



## FALL 2026 NEWSLETTER

# INSIDE THIS ISSUE

 PG. 2-9

Pollinator Week Bioblitz; Baaa-th Gardening Club Celebrates Canada Day; A Delightful Afternoon Tea; Fall Gardening Checklist

 PG. 10-14

Join Us! PG MG & Bugtel Update; Sun Harvest Greenhouses Tour; Fall Fun at the Sunday Market in Bath; The Tree That Almost Didn't Get Planted

 PG. 14-22

The Rescue; Trowel & Error; National Moth Week; Village Planting Update

 PG. 22-24

An Afternoon at the ROM; Wired to the Wild

*Written by: Kim Bonner*

*Edited by: Laurie Minorgan; Photography by: Kim Bonner, Don Taylor; Carol Cartier; Roxanna Beddington; Janice Firth*





## 2026 POLLINATOR WEEK BIOBLITZ – EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED!

One of the best things about participating in the Pollinator Week BioBlitz is discovering something you never knew before. This year's observations certainly didn't disappoint!

Mind-blowing fact: **mosquitoes are pollinators**. Yes, the same insects that bite you also visit flowers for nectar. Both males and females help transfer pollen, making them unlikely contributors to healthy ecosystems. Thanks for the pollination, but we'd still prefer you kept your distance!



There's nothing miserable about the impressive "**pollen pants**" on this gentle, ground-nesting native bee resting on common milkweed - only its name, which is Miserable Mining Bee! Why it was given such an unfortunate name has been lost to history.

Another surprise was this Masked Bee seen on evening primrose. Unlike most bees, masked bees don't carry pollen on their legs or underneath their abdomen. Instead, they **collect pollen in a special pouch** in their crop - a sort of "pollen backpack" inside their body - and transport it back to their nest where they... spit it up!



And just when we thought fireflies only came out after dark, we spotted a pair of Say's Fireflies snuggling up on common milkweed in broad daylight! Did you know that **fireflies are beetles, not flies**, and that every species has its own unique flashing pattern to attract a mate?



We were kind of conflicted about this Common White-Cheeked Jumping Spider as it's **a pollinator but also hunts bees**. It's all part of the circle of life but if we see the two come face-to-face, we're rooting for the bee.

This observation (below) wasn't a new species at all, but a glorious photograph of an Augochlorine Sweat Bee resting on the Bugtel structure that is so detailed that you can **see the 3 ocelli (eyes) on its forehead** — a reminder that even the tiniest moments can reveal fascinating behaviours when we stop and look closely.

The BioBlitz reminded us that even the smallest creatures can have amazing stories to tell. The more closely we look, the more we discover that our gardens are full of fascinating neighbours just waiting to be noticed.

Curious to see more creatures? So far in 2026, we've spotted **more than 100 different species** of insects, birds, and other wildlife! Visit iNaturalist to discover the amazing diversity at our club's Pollinator Garden & Bugtel:

<https://www.inaturalist.ca/projects/2026-bath-pollinator-garden-and-bugtel>



## BEHIND THE BAAA-TH GARDENING CLUB'S CANADA DAY FLOCK

If you wondered where the Bath Gardening Club's charming flock of flower-covered sheep came from this Canada Day, the answer starts with a single photograph.

"Some time ago, I had seen a picture of 'pretend' sheep on an acreage," explained Sue Nilsson. "Their bodies were covered in artificial flowers. My mind started working overtime and I pictured them on a float advertising the Baaa-th Gardening Club! The idea evolved from there."



The project was a great example of creativity on a budget. Flowers were purchased at an end-of-season sale for 80% off, decorative mesh was bought during Christmas sales, recycled ice cream buckets from Castaways became the sheep bodies, and scrap wood was used to build the legs. Club member Joanna Spernick donated hydrangeas from her garden, which were spray-painted red to add even more colour to the display. “I was rather proud of the fact that we kept the cost to a minimum,” Sue said.



The float was truly a team effort. An estimated 20 volunteers contributed at various stages, while a core planning group of three or four guided the project from concept to completion. During the club's June meeting, members assembled the sheep by gluing on ears and eyes, embroidering faces and tying decorative mesh bows. Special thanks also went to Brian Nilsson, who cut, painted and securely attached all the sheep's wooden legs.



