



**June  
2026**

# THE GARDEN THYMES

A PUBLICATION OF  
THE VERNON AND DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB

Website : [www.vernongardenclub.ca](http://www.vernongardenclub.ca)  
E-mails: [vernongardenclubbc@gmail.com](mailto:vernongardenclubbc@gmail.com)  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/726546522485514/>

*Our next meeting will be held:  
Tuesday June 23 at 7pm.,  
at the  
Vernon Community Arts Centre  
2704, Highway 6, Vernon  
**Rob Neufeld**  
Taking control over a garden with neglected trees  
and shrubs*



*Celebrating Centenarians in 2026.  
In June there was one  
Centenarians in facility care we  
delivered to.*

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**Sept Room Set Up crew at 6pm:**

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**Jane Groff  
Linda Kapalka**

**Clean up: Everyone**

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## **Garden Club tour Invitation for Sunday June 21**

Mhairi and David Todd will open their garden for us to  
tour from 11-1 pm  
The address is: 5786 Barker Road ( just past L&A road)

## **Garden Club Bursary**

The garden club is accepting applications for the Club Bursary. The bursary amount is \$1500, which can be awarded to an individual or divided between two applicants. Applicants can receive the bursary a maximum of twice. Eligible applicants should have successfully completed at least one year of full-time post-secondary academic study and will be attending any post-secondary institution the following semester for a subsequent year of full-time study. Provision is made for a mature student, one who is over 25 years of age and has been out of school for at least two years. Preference will be given to an applicant who is a member or is related to a member of the Vernon & District Garden Club.

Please Submit your resume prior to August 1, 2026

**Coffee Break Snacks**  
Thank you in advance for the  
June Snacks:  
Jane White  
Linda Kapalka  
Tobi Danford



# Historic Newsletter Tidbits

*In 1990 our Garden Club meetings were held in the Arts Centre*

GARDENERS - WHO ARE WE?? As Mother Nature throws it's challenges at us we ask ourselves - why am I doing this? Some experts from a recently published book by Marilyn Wood "The Calgary Gardener." I once planted gladioli bulbs upside down "says Wood in an effort to point out that gardeners are not born knowledgable, they grow into it. "Gardening is therapeutic. It's awfully good for the soul and goes on to explain it occupies the hands while letting the brain run free to deal with other matters and life's problems have a way of getting themselves solved while we garden.

## SOMEONE ELSE

I wish to advise the Council was saddened to learn this week of the passing of one of our club members, "Someone Else". Someone's passing creates a vacancy that will be difficult to fill. Else has been with us for many years, and did far more than a normal person's share of the work. Whenever there was a job to do or a meeting to attend, one name was on everyone's list: "Let Someone Else do it".

It was common knowledge that Someone Else was among the largest givers in the Club. Whenever there was a need, everyone just assumed that Someone Else would do it. Someone Else was a wonderful person, sometimes appearing superhuman, but a person can only do so much. Were the truth known, everybody expected too much of Someone Else.

Now Else is gone. We wonder what we are going to do. Someone Else left a wonderful example to follow, but who is going to follow things that Someone Else did?

When you are asked to help, please remember, "we cannot depend on Someone Else any more".

CAN WE DEPEND ON YOU?

Ron Eveleigh in his address to the G.C.  
Council of Garden Club Conference  
March, 1982

*The kiss of the sun for pardon,  
The song of the birds for mirth  
One is nearer Gods heart in the garden  
Than anywhere else on earth*

## General Meeting minutes May 26,2026

Viv A welcomed everyone at the door.

Co-President Linda A welcomed everyone to this celebration meeting for our 100th anniversary.

**Flower Show** - Elisabeth R let us know there is a sign-up sheet being passed around for volunteering at the Flower Show on June 20. The show is open to everyone. Please bring flowers to show in the many available categories.

**Picnic** - Elisabeth also reminded us of the Club Picnic on July 28 at Coldstream Park. On the sign-up sheet, please write if you are coming or not coming. She phones everyone that does not add their name to the sign up sheet so if you are not planning to come please write that on the sheet so she doesn't have to call you.

**Presentation** - Linda A introduced Mario Lanthier. His presentation: 100 years of Pest Management Past, Present and Future.

