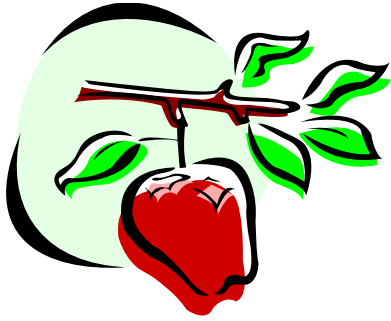


The Applewood Almanac



Fall Edition - 2011

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I write this message, the apple trees around the homestead are dropping their fruit, the leaves are showing their glorious tapestry of colours, and hungry geese are feasting on our still lush green grass. After a nice hot and dry summer, our gardens are now wrapping up their beautiful display with only a few hardy flowers still providing a bit of colour. I trust you all enjoyed the summer and this message finds you happy and healthy.



Since our last Spring newsletter, we have hosted a number of events at Applewood including Earth Day, Doors Open Toronto and our ever-popular free summer concerts. This Fall we have coming up our annual Woodbine Day-At-The-Races fundraiser and Christmas-In-The-Bag event. I hope you'll be able to get out to enjoy these events. We value your continuing support.

Over the summer, we also successfully completed a number of projects including the restoration and painting of the front door entrance, the side doors and porches, and some of our shutters and storm windows. We also updated our website thanks to Ron Raffan, our webmaster, with extensive input from staff and volunteers.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome two new Board members, Klara Radulyne and David Young, who were elected at our Spring AGM. And, as always, we are indebted to our loyal staff and volunteers who work so selflessly throughout the year at Applewood.

Rob Evans
President

EARTH DAY EVENT

On April 22nd this year, Applewood member Johann Fisch again lead his annual Earth Day event just south of the Applewood Homestead in Broadacres Park. An enthusiastic group of about a dozen of his family and friends were supported by an equal number of Applewood members and volunteers. We got an early start cleaning up garbage in the forest he has planted and nurtured every Earth Day since 1981. Following the cleanup, Johann took everyone on a tour of his forest that has grown to about 2.5 acres in size. Then an apple tree donated by Johann was planted on the lawn between the forest and the Homestead. Borys Wrzesnewskyj (MP for Etobicoke Centre until May 2/11) attended the planting ceremony and gave a speech recognizing Johann's efforts and his fine example of environmental service to the local community. The event wrapped up with refreshments being served in the House.



Our very active group of volunteers behind a pile of garbage collected on Earth Day

DOORS OPEN TORONTO

On Sunday May 29th, Applewood volunteers turned out in force to welcome about 300 members of the public into the Applewood Homestead for tours throughout the day. In conjunction with this free Doors Open Toronto event, we again had a plant sale in our parking lot to raise funds for Applewood's upkeep. Plants were kindly donated by Applewood volunteers as well as members from the Etobicoke Horticultural Society and others. Most agreed this was our most successful Doors Open Toronto/Plant Sale event to date.



SUMMER CONCERTS

This past summer marked our 17th season of Twilight Concerts-In-The-Park offered free to the general public. This concert series was made possible by the Etobicoke Community Concert Band, the Scarborough Pipe Band and the Toronto All-Star Band that played big band and military music to average crowds of 200-300 on four separate nights during the summer months. We again had financial support from last year's sponsor, Origin Evergreen, that we greatly appreciated.



The Scarborough Pipe Band in action

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Last August, we hosted a Birthday celebration for three important long-time members of our Applewood family - Grace Procnier, Terry Faichnie and Jean Berry. Grace was Co-ordinator of Weddings and Social Events, Terry serves on staff as our Property Manager and Jean was a member of our Furnishings Committee. All three have been involved at Applewood since the mid 1980's and we congratulate them for their key contributions over the last 25 or so years. Happy Birthday ladies!



Round the table from left to right: Margaret, Ann, Terry, Grace, Molly, Gay, Lorraine and Jean. Odile is behind the scene, taking the photo

THE GARDENER'S NOTEBOOK

This year we are the winners of the 2011 City of Toronto, Etobicoke and York District, Garden Awards Contest. The award is for 'Community Involvement & Beautification'.

The non-single home gardens & properties that are nominated in the garden contest but have won in previous years are judged in a special category. These properties and gardens are judged and the award is given to the property that sets an example and influences the neighbourhood it is in by how yjr whole property is taken care of.

To me, this award celebrates all the dedicated and generous people that make Applewood what it is today. A special thanks goes to Terry. Rain or shine, for over 25 years she has kept and keeps the grass well tended, the edges sharp to make the flowers shine!

I received a small booklet, just 5 cm x 6 cm, hand-scripted in 1913 by F.W.L., with delicate water-coloured flowers that was given to his wife on their golden wedding anniversary. "The Language Of Flowers" contains over 700 hand written names of flowers and their meaning. It was published for the 1st time in 1968 and has only 14 pages! The 1st page contains this beautiful dedication:

*There is a language little known; Lovers claim it as their own,
Its symbols smile upon the land, Wrought by Natures wondrous hand,
And in their silent beauty speak, Of life and joy, to those who seek,
For love divine and sunny hours, It is the language of the flowers.*

To Mother, wishing you many happy returns of the day, from Father, August 18th 1913

What a wonderful gift!

Below is a very small sampling of these flowers, some meanings have changed over the years, a lot are the same and are easily found on the internet.

Azalea = temperance	Gladiolus = strength of character	Lily of the valley = return of happiness
Begonia = dark thoughts!!	Grass = utility, submission	Marigold = jealousy.
Citron = beauty with ill humour	Hyacinth = sport, game, play	Salvia, blue = I think of you
Dahlia = instability	Jasmine = amiability	
Fern - sincerity		

As for Roses, there 40 different kinds and meanings in the booklet!

Enjoy the wonderful colours of Fall and join us on November 27 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. for our wonderful annual Christmas in the Bag Craft Sale.

Odile Sahl

The left front garden



Terry in action - cutting the grass



DR. STEWART EAST IN ITALY

As many of you are aware, the late Dr. Stewart East was a Padre with the 48th Highlanders of Canada during the Italian Campaign of World War II. He was one of the most decorated padres in the Canadian Army and was injured twice. Stewart was beloved by his men and at 6'5" cut a formidable figure during this very tough chapter of WWII. The following are excerpts taken from the book "Hell & High Water":

It was funny when he (Stewart East) came up to the regiment; the colonel at that time was Ian Johnson. When he met East he said, "Well, you won't be here long," because he was United Church and Johnson was the old Scots Presbyterian. When we were on the static front and the 5th Division had come in and they made the attack through us heading for Pescara. They said, "We'll have Pescara for you in three days," and we just said, "That's good so long as you come out with the same smile on your face as you're going in with." Well, they just got riddled, Jerry just kicked the hell out of them. We were bogged down with mud, you just couldn't move. Their dead were left all over the valley there, and Padre East would come along every night and ask for volunteers to go out and pick up the guys. Well, he'd come down and the guys in the slit trenches would call out, "The padre's on his way" and all the guys would duck and try to stay down so you wouldn't have to volunteer. They'd go out and pick up the dead well, you know, that may sound a little cruel, but you know if a guy's dead, he's dead...(Herb Pike)

Other quotes in this book by some of his men remembering Stewart include:

"Going through the Seaforth regiment - Padre East was there, and they carried (him) out on a mattress, and when we saw him, ... he was all chewed up... Gee, I tell you, I didn't think he'd survive. He had about ninety-five pieces of shrapnel in him." "Oh yeah, ... and they shipped him out, and hell, he beat us back to the lines.... He went AWOL from the hospital. (Stewart) "I just wanted to make sure that everybody knew I was okay". Oh, he was a great man, he really was." (Gord Outhwaite & Herb Pike)

Coincidentally, our Director Bob Sage, a WWII veteran himself with Squadron 417, a Canadian Spitfire unit, says that he and his fighter squadron were based only about 20 miles from Stewart and his regiment for over a year in Italy. And so after some 40 years later, they would finally meet at Applewood.

Ref: "Hell & High Water, Canada and the Italian Campaign" by Lance Goddard, pp. 119-120 pub. 2007 by Dundurn Press, Toronto



Our memorable Stewart, second from left

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WILLIAM TYRRELL - APPLEWOOD'S ARCHITECT

Tyrrell was a well-known architect/builder born in Ireland in 1816 who emigrated to the Toronto area in 1836. He designed and supervised construction of many local buildings, particularly in the Weston area, where he lived until his death in 1904. His works included William Gamble's mill on the Humber River (famously known as "The Old Mill"), St. George's On-The-Hill Church, the Lambton House Hotel and many others. Like Peter Shaver, he was prominent in local public affairs and served in a wide variety of civic offices. Much of this information comes from Applewood member Bob Given's book "*Etobicoke Remembered*" (pub. 2007).

Last summer, one of our members and current President of the Etobicoke Historical Society, Denise Harris, discovered exciting new historical evidence pertaining to Applewood's origins. We already knew from census records in 1851 that Peter Shaver had a one-storey brick house and later the 1861 census showed he had replaced it with a one and one-half storey brick house. So the current structure we see today was built sometime between 1851 and 1861. Diligently searching through the records at U of T's Thomas Fisher Rare Book Room, Denise came across boxes of William Tyrrell's papers.

One reference in Box No. 13 of Tyrrell's papers caught Denise's eye - Tyrrell's handwritten instructions to contractors entitled "*Specifications of the Artificers work required to be done in erect(ing) a House for Peter Shaver Esq. in the Township of Etobicoke according to plans drawn up by William Tyrrell*". With copies of these specifications, Denise returned to Applewood and was able to measure and match up 24 of these items with no discrepancies. These included specifications for the front door drawback lock, the upstairs hall closet door that is half glass, and a small window that was once between the closet and bedroom in the south-east corner and that still exists between the two current offices upstairs today. Another important document she found at U of T was a small notebook of Tyrrell's entitled "*Accounts-1851*". It contained a page entitled "*Peter Shaver House*" which had calculations about constructions materials and a value conversion into British pounds.

In her report to the Applewood Board in September, Denise concludes that William Tyrrell was the Architect for the Peter Shaver homestead existing today and that the House was constructed 1851-52 - most likely 1852 given that the 1851 census still showed Peter Shaver in his previous one-storey house. Congratulations and sincere appreciation is extended to Denise for all her hard work in discovering these important historical findings about Applewood's early history.

MARKETING & PR DIRECTOR POSITION

We currently have a Board level position available at Applewood for an experienced marketing and public relations professional. Ideally this person lives in the local area and has a background in volunteering and community organizations. Our position will appeal to a self-starter who is retired or semi-retired with an interest in playing a key role in contributing to one of Etobicoke's premier heritage centres. For more information, please contact Rob Evans, President.

Telephone: 416-233-5775; email: robertjevans@sympatico.ca

FINALLY - a very warm welcome to our new members: Andrew Soares, June Ziegler and Andrea and Aaron Badgley