The reward came as the float made its way through the streets of Bath. “We received a lot of cheers from the crowds, which made it all worthwhile,” Sue said. “We were all pretty proud of it when we could stand back and take a look at how it all came together.”



## Behind the Wheel

For the second year in a row, Dave and Adam Bryant volunteered to tow the Bath Gardening Club's Canada Day float, helping bring the club's creative vision safely through the streets of Bath.

“We volunteered to tow the Garden Club float last year, so this is our second year,” Dave said. “The Garden Club is amazing. There is a lot of positive energy and respect amongst the members.”

While spectators see a beautifully decorated float rolling by, the driver's job requires constant attention. “As a driver, you need to be aware of the crowd, watch for children who may wander onto the road, and try not to run over the ladies walking in front of me,” he joked.

The best part of the day, however, is seeing the community's reaction. “A smile from the people and a ‘Happy Canada Day!’ makes it all worth it,” he said.

Although there weren't too many unexpected moments this year, he did enjoy watching the fun along the parade route. “I guess the water pistols and kids screaming when they got wet—that was about it!” he laughed.

Looking back on the day, both drivers agreed they were happy to be involved. “Adam and I really enjoy being part of the parade with the Bath Gardening Club.”



## A Conversation with Our Canada Day Organizers

As the float made its way down the parade route and the crowd began pointing, smiling, and waving, it was obvious to Laurie Minorgan and Diane Nolting – who headed-up the committee - that the months of planning, building, and decorating had paid off.

The Bath Gardening Club has earned a reputation for creating memorable Canada Day floats, and this year's cheerful display proudly lived up to that tradition. Seeing the smiles on people's faces - and hearing so many compliments afterward - made every hour of effort worthwhile.

One of the Ontario Horticultural Association's goals is to encourage young people to become involved in horticulture and community activities, so we were especially pleased to include six enthusiastic young participants in this year's parade. Diane and Sue recruited the group, with four handing out candy to the hundreds of spectators along the route, while two younger children enjoyed the celebration from beautifully decorated wagons.

Although the float was truly a team effort, watching the children laughing, waving, and proudly representing the Bath Gardening Club was the highlight of the day. Their excitement perfectly captured the spirit of the event and reminded us that gardening clubs are about growing communities as much as gardens.



## From Parade Stars to Community Stars

The float's biggest celebrities - its charming sheep - are continuing their community tour long after the parade. Six have found new homes at **Books on Main**, **Moodie's Ice Cream Shack**, and **Janasen Lifestyle**, where visitors can stop in and say hello. Two more have been adopted by a local kindergarten class, where they're sure to become much-loved classroom companions for years to come.

The sheep may have stolen the show this year, but if history is any guide, our creative Canada Day Committee will find a way to surprise us all again next July!



## BEHIND THE SCENES OF OUR DELIGHTFUL AFTERNOON TEA

Our garden club's recent Afternoon Tea at Loyalist Golf and Country Club was a wonderful success, but behind the elegant bone china, delicious treats and royal décor was a remarkable amount of planning.



Mauricio Alfaro, Food and Beverage Director, shared a glimpse into what it took to create such a memorable afternoon. Although this was only the second afternoon tea hosted at the club, the team hopes to make it a regular tradition. To capture the authentic feel of an English afternoon tea, they first visited several tea rooms to learn what makes the experience so special. Their vision was clear: an intimate setting filled with royal memorabilia, where only fine bone china would do.

*Photo of Maricio compliments of Myers Media*

Bringing that vision to life took an entire year of planning, researching and collecting. Pieces were carefully sourced from antique shops, second-hand and housewares stores, along with donations from the community. They began with enough china to serve 20 guests and have since expanded their collection to accommodate 24.



The menu was very much a team effort. After plenty of research, both online and in person, they settled on a traditional selection of scones, tea sandwiches, mini cupcakes and, naturally, clotted cream, accompanied by a thoughtfully chosen assortment of teas.

One of the biggest challenges wasn't the food—it was the tea! Serving everyone piping hot tea at the same time proved surprisingly difficult. During their very first afternoon tea, so many kettles were boiling that they repeatedly tripped the kitchen breakers. Fortunately, they've since perfected a system that keeps the tea flowing smoothly.

Caring for the beautiful bone china is another labour of love. Every cup, saucer, teapot and cake stand is individually handwashed and carefully stored to protect these delicate treasures.



