Carleton Place & District Horticultural Society

November 2026

President's Message

The unseasonably warm, sunny weather this autumn is giving us plenty of extra days to prepare our gardens for an abundant spring and summer.

I am thrilled to welcome everyone to tonight's meeting. It is always a pleasure to gather for an evening of shared horticultural education, gardening tips, and warm conversation over refreshments.

Our guest speaker tonight is Tim Deslippe, a certified Master Gardener, social worker, psychotherapist, and active CPDHS member and volunteer. Tim will present "Gardens, Our Senses, and the Pursuit of Well-being." I look forward to learning how our connection to gardening and nature is fundamental to our health and mental well-being.



Our Member Spotlight will be presented by Sutherland Potter, who will offer practical advice for growing and nurturing houseplants.

Tonight's meeting also features our popular Jam, Jelly, and Preserves Competition, and we are all looking forward to sampling the exhibits during the refreshment break.

The Seed Giveaway is another highlight this month, thanks to a generous donation of commercial seed packets. Please take what you need for next year's growing season, and remember to store them in a cool, dark, dry place over the winter. The seed giveaway will also continue at our December meeting.

Additionally, you can renew or purchase your annual membership tonight for just $15, extending your full privileges all through 2027. I am pleased to share that your 2026 fundraising efforts have provided enough resources to hold our membership fees steady without an increase for the upcoming year, even though our costs have risen.

Looking just a little further ahead, please mark your calendars for our Annual General Meeting (AGM) and festive potluck on Wednesday, December 2nd, featuring an exciting DIY holiday arrangement activity. I also understand that a roasted turkey is involved. The Refreshment Committee will be circulating a Potluck planning sheet tonight so we can have a good variety of dishes.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to make tonight's meeting a success, and for your ongoing support, passion, and commitment to keeping our community beautiful and green. Enjoy tonight's presentations, grab a beverage, a treat, and some seeds, and have a peaceful month ahead planning for the spring to come.

Happy gardening!

Rick

What's New at the Victoria School Gardens

by Tim Deslippe, CPDHS Member, Lanark County Master Gardener



It has been a busy season at the gardens this year. New volunteers, new projects, new consultations and of course new plants. The volunteer team has been engaged in regular discussions about the structure and form of the gardens with the help of a drawing by Nicole Ropars and her presentation of garden design at the Horticultural Society meeting.

We have weekly discussions about the relationships between the plants with native, near native, nativars, and cultivars all looking to coexist in a diverse and varied landscape. We have rich discussions about choices and the impact they will have on the future beauty of the garden.

Let me introduce you to a few of our new additions. First, the Ontario Horticulture Association grant allowed us to purchase a native tree and a couple native shrubs. If you've been by the gardens in the last few weeks, you will have witnessed the fall glory of an Acer saccarum 'Bailsta' fall fiesta sugar maple. Walking in and taking a closer look, you will find a new Clethra alnifolia summersweet and, Viburnum dentatum 'Arrowwood viburnum' (Blue Muffin). We were thinking of the birds and the bees while choosing to make sure we have a little something for everyone.



For those of you who are new to the Carleton Place Horticultural Society you might want to know that the maintenance of the gardens and the plants purchased come from a variety of sources.



Some of the plant material purchased is generously paid for by the society. You should also know that as gardeners we are always dividing perennials, changing our gardens and it is not surprising that some plant orphans find new homes at the Victoria School Gardens. You know we all probably have difficulty putting a healthy vibrant plant in the compost heap, so we find them a home.

Just off the top of my head, I can tell you that some of the following have found a home in this garden. A new Hydrangea paniculata 'Renhy' vanilla strawberry, Helenium autumnale 'Helen's Flower', Athyrium niponicum var. pictum Japanese

painted fern, Diervilla lonicera bush honeysuckle, Cornus alba ‘Elegantissima’ variegated red twig dogwood, Eriocapitella x hybrida ‘alice’ Japanese anemone, Rhododendron azalea (2), Wisteria spp. wisteria, Thuja occidentalis ‘Smaragd’ emerald cedar (5), and many others. That’s not to mention the number of plants that have been divided, relocated to new homes and possibly a bit of pruning has happened to the trees and shrubs.



The work is pure joy because of the people who volunteer at the gardens. We laugh, we joke and sometimes we have serious debate about what we are going to do next. All in all, we keep to the task of making the gardens a well maintained and beautiful oasis for the town of Carleton Place at a time when we need one dearly.

Kudos to our VSG Volunteers for another great season!

CPDHS Board Members

With our December AGM and election of Directors just around the corner, we’re excited to invite members to consider standing for nomination to the 2027 Carleton Place & District Horticultural Society Board. Most of the existing Board members are willing to be nominated for 2027, but that leaves us with some empty seats.

What does the Board do?

We meet a week or two before our general meetings (eight times per year) to plan upcoming events, review finances, and brainstorm new ideas. Between meetings, we stay in touch by email to keep things moving smoothly.

Board members help bring our society to life by organizing events like Seedy Sunday, Earth Day, plant sales, flower shows, youth programs, workshops and more. We also handle behind-the-scenes essentials—such as coordinating speakers, managing member communication and social media, overseeing memberships and finances, and staying connected with District Two and the Ontario Horticultural Association.

No special experience is required, just a love of gardening and a willingness to help nurture our community, and the ability to work as part of a dedicated team. Our goal is to inspire gardeners of all levels and share our passion for horticulture through events and education. Please direct questions to Rick Roberts or any CPDHS director.

December Annual Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on December 2nd, 2026. We will have our Christmas Potluck followed by the Annual Meeting (AM), Elections, and a Festive Make-and-Take activity guided by the Flower Show Committee.

