



# The Applewood Almanac

## Spring Edition – March, 2009

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**The Annual General Meeting  
will be held on  
Wednesday, May 20, 2009**

**See Lawrie's report for details.**

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am sure that you were beginning to wonder if spring was ever going to arrive! I know that I was! However we are now seeing all the signs of new growth, and, the return of the birds. I think that one of the wonderful things about living in Canada (and we can't give J. S. W. any credit for this one!) is the changing of the seasons. It is almost like we always have something to look forward to!

There are a lot of things that need attention around the exterior of the house. The front entrance and porch need repairs and painting, the rear (west) doors need repairs and we are a long way from completing the window project that was started last year. We have not completed our budget for this coming year but we will certainly be able to bring you up to date at the annual meeting.

At our last Board Meeting it was decided to reduce our hours at Applewood. Very little happens first thing in the morning, and our tenants all have their own keys, so Applewood is now open from 10am until 5pm. This will produce a significant reduction in staff costs. Our staff has accepted this, without any question, and we are very grateful.

In the past, our Annual General Meeting has been in April. Starting this year, our annual meeting will be in May. I hope that as many as possible will be able to attend. The actual meeting only takes 30 - 40 minutes. Please mark your calendars to come out at 7 p.m. on May 20, 2009. You will have a chance to say "Hi" to others. The meeting will start at 7:30 p.m. At the conclusion of the meeting, there will be snacks and coffee and tea. During the meeting, your Board will be elected. Immediately following the meeting, the Board will elect the executive, and then, the executive will be introduced to you.

I am completing 7 years as president and have told the Board that it is time for a change and that I will be stepping down. I am prepared to remain on the Board, and continue to do whatever I can for Applewood. I would personally like to thank all of you, and all of the staff, volunteers and Board members, past and present, for the support they have shown me during my term as President.

Thank you, everyone! Lawrie.  
HOUSE CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

Did you know that *Colonial brides carried a small pouch with a coin, a breadcrumb, wood, and cloth to be sure they'd always have money, food, shelter, and clothing?* I wonder if they will start doing it again, in these uncertain times.

Applewood is also feeling the economic pinch. The number of **people getting married** is decreasing, and it is down about 17% from 2007, when we had 346. I'm usually in the house Wednesday and Thursday until 6:30 p.m., and that might encourage a few more couples thinking about getting married to come in to make a booking.

Our **membership** is also decreasing. As of March 26, 2009 we only had **57 paid memberships for 2009**. We do have a lot of couples that share membership, so the number of people involved is actually higher. Do you perhaps know of anyone interested in Heritage, who might like to become involved at Applewood?

You know that **postage** is increasing, and that's not such a good thing. We have been collecting more and more email addresses, thanks. We also publish the Almanac and announcements on our website. We should probably stop sending our publications to non-members, but we hate to lose touch with our Applewood family and friends.

We are looking at price reducing, and income generating possibilities. For example, did you know that our **Hours of Operation**, Monday to Friday, are now 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.?

Happily, our **volunteer** numbers are not decreasing, but we can always use extra help during our special functions and events. If you would like to take part as a volunteer, please let us know! Just a few hours here and there, as it suits you!

On a positive note:

- The inaugural Day at the Races at Woodbine Racetrack last October raised \$1164 for Applewood. A total of 84 tickets were sold, and 77 people attended the event. It was a cold and wet day, but everyone very much enjoyed the excellent buffet, and the excitement of watching live racing. Those who wanted to get a little closer to the horses could go down to the paddock where they walked the beautiful animals around for all to see (and smell!) It was a very successful fundraiser and will be considered again this year. Even if betting on horses is not your thing, this is an event to enjoy.

- Scott Spackman, who attends Woodsworth College, is the latest winner of *The James Shaver Woodsworth Homestead Foundation Scholarship*

- Some of our 2009 guests had very nice things to say about Applewood - (A very remarkable venue; amazing; nice, homey; very original; warm and cozy.) We have also received many replies to our "**FAMILY MATTERS**" questionnaire. Thanks so much to all who took the time, and made the effort to get them in. We have a big black binder at Applewood you might like to look at the next time you are in. We were hoping to receive some personal stories, about **your** "special recollections", not just a list of names of people you remember. Please, send us your stories! And do let us know if we can publish them as part of a collection at some later date. Just in case. And do, please, stop by for a cup of tea. Bring cookies!