For Maurizio, the highlight of the afternoon wasn't in the kitchen at all. "Seeing all the garden club ladies resplendent in their dresses, gloves and fascinator hats was my favourite moment," he said.

His hope was simple: that everyone enjoyed a delicious afternoon together and left with happy memories—and judging by the smiles around the room, we'd say they certainly did.

A heartfelt thank you to Janice Firth for organizing such a lovely afternoon tea for garden club members!



## JOIN US FOR ANOTHER GREAT GARDENING YEAR!

With nearly 100 members, the Bath Gardening Club is a thriving, volunteer-run organization where gardeners of all experience levels connect through a shared love of gardening while learning, exchanging ideas, and helping make our community more beautiful.



Membership includes inspiring speakers, garden tours, field trips, social events, discounts at participating garden centres, and the friendships that make our club so special.

If you're ready for another season of inspiration, learning, and fun - or are considering joining us for the first time - we'd love to welcome you to the Bath Gardening Club.

Memberships run from **September 1 to August 31**. This year's members will receive a redesigned membership card featuring our club's new logo.

For more information visit our [Membership Benefits](#) and [Join now!](#) Pages.

## FALL GARDENING CHECKLIST



# Fall GARDENING CHECKLIST

Simple jobs now for a healthy garden next spring.  
*Plant • Protect • Prepare • Provide*

### September

PLANT, DIVIDE & OBSERVE

- ☐ Plant trees, shrubs and perennials.
- ☐ Plant spring-flowering bulbs (daffodils, tulips, crocuses, alliums).
- ☐ Divide overcrowded perennials.
- ☐ Collect seeds from favourite flowers.
- ☐ Water newly planted trees and shrubs deeply.
- ☐ Remove diseased plant material.
- ☐ Top-dress garden beds with compost.
- ☐ Take notes on what worked well this season.



### October

PREPARE, BUT DON'T OVERDO IT

- ☐ Plant garlic.
- ☐ Finish planting spring bulbs.
- ☐ Add compost to garden beds.
- ☐ Mulch newly planted trees and shrubs.
- ☐ Protect young trees from rabbits and rodents.
- ☐ Clean, sharpen and oil garden tools.
- ☐ Empty and clean containers before freezing weather.
- ☐ Leave healthy perennial stems standing for native bees.
- ☐ Leave fallen leaves in garden beds or add to compost.
- ☐ Leave seed heads on flowers for birds.



### November

PUT THE GARDEN TO BED

- ☐ Drain and store garden hoses.
- ☐ Shut off outdoor water taps if needed.
- ☐ Empty bird baths and fountains that could crack.
- ☐ Water evergreens well before the ground freezes if autumn has been dry.
- ☐ Apply winter mulch after the ground has frozen.
- ☐ Store garden furniture and decorations.
- ☐ Check that stakes and tree ties are secure before winter winds.
- ☐ Continue to leave seed heads and leaves for wildlife.
- ☐ Enjoy the quiet beauty of your winter garden!



Image generated using ChatGPT



## POLLINATOR GARDEN, MEMORIAL GROVE & BUGTEL UPDATE



It's been another busy and rewarding season. With more than 35 varieties of plants providing blooms throughout the season, the gardens have continued to grow and flourish.

This year's additions include Eastern Redbud, Ninebark, Blue False Indigo, Ruby Spice Summersweet, Little Bluestem, Calendula, Gaura, Globe Allium, Zinnia, Wild Strawberry, and Lamb's Ear.

An updated version of the [Pollinator Garden Guide](#) is now available, which includes the recent additions mentioned above, as well as handy tips on how to sow and harvest seeds. Did you know that most of the photos in the guide – like those at left and at the end of this article - were taken in our gardens? Check it out!

A heartfelt thank you from Kim and Carol to the following people who gave their time, care, and energy to help Bath's pollinators thrive this summer. This special garden is flourishing because of you - Janice Firth, Laurie Minorgan, Margaret Wheatley, Sandra Lowman, Marnie Brough, Donna Mills and Mary Lynne Alderdice.

A big thank you too to Dave and Adam Bryant for keeping our water barrels filled throughout the season and for trimming the long grass around the gardens. These behind-the-scenes jobs make a real difference, helping us keep the garden looking cared for and ensuring there's always water on hand when our plants need it.



Come visit, there's still lots to see! Take the path from Bath Park at 217 Church St and follow the signs to the Pollinator Garden & Memorial Grove.

