

CPDHS GENERAL MEETING AGENDA – May 6, 2026 RECAP

Prepared by Debbie Guthro, CPDHS Secretary

Call to Order

Let's begin by acknowledging the Algonquin Anishinaabe nation on whose traditional and unceded land we gather this evening. We thank them for their long-standing and ongoing stewardship of the Ottawa River Watershed and express our commitment to reconciliation.

Rick Roberts

- Welcome to a tremendous crowd this evening.
- Invite members to see and enjoy flowers from your spring gardens at the refreshment break, many displays to view.
- It's that time of year... Don't forget to renew your membership for your 10% nursery discounts on plants.
- Update - Plant Sale May 23rd
 - First potting up was on Tuesday – 150 plants potted, tagged and priced
 - Check newsletter for potting up schedule – next one is Saturday morning (May 9th 2026)
 - Plant donations - we have enough to get a real good start, drop off any donations at 238 Lyndhurst here in Carleton Place.
 - Donor gardens, we accept member and non member garden donations, contact Carlos, he and his team will take care of the digging and removal of the plants.
- Invitation for Garlic Mustard Pull - Climate change and biodiversity interest group started a 2-year project to pull out Garlic Mustard, an invasive species, from the Mississippi Riverwalk Trail. They hope this will help native plants and animals return to the shores of our river. They invite you to join them to help finish the

job on May 30 (May 31, June 6 rain dates). Irene Tobis has a sign up sheet to enable notification of changes (i.e. rain).

- Tardy replies to your emails - Rick is now able to get caught up on any outstanding emails etc.

Directors, Committees & Coordinators Reports

- Barbara Fowler - fun time at the workshop that was held last week. The Flower Show will be June 20, 2026 and is hoping many will bring in specimens and designs. The printed schedule is available. Barbara also thanked the many members for bringing in flowers from their gardens for viewing. Please join us on Saturday May 9, 2026 is the Indigenous Cultural Fair at the Zion Memorial Hall.
- Rose Garden Tour (June 23, 2026) Linda Bartlett mentioned we have most of the 50 seats filled. Payment can be made to the Perth and District Horticultural Society by cheque, you can pay Linda Bartlett by cash or by e-transfer to pdhsmembers@gmail.com. Call or text Linda at 613-285-1117 for more information.

Intro Spotlight – Debbi O’Malley

- Spotlight: **Carlo Beaudoin** on ***What to plant in May.***

We are in Zone 5 in Carleton Place. The last frost is usually in late May with the fall frost in September. You can plant safely on June 1st if the plant is not hardy to frost. We have 4 months of frost free days. Cheat Sheets were made available for when to plant your seasonal vegetables and flowers (www.when2plant.com). Carlos suggested we read the seed packets and ensure the suitability for Zone 5. Avoid growing inside too early to avoid weak, spindly stems. You can use drop cloths/tarps to protect the plants from frost as well.

Thank Spotlight – Debbi O’Malley

Intro Guest Speaker – Debbi O’Malley

- **GUEST SPEAKER - Nicole Bennett**, Owner of Summersweet Garden Design & Maintenance business on ***Thoughtful Gardening: Design Ideas for Any Space.***

Nicole is a graduate of University of Guelph, has 18 years in the landscape industry and has a passion for gardening. She gave many ideas and tips for our gardens.

1. Assess the site properly first, lighting (during winter is best). Keep a spreadsheet of all the plants and their bloom period.
2. Identify focal points, colors, shapes, textures, mass/structures

Colors (gold/yellows or purple/blue/variegated green)

Suggested Plants: Bulls Blood Beet, Bush or Pole Beans to add to the flowers, Kale, Bronze Fennel, Sage (sow seeds), Kale (Red or Dinosaur)

Shapes - weeping, spiking, round, vase shaped, oval, cascading

Suggested Plants: Juniper, Weeping Spruce

Texture - small leaves, fine textures

Suggested Plants: Coropsis, Iris, Baby's Breath, Fern

Mass - balanced with voids, lawn or skyline, water feature, rocks

Suggested Plants: Spruce trees (dense), Boxwoods

Pots (thriller, filler, spiller) 3 different pots to scale/proportion to each other

3. Repetition - making focal point, repeat colors, shapes, textures and mass.
Buy multiples of one and repeat through the garden, repeat colors, use shrubs.
Suggested Plants: Salvia, Hosta, Mounded Aster, Purple Coneflower, Natives, Iris, Poppies
4. Hiding AC units, window wells, septic lids, hydro boxes, downspouts

Thank Guest Speaker – Debbi O'Mally

- Ann Harbord reminded us the D2 Flower Show is on Saturday June 13, 2026 at the Richcraft Recreation Center in Kanata. There is a youth division. Roses, Peonies and Iris's will be in bloom by then. Linda Bartlett is the registrar.

Refreshment break

- Race to Bloom slide show during the break (by Daniel Brumar)- *“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.”*
- Kilby asks that members bring a personal mug for beverages because of the environmental waste and expense of disposable cups. If you forget a cup, the hospitality committee will have disposable cups available. Delicious treats and drinks served with a smile from our Hospitality Committee.
- Take some time to check out the flowers that are on display this evening, excellent participation from the members showing spring has arrived in the gardens!

Closing Remarks – Rick

- Recognize tonight's Hospitality donors
 - Julie Mikolaitis, Linda Loveday, Gail Pahwa, and Kiah Barton and Irene Tobis
 - Also..... Kilby & Margaret, and our Hospitality Committee
- Next Meeting June 3, 2026 – same place – same time

- Guest Speaker: **Prof. Jessica Forrest** from Department of Biology of University of Ottawa on ***Pollinators and their Habitats.***
 - **Spotlight: Flower show committee on Floral design/specimen spotlight.**
- Finally....please help with clean up if you are able