



Carleton Place & District Horticultural Society

October 2026

President's Message

As the crisp autumn air settles over Carleton Place and District, our gardens are winding down, presenting a different kind of beauty. October is a season of transition... a time to harvest the last of our crops, clear the beds, and prepare the soil for its winter rest and next year's garden bounty.

As we wrap up one growing season and prepare for the next, I would first like to formally welcome several new members who joined us throughout September. We will strive to make you feel at home here. The best advice to get the most from our group is to get involved. Consider volunteering for something that interests you. You don't need to be an expert. Most of us aren't. Our members are welcoming in nature and look forward to getting to know you.

September was filled with plenty of activities for the horticulturally inclined. Irene Tobis's Native Plant Giveaway in her Carleton Place native garden on the 5th was a huge hit. Irene and a dedicated group of volunteers put on an excellent afternoon of learning, show-and-tell, and providing plenty of free plants and advice for attendees. Congratulations to everyone involved for a big success!

Speaking of big successes, the Flower Show Committee and Hospitality Committee organized and ran an exceptional Fall Flower Show and Autumn Pie Social on September 26th. The flower show was filled with wonderful exhibits of flowers, veggies, and displays. A record number of visitors from the community attended to enjoy the show and the complimentary homemade pies prepared and served by Kilby McCann and her hardworking volunteers. Special thanks to all of the volunteers who helped set up, run the show and kitchen, and clean up afterward.

Behind the scenes, the Victoria School Garden volunteers coordinated the acquisition of and planted a new tree this month, which was purchased with a grant from the Ontario Horticultural Association. Their careful shopping meant they were even able to stretch those dollars to include a couple of other shrubs as well!

I'm receiving wonderful feedback from members about our new informal pop-up garden tours. These casual gatherings have been a fantastic way to connect and learn from one another. I want to extend a huge thank you to Margaret Coombs, Jackie, and Steven Chachel for hosting their excellent veggie garden tour on September 12th, as well as to Cheryl Moore and Carlo Beaudoin for hosting a wonderful garden tour and walk in their woods this past Saturday, October 3rd. It was a perfect way to enjoy the autumn scenery together.

These pop-ups have been such a success that I highly encourage everyone to think about hosting one. Whether you want to showcase your late-season color this fall, or share your hard work during the spring or summer next year, please consider opening your garden to our members for a couple of hours on a day or evening of your choosing. It doesn't need to be manicured or perfect... It's all about sharing our mutual love for plants and casual conversation.



Sandy at Margaret Coombs veggie pop-up garden tour.
Photo credit: Rick Roberts

Don't forget to check out the Our History page on the CPDHS website to see photos and coverage of events as they happen. cphorticulture.ca/our-history

A final but important topic is the upcoming election of Directors for 2027, to be held at the December AGM and Potluck. Our Board consists of a maximum of 10 Directors who are nominated and elected from the general membership. I encourage members to consider standing for nomination. Please feel free to reach out to me or any other Director with questions you may have. Our Board is primarily a working board... meaning the bulk of our focus is on planning and executing meetings, activities, and events, as well as the necessary administrative and financial processes. We welcome your interest.

Thank you all for your continued support, dedication, and shared love for horticulture. Enjoy the breathtaking fall foliage, stay warm, and I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Happy gardening,

Rick Roberts, President

NOVEMBER 5TH CPDHS GENERAL MEETING

Gardens, Our Senses and the Pursuit of Well-being

How do we connect with the world around us? We interact with aspects of the environment through our senses to have a sense of self and create meaning. Tim Deslippe will be our guest speaker and his talk will be a short stroll through the growing knowledge that describes how we connect with aspects of gardening and nature. This connection is proving to be fundamental to our health and well-being. Tim is a social worker/psychotherapist who has worked with people dealing with severe and persistent mental health challenges for over 35 years. More recently he has been certified as a Master Gardener. He has always believed that gardening, plants and nature are critical aspects of our environment that relate to all aspects of well-being.

Jams, Jellies and Preserves Competition

The Hospitality Committee will host a Jam, Jelly and Preserves competition again this year. Members of the Horticultural Society can bring in their entries to be judged on taste, appearance and recipe creativity.

The Hospitality Committee will provide tea biscuits for the entries to be tasted by all members after the judging. Creating jams is environmentally helpful by reducing food waste. It enables year round enjoyment of seasonal produce.



Seed Giveaway



Cheryl Moore was gifted a pile of seeds, mostly vegetables; peas, carrots, beets, radishes, beans but there are a few annual flowers and herbs. Several varieties will grow nicely in planters so everyone can grow something. So once we have planted and grown, we'll have lots to show and eat.

The seeds will be available at our November and December meetings, for members to take any and all seeds for next years growing season. Keep the seeds in a cool dark dry space over the winter and plant when appropriate in the spring.

