March 2026

THE GARDEN THYMES

A PUBLICATION OF
THE VERNON AND DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB

Website : www.vernongardenclub.ca

E-mails: vernongardenclubbc@gmail.com

https://www.facebook.com/groups/726546522485514/

Our next meeting will be held:
Tuesday March 24 at 7pm.
at the
Vernon Community Arts Centre
2704, Highway 6, Vernon.

We will be potting up Dahlia`s grown by our late member, Darlene Whitbread.
You will all be gifted one tuber to take home, if you want. We will pot up the remainder in 6" pots.
Bring extra 6" pots if you can and disposable gloves, a sharp knife or pruners to cut apart the tubers.
If at all possible ,take as many potted tubers home to foster for the Plant Sale.
If you cannot be at this meeting but still want to foster, let us know.

Room Set Up crew at 6pm:

Jan Blakeborough
Sylvie Olnyk

Clean up: Everyone

Coffee Break Snacks
Thank you in advance for the March Snacks:
Lisa DiFrancesco
Donna Wedgewood-Maynes

Celebrating Centenarians in 2026.

In March there were no Centenarians in facility care to deliver to. One of our deliveries in February was made to Olga

Historic Newsletter Tidbits

ANNUALS

Shrubs, trees and perennials are all essential parts of any landscape. However, their peak time of beauty tends to be very seasonal and limited. For a continuous supply of colour and blossom through the hot summer months one should grow annuals. These are plants that live just one season in the garden. They are the least difficult plant to grow - requiring little attention. Annuals may be sown directly in the ground or started indoors for transplanting. Bedding plants raised by local greenhousemen are the surest source of vigorous plants which will assure an early and constant supply of bloom. Set them out in the flower bed or shrub border when all danger of frost is past.

Annuals are well adapted to a wide range of conditions and uses. If you are going to plant an entire bed of annuals use low kinds like verbena, alyssum and dwarf marigolds for edging; petunias, calendulas and French marigolds in the middle and for a colorful tall background use African marigolds, cleomes or giant zinnias.

Perennial borders lend themselves readily for a few fillers of annual plants - particularly the spreading kinds. Try a few petunias, verbenas, ageratums or browallias. For patio planters, along split rail fences and new hedges, annuals can't be beat. Keep in mind that most annuals like sun, but impatiens, coleus, clarkia and nicotiana will do well in the shade. If your soil is poor, as it often is around a new home, try some reliable euphorbia or portulaca. Remember, masses of similar colours in the same variety create a more pleasing effect than one or two plants each of several different varieties.

May 23,1962

Brian A. Hodge.
Horticulturist.

[illegible] P.P. Betty Langstaff has recently returned from attending the B.C. Council of Garden Clubs Conference in Burnaby. In the best inimitable Langstaff manner she let it be known that there is an active Okanagan Valley Horticultural Association and a very lively Vernon and District Garden Club. She reports that she was warmly welcomed and has been invited back. They were especially impressed by the high level of organization and cooperation in this area. Betty thoroughly enjoyed the address by Reeve Alan H. Emmett of Burnaby. She brought back a wealth of information ranging all the way from Bonsai and ikebana to the finishing of driftwood with bees wax and turpentine. More of this later.

The President shares my own sentiments about our unseasonal weather. - he just expresses it in a nicer way. "It seemed for a while that Spring had caught a chill but we're hoping for a speedy recovery. There are, of course, advantages to cool weather at this time of the year. It does give our newly planted material a better chance to get established. Elsewhere in this Newsletter you'll read about the Annual Plant Sale set for Saturday, April 27. Be sure to keep reminding your friends. Our General Meeting will feature Dr. Arrand whose remarks will be most applicable to this season. Insect pests are a bit like what the Bible says about the poor, - awlays with us. Now you have an opportunity to get practical answers to your insect and mite problems. If time permits we will try to get all your questions answered. If you hesitate to ask direct questions just drop them in the Question Box. Perhaps the gardening hint for this month could be -' if you are using a high analysis fertilizer on your lawn be sure to apply it when the grass is DRY and then wash it in with a hand nozzle. This should prevent burning except on the spots where you spilled TOO much' -.

Vernon was represented at the Spring Executive Meeting of the Okanagan Valley Horticultural Association by Betty Langstaff, Isobel Raikes, Mrs. Loebel, Margaret Zink and Morris Lincoln. Betty Langstaff was reelected President for 1968. The 1968 Convention will be hosted by Penticton and held in The Peach Bowl in October.