- **September:** Still quite active. Bumblebees, honeybees, hoverflies, butterflies and other insects continue visiting asters, goldenrods and other late bloomers.
- **October:** Activity drops noticeably, but on sunny, mild days you can still see bumblebees, small native bees, hoverflies and occasional butterflies feeding.



## SUN HARVEST GREENHOUSES TOUR *BY KORNELIA THOMPSON*

A beautiful start to a beautiful day!

On July 7<sup>th</sup>, members of the Bath Gardening Club enjoyed a fascinating tour of Sun Harvest Greenhouses, a family-run business that has been growing since 2002.



A very enthusiastic Allison Shannon led us on a very interesting & informative tour.

At the start there were shrubs, annuals, perennials, beautiful planters & hanging baskets to be seen.

In the greenhouses beyond the main retail area, we saw an impressive variety of plants being grown hydroponically, including lettuce, enormous tomato plants, blackberries, raspberries, strawberries and mums.

They also have a flower cutting garden where customers can cut their own.

A porch pot membership is available for designer planters (spring, summer, fall & winter).

In the main area gift items are available, as well as (the day we were there), basil (very fragrant), romaine (gorgeous) & tomatoes (very tasty). There was also jam & honey available.

It was a wonderful opportunity to see just how much goes on behind the scenes at a greenhouse operation. The tour comes highly recommended!

A big thank-you to Janice Firth for organizing such an enjoyable outing, and to Allison for sharing her enthusiasm and knowledge with us.



## THE SUNDAY MARKET IN BATH CONTINUES THROUGH OCTOBER

---



Summer may be winding down, but there's still plenty of time to enjoy one of Bath's favourite weekly traditions.

The market continues every Sunday until October 25, from 10am – 2pm in Centennial Park North, 336 Main St in Bath.

Drop by and say hi to club members volunteering at the **BGC table** on September 20<sup>th</sup> and October 25<sup>th</sup>!

Bring your kids and grandkids to the Bath Sunday Market anytime this season, but be sure to visit on Sunday, October 25, when they can decorate their own **reusable Hallowe'en tote**. The market organizers provide all the supplies - and even take care of the clean-up - so all your little artists have to do is enjoy the fun!

For more information, visit the [Sunday Market in Bath](#) website.

Save the date for your **favourite local performers!**



## THE TREE THAT ALMOST DIDN'T GET PLANTED *BY CAROL CARTIER*

People often think planting a tree is a simple job. Dig a hole, place the tree in, fill it with soil, water it, and you're done.

Sometimes it's not quite that easy.

Earlier this year, one of the serviceberry trees in our Memorial Garden beside the Bugtel became very sick with fire blight, all around the main trunk. It was clear that it needed to be replaced, and thanks to a generous grant from Amrize, we were able to purchase a beautiful new serviceberry tree. We were incredibly grateful for their support and looked forward to seeing the new tree become part of the Memorial Garden.

When the tree arrived, however, we quickly discovered we had a challenge. Its root ball was enormous. The nursery explained that we would need machinery to dig a hole large enough to plant it properly.

We contacted someone who had the equipment, but all his machinery was already committed to other jobs. The next person we approached told us they had finished their tree planting for the season and couldn't help.

Days turned into weeks.

Then weeks turned into eight.

Our poor tree sat patiently waiting for its forever home. We carried pails of water to it regularly to keep the root ball moist, but despite our efforts, some of the leaves began to turn brown. Each time I walked past it, I worried that we had waited too long.



Then, as so often happens in a small community, the right person appeared at just the right time.

A few months earlier, I had met Keith, a friendly gentleman who enjoys doing odd jobs. He had cleaned up our garden at home and had even researched the best way to paint our front porch before giving it a beautiful new finish. I knew he took pride in doing things properly, so I asked if he would consider helping us plant the tree.

His answer surprised me.

One of his previous businesses was a tree-planting company.

Sometimes you couldn't ask for a better coincidence.

Keith carefully removed the diseased serviceberry, dug the new planting hole, added fresh soil, fertilizer, and mulch, and expertly planted the new tree. Before long, it was standing proudly in its new home in the Memorial Garden beside the Bugtel.

Looking at it today, it's hard to imagine the journey it took to get there. Visitors see a healthy young serviceberry tree, but behind it is a story of generous community support, patient persistence, and someone with exactly the right skills arriving at exactly the right moment.