Ruth Gordon

## THE GARDENER'S JOURNAL

It is time for spring-cleaning before the days become too nice to work inside. Cleaning my bookshelves is always the task that I 'like' the most! I can look at old photos, remember books that I read long ago, dust another book and stop to browse through yet another. Not much work gets done, but it nicely fills a dark grey, cold March afternoon. I always loved a little book, the pages yellow from age, called Friendship Thoughts. The cover shows a green meadow with daisies and birches, blue sky. How nice that would be for all of us after what seems to me a very long, cold winter with so much snow. But.... it will come soon, I hope, and then we can get our hands in the soil again.

One of my favourite poems from this book is Friendship is a Garden, by Mona K. Guldswoog:

Take a heap of joy, blend well with trust,  
Add a measure of dreams to share,  
And minds more willing to understand,  
Hearts more than ready to care.  
Fold generous fluff of forgiving nature,  
Kindly word and thoughtful deed,  
Then a pinch of humour and a dash of spice  
Whipped in with loving speed.

A recipe as old as time itself,  
Yet always delightfully new.....  
They call it simply *friendship*  
Beloved, tried, true.

\* \* \*



Part of our prize-winning garden in the summer!

Have a fabulous springtime and enjoy your friends.

Odile Sahl

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### SUMMER MUSIC 2009 TWILIGHT CONCERTS-IN-THE-PARK AT APPLEWOOD

It's been 15 years in the making! – This delightful summer tradition that brings lively music concerts to our own front yard, all through the fair weather season. It's music for all ages and stages, suitable for children, families and seniors. The setting is spectacular, the ambience is festive, and the admission is FREE!

Kicking off this 15<sup>th</sup> summer of music in the park, we are pleased to present a COMMUNITY BBQ hosted by Etobicoke Centre's MP, Borys Wrzesnewskyj and MPP, Donna Cansfield. Drinks, hot dogs and burgers are all "on the house", and everyone is welcome!

This year, our musical calendar of TWILIGHT CONCERTS IN-THE-PARK is again 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 third programme on July 29th, the Concert Band will be joined by the Scarborough Pipe Band in full regalia - a spine-tingling experience for all.

Always a huge hit, the award-winning Toronto All-Star Big Band will round out our summer series with a swinging salute to the timeless hits 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 2009

**7 to 8:30 p.m.**

**at the Applewood Homestead**

*Admission is FREE!*

Wednesday, June 17	Etobicoke Community Concert Band AND Community BBQ - 5 to 7 pm - FREE!!
Wednesday, July 8	Etobicoke Community Concert Band
Wednesday, July 29	Etobicoke Community Concert Band & Guests: Scarborough Pipe Band
Wednesday, August 5	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

Please note: We are asking for **donations, and non-perishable food items** at all our Twilight in the Park concerts, and hope to support the Daily Bread and other food banks.



### SPECIAL EVENTS

The City of Toronto's tenth annual Doors Open celebration will take place on the weekend of May 23/24. As usual, we will not take part in the event on Saturday, as that is a busy wedding day, but May 24 will be busy at Applewood, with a fund raising plant sale before Applewood 'opens its doors' to visitors. 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, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and you are always welcome.

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This year, the annual Shaver Family Reunion will take place on Sunday, June 7 at the Erland Lee Museum, 552 Ridge Road, Stoney Creek, with registration at 11:00 a.m. The guest speaker will be David Moore, a dynamic speaker who is an expert on the topic of the United Empire Loyalists, their settlement in Ontario, and their tremendous contribution to Canadian society over the past 200+ years. A potluck lunch will start at 1:30 p.m., and the family photograph will be taken at 2:45 p.m.

For those of you not familiar with the Erland Lee Museum, it is located at the corner of Ridge Road and the top of Dewitt Road. You can take Exit 83 from the QEW and head south towards

the Niagara escarpment. Turn right at Highway 8, then left at Dewitt Road. Go to the top of the hill and the historic site is right in front of you. Alternately, you can exit the QEW at Highway 20 (Centennial Pkwy) and go south all the way to the top of the escarpment, then turn left on Ridge Road and follow it right to the museum. This is a nice drive along the top of the escarpment past the Devil's Punch Bowl area. Much more information about the museum facilities is available on their website at <http://www.erlandlee.com>. For further information, please call Marilyn Pout at 905-648-1330, or Jan Duff at 905-275-8147.

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Dave Cook, one of our newest Board Members, is seen below with Mayor Hazel McCallion at the Lakeview Golf Club on February