Illuminary and Water designs. She showed different types of lights that could be used and talked about ways lights may be added to a design. Helen talked about the difference between Visual Use of Water, Water-viewing and Underwater designs and then demonstrated how each can be made. The participants were then asked to create their own designs. At the end of the designs were displayed and Helen talked about each one from a judges point of view. A great time was had by all and the Committee is looking forward to seeing what will be entered in the Summer Flower Show in June.

The Flower Show Committee in conjunction with the Hospitality Committee will be holding a Summer Flower Show and Strawberr Social on Saturday, June 20th, 2026 at the Zion Memorial Chuch. The Schedule is available on-line. Some printed copies are available from Linda Barlett. 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.

Youth Workshop At Rona



On May 2nd our Young Gardeners Program partnered with RONA Carleton Place to present a Secret Garden activity. Everyone had a great time creating their gardens. The children amazed us with their imagination and creativity. Thank you to Cheryl, Krista, Janet, Beth, and Carlo for helping to make the day a success and thank you to Scott Charles (RONA) for his ongoing support of our youth activities.



CPDHS PLANT SALE - SATURDAY, MAY 23, 2026

In preparation of our Annual Plant Sale, we have organized some potting up days. We also have volunteers willing to help you dig up some plants in your gardens. Then of course, we have the day of the plant sale. This is a great opportunity to volunteer and have fun!

Potting up schedule and volunteers needed:

Saturday, May 9th 9-11am

Wednesday, May 13th 9-11am

Saturday, May 16th 9-11

Wednesday, May 20th 9-11am

If you are able to help out with potting up on these days, your help would be greatly appreciated. No experience necessary and no need to confirm. Just show up at 238 Lyndhurst Street, Carleton Place, and we will put you to work. More days or evenings may be added if needed.

Plant donations needed

We have some donated plants to get a good start on Saturday potting up but can definitely use more for this Saturday and next Wednesday. If you can help out please do. If you, a friend or neighbor would like to donate plants but need assistance, please reach out to Carlo (carlo.beaudoin@gmail.com) to schedule volunteers to help out.

Drop Off Plants

Delivery address is 238 Lyndhurst Street, CP (Lake Ave and Mississippi Rd). Leave plants by the garden gate at the garage end of the house

Here's a picture of some of the plants that Carlo brought from donor gardens last weekend.

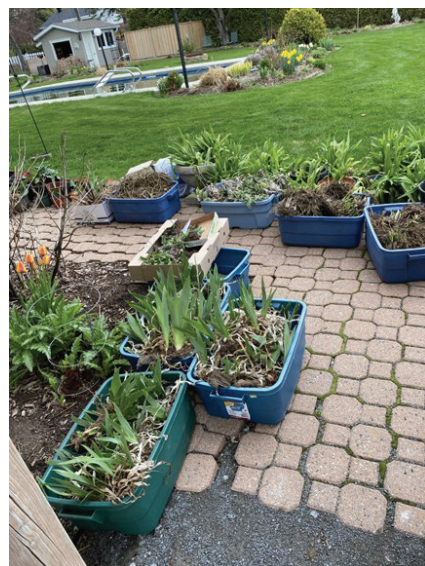
Beggars can't be Choosers...but....

Peonies are really popular with our buyers but we have zero peonies on hand so far. If you have a peony or some peonies that need dividing, we would be very appreciative. All other forms of perennials are welcome. Lots of variety makes a successful event.

Plant Sale

Friday, May 22nd, all the plants will be transported to the VSG gardens to set up for the sale on Saturday. Let us know if you are able to help. This event is usually late afternoon, early evening. We will keep you posted by email.

Saturday, May 23rd - Plant Sale - it starts at 8:30. Huge crowds and fast-paced. Our Emcee will be Linda Seccaspina. We will need volunteers to help the purchasers with their plants.



Pictures from Last Year's Plant Sale



Victoria School Garden Museum
267 Edmund Street, Carleton Place
Saturday, May 23, 2026 - 8:30-11:30 AM

GOVERNOR GENERAL 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 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. The bus's maximum capacity is 56. We have 50 interests so far. We will collect the funds for the tour starting at our May meeting. 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).

Race to Bloom Spring Flower Contest

By Daniel Brumar, Climate Change and Biodiversity Interest Group

After some review, here is the final ranking for this year's first fifteen flowers of Spring. Congratulations to everyone who participated! Watching early spring flowers helps us pay attention to the way our seasons are shifting as our climate changes.



Garlic Mustard Pull

Last year, the Climate Change and Biodiversity Interest Group started a 2-year project to pull out Garlic Mustard, an invasive species, from the Mississippi Riverwalk Trail. We hope this will help native plants and animals return to the shores of our river. We invite you to join us to help finish the job we started, May 30 (May 31, June 6 raindates). Sign up at the May meeting, or by e-mail at DB_4321@yahoo.com. It's lots of fun!

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, Barbara Fowler, Young Gardeners Program, Dale Odorizzi

Photos: Rick Roberts, Linda Bartlett, Daniel Brumar, Young Gardeners Program

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