**Sale Table** - Terry L highlighted the many great items available tonight. There is a Donation tin on the table for cash donations. If your donation is not purchased tonight, please take it back home at the end of the meeting.

**Refreshments** - Thank you Roberta D, Joyce C, Kim T, and Kerry R. Tuxedo cake from Save-On.

**Previous Month Minutes** - Linda asked if there are any questions about the April minutes published in the newsletter. None. Viv A made a motion for the minutes to be accepted. Seconded by Elisabeth R. All in favour.

**Financial Report** - Linda asked if there are any questions about the report that was emailed. None. Viv A made a motion for the report to be accepted. Seconded by Lisa D. All in favour.

**Plant Sale** - Danielle H thanked everyone for their participation. All of the donations were amazing and all of you volunteering and your hard work made the sale very successful. Sales were the best ever, and expenses are again small due to all of the donations. Final numbers will be published in the upcoming financial statement.

### 100 Year Celebration

**Centenarian Birthdays** - Viv A reminded us of this ongoing project. Each month the Team is delivering a bouquet to those turning 100 or more. 8 bouquets have been delivered so far.

**New Logo** - Janet S reminded us of our new logo. The logo is on all of our event posters.

**Club History** - Janet asked everyone to please submit your comment card on what the Club means to you. Paper or email submissions accepted. Please include a photo of your garden.

**People Place Garden Tour** - Janet reminded us of the tour on June 6. 6 of the 8 gardens are Club Members.

Linda let us know she has a few tickets to sell tonight. Tickets are \$20 each. Tickets are available at: Rusty Spur, Nicholas Alexander, Buckerfields, Flower Spot, Swan Lake, Olive Us, Oopsie Daisy Flowers, and Blue Mountain Nursery. The Hospice House gardens are included in the tour. The new boulevard garden is looking great. Also new deer fence has been installed.

## General Meeting minutes May 26,2026

Enderby Garden Club Members attending tonight offered congratulations on our 100th Anniversary. Their Club is celebrating 25 years!

**Grow and Show** - Teresa A let us know there are over 90 entries tonight. Well done! She asked for feedback: did it make a difference that there was no judging tonight? Laura offered that there are a lot more nice flowers in our gardens this month. Teresa did a draw of all participants, a prize of plant supports. Won by: June B.

**Hospice House Rose Garden** - Rodger P let us know that the deer have done a recent deadheading. He is happy with the new deer fence! He will be emailing the summer deadheading schedule tomorrow. The schedule begins mid June. He has emailed the introduction handout. There are printed handouts on the table tonight for anyone looking for a paper copy.

2 Tickets to the People Place Garden Tour - won by Eric S.  
Opportunity draw - won by Roberta D.  
Door prizes - everyone receives a free pair of garden gloves.

Next meeting is Tuesday June 23 at 7:00pm

### Speaker Mario Lanthier May 26, 2026



100 year celebration May 26, 2026  
and Grow and Show display



People's Place Garden tour June 6, 2026



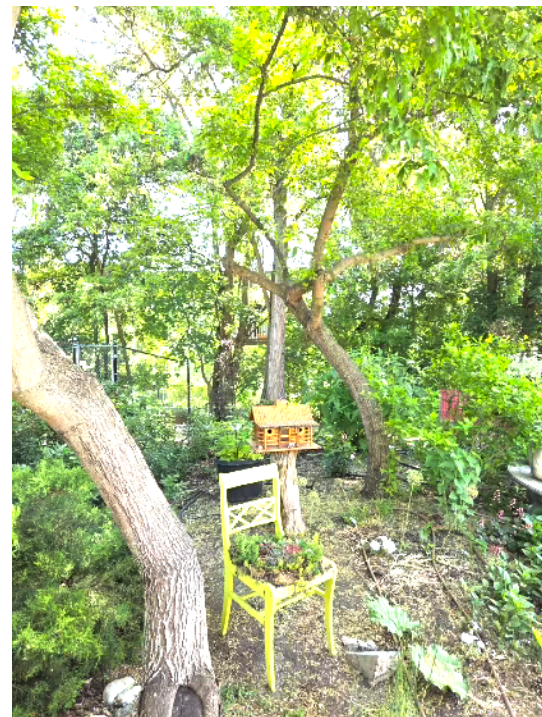
Linda Andrews garden



Norma Bonar's garden.