April 24,1968

February 24,2026 General Meeting Minutes

Vickie B and Viv A welcomed everyone at the door. They were providing paper membership forms and Viv was accepting annual membership payments. The online form and e-transfer are also available.
Past President Jen O introduced new Co-President Roberta D, who welcomed everyone to this new gardening year.

Executive Positions - Roberta let us know about 2 volunteers that have stepped forward to fill Executive positions. Linda A as a Co-President. Danielle H as a Co-Secretary with Viv.
New Membership - if you have not registered yet, please see Viv. Or you can register online and e-transfer. The annual fee is $20-single/$30-couple.
Previous Month Minutes - Roberta asked if there are any questions about the November minutes published in the newsletter. None. Maaike V made a motion for the minutes to be accepted. Seconded by Viv A. All in favour.
Financial Report - Roberta asked if there are any questions about the report that was emailed. None. Sylvie O made a motion for the report to be accepted. Seconded by Terry L. All in favour.
Room Setup - A sign-up sheet is being passed around. Please volunteer to help.

100 Year Celebration
Museum - Roberta thanked Rosemary B for all of her work to coordinate an event or display at the museum. Unfortunately we were not able to work out suitable participation.
City - Roberta let us know she is still communicating with the City to see about coordinating something.
Centenarian Birthdays - Viv, Maaike V, and Gay J are working together to deliver flowers and a card on each birthday. Viv let us know the first ones have been received very well.
Activities Bulletin Board - Janet S pointed out the bulletin board at the back of the room. This will highlight information about the anniversary activities.
People Place Garden Tour - Janet S let us know we are still looking for 2 more gardens to fill the tour. We are supporting this important fundraising event for People Place. People Place fundraises to keep their facility going. By working with People Place for this event they give us a break on our Executive Meeting room rental fee.
Hospice House Garden - June B let us know that the donation from the Club has so far been used for soil and rocks, as well as plants and bulbs. Lots of work has been done but this continues to be a work in progress. Janet let us know they will be including a monthly photo on the Bulletin Board to show the progress.

Christmas Party - Roberta thanked Sharon for all of her work to organize a wonderful event.
Butcher Boys and Natures Fare receipts - Roberta let us know we have 3 $50 gift cards available to be purchased. She reminded us about this fundraiser: if you shop at either store, please get the receipt and bring it to the next meeting. We gather these receipts and exchange them for gift cards, which can then be purchased. All proceeds help with Club expenses and the community projects we support.
Logo Design - Jen O showed us the new logo and the banner version and the smaller version and all the variations of colours. All designed by Jade Littlewood Design. Jade donated a lot of her time to create the concept and work with our Committee: Roberta, Danielle, and Jen.

February 24,2026 General Meeting Minutes

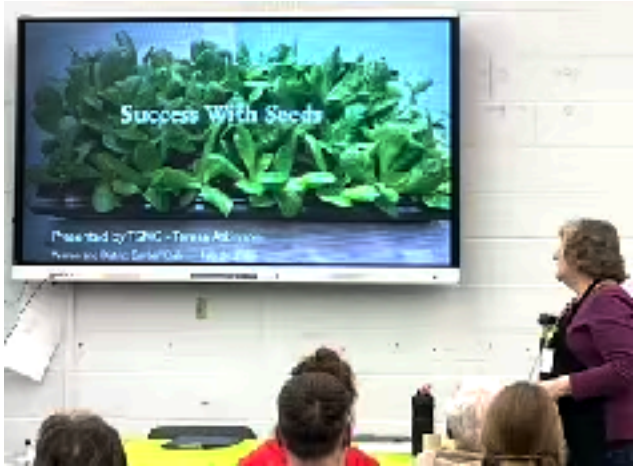
Plant Sale - Danielle H let us know to save the date: Saturday May 9. Home Hardware will generously be hosting us again.
This is the Club's major fundraising event. We will again be asking for Members to divide their perennials and donate to the sale. If anyone hears of anyone in their neighbourhood that is changing their landscaping and is dividing or removing plants, please let us know.
Currently we are looking for Members interested in starting seeds. Especially for tomatoes, vegetables, and herbs. Please see Danielle tonight or email her. If you are not able to start seeds, we will be looking for Members to foster seedlings in April when they are getting bigger. Jen O let us know that the success of the sale depends on having a large number of plants to sell.
Flower Show - Lisa D reminded us about the successful event last year, as part of Creative Chaos. Now Creative Chaos is moving their event and we can no longer participate. The Committee met recently and have a new plan. We will be at the Schubert Center on June 20. As part of the Sunshine Festival. Due to the later date this probably means less irises and perhaps more roses. More information to come.
Sale Table - Thank you to Terry L and Dawn P for volunteering to look after the Sale Table at each meeting this year. Many great items available tonight! There is a Donation tin on the table for cash donations. All funds raised go toward Club expenses and the community projects we support. If your donation is not purchased tonight, please take it back home at the end of the meeting.
Roles and Responsibilities - Danielle H reported that many of the roles have been filled. More information to follow at the next meeting.
Upcoming Local Events - please note the events listed in the newsletter:
Shuswap Seed Swap-Enderby-March 7
Seedy Sunday-Kelowna-March 8
Salmon Arm Seed and Plant Sale - March 21