Thank you to Amrize for purchasing the tree, and thank you, Keith, for ensuring it found its forever home. Every tree in the Memorial Garden tells a story, and this one reminds me that sometimes the best things require a little patience—and the kindness of good people.



## THE RESCUE BY CAROL CARTIER

---

Janice Firth has the kind of garden that makes people slow down as they walk by. Every corner is filled with colour and life, and beneath the shade of a magnificent old pine tree, lush hostas create a cool, leafy sanctuary for birds, butterflies and the occasional curious chipmunk.

One morning Janice was happily weeding beneath the hostas, when she heard an unusual sound. "Squeak... squeak... squeak..." She paused and looked around but couldn't see anything. The sound came again, and this time she caught the briefest glimpse of a tiny baby chipmunk darting between the leaves. Something didn't seem quite right, but the little fellow moved so quickly that she couldn't get a good look. Not wanting to frighten him, Janice returned to her gardening and eventually wandered to another flower bed.



A few minutes later, the squeaking began again, only this time it was getting closer. Janice looked down in surprise. There, slowly making his way toward her, was the little chipmunk. Every few steps he struggled, dragging something behind him. As he came nearer, Janice finally saw the problem. One tiny paw was caught in a mouse trap.

The poor little creature looked exhausted. Instead of running away from the giant human kneeling in the garden, he had done the opposite. Somehow, he had decided that this was the person who might be able to help. Perhaps, in his own little chipmunk way, he had reasoned that anyone who cared enough to create such a beautiful garden couldn't possibly be unkind.

Janice gently reached down and examined the trap. Speaking softly so she wouldn't frighten him, she carefully pressed down on the plastic arm that held the trap shut. In an instant, the pressure released, and the little paw slipped free.

For just a heartbeat, the baby chipmunk remained perfectly still. Then he scampered toward the safety of the trees. Halfway there, he stopped and turned ever so slightly to look back at Janice. It lasted only a second, but Janice could have sworn it was a look of gratitude—a tiny, silent "thank you" from one small life to another. Then he disappeared beneath the hostas and into the garden once more.

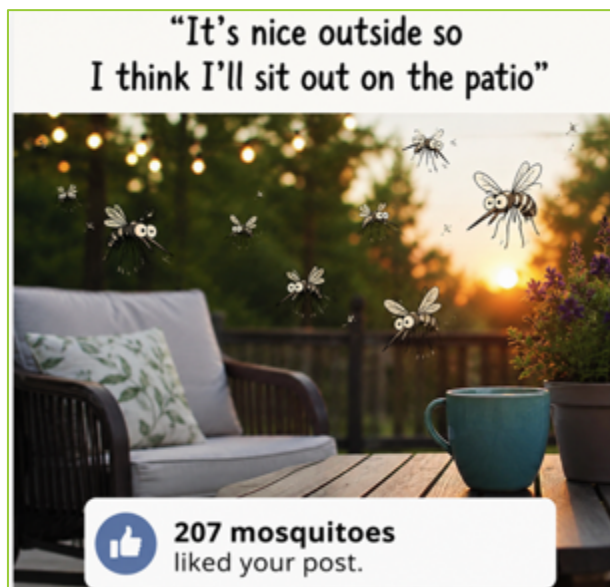
As Janice watched him go, she smiled. We often think that kindness is something we choose to give, but sometimes kindness begins when someone—no matter how small—finds the courage to ask for help.



## TROWEL AND ERROR

---

Gardening and spending time outdoors doesn't always go according to plan. **Trowel & Error** is a collection of gardening jokes, amusing observations, and the kinds of mistakes that make the best stories.



Images generated by ChatGPT

## Fluff Happens

Last fall I brought a few common milkweed pods indoors, thinking I'd spend five quiet minutes collecting seeds.

The first pod opened beautifully. I felt like a gardening expert.

The second exploded.

In an instant, silky fluff floated through the kitchen, drifted down the hallway, clung to my cardigan, and somehow found its way into my coffee. Every time I thought I'd caught it all, another tiny tuft sailed by.

I was still finding milkweed silk behind the sofa at Christmas.

**Gardener's Tip:** Before pulling the seeds from the pod, run a fine-toothed comb down the silky tuft. The comb catches the fluff while the seeds slip free, making seed collecting much faster—and keeping your house from looking like a snow globe.



## UNDER THE COVER OF DARKNESS: A NATIONAL MOTH WEEK ADVENTURE

Did you know that moths are highly **effective nighttime pollinators**, transferring pollen as they visit flowers for nectar and helping many plants reproduce after dark?

Most visitors experience our club's Pollinator Garden in the warmth of the sunshine, surrounded by buzzing bees and fluttering butterflies. But during **National Moth Week** (July 18-26), we discovered that the garden has an entirely different personality after dark.



As part of our National Moth Week adventure, we decided to try two **moth-attracting techniques** recommended by lepidopterists. At dusk, Carol and I slathered homemade moth bait across the roof of our Bugtel, and draped wine-soaked ropes through the dogwood shrubs, hoping the sweet, fermented scents would lure in some nighttime visitors. Then we waited. And waited. The moths, it seems, had other plans.



**Temperature, humidity, wind, moonlight** - and even what flowers are blooming nearby - can all influence whether moths decide to stop by. While our efforts didn't generate the flurry of activity we'd hoped for, the evening was far from a disappointment. We learned more about what makes a successful mothing night, and, after all, every new experience is a chance to learn, explore, and have fun.

We returned the next night, joined by our club's official photographer, Don Taylor and his wife Pat Chown. As twilight settled over the garden, they transformed our "Be a Bee" photo op board into a **moth-watching station** by draping a crisp white sheet over it and shining a UV light onto the fabric.

Before long, the sheet became a beacon for nighttime visitors. Here are the fascinating moths we spotted, along with a few surprising facts about each one, beginning at the top left picture and moving clockwise.

- **Microcrambus elegans**, with markings resembling a Halloween pumpkin carving.
- **Blastobasis tarda**, a global traveller that originated in Australia and gradually spread around the globe.
- **Limnaecia phragmitella**, a species that feeds on cattail seeds, overwintering inside them as larva. (Note: despite its similar-sounding name it doesn't feed on invasive phragmites reeds.)
- Undoubtedly a male of the **Alsophila pometaria** species, since the females lack wings and look more like spiders than moths.
- **Eusarca Confusaria**, a master of camouflage resembling a dry, curled leaf.



That evening Don photographed 26 other creepy crawlies in a little over an hour. Here are a few of the most eye-catching characters:

- **Collembola** - Slender Springtail - gets its name for its ability to catapult itself many times its own body length using a spring-like tail tucked beneath its abdomen. The vibrant violet colour caught on camera is caused by light refraction.
- **Brachiacantha ursina** is a helpful garden predator whose larvae and adults feast on aphids and other pests. It's just one of over 80 species of ladybugs in Ontario!
- **Misumessus oblongus** - American Crab Spider - may look delicate, but don't let that fool you - this tiny ambush predator waits patiently on flowers before pouncing on unsuspecting flies, beetles, aphids, bees, and even butterflies.



And then there's our member, Janice Firth, who wasn't trying to attract moths at all. One morning, she opened her front door and was greeted by a spectacular Polyphemus Moth resting on her doormat. So, while Carol and I were busy mixing bait, hanging wine-soaked ropes, and eagerly hoping for visitors, Ontario's largest native moth decided to make an unexpected house call instead! As if that weren't enough, just a few days later, Janice received another surprise visitor—a beautiful Tiger Moth.

Sometimes, it seems the best way to find moths is to stop looking for them!



To see a complete list of moths and other pollinators found at our club's Pollinator Garden and Bugtel, click on this link: [Bath Pollinator Garden Observations posted on iNaturalist](#)



## VILLAGE PLANTING UPDATE

---

The Village Planting is one of the Bath Gardening Club's longest running and most recognizable community projects. Each spring, volunteers bring colour to the heart of Bath, filling barrels, planters and public gardens throughout the village with flowers that will brighten our streets all summer long.

And this summer, all that effort certainly paid off! The gardens were beautiful, bursting with colour and creating welcoming spaces for residents and visitors alike. These photos capture just a little of what could be enjoyed throughout the village this season.

A heartfelt thank-you goes out to Val Behm, Elaine Nicholson, Pat Chown, Marnie Brough, Marjory Brunsdon, Joanna Sperinck, Jeri Love, Roxanna Beddington, Michelle Smythe, Wendy O'Reilly, Donna Mills, Mary Drinkwater, Sheri Wenzl, Don Taylor, Mike Nicholson, Tristan at Flourish Landscaping - and village residents living near the bridge - for all the time, care and hard work you put into the Village Planting this year. From planting and watering to weeding and keeping everything looking its best throughout the season, your efforts made a wonderful difference!



Elaine and Val in Centennial Park

Marnie and Pat at the Denys Mailhiot Memorial Garden





Garden bed at Schell's Market Inc.

Garden bed in front of the Bath Post Office



One of several planters at Centennial Park South



Coming in spring 2027: a fresh look for the streetscape, featuring modern, Canadian-made Equinox Desert Planters in place of the existing barrels.

Designed with a built-in self-watering system, the **new planters** feature a concealed water reservoir beneath the soil. Water is added through an opening at the top, allowing the reservoir to supply moisture to the plants as needed. Under normal conditions, the reservoirs only require refilling every two weeks, reducing maintenance while promoting healthier plants.

Measuring 20" x 20" x 20", the new planters will stand approximately five inches taller than the existing barrels while being about two inches narrower across the top.

These new planters represent an investment in the future of the Village Planting program - ensuring that Bath's gardens remain beautiful, sustainable, and welcoming for many seasons to come.



## WHAT A FANTASTIC AFTERNOON AT THE ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM

– BY CAROL CARTIER

Recently I visited **BEES: A Story of Survival** at the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM), and it was every bit as amazing as I hoped it would be.



The exhibition is a wonderful blend of science, art, and interactive experiences that lets you see the world through a bee's eyes. You quickly realize that bees are so much more than honeybees. There are over **20,000 species** worldwide, and most are solitary bees that don't live in hives at all. Many make their homes in the ground, hollow stems, or dead wood—exactly why our Bugtel and pollinator gardens are so important.

Some of my favourite exhibits included:

- 🐝 Learning how bees see ultraviolet patterns on flowers.
- 🌻 Discovering the incredible variety of native bee species.
- 🍯 Walking through an immersive honeycomb experience filled with the sounds of a busy hive.



## WIRED TO THE WILD

---

This column explores how phones, apps, and websites can help you connect more deeply with the natural world right outside your door.

Notes:

- The club mentions tools and technologies for educational and informational purposes only. We do not endorse specific products or platforms. Members and visitors use such resources at their own discretion and assume full responsibility for their use.
- Please use discretion. Use the information provided as a clue not a final verdict. Double-check anything important with a trusted field guide, reputable plant database, etc. before acting on the information.

### Snap It Before You Forget

Your phone can be a handy tool in the garden. A few well-timed photos can help you remember what you planted, where you planted it, and what worked - or didn't - throughout the season, and even from year to year.

Start with a dedicated “**Garden**” **album** in your phone's photo app. Instead of garden photos getting lost among pictures of friends, families and pets, you'll have one place to find them when you need them. Here's how:

#### On an iPhone:

1. Open the **Photos** app.
2. Tap **Collections**, then scroll to **Albums**.
3. Tap the **+** button and choose **New Album**.
4. Name it **Garden** (or something more specific, such as *My Garden 2026*).
5. Select the garden photos you want to include and tap **Add**.
6. Going forward, when you take a useful garden photo, add it to this album so everything stays together.

#### On an Android phone:

The steps vary slightly depending on the phone, but in **Google Photos**, open **Collections** → **Albums** → **Create album**, give it a name, and select the photos you want to add.

A handy idea: Create a new album each year—**Garden 2026**, **Garden 2027**, and so on. Before long, you'll have a visual history of how your garden has grown and changed.



## 5 Things to Photograph Before You Forget

- 1 PLANT TAGS**  
Snap the tag before it fades, breaks or mysteriously disappears.
- 2 WHERE YOU PLANTED BULBS**  
A quick photo in fall can prevent some unfortunate digging in spring.
- 3 NEW PLANT LOCATIONS**  
Photograph new additions while you still remember exactly what went where.
- 4 PEST OR DISEASE PROBLEMS**  
A photo gives you something to compare later—and can be useful when asking for help identifying the problem.
- 5 YOUR GARDEN AT ITS PEAK**  
Capture each bed when it's looking its best. Next winter, you'll have a handy reference when planning changes for the coming season.

Image generated using ChatGPT

For further reading, check out [Using Photos as a Garden Journal](#) in Fine Gardening