"Seed to Sapling Project" Launches

Cheryl Moore, CPDHS member, S2S Project Manager



Cheryl and Irene brainstorming the seed project
Photo credit: Rob Drapeau

The benefits of trees are immeasurable and native trees are especially important. Wildlife depends on them for food and shelter. Over the past 50 years, there has been a massive decline in populations of insects, birds, animals, and other life on this planet due to loss of habitat. In our own area, human population pressure has made it increasingly difficult for trees to naturally propagate, and as a result, many native trees are on a path to becoming endangered.

Although there are still about 75 native tree species in eastern Ontario, only about a dozen are commonly available at local nurseries.

The Carleton Place and District Horticulture Society (CPDHS) recently launched a new project, named 'Seed to Sapling' or S2S, on September 23rd, at a tree planting ceremony commemorating National Forest Day, in McNeely Park in Carleton Place.

We will collect local native tree seeds, propagate them and, once they become saplings, share them and support their planting in our area. Yes, the goal is similar to the Carleton Place Bare Root Residential Tree Program and the Lanark County 1 Million Trees Program. So why are we doing it too? Simply because a wider variety of our native species is needed. Our focus will be on species that are endangered or simply not well known.

The Seed to Sapling Project is inspired by:

- Canadensis Native Tree Project presentation, D2 meeting, 17 March 2026
- CP Urban Forestry/River Corridor Advisory Committee
- National Forest Week and National Tree Day
- Basil Camu's "Project Pando", mission and method

We are right at the beginning of the project so your ideas, help and support will go a long way.

Our steering committee has begun researching best practices for gathering and propagating seeds. If you are interested in helping with this initiative, or just keeping in the loop with our activities, please join our mailing list. You can do so by sending an email to s2sproject+subscribe@groups.io.



Bitternut Hickory, *Carya cordiformis*, seeds collected by Kiah Barton and Cheryl Moore
Photo credit: Irene Tobis

September Flower Show and Social Event Recap

The Flower Show Committee wants to thank all those who participated in the Fall Flower Show. You made it a great success. Your gardens produced beautiful flowers and fabulous vegetables. The designs were spectacular. Thank you to Kilby and her team for adding to the show with a delicious Harvest Social. Many complimented your efforts. We raised over \$300.00 in donations at this event.

Native Seed Giveaway – October 24, 2026

The Ottawa Wildflower Seed Library (OWSL) will host a native seed giveaway on October 24, 1-3 pm, in the upstairs meeting room at Your Independent Grocer, 455 McNeely Ave.

OWSL is a grassroots organization that promotes gardening with native plants to provide food and habitat for bees, butterflies, insects, birds, and other wildlife. Each fall, OWSL hosts a series of seed giveaways across Ottawa, where donors contribute native seeds that they've harvested from their gardens. So you can take home native seeds—for free—to grow them in your own garden.

As interest in growing native plants has mushroomed (pun intended) in our area, this year they are coming to Carleton Place, for the first time!

Guidance on growing native plants. Seeds will be organized by their preferred growing conditions and OWSL volunteers will be on hand to help you find what will grow best in your space, whether it is sunny, shady, dry, or wet. The OWSL also has a native plant catalogue on its website that you can browse prior to the event at catalogue.wildflowerseedlibrary.ca.

Winter sowing demo. Native plants are adapted to the freeze-thaw cycle of our fall and spring and native seeds need exposure to the cold stratification this cycle gives them to sprout, making winter the right time to sow them. There will be a demonstration at the event. The OWSL has full instructions on its website, but it can be as simple as planting the seeds in a pot or recycled plastic container with drainage holes, covering them, and placing them outside until they sprout in the spring.

Mail-out. If you can't attend the seed giveaway October 24, find other seed giveaway event dates and locations on their website: www.wildflowerseedlibrary.ca. They will then be mailing out seeds—for free—once the in-person giveaways events are finished; you can place mailout orders beginning on December 26, 2026.



"Irene Tobis gathered seeds from Swamp Milkweed, *Asclepias incarnata*, in her garden in September for donation to OWSL giveaways"

Third Annual Native Plants Giveaway/Sale Recap

Our third annual native plants giveaway/sale was a wonderfully successful, well-attended event on the beautiful sunny afternoon of September 5.

A project of the Climate Change and Biodiversity interest group, this year the event took place at the home garden of Irene Tobis, with Irene offering tours of her backyard native plant sun & shade gardens. Vin Tse gave demonstrations of transplanting of winter-sown seedlings, and our members experienced in growing native plants answered 100s of visitors' questions.

- ▶ 300+ native plants given or sold
- ▶ 4 donors of seedlings & mature plants
- ▶ Over \$170.00 in sales & donations - plus 10 new memberships
- ▶ 12 volunteers - 126 volunteer hours



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

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