

SEEDERS AND WEEDERS NEWSLETTER

March 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 at large – Glen Gytenbeek

Speaker coordinator – Suzie Sims

Tour Coordinator - Vacant

Newsletter Editor – Dianne Lockton

Website Manager - Mary Jane Duford

Sunshine - Dianne Lockton and Heather Hayes

Door Prizes – Sue Rook

GUEST SPEAKERS

Members of the Armstrong Wetland Association, Marge Sydney and Michele Hill, gave an informative presentation on the progress of the Okanagan Street Wetland Enhancement Project.

The project location is the wetlands at 3185 Okanagan Street.

The .39 hectare was mostly covered by cattails.

Objectives of the project:

Conduct an inventory of species and habitats present or migrating through the site prior to construction in 2024. (38 species of native and invasive plants growing around the perimeter. 11 wildlife species. No species at risk. Red winged blackbirds and song sparrows actively nesting.)

Excavate a pond to increase habitat and species biodiversity.

- open water wetland pond

- elevated hummock planted with native trees and shrubs - 2025

Apply for funding of boardwalk, viewing platform and signage - 2026

Build mobility challenged boardwalk and viewing platform with educational signage.

This will

- provide safe public access and protect sensitive wetland

- support school and public programming focused on water conservation, wetland ecology, flora and fauna, water quality, flood mitigation and climate resilience

- encourage environmental stewardship, appreciation of green infrastructure and inclusive outdoor recreation in Armstrong's downtown core – 2027

Between 2022 and 2024 support was obtained from the City of Armstrong.

PR events were held to encourage support from the public.

Funding was applied for and donations received from local organizations.

The wetland association won the Armstrong Spallumcheen Chamber of Commerce 2024 Organization of the Year Award.

Created so far:

Excavated open water pond and built hummock
Over 100 native trees and shrubs planted and watered when necessary
Critical wildlife habitat
Aesthetic and ecological benefit to the community
Installed staff gauge in wetland pond

Complete a species inventory Spring 2027 - 2028



Marge and Michelle

BEFORE AND AFTER



GENERAL MEETING

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

Next meeting : April 7, 2026 6:30 pm

ARMSTRONG AND DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB Minutes for TUESDAY, March 3, 2026

17 members in attendance and 2 guests

1. Call to Order

-Heather called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

-Jacqui motioned to approve the agenda. CARRIED.

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

Move to approve the minutes of February 3, 2026, as circulated.

-Mary noted changes to the meeting reflecting Suzie Sims the role of Speaker Coordinator.

-With changes noted, Carolyn motioned to approve the minutes. CARRIED.

4. Correspondence

-Shirley F's update email re: PV Planters was included in the email with the agenda.

5. Treasurer's Report

-Paul reported that we continue to have a healthy bank account and that our deposits had increased due to the payment of membership dues.

-Motion by Chris W. and Chris to accept the financial report. CARRIED.

6. Old Business

a) Meeting with City of Armstrong re: PV Planters

-As noted in the email to club members, the City has allocated 22 containers for us to plant in. The City will arrange water and pay to purchase the plants. The Garden Club will plant, weed, and maintain the plants. Issues will be directed to the City through Shirley.

-Glenn provided a sign up sheet for members to take a two week "Petunia Pampering" assignment.

7. New Business

a) ADGC's 100th Anniversary in 2027

-Janet S. noted that the Vernon Garden Club is having their 100th Anniversary this year. They are delivering plants or flowers to folks in seniors' homes in Vernon that are turning 100 years of age. No contact is made with the individuals when the flowers/plants are delivered.

-Vernon is also creating a scrapbook marking activities up to this point.

ACTION: Janet to forward 100th anniversary ideas that we may be able to use.

b) Plant Sale Preparations

-Heather reminded members to divide and pot their plants in advance of the sale.

-Sue W. and Colleen have 1 gal. pots.

ACTION: Sue W. to deliver a load of 1 gal. pots to Heather and members can pick them up as needed at Heather's.

c) Upcoming speakers

-the club discussed their interest in a permaculture speaker, possibly for April.

-May's speaker will talk about bonsai.

ACTION: Mary to forward email to Heather and Suzie.

d) Upcoming tours

-will address in a later meeting.

8. Adjourn

-Glenn motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 p.m.

Thanks to Heather for the goodies. Dianne Lockton will bring goodies in April.

Welcome to new members Sylvia, Whitney and Chris!

GARDENING INFORMATION

SPRING PLANTING

There is such a variety of corms, rhizomes and tubers that can be planted in spring for a rainbow of colour through the summer months. As the blooms from fall planted bulbs have faded the spring plantings soon take over.

The following is a list of some favourites seen in many gardens in Canada.

Tuberous begonias – do well outside in partial to full shade. They are often used in containers and hanging baskets and do well in moist enriched soil.

Calla lily – plant rhizomes in full sun or partial shade. Soil should be neutral to slightly acidic, well drained and rich in organic matter. Mulch to keep moist.

Canna lilies – plant in full sun. They can be grown in containers or flower beds in moist soil with a pH of 6. The rhizomes can be lifted and stored inside for the winter.

Dahlias – grow best with 6 to 8 hours of direct sun in rich well drained soil and protected from wind. The tubers can be planted indoors in containers a month before being planted outdoors (after danger of frost).

Gladiolus – plant the corms in full sun after danger of frost has passed. The soil should be porous to allow good drainage. Soaking the corms in water for a few hours before planting will help to hydrate them.

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

Show your membership card at the till before the cashier rings up the total and kindly request your member discount.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Next Meeting: Tuesday April 7 6:30 pm

IN MEMORY OF JESSIE PROST. A LONG TIME MEMBER OF THE
ARMSTRONG AND DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB