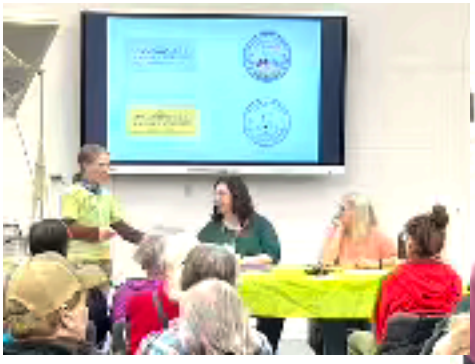
Presentation - Success with Seeds - Teresa A shared extremely helpful information, from the benefits of growing plants from seed, through the seeds, mediums, containers, warmth, water, light, and fertilizer requirements to be successful.
She also showed us how to create a paper pot with a wooden tool.
Interactive Stations - Teresa and Jen each guided Members through soil blocking, as well as making paper pots.
Refreshments - Thank you Roxane L, Sandra L, Eleanor F, and Kerry R.
Thank you Vickie B and Lita M for room set up tonight.

Opportunity Draw - won by Roberta.
Door Prizes - Thank you Jen for donating the 4 paper pot making tools she created on her 3D printer. Also gardening gloves and a Nicholas Alexander gift card.
- won by: Janet B, Fran K, Hanny K, Faithe P, Maaike V, and Bob M.

Next meeting is Tuesday March 24 at 7:00pm.

Interactive meeting February 2026





Annual Plant Sale

Saturday May 9 - 8-11am - setup at 6am

Home Hardware - Home Building Center
4601 - 27 Street

Happy Spring all! After the winter of no winter it is still exciting to me to see all of the new shoots and blooms beginning. I'm sure you are all looking forward to another fun Plant Sale! What new plants will you try out this season?

Thank you to Home Hardware - Home Building Center on 27th Street for generously hosting us again.

Seed Starting
Thank you to everyone that has contacted me about starting plants from seeds.
We are looking for a few more tomato, vegetable, and herb growers. If you are starting seeds or bulbs/tubers, please consider planting up extra pots to donate to the Plant Sale. Please let me know if you can help.

Perennials, Shrubs, Trees
As you are noticing your garden come to life, please consider donating to the Plant Sale. Perennials that need dividing, or shrubs or small new trees that need to be moved, all are wonderful donations to help our fundraiser. Please let us know if you need any assistance.

Perennials, shrubs, trees, and fruits, vegetables, and herbs, all varieties are needed to help us create a successful sale. If you have any questions about a type of plant or a variety please let me know.

Garden Renos?
If you are planning to redesign your garden, or hear of a neighbour or friend that has some plants to give away and needs some assistance, please let us know. We will help in return for plant donations. As our Club's major fundraiser we need lots of plant donations to make the sale a huge success.

Please remember that all donations need to be in clean pots and identified as best you can. Common names are fine, along with any additional information you recall such as colour, size, sun or shade. If you can include a photo, that really helps ensure a sale.

VERNON & DISTRICT
EST. GARDEN CLUB 1926

Plant Sale

Saturday May 9, 2026
8am - 11am

Home Hardware - Home Building Centre
4601 27th St - Parking Lot

Perennials
Vegetables
Tomatoes
Master Gardeners
Succulents
Herbs
Peppers
Worm Castings

Celebrating 100 Years!
1926-2026

If you have pots or labels to donate, please bring them to the March meeting or let me know.
If you need pots or labels or trays please attend the March meeting where we will have a selection of sizes.

Everyone's donations are needed to help our Club's major fundraising event. The funds raised help us: support school garden programs and other community garden projects such as at Hospice House, provide an annual bursary, and with the Club's annual expenses and events.

Thank you to everyone that has already offered to help at the sale.

A sign-up sheet will be passed around at the March Meeting.

If you have any questions or ideas please let me know. Please contact me by email at dmhitchings@gmail.com

Thank you!
Plant Sale Committee: Danielle H, Sharon H, Jen O, Viv A, Lita M, Janet B, and Roxane L

Grow and Show: March 2026

Highlighted Items are featured this month for judging. All other items are given participation points only.

HOUSEPLANT DIVISION

A. 1.Any houseplant not in flower

2. Any flowering orchid
3. Any amaryllis in flower
4. Any collection of cacti/succulent plants in one container
5. "*Jade Green*"—any crassula ovata (jade plant)

B. CUT FLOWER SPECIMENS

6. Any flowering branch (may be forced)
7. Hellebore—one stem
8. Small spring bulbs—3 stems one variety (example: crocus, botanical tulips, winter aconite, grape hyacinth)
9. Any other spring flowering bulb—one to 3 stems

C.FLORAL ART DIVISION

Note: Commercially grown leaves and flowers may be used in Division C. Accessories are also allowed.

10. Miniatures: "*Soft Boiled* "—an exhibit "not over 5inch" in an eggcup
11. *"Joyeuse Paques"* --an exhibit with an Easter Theme
12. "*Spring is in the Air*"—an exhibit featuring spring flowers
13. Floral Art Class: an exhibit based on the 3-5-8 principal demonstrated this month
14. Open Class—any exhibit you have created.

D.FRUITS AND VEGETABLES DIVISION

15. *Starts:* Show us what seedlings you have started for transplanting outside soon.

E.THE IMAGE GARDEN

16. Any photograph or collection of photographs that highlights the end of winter and the beginning of spring in your garden.

Please use a **blue ticket for participation** entries and a **white ticket for entries in the judged categories.** Place your entries in the correct category, as labelled. No more than three entries per person, per category. Thank you.

Grow and Show Entry Information

House Plants

-Houseplants and their container should be **clean**

-plants should look healthy and well cared for with bright colours of foliage.

No dead or withered leaves, flower-heads and seedpods removed, free from insect or mechanical damage and disease.

-a pot may be covered with paper or foil but only if the covering does not clash with or detract from the plant. Any tying, staking or wiring should be done neatly so it does not detract from the plant.

Cut Specimens

- Name flowers whenever possible (someone might be interested to know)
- Use a container that holds your cut flowers upright (wax paper, plastic wrap to wedge)
- When entering a grouping of flowers, try to have them similar in every way. (size, shape, stem-length and colour)

-In collections the main points that the judges are looking for are: condition, freshness, number of kinds or varieties, brilliance and clarity of colour.

- Bearded Iris: *Bi-colour* means: - the blooms have two distinctly different colours.
  - The standards or top petals being one colour
  - The falls another colour.

  Bi-tone means: - the blooms that have one colour
  - The standards are a lighter colour then the falls

Check all garden flowers for uninvited guests(ants, spiders, mites, aphids etc)

Floral Art Class

- Exhibit means: You may use fresh, dried, weathered or treated plant material. Accessories are allowed.
- Place larger flowers lower in the arrangement so the overall design looks balanced.
- Check for proportion: Container 1/3, flowers & foliage are 2/3, 'flowers are less than 1/3 the size of container'.
- Less is more. Don`t crowd the flowers. Let the beauty be seen.
- Materials used should be fresh and clean.

June is organizing the Floral Art Practise sessions this year and she has the first one set for **THIS WEEK.**

Date & Time: Thursday, March 19, 7:00 pm

Where: At Linda Andrews, 1556 Phoenix Dr. Follow the path down the right side of the house.

Design: **3-5-8 floral design**. "Check out information about this design online."

Taking **3** flowers to act as the showstoppers (not necessarily the same but complimentary), **5** stems of greenery(acts as structure, mix of colours ok),and **8** stems of filler flowers (adds texture, colours and flowers are not to overpower focal flowers)

Maybe get together with someone and share material .

Please pre-register for this event, happening this week

Email Janet S. with any questions: Vernongardenclubbc@gmail.com

Janet

The Vernon People Place Garden Tour will be on Saturday June 6th from 9am till 2pm. Six garden club members' gardens will be on the tour plus the garden at Hospice House. The tour is self guided. With the purchase of a ticket, a map of the gardens on the tour will be included. (Tell your friends)

More information will be forthcoming in the near future including the price of tickets and where to purchase them. Mark the date on your calendar and help celebrate the garden club's 100th anniversary and support all the programs that People Place supports.

Mark your calendars!

Once again the club is pleased to offer a basket making workshop at Meadowbrae Gardens in Salmon Arm.

April 10 and 11 at 10 am have been reserved for VDGC club members.

There is no workshop fee, participants just pay for their planters/hanging baskets based on retail prices. Choose any and as many plants as you wish, to fill your baskets.

Prices increased slightly from last year so **hanging basket prices are $44/$49/$54 + tax** for the reg/med/large sizes. As club members, you receive 10% off this price. If a participant brings their own baskets/planters, they get an *additional* 10% off.

Members are welcome to bring as many baskets as they wish to create. As club members receive a 10% discount on any purchase during the garden centre season but if you choose plants before Meadowbrae opens to the public, you'll have the best selection of the season.

A sign up sheet will be at the next meeting.

If you've no room at home to store your finished basked before the frosts clear, Meadowbrae can also store them until it's safe to hang them out.

(plants for visual only)

Meadowbrae Garden Centre

Address: 1630 51St NE, Salmon Arm, B.C.

Phone: 250-832-0203

From Vernon, head towards Salmon Arm. Left onto 51 ST NE and proceed approximately 400m and you'll see Meadow Brae on the right hand side before hitting the end of the road.

The Pollinator Pathways Project

The Sustainable Environmental Network Society (SENS) promotes environmental awareness in the Okanagan.

One of SENS' current projects requires community member involvement to help local pollinators and therefore also our local food supply. The Pollinator Pathways Project encourages all community members to plant as many local pollinator-friendly flowers, vegetables, herbs and trees as possible. Pollinators are finding it increasingly difficult to survive in our current landscape. This is due to things like pesticide use, habitat destruction, climate change and development and less green space in general. Creating and protecting pesticide-free, natural, pollinator-friendly spaces can help pollinators find habitat paths through urban and rural areas, help keep our food supply vigorous and make our community look more beautiful. And helping achieve those goals does not require a tremendous amount of effort. Even planting local pollinator-friendly species in small yards, alleys, boulevards and what some call the 'forgotten strip' – the area between sidewalk and roadway - can make a big difference!

Contact SENS through their website or their Facebook page https://facebook.com/sensociety for more information or to explore eligibility for displaying a Pollinator Pathway sign in your growing space. https://www.sensociety.org/pollinator-pathways. They have extended an invitation to our club members to attend their Seed Share and Garden Talk March 26. They will have information and signs for the Pollinator Pathway Project. If they are eligible for a sign you can display it in your garden to raise more awareness about the importance of protecting pollinators.

Nature Neighbours Day, at Allan Brooks Centre is a one-day, outdoor, family-friendly event that brings together a wide range of local nature, environment, outdoor recreation and community organizations in one place. Visitors will be able to:

- Wander around information and activity booths from local groups
- Join short, informal talks and demonstrations about the local environment
- Take part in hands-on activities
- Explore the Centre's trail, new enlarged pond and the amazing views from our look out
- Kids can if they wish try our simple "Nature Passport" style challenge

"What to do for your Garden this month"

Prune fruit trees and woody ornamentals, then apply dormant oil and lime sulphur. Do not use lime sulphur on apricot trees.

-

Gently pull mulch back from around roses and perennials to allow the soil to warm up.

-

Cut back ornamental grasses and clear away any leaves or debris that collected over winter.

-

Begin preparing your garden beds by loosening and enriching the soil.

-

Sow early vegetable seeds such as radish, spinach, Swiss chard, lettuce, onions and peas.

-

Prune trees and shrubs that bloom before June after they have finished flowering.

-

Rake and aerate your lawn, then apply a quality spring fertiliser.

-

Avoid pruning birch, maple or walnut trees now. These are best pruned in late summer.

-

Remove weak, diseased or damaged raspberry canes before new growth starts. Cut out last year's fruiting canes and shorten the remaining healthy canes.

-

Stay ahead of weeds as temperatures rise. Weed early before they have a chance to grow large and set seed.

Courtesy of

Bylands GARDEN CENTRE

In town businesses who will give us discounts

Buckerfields: located in the old Growers Supply business at 1200 Waddington Drive
and is open 7 days a week.
Garden Club members can present their Garden Club membership card with a purchase and they will give Club members 10% off anything gardening related.
They also have seniors 65+ days 10% off every Wednesday -but not with discounted items

Nicholas Alexander gives you a 10% discount when you present your membership card before the business rings in your sale and the discount doesn't apply to sale items.
At N.A. the discount is only on plant material.

Membership Fees for 2026 is now available
$20/person or $30/couple
You can fill in your membership form online at:
Tiny.cc/Vernon26
E-transfers are recommended and accepted.:
treasurer.vdgc@gmail.com
Paper copies of the form will also be available at the general meetings and payable by cash or cheque to:
Vernon and District Garden Club
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By registering you can look forward to another year of knowledgeable speakers, friends and fun within the gardening community we all enjoy.

Please bring your

Butcher Boys
and
Nature`s Fare
receipts