The meeting will start earlier than usual at 6pm, doors open at 5:30. Please remember to bring your plate, cup and cutlery to the meeting.

Once again, we will be doing a collection for the Hunger Stop Food Bank. Please see the next page for more information on the items that are most needed.

Festive Make-and-Take

Submitted by the Flower Show Committee



Members are invited to participate in a Festive Make-and-Take activity at the December meeting. Guided by the Flower Show Committee, you will have the opportunity to make a small centrepiece to take home for yourself or to give to a friend or family member who needs a little holiday cheer.

The Committee will be providing the containers, some evergreen boughs, and flowers for the project. The centrepieces can also include small decorations such as pine cones, coloured balls, berries, and ribbon. In the spirit of reducing and reusing, we are asking members to take a look through their holiday decorations, craft materials, and gardens for items to donate to the activity. Keep in mind the centrepieces will be quite small when selecting items to share.

Looking for:

- small festive ornaments, about 1” to 1.5” in size
- bits of ribbon
- evergreen branches
- small branches with berries or colour, e.g., dogwood
- tiny pine cones
- sparkly pipe cleaners
- anything you think would look festive in a centrepiece

All unused items will be passed along to our group of members who create small holiday centrepieces for The Hunger Stop.

Please bring your items and a pair of scissors or secateurs to our December meeting.

Thank you for your help.

Youth Holiday Event

Submitted by Bri Logan





Don't miss our upcoming youth holiday event at RONA in Carleton Place on Saturday, December 5, 2026 at 2pm.

Children will learn about spruce trees and make mini ornaments to decorate their own living tree to take home. The Hackberry Men's Shed will be donating wooden ornaments.

Blue Spoon Atelier will be hosting a gingerbread tree cookie decorating table.



All FREE, but limited spaces are available. RSVPs will be starting soon to cpdhsyouth@gmail.com.

Volunteers are also needed - please email Bri Logan at loganbri17@gmail.com if interested.

Food Bank Donation

CPDHS will be doing our annual Food Drive at our December 2nd Meeting. Please consider bringing in an item or two to help support those in need during the holiday season.

Here is a list of the items most needed:

- Cleaning supplies
- Personal hygiene supplies
- Hamburger/Tuna Helper
- Taco kits
- Easy sides (instant potatoes, boxed stuffing, Sidekicks, rice pouches)
- Condiments
- 1L juice
- Jarred or pouched baby/infant food
- Kid snacks (granola bars, fruit cups, juice boxes, cheese & crackers)
- Cereal

Cash donations are always appreciated (cash donations will receive a charitable receipt). Our society will be making our annual cash donation as well.

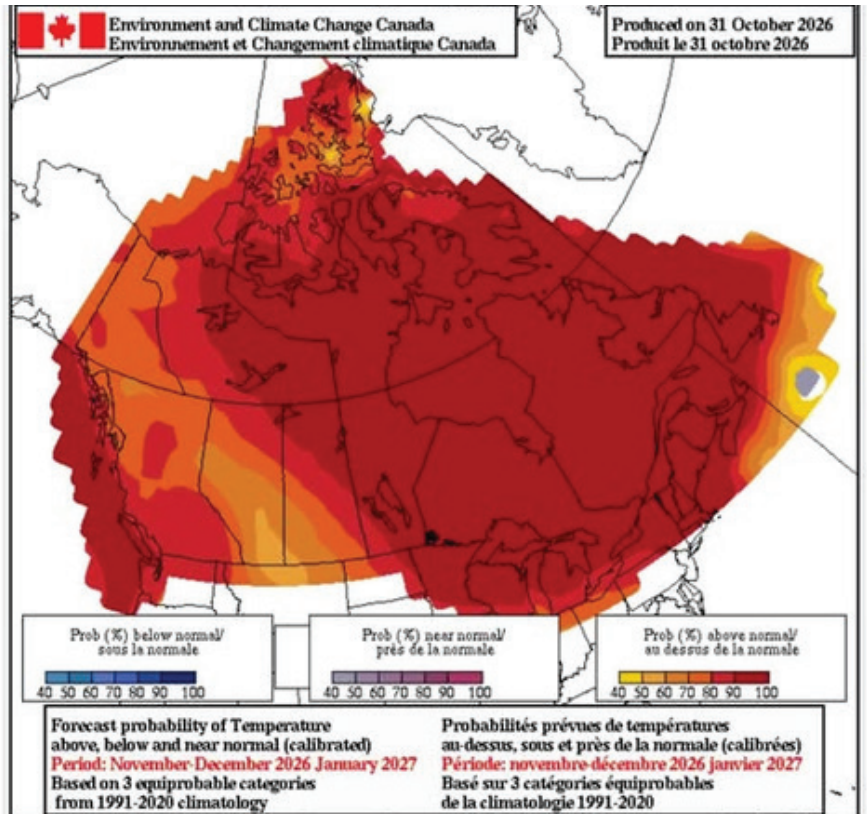
Reminder: Food banks operate primarily as privately run, non-profit charities funded by public donations.

Thank you for your generosity in advance!

How El Niño Will Affect Our Winter

Submitted by Michael Tobis, CPDHS Member

Environment Canada is showing an over 90% chance of a warmer than usual winter everywhere east of Winnipeg, and an high likelihood of warmer than usual over every corner in the country. This level of confidence in a seasonal prediction is extremely rare.



This is connected to the very strong El Niño event in the tropical Pacific, which has impacts globally. Many readers will recall the great ice storm of 1998 which also occurred during a major El Niño.

Member Michael Tobis who is a retired climate scientist is planning to give a one-hour talk on El Niño at the Carleton Place Library on Saturday, November 28 at 2:30 PM. If you are interested in attending please contact him at mtobis@gmail.com.

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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