

AGENDA – Oct 7th, 2026 MEETING

Meeting recap prepared by Debbie Guthro

Call to Order

We'll begin tonight 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 ongoing commitment to reconciliation.

Rick

- Welcome
 - Welcome our new members, we have new faces here tonight, we are a welcoming group and invite you to get involved.
 - It's been a busy & fun month
 - Native Plant Garden Tour and Plant Give-away
 - 2 Pop-up garden tours
 - Flower Show and Harvest Pie Social - apple pie was seriously good
 - Thank you to all coordinators, hosts and volunteers
 - Check Newsletter for upcoming activities and events
 - Also Website for info and photos (Meetings, Events, Our History)
- - Heads-up for election of 2027 Board in December 2026
 - - **Invitation for 2027 Board Nominations:** We are currently seeking enthusiastic volunteers to join our working board for the upcoming term. As a working board, our members meet once a month to plan events, discuss member engagement initiatives, and share information. If you are interested in joining us or standing for nomination, please speak with any of our board members.
 - Agenda

Reports & Announcements

- **Linda Bartlett**

- Treasure's report: We have currently \$11,760 as of the end of September 2026. We raised \$170 from the Native Plant sale and \$330 from the Fall Flower Show. We gained 15 new memberships in September.

- **Rob Drapeau:**

- Annual Photo Contest: You can hand in your photos this evening. The photos will be posted at the December meeting along with the winners.

- **Barbara Fowler**

- Fall Flower Show report: Working really well, thank you to the participants. We had many flowers and vegetable entries. The flower designs were incredible. Kilby McCann and booth members were thanked for the delicious pies.

- **Irene Tobis:**

- Plant Swap tonight was announced, anyone who has tickets can choose a plant. Once all tickets are redeemed those without tickets will be given to the membership to choose a plant.
- 3rd Annual Native Plants Giveaway - report: Native plants donations, volunteers helped with labeling, signage, well attended.
- Ottawa Wildflower Seed Give-away - in Carleton Place there will be a pilot project, this group is well organized, answers questions, and are planning a demonstration on Winter Sowing seeds.
- How to gather seeds -- possible pop-up event, mid-October at Irene Tobis's home.

- **Cheryl Moore**

- Seedling to Sapling Project: Gather native tree seeds, we will plant them and give them away. Volunteers wanted, to help gather seeds. There is a sign up sheet. Looking for donations of milk crates, square buckets, milk cartons (tall and slim) for growing the seeds.

- **Kilby McCann:**

- Jams and Jelly Competition in November: There will be different categories Jams and Jellies, Radishes, Pickles. Must be in sealed jars. Crackers will be available to test taste. First, Second and Third prizes will be awarded by the Judges.

- **Rick Roberts:**

- Informal pop-up garden tours – report & invitation: Vegetables and flower garden tours with native plants gardens, gave an informal opportunity to get together and chat and learn something too. If you're interested in showing your gardens in the spring, just let us know and we will send out the invite to the membership.
- Planting pots for spring sale – 35 garbage bags of pots - 238 Lyndhurst. Thank you for all the donated pots.

Intro Spotlight speaker– Rick

- Spotlight: **Carlo Beaudoin - Mulching**

Why mulch?

Covering soil with organic matter retains moisture and insulates roots against summer heat and winter cold. It also helps prevent weeds, nourishes soil microbes and earthworms, prevents soil compaction, and adds curb appeal.

Common mulch options and their uses include:

- **Shredded bark** (slightly acidic): ideal for slopes
- **Cedar & cypress:** naturally repels insects
- **Pine cones:** helps suppress weed growth
- **Shredded leaves:** great for winter protection; breaks down into rich compost
- **Dry grass clippings (1" thick):** high in nitrogen
- **Pine needles** (acidic): excellent for acid-loving plants like blueberries
- **Cardboard:** useful base layer for establishing new garden beds

Timing & Tips:

- **Spring/Summer:** Apply after the soil thaws above 10°C (mid-May), and top up as needed during summer.
- **Fall:** Mulch after the first frost to build climate resilience and absorb heavy autumn rain.

Benefits: Fosters biodiversity, attracts beneficial insects, and enriches soil structure as organic mulches decompose.

Thank Spotlight – Debi O'Malley

Intro Guest Speaker – Debi O'Malley

- **GUEST SPEAKER - Ian Laidlaw**, on ***Benefits of maintaining your trees, proper pruning techniques, preparing for storms, the benefits of fertilization, disease and pest management***
- **Pruning:** Trees are susceptible to storm damage, decay, and heat stress. Systematically cutting branches improves structure and reduces fungal growth. Off-season pruning (fall and winter) presents fewer stress factors, while summer pruning offers increased light and air circulation (which promotes airflow and reduces pests). Trimming should generally occur every three to five years depending on the tree species, and dormant pruning minimizes the risk of disease spread.
- **Storm Preparation:** To prepare for storms, thin out the canopy, remove diseased branches, and consider installing cables to prevent structural failure.
- **Fertilization:** Regular fertilization replenishes the nutrients that trees draw from the ground.
- **Disease and Pest Management:** Temperature fluctuations can weaken trees. Cleaning up and raking fallen leaves improves airflow and helps dry out moisture, preventing disease.

The presentation ended with *several questions being taken from the floor.*

Thank Guest Speaker – Debi O'Mally

Refreshment break

Plant Exchange during refreshment break

Door Prize Draw

- No door prizes this month – plant exchange

Closing Remarks – Rick

- Recognize tonight's Hospitality donors
 - **Valencia Logan BEVERAGES, Cindy Hanna, Cynthia McBride, Linda Seccasspina DESSERTS**

- And Kilby, Margaret, and our Hospitality Committee volunteers
- Upcoming on Calendar
 - Check your **newsletter** and/or the **CPDHS website** for upcoming event details
 - **Next Meeting** Nov 4th – same place – same time.
 - Guest speaker: **Tim Deslippe**, Master Gardener, social worker, psychotherapist, and CPDHS member will present ***Gardens, our senses and the pursuit of well-being.***
 - Spotlight: **Houseplants**
 - Jam & Preserves Competition
 - Garden Seed Give-away.
- Finally....please help with clean up if you are able