

SEEDERS AND WEEDERS NEWSLETTER

February 2026



Armstrong & District Garden Club

WEBSITE <https://armstronggardenclub.com>

FACEBOOK Ken Barr

EXECUTIVE

President – Heather Hayes 250 546-4969

Vice president – Vacant

Secretary – Mary Jackson

Treasurer – Paul Peacock

Membership Secretary - Chris Williams

Past President – Carolyn Farris

Director - Sue Wiebe

Director at large – Linda Meraw

Newsletter Editor – Dianne Lockton

Website Manager - Mary Jane Duford

Sunshine - Dianne Lockton and Heather Hayes

Door Prizes – Sue Rook

GENERAL MEETINGS

First Tuesday of the month, 6:30 pm, September to June (except January) in St James Anglican Church Hall, Armstrong.

Next meeting 6:30 pm March 3, 2026

Speaker:

Garden Club member Roy Reinmuth spoke about his experience in creating high quality compost for his gardens.

Roy has lived on his one plus acreage in the Ranchero area near Salmon Arm for a little over two years. The soil is very sandy and dries out in the summer so he added compost last spring and summer. He planted potatoes and was rewarded with a small, tasty, good quality crop.

He has a keen interest in gardening, especially when it comes to building his own compost. The plan is to grow plants on as much of his land as possible.

Soil building, with compost that he creates with leaves and kitchen scraps (no meat), is of particular interest to him. The ratio should be about 3:1 of brown to green material.

A nitrogen rich brew can also be made in the spring by using grass and weed clippings. When soil is enriched with good quality compost there is no need to add fertilizers.

The property has been a work in progress, as there was nothing growing on it when he moved there. He started with a blank slate.

Roy uses pallets to build the compost bins and presently has 50 bins in production. Some have been incorporated into fencing around his property. A photo is shown below.

He is also making use of the septic field by putting vegetable beds on it. The water from the field will help to irrigate the plants. Water percolates up as well as down. He plans to put an 8 x 10 greenhouse on the septic tank. Decomposition in the tank will supply floor heat.

Some of the property stays green in summer so that will be another spot to grow more plants.

He collects rainwater from most of his roofs and last season he had 2750 gallons of water in storage.

Roy enjoys teaching people to make their own compost. He is willing to go to fellow gardeners gardens to make suggestions about where and how to set up compost.

He is more than happy to answer questions about gardening and composting. Visitors to his garden are always welcome although a bit of notice would be best.

Contact information:

hammer.mann@hotmail.com

Text: 604 686-3086

Address: 6716 Ranchero Drive East Ranchero



Compost bin fencing

MINUTES

ARMSTRONG AND DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB **Minutes for TUESDAY, February 3, 2026, 6:30 PM** St. James Church Hall, ARMSTRONG

27 in attendance, 10 of whom were Communities in Bloom members

1. Call to Order – Heather Hayes called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.
2. Approval of Agenda -1st – Linda, 2nd – Sue. CARRIED.
3. Approval of Previous Minutes
Move to approve the minutes of November 2025, as circulated.
1st – Suzie, 2nd – Carolyn. CARRIED.
4. Correspondence
We received a thank you cards from the Good Food Box and Communities in Bloom.
5. Treasurer's Report
Paul presented our current financial status and a budget for 2026. We donated \$ 3,500 in bursaries and donations to community organizations last year. We continue to have a healthy bank balance.
Paul moved to approve the year-end financial report and budget for 2026.
2nd - Chris W. CARRIED.
6. Old Business

7. New Business

a. Club Elections

President – Heather Hayes

Vice President – Vacant

Treasurer – Paul Peacock

Secretary - Mary Jackson

Past President – Carolyn Farris

Membership – Chris Williams

Newsletter - Dianne Lockton

Tour Coordinator – Vacant

Speaker Coordinator – Suzie Simms

Glen Gytenbeek – Director at Large

Carolyn called for nominations and hearing none, the slate presented was elected by acclamation.

b. Seed Exchange – March meeting

Members were asked to bring seeds that they will not be using (open packages OK) and the club members will have an exchange at our March meeting.

c. Feedback on Speakers and Tour Ideas for 2026

The following speakers are confirmed for this year:

March – Biologist speaking on the wetlands restoration and pocket forest in Armstrong

May – Bob Martin from the Bonsai Club of Vernon

The Board has suggested the following tours for this year:

Salmon Arm – Debbie Morris and neighbour

Falkland – Bolean Gardens

Mara – Madalea Growers. They also offer workshops.

Summerland – Ornamental Gardens. They offer Xeriscape plant and tree tours.

Suzie Simms will lead the planned tours for this year.

d. ADGC's 100th Anniversary in 2027

Heather announced that she would like to form a committee to oversee our preparations for the 100th anniversary of the Garden Club.

If you are interested in helping, please let Heather know. Dianne L. has been doing some research and finds we were established in April of 1927.

8. Adjourn

1st – Carolyn , 2nd – Suzie. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Next Executive Meeting: Friday, Feb. 20 at 2:30 p.m.

Next Garden Club Meeting: Tuesday, March 3, 2026

GARDENING INFORMATION

Seedy Saturday Dates

Penticton: February 21 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Penticton Seniors' Centre
2965 South Main St.

Enderby: March 7 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Splatsin Centre
Shuswap Seed Swap Old Vernon Rd.

Kelowna: March 8 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Parkinson Recreation Centre
1800 Parkinson Way

Kamloops: March 14 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 140 Laburnam St.

*Note: Kelowna event on Sunday

For more locations and information about seed saving check the Seeds of Diversity website at: <https://www.seeds.ca>

Here is something for the Trivia enthusiasts on a winter day:

- 1) What is the usual age that an oak tree is when it starts to produce acorns?
- 2) Which country is the largest producer of tulips?
- 3) Belladonna nickname.
- 4) Perennial pink orchid that grows in Canada.
- 5) What plant can grow up to one foot in a day?

Answers below.

A chuckle submitted by a member:



Trivia answers

- 1) 20 years
- 2) Netherlands
- 3) Deadly nightshade
- 4) Pink lady slipper
- 5) Bamboo

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Monthly meeting: St James Anglican Church Hall Armstrong, B.C.

6:30 p.m. March 3, 2026

Remember to bring any extra seeds that you would like to share with other members. Small envelopes are handy for taking home some seeds.
(These can even be made from scrap paper folded into squares and taped together.)

Members of the Armstrong & District Garden Club receive discounts at a number of local garden centres:

Shepherd's Home Hardware Outdoor Living in Armstrong: 15% Discount on Regularly-Priced Garden Plants

Blue Mountain Nursery in Armstrong: 10% Discount on all products

Swan Lake Market and Garden in Spallumcheen: 10% Discount on plant material
2 - 3% on other store material (except meat and dairy)
*Members must be registered with the store

Nicholas Alexander Nursery in Vernon: 10%-15% Discount on Regularly-Priced Garden Plants