SEEDERS AND WEEDERS NEWSLETTER

September 2026

Armstrong & District Garden Club

WEBSITE: https://armstronggardenclub.com

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
Facebook – Ken Barr
Website Manager - Mary Jane Duford
Sunshine - Dianne Lockton and Heather Hayes
Door Prizes – Sue Rook

GUEST SPEAKERS

Heather and Glen spoke to club members about dividing and overwintering perennials for our plant sale next May.

- The best time to divide is in the fall.
  This gives the roots a chance to grow in the pots.
- Save as much of the roots as possible.
- Place fir cones in the bottom of the pots for drainage.
- Use soil that the original plant grows in.
- Cover with compost (free at the landfill site) and/or leaves.
- The plants can be overwintered at Heather's or Sue's if a member doesn't have room in their own garden.
- Hostas and coral bells are best planted in fall.
- Irises should be divided about every three years. The rhizomes can be pulled apart with hands or use a garden fork. Cut the leaves back.
- Shrubs should be cut back 30 – 40% in fall as well.
- When Spring arrives move the pots near an outside wall or to a greenhouse for warmth.

Plant up about a month before the plant sale. Trim back scraggly pieces and fertilize. A good size pot for perennials is 150mm x 180mm.

Tags can be made from old venetian blinds. List plant name, colour, height, width and sun or shade.

Vegetables are popular annuals to start from seed.

A good size pot for perennials is 150mm x 180mm (1gallon)

Sue Wiebe has extra pots if anyone needs some.

GENERAL MEETING

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

Next meeting : October 6 , 2026 6:30 pm

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MINUTES

ARMSTRONG AND DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB
Minutes for TUESDAY, September 8, 2026, 6:30 PM
St. James Church Hall, ARMSTRONG

SPEAKER: Heather and Glenn spoke about how to pot up plants this fall.

19 members in attendance.

1. Call to Order - Heather called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m. Paul chaired the remainder of the meeting.

2. Approval of Agenda - Rea made a motion to approve the agenda. CARRIED.

3. Approval of Previous Minutes - Sue W., Suzie moved to approve the minutes of June 2, 2026 as circulated. CARRIED.

4. President's Report - With commitments at home, Heather is not able to offer the time to the Garden Club and is looking for more help from members to take on various roles and tasks. Elections are being held in November and she would like to see members put their name forward for a role – e.g. President, Vice-President, Secretary, Garden Tour Co-ordinator, Speaker Co-ordinator, Plant Sale Co-ordinator(s), Petunia Planting Co-ordinator, Garden Tour property etc.

5. Treasurer's Report - Paul noted that the club is in a healthy financial situation.

6. Recommendations for Community Donations – Paul reviewed the executive's recommendations for donations. After discussion, Paul moved that the ADGC donate $ 1,000 to the Armstrong Food Bank and $ 1,000 to the Kalamalka Starfish Society. CARRIED. Paul noted that the PVSS Bursary and the IPE sponsorship have already been paid.

7. Correspondence - Mary reported that several emails had been received and responses provided.

8. Old Business

a) Petunia Planters – Glenn reviewed the Executive's decision to not be involved in the petunia planters on PV Boulevard next year. He then shared a discussion with Shirley Fowler who offered to be an intermediary with the city to ensure plant ordering, and watering were taken care of. Glenn offered to prepare a schedule for garden members to maintain the planters.

Members were willing to help with the maintenance, given water would be provided, even in Stage 3.

Paul moved that the ADGC would take on one more year of planting petunias on PV Boulevard with Shirley Fowler working as liaison with the city. CARRIED.

9. New Business

a) Meeting Location - Mary reviewed the pros and cons of moving our meetings to the Museum and members discussed various aspects of each location. Paul moved that we remain at the Anglican Church Hall for our meetings, until we need to relocate. CARRIED.

b) Heather reviewed the offer by Enderby Garden Club to trade garden tours next year, with us visiting Enderby gardens and the Enderby club visiting Armstrong gardens. Club members expressed interest in these plans for next spring.

Adjourn - Glenn moved to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

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ADGC summer social at Memorial Park July 7, 2026

GARDENING INFORMATION

The summer of 2026 was a challenge for some of our local gardeners.

Everything from heat, drought, water restrictions, wildfire smoke, to earwigs, tomato hornworms, blossom end rot, and rats.

Heat and drought require an adjustment to the way we do things. One of the most effective methods to keep plants hydrated is to mulch them. Mulch helps insulate the roots and reduce evaporation during hot spells with an additional benefit of weed suppression.

Materials such as grass clippings, leaves, straw, aged manure, and compost will insulate and nourish the soil. Straw can also help prevent mildew by stopping fungal spores splashing from the soil to the leaves.

Water during cooler times of the day within the restrictions of your community.

Smokey air can coat leaves with ash and interrupt photosynthesis. Floating row covers can be used to cover vegetable plants if the ash is settling on them. Use a garden hose to give the leaves a gentle rinse. Wash vegetables outside then once or twice when you bring them inside. Skin on the fruits and vegetables can be peeled to reduce the possibility of consuming ash and toxins if that is a concern.

Earwigs were plentiful in late June when we had a short period of above average rainfall. The heat and dry weather that followed slowed them down, but damage was already done on some susceptible plants.

They will eat:

- new sprouts and leaves on almost any type of vegetable.
- fruit tree leaves and the fruit
- mint and basil leaves
- most leafy greens
- flowers such as dahlias, roses, petunias, marigolds, chrysanthemums

Methods of trapping:

Trap earwigs by lying out sections of garden hose, tubing or rolled newspaper in the evening. Place these near earwig damaged plants. Check the traps in the morning and dump the insects into a bucket of soapy water.

Old tuna cans partially filled with soy sauce and equal parts of vegetable oil will attract earwigs. Bury the cans to almost soil level and check each day.

Plastic containers can also be used in the same way but punch holes in the lid and place it on the container of soy and oil.

Tomato Hornworms:

Usually found on tomato plants hornworms are also found on eggplant, pepper and potato plants. They will usually start feeding on the upper leaves of the plant. They can destroy many leaves and the tomatoes as well. Because they are green the caterpillars can blend into the plant. They might not be noticed until there is advanced damage. One sign that shows there may be a hornworm infestation is their black or dark green droppings on leaves.

The best control method is hand picking the hornworms from the plants. This is easy because of their size (can often be about 4 inches long). They do not bite or sting. Put them into a bucket of soapy water to kill them.

Another common problem with tomatoes is blossom end rot.

The bottom of the fruit becomes soft and blackens. This is due to a lack of calcium uptake from the soil. A soil test can confirm if there is a shortage of calcium.

Another possibility is that there is enough calcium in the soil but it is not being used due to irregular watering. Tomatoes thrive on an even amount of moisture. When drought occurs gardens might be watered every other day or less. Even with a morning watering bare soil can be dried out from the hot afternoon sun before it receives an evening watering. This takes us back to mulch. Providing tomatoes with a couple of inches of mulch when they are planted will do wonders for the health of the plant.

Rats:

They have been a problem in many areas of the valley and are appearing in gardens that haven't had them before. If left unchecked a garden of fruits and vegetables can be destroyed within a few days. Look for partially eaten tomatoes, cucumbers, zucchini and fruit. The vegetable can appear to be growing nicely as it can still be attached by the stem. Until it is turned over the damage might not be noticed.

Rodents can be controlled by trapping. Garden centers and hardware stores sell various types of effective traps. Pest control companies can be hired as well.

LOCAL FALL ACTIVITIES:

Armstrong Farmers Market – Saturdays until October 10, 2026

Harvest Pumpkin Festival – October 2 to 12, 2026

South of us is the Gellatly Nut Farm Regional Park

2375 Whitworth Rd., West Kelowna

Usually open for nut sales until late October

Walnuts, hazelnuts and chestnuts - picked

or

U-pick off the ground

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: See notes under Section 7 in the minutes of April 7th meeting

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 October 6, 2026 6:30 pm