The Garden at Hospice house



## Grow and Show: June 23, 2026

**Red font items** are featured this month for judging. All other items are given participation points only.

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 on the tables.

No more than two entries per person, per category. Thank you.

### A. HOUSEPLANT DIVISION

1. **Sansevieria Super Stars (Snake plant)**
2. Open Class: any other houseplant

### B. CUT FLOWER SPECIMENS

3. **Hybrid Tea Rose — one bud**
4. Hybrid Tea Rose — one flower
5. Rose Spray — one miniature or floribunda Rose Spray
6. David Austin (English Rose) — one flower or spray
7. Any Rose not listed
8. Fragrant Rose — one flower in a bowl sealed with plastic wrap
9. Fern — one frond, any variety
10. **Clematis — one flower**
11. Lily — one stem ( not Hemerocallis aka daylily)
12. Hosta leaves — 3 leaves of the same variety
13. A collection of a minimum of 5 different flowers ( maximum 20) a single stem of each)
14. Open Class: anything else from the garden



### C. FLORAL ART DIVISION

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

15. **“Tiny Rose” — an exhibit under 5”, featuring miniature roses**
16. “Happy Hour” — an exhibit in a wine glass or cocktail glass
17. “Pretty in Pink” — an exhibit featuring pink. Other colours allowed....any flowers
18. Open Class — any exhibit you have created

### D. FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

19. Open Class — 3 fruits of the same variety
20. **Open Class — 3 vegetables of the same variety**

### E. THE IMAGE GARDEN

21. Photos and/or images of your garden this June — a collection of three or more photographs, or one drawing or painting any medium.

## Supporting School Gardening Programs

by Teresa Atkinson and Kerry Richardson

Each year the Vernon and District Garden Club gives support to local schools for their gardening projects. We increased our support this year from \$200 to \$250 for eligible schools. This small grant means a lot to the teachers who lead the projects, enabling them to buy seeds, soil amendments, plants and tools.

We believe that supporting schools in this way is a worthwhile endeavour. We are helping to introduce children to a love of plants, nature and gardening. Many of them are learning for the first time that a radish grows in the ground and there are beneficial insects in our gardens.

This year the following schools are being supported:

Fulton Secondary	Alexis Park Elementary	Beairsto Elementary
Kidston Elementary	Lavington Elementary	Okanagan Landing Elementary
Saint James Elementary		

Here are some of the comments made by the teachers who are active in their school garden programs.

Caitlyn of Fulton Secondary writes,

*“Our school garden is a vital learning environment for students in our special education program. It provides hands-on opportunities to grow food, build life skills, and strengthen connections to health, land, and community. We are seeking funding to enhance this program so it can continue to meet the needs of our students as enrollment grows.*

*We are incredibly grateful for your generous support through the Vernon District Garden Club. The \$250 donation is deeply appreciated and will make a real difference as we continue to build and sustain our garden program. Your encouragement and belief in our vision means a great deal to us.”*

Mark of St. James Elementary writes,

*“The garden is the focal point for math and environmental science for our Grade 2/3 students. The concepts of water cycle, seasons, local food security and climate change are all explored through the garden lens. Students learn to plant and grow seeds indoors for the next season. They learn about harvesting and how to celebrate our local food...In the future we would like to expand our garden and incorporate more local and indigenous plants that use less water. We would like to do more work with our indigenous friends to connect learning with indigenous ways.”*

Charlene at Kidston Elementary made note of the following benefits to children,

- *Connections with Nature*
- *Mental health wellness and self-agency*
- *Responsibility in caring for the garden/plants*
- *Collaboration with peers/staff with greater curiosity/care*
- *Learning about interconnectedness with Nature*
- *Learning about growing, composting, from garden to food to share*
- *Learning about unfamiliar plants and the food they provide for our bodies: For example - creating a salad bowl that sparked enthusiasm, discussions, increased willingness to try "new" foods because "I grew it!"*

Sara of Beirsto Elementary writes,

" The garden offers a wild space in our city school. It is the only location of wild nature on our school grounds. Our garden is open to all, all the time and students spend time there during their breaks (recesses), with their classes and teachers during school and before and after school. They garden, they smell flowers, they eat mint, they have intimate encounters with wildlife (snails and butterflies are everywhere right now!), they find treasures to make stories with (rocks, petals, sticks) and they have time to just sit and be. It has huge benefits for the mental health of our school community."

