

The Applewood Almanac

Spring Edition – March, 2008

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**The Annual General Meeting
will be held at
Applewood – The Shaver Homestead
on Wednesday, April 23, 2008
at
7:00 p.m.**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In my opening paragraph this time last year, I commented on the winter we had had! "...I am as ready as I have ever been for spring! How 'bout you?" Had I only known what was in store for us this year I would have saved my remarks! This year we have broken many "snow" records and as I am writing this, the radio reminds me that the worst is yet to come! Remember when you were excited about the prospects of snow? Gone are the days!

This year's annual meeting will be held on April 23. Your invitation will follow. Please try to attend because your interest, attendance and participation are very important to us. You will notice some changes in our Board. Dennis Mills is resigning, and he will be greatly missed. Dennis and Peter Peachey were on the original Board, and have served faithfully ever since. Peter was our first President and Dennis our second President. Dennis and Sylvia have moved to Napanee, where I am sure they will become very involved and be very happy. We will also be welcoming two new Board Members. Be sure to introduce yourself to Dave Cook and Evelyn Patterson.

Last year we indicated our major projects would be a new walk and a garden sprinkler system. Both projects were completed. This year we must do some extensive exterior work on the house. This will consist of repairing, restoring and if necessary, replacing some windows. We must also do some painting. This project may go over a two-year period, depending on the costs and revenues. Your support will be much appreciated.

We are always looking forward to having new members and new volunteers. Please encourage your friends to visit us.

I would sincerely like to thank each and every one of you for your interest in Applewood. Applewood depends on you and our dedicated staff and volunteers.

Lawrie Crump
President

HOUSE CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

FAMILY MATTERS:

As most of you already know, there is an “Applewood” book that tells part of our story. What we would like to do is create a ‘scrapbook’ that would share some information about our Applewood family. What we would like is for you to provide that information! Please, would you take about 20 minutes or so to share with us a little about you, and mail/e-mail it to us, or drop it off when you are in the neighbourhood? Our ‘questionnaire’ is at the end of this newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP:

Did you know that we have 5-year pins and 10-year pins for those Members who qualify? Have you received yours? All you have to do is come to our Annual Meeting on April 23rd. See you then!

MONEY MATTERS:

As most of you know, our major source of revenue, used to cover our ongoing expenses, is ‘Weddings’. For years we have been told that the trend is toward fewer weddings, as more and more couples choose not to get married. Our records show this to be true; our weddings are declining. Now is the time to consider how else we can generate the necessary funds to cover our expenses. Perhaps we can rent the Party Room for Yoga classes, or Euchre Games, or maybe Bridge Games? Perhaps you have an idea, or suggestion that you would like to share with us?

PEOPLE POWER:

We continue to welcome ***Volunteers***, needed mostly during our Twilight Concerts in the Park, the Picnic in the Park, and Toronto Doors Open. Notice of these and other events can be found on our web site www.applewoodshaverhouse.org

CLEANLINESS IS NEXT TO GODLINESS:

Generations have been keeping Applewood clean. Maybe some of the following solutions were used:

Window or Glass Cleaner

½ tsp liquid detergent, 3 tbsp vinegar, 2 cups water

Combine in a spray bottle and shake before spraying on windows or glass.

All-purpose Cleaner

4 tbsp baking soda, 1 qt water

Mix together well and use in a spray bottle, or with a sponge on bath and kitchen surfaces.

Rinse with clear water.

Toilet Bowl Cleaner

Baking soda – sprinkle into bowl

Vinegar – pour in a generous amount

Scour with a brush, and flush.

Mineral and Lime Remover

Soak a cleaning cloth in vinegar and wrap it around the faucet for an hour or so.

Furniture Polish

1 ½ c. olive oil, ½ c. vinegar

Mix well, and use with clean, soft cloth to polish furniture.

Drain Cleaner

When a plunger, or a plumber’s snake doesn’t clear the clog, try 1 c. baking soda poured down the drain, followed by 1 c. vinegar.

Plug the drain, if you can, and let stand for 5 minutes. Pour very hot water down the drain.

Mould Killer

2 tsp tea tree oil, 2 c water

Combine in spray bottle, shake to blend, and spray on problem areas. *Do not rinse.*

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These solutions were found on an old calendar. Perhaps you have other “solutions” that work for you? Let us know! Maybe you’d like to demonstrate how well they work here at Applewood? ☺

Ruth Gordon

THE GARDENER'S JOURNAL

Today I was at a flower show - the colours, scents, and just to see green trees again was a delight. Outside it is snowing, we should expect 20 centimetres, what a winter. So far, the snowploughs have left high piles in our street, the children have so much fun building forts, making slides; even the parents were out helping. This is reminiscent of winters 40 years ago!

It is that time again when the 'green thumb's of gardeners start itching. In November we were glad of the winter rest, but now.... we miss the flowers again.

Last spring I bought four Hollyhocks. Pink is all the vendor knew about them; they grew a little, but did not move for months. Late September, one of them sprouted, grew by feet per week (not inches) and reached 11 feet. Then, on October 23, arriving at the Homestead, I checked on it right away. Surprise! The plant was full of double pink blooms. A lady was already in front of it admiring the size and the show of colour. It bloomed until the second frost. The three others did nothing, but as some Hollyhocks are bi-annuals, so we hope that this year we will have a great show from three of them, at least.

If you have a computer, please see the plant in full colour on our web site:

www.applewoodshaverhouse.org.

