

# The Applewood Almanac



## Fall Edition - 2008

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### PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Here we are, past summer, into autumn and our revolving cycle continues. Although we might have complained about a wet summer, we sure are fortunate when you consider the natural disasters in Burma, India, China and Haiti and more recently, as close as the United States!

And now we have an election under way! We may question why, or what is the point; we might like or dislike some of the politicians or political parties but again, aren't we lucky when we consider Pakistan, Afghanistan, Zimbabwe and many other countries around the world! Yes, we are extremely lucky to live in Canada, and J. S. Woodsworth certainly contributed to our quality of life.

At Applewood we have been busy! Apart from the regular maintenance of the building and gardens, this year we started the repair and restoration of the basement and ground level windows. It has turned out to be far more costly than anticipated. However, I guess most things are!

By the time you receive this, we will have had our second annual fall Lawn Sale, and I am sure it will have been successful. And fun!

Mark your calendar for October 26 - "A Day at the Races" - Only \$50 for a buffet lunch and an afternoon of racing! Deadline for tickets is October 15<sup>th</sup>...call now! Our annual Christmas in A Bag will be held on November 30, from 10 am until 3 pm and I hope you will be able to support this fundraising event. Don't forget to watch for upcoming events and other news on our website [www.applewoodshaverhouse.org](http://www.applewoodshaverhouse.org).

We are very pleased to announce that the Etobicoke Historical Society has honoured two of Applewood's loyal supporters. They have been presented with the 2008 Jean Hibbert Award in recognition of their continued dedication to heritage in Etobicoke. Doug Willoughby, for his long-term and valuable service to both the E.H.S. and to Applewood, and Bob Given, a member of the Society since its inception and long-time member of the Foundation's Board of Directors, for his ongoing research and documentation of Etobicoke's history. Congratulations to you both!

And finally, welcome to our newest Board Member, Dave Cook, local historian and author whose input will be invaluable.

As always, your continued membership support is greatly appreciated.

Lawrie Crump  
President

## HOUSE CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

By the time you read this summer will be over for this year. No more swimming in the lake for another year, unless you are a member of the Polar Bear Club. If you are, please do let us know!

Did you make it to one of our summer concerts? The Weston Silver Band decided the safest thing to do was cancel, after 4 o'clock, since the weatherman was still calling for thunderstorms. The Etobicoke Community Concert Band and their guests, the Scarborough Pipe Band, were once again well received. The final concert by the Toronto All-Star Big Band on August 6 was a dazzling performance in perfect weather. Applewood is happy to support our local musical talent, but we couldn't do it without our volunteers. Great big thanks to Rob and Gay Evans, Ann Wilson, Margaret Johnston, Chris Garside, Dave and Sophie Cook, Lawrie Crump, Odile Sahl, Evelyn Patterson and Doug Willoughby. Maybe you have a couple of hours a week that you could spare for Applewood? Our garden is lovely, but Odile Sahl does most of the work keeping it that way, and she could sure use some extra hands. There are usually odd jobs around the house that could be attended to by a handy person. No pressure, but think of the pleasure knowing your efforts make a difference.

Did you buy your ticket yet for Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup> Day at the Races (Woodbine that is)? Our President, Lawrie Crump did, and extras too, one for Carol, of course... and also for Mike & Lydia and Donna & Harold. Peter Peachey expects to sell 16 tickets for this fundraiser. You don't need to be a gambler to enjoy the food and fellowship. Hope you do!

And finally, mark your calendar for our annual "Christmas in the Bag" on Sunday, November 30<sup>th</sup>. Again, volunteers are welcome. We could really use some strong arms and backs to help move the furniture and "stuff" to make room for the vendors. Please let us know if you can come Saturday evening or Sunday evening. Thanks!

Ruth Gordon  
House Co-coordinator



Stirring entertainment by the Etobicoke Community Concert Band, together with the Scarborough Pipe band, as seen from the front porch of the Homestead

## THE GARDENER'S NOTEBOOK

As I write this, it is the first day back to school, a glorious day after the wet summer. The children are at recess; noisy, happy sounds come this way while I am weeding the gardens. I was surprised at so much noise from the children; it had been so quiet, too quiet.

We see very few birds, and no butterflies even though the garden is full of flowers to attract them, and there are no bees in the flowers beds either, but we do have weeds as never before and they grow so fast!! However, the gardens look wonderful and people love them, especially the many seniors that live at Westbury, the Senior's Home across the street.

The City of Toronto has banned all pesticides, weed killers, etc. (we have never used them) but if you know of any 'green' killer of weeds, please give us your recipe. On my patio I tried salt and boiling water to control the moss. For my flowers I make a 'compost tea' that works very well - the recipe follows:

1 large garbage pail filled with water, set in the sun.

1 old pillowcase filled with kitchen leftovers (vegetables, fruit, coffee/tea) mixed with a little earth).

Tie the pillow case close and hang it in the pail. Set in the sun for a few days then water the plants with this tea. Refill a few times and let set a few days before using. Meanwhile start another pillowcase with more leftovers to replace the previous one.

Wishing you all a wonderful, colourful autumn.

Odile Sahl

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## THE FURNISHINGS COMMITTEE



The last meeting of the Applewood Furnishings Committee  
1983 - 2008

The Furnishings Committee has disbanded after 25 years of making Applewood feel like 'home', and Dennis Miller, a founding and expert member has moved and was wished all the best for his new life in Napanee. Jean Berry, a member since the Committee was established, advises that Harry Mulhall, a good friend of the Committee and 'upholsterer extraordinaire', has retired and he and his wife have moved to Bronté. We wish them all the best and thank Harry for his support of the Applewood restoration with those "Mulhall extra services". Jean would like to share the following memories with our Members.

At the Foundation's Annual Meeting, I reported on a telephone chat I had just had with Keith MacLeod, now in Halifax, what it had been like working on 'Ev's Team' during the rebuilding phase of the homestead after the Big Move. Keith was a member of the construction crew, hired through a special government programme to provide employment and training opportunities. When asked if Ev had been a tough taskmaster, Keith acknowledged that 'Boss Ev' did expect punctuality and a full day's work, but that the lads from the programme had great respect for him and learned a wide variety of skills. He told me that while it was a real challenge for 'green' team members Randy Deal, Joe Pike, Keith and the others, there was a sense of excitement, and a pervading feeling of mystery about the past that might turn up at any moment in the three brick thick walls or in the attic. One day, a brick with an animal paw print was found. The boys gleefully added items such as coins, a dollar bill, an old newspaper, as they went along - their version of today's time capsule. On a visit to Applewood some ten years ago, Keith was thrilled to find that same brick amongst our display of shards from the excavation of the old site.

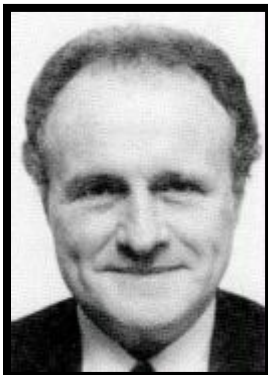
I asked Keith about the fatal day the porch collapsed on Stewart East. Apparently a plank had been carefully propped up against the roughed-in frame for the back porch in order to transport materials to the cellar. Stewart, who very much wanted to see all that was going on, missed his step onto the plank, crashing all the way down and onto the newly-poured cement floor. "What a relief to everyone when 'The Reverend' quickly stood up, his back covered in wet cement! We noticed that he used the front door from then on, but it sure didn't keep him away from the site", said Keith. The lads couldn't help but chuckle that, at 6' 4", it was not as big a drop for Stewart as it would be for others.

Peter Peachey, in attendance at the Annual Meeting, vouched for the hard work, enthusiasm and camaraderie of the boys. He added that Randy Deal was hired by his Valhalla Corporation and is still with them to this day.

What tales the old homestead could add to the above. We hope that Wally Bishop, the last resident of Applewood, under continuous ownership by Shaver descendants, will perhaps take on a new retirement project and give us some "Shaver folklore".

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### OBITUARIES



It is with the greatest regret that we have to announce the sudden passing of the two Bishop brothers; Samuel on September 27, and Walter on September 26. They were the last members of the Shaver family to grow up at Applewood. Wally, as many people know him, was instrumental in negotiating the relocation of Applewood and, with other family members, assisted in financing the move. He continued his active interest in the Homestead, assisting Stewart East in the creation of the James Shaver Woodsworth Foundation and serving on the Board of Directors since its formation. Funeral services for both brothers were held on September 30.

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We regret to advise that Reverend Harold Burgess, retired United Church Minister, and one of our invaluable performers of wedding ceremonies, passed away on July 20, 2008. Reverend Burgess had a long, varied and active career and our sincerest sympathy is extended to his family.

Our sincere condolences also to the family of Joseph Wolfe, a long-time Applewood tenant, who passed away on June 17 after a battle with cancer.

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To those of you who live in or near Etobicoke, please make a visit to Islington Village and enjoy the fabulous murals. The Islington Mosaic Heritage Murals Project is an ongoing endeavour to depict defining moments in the history of the village, bringing back many memories to long-time local residents. The murals are on certain buildings on Dundas Street, between Kipling and Islington Avenues, and you will be really impressed by the incredible artistry.

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