In addition, this year we have decided to support the 3 Sisters Teaching Garden at the newly established *sncəcməłqtn* Agricultural Park (SAP) on East Vernon Road. School children from all around the district are visiting the garden on Wednesdays to learn about the interplanting of corn, beans and pumpkins (known as the 3 sisters). They have been planting seeds, weeding and learning about Indigenous connections to the land. In the fall they will harvest the corn and share the pumpkins. The lead gardener, Dawn Guenette, is hoping to add native plants into the garden and our grant will help with the purchase of suitable plants.

More information about the SAP can be found at this link <https://www.rdno.ca/our-communities/rdno-news/community-garden-blooms-agricultural-park-amidst-exciting-developments>

The SAP is an amazing project. We are looking into to booking a tour for Vernon and District Garden Club members.



## Okanagan Landing Elementary School Garden



**Please fill in Janet Stoll's survey about:  
What the Garden Club means to you and  
add a picture of you and/ or your garden**

### *a Request from the Newsletter editor*

When submitting pictures for the Newsletter please submit in original format or at least over 1 MB or Google Drive  
This will result in a good quality photo for the newsletter.  
Many thanks, Maaike

# "What to do for your Garden this month"

## CONTAINER GARDENS & FLOWERS

### Keep the blooms coming

Regular dead-heading encourages annuals to produce more flowers throughout the season. Remove spent blooms from hanging baskets, planters, and flower beds to keep plants looking fresh and colourful. Feed flowering plants with Nurseryland Power Bloom 10-40-25 to support continuous blooming.

### Make feeding easier

Busy schedule? Consider using Bylands Container Food 14-14-14 for hanging baskets and containers. The slow-release formula provides consistent nutrition for weeks at a time.

## VEGETABLE GARDEN

Now is the time to focus on tomato care

Tomatoes grow rapidly in June and benefit from a little extra attention. Pinch out unwanted side shoots to direct energy into fruit production and fertilise regularly with a calcium-based tomato fertiliser.

## TREES & SHRUBS

### Success starts at the roots

June is still an excellent time to add new trees and shrubs to your landscape. Use bone meal at planting time and water deeply after planting to encourage strong root development.

Sprinkler irrigation may not be thorough enough during hot spells. Supplement with hand watering.

## PEST & DISEASES Stay ahead of common garden problems

Warm weather brings increased activity from insects and plant diseases.

Safer's 3-in-1 Garden Spray can help manage common issues such as aphids, spider mites, and powdery mildew before they become major problems.

### Protect hostas and tender plants

Slugs and snails are especially active this time of year. Apply pet-friendly Ortho Slug B Gon around susceptible plants to help prevent damage.

## LAWN CARE

Keep your lawn healthy this summer with proactive care. Regular feeding and watering are the keys to a healthy lawn during the warmer months.

Apply Nurseryland Premium Lawn Food 31-0-6 and water thoroughly afterwards to keep your lawn thick, green, and actively growing.

## WEED CONTROL

### Don't let weeds take over

June weeds grow just as quickly as garden plants. Pull weeds regularly before they set seed and spread throughout the garden.

Visit us in store for expert advice on what method of weed control is best for your garden.



Courtesy of

## 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](http://Tiny.cc/Vernon26)

E-transfers are recommended and accepted.:

[treasurer.vdgc@gmail.com](mailto: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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Please bring your

**Butcher Boys**  
and  
**Nature's Fare**  
receipts



### **Important dates coming up in Garden Club**

**June 20:** Our Annual Flower Show. This year it will be in the Schubert Centre. See the website for more details

**July 28:** Our Annual Picnic in Coldstream Park see Sign-up sheet with Elisabeth

## Executive 2026

### **Co-Presidents**

Roberta Drinkwater 250-309-4315  
Linda Andrews 250-938-0484

### **Past Presidents**

Sharon Hopkins 306-229-0881  
Jen Owen 403-613-9829

### **Co-Secretaries**

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### **Treasurer**

Bruce Andrews 250-307-8047

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