Wishing you all, and from Grace Procnier also, a wonderful spring and summer, with lots of sunshine - we need it.

Odile Sahl

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SUMMER MUSIC 2008 TWILIGHT CONCERTS-IN-THE-PARK AT APPLEWOOD

Our delightful tradition of music in the park continues this summer with a series of light and lively programs designed to suit all ages and musical tastes, staged under Applewood's expansive summer sunset skies! To kick off the season in style, we are pleased to present our 3rd annual COMMUNITY BBQ hosted by Etobicoke Centre's MP Borys Wrzesnewskyj and MPP Donna Cansfield – everyone welcome!

Then it's on to the MUSIC!!

TWILIGHT CONCERTS-IN-THE-PARK is anchored with the Etobicoke Community Concert Band presenting three concerts of toe-tapping repertoire built around classic pops, Broadway melodies, movie themes and hits of the Big Band era. For the concert band's third program on July 30th, they will be joined by the Scarborough Pipe Band in full regalia - a thrilling spectacle for the eyes and ears! Also on the roster this season are the Etobicoke Temple's Salvation Army Band and the Weston Silver Band, each offering big, bold music from the brass band genre, ideally suited to Applewood's country-like setting.



For the grand finale of our summer concert series, the award-winning Toronto All-Star Big Band will undoubtedly pack the park with their dazzling renditions of the greatest swing tunes of the 1930's and 40's. Please mark your calendars, and plan to join us at Applewood this summer as our wonderful musical tradition continues!

TWILIGHT CONCERTS-IN-THE-PARK

7:00 to 8:30 PM at the Applewood Homestead

Wednesday, June 18	Etobicoke Community Concert Band AND Community BBQ - 5 to 7 pm!!
Wednesday, June 25	Salvation Army Band, Etobicoke Temple (tentative)
Wednesday, July 9	Etobicoke Community Concert Band
Wednesday, July 23	Weston Silver Band
Wednesday, July 30	Etobicoke Community Concert Band & Guests: Scarborough Pipe Band
Wednesday, August 6	Toronto All-Star Big Band

Please bring a chair or blanket to sit on.

Volunteers are needed for each concert night! Please call the office: (416) 622-4124

Carolyn McGee



SPECIAL EVENTS

The City of Toronto's ninth annual Doors Open celebration will take place on the weekend of May 24/25. We do not take part in the event on Saturday, as that is a busy wedding day, but May 25 will be busy at Applewood, with a fund raising plant sale before Applewood 'opens its doors' to visitors. This year's theme is "Sacred Spaces, Sacred Circles". We can always use some extra help with crowd control, if you would like to stop by. We hope you do.

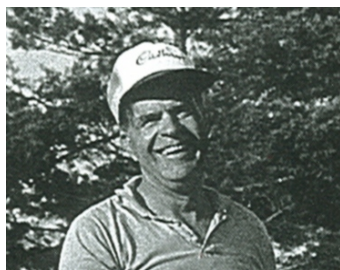
Remember, The James Shaver Woodsworth Homestead doors are always "open" from Monday to Friday, 9:00 to 5:00, or visit us on our website.

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Once again, the annual Shaver Family Reunion will take place on Sunday, June 8 at the Ancaster Shaver Homestead, 1166 Garner Road West (53 Highway). Guest speaker will be Dr. David Richardson, who will be appropriately attired to discuss medical practices in the 19th century. **Please note the following changes:** Registration is at 1:00 p.m., and a potluck lunch will start at 1:30 p.m. The family photograph will be taken at 2:45 p.m. For further information, call Marilyn Pout at 905-648-1330.



Obituary



We are saddened to announce the passing of Bob Berry, the husband of our long-time volunteer, Jean Berry. Bob was an amazing husband, father, community activist and sportsman and will be sorely missed. Many of us attended the celebration of his life on January 5, and were very touched by the many tributes. Our sincerest sympathy is extended to Jean and her family.

Remembering the Applewood Family: Past, Present and Future

At different times in the late 1980s the Board began to discuss issues of acknowledgement for those who had helped Applewood in many different ways. Volunteers and staff had helped in many ways by sharing expertise to special projects, committing their time to committees and regular homestead routines, contributing financially, and responding as needs arose.

The introduction of the Applewood book solved part of the problem, since it was an opportunity to document and celebrate individual and collective initiatives during the first ten years. It is now time to do the same for our more recent past and find a manageable process that can be implemented for the present and future. The contributions of some volunteers were not included in the book and could be recorded now.

We are now asking all Applewood family members, including volunteers and staff, to complete a questionnaire. This will provide accurate data and some personal reflections. For members no longer with us, the summaries will be formally prepared and included in a "Book of Remembrance" easily accessible in the homestead and displayed more prominently on special occasions.

APPLEWOOD/ THE JAMES WOODSWORTH HOMESTEAD
FAMILY MATTERS - 2008

1. Name: _____

2. Brief Biographical Information (include birth date, family, career as respondent feels appropriate):

3. When did you become involved at Applewood? _____

4. What attracted your interest?

5. How have you participated? Projects, committees, etc.

6. What has given you the most satisfaction at Applewood?

7. Do you have special recollections of others you have worked with at Applewood?

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Please turn over

8. Do you have special hopes or visions for the future of Applewood?

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9. Do you have photographs you can share? _____

These questions are the beginning of a process to gather useful and accurate information. Useful ideas and important quotations may surface for future remembrance.

Please elaborate on any of the foregoing questions, as you see fit, in the space below, and return the completed questionnaire to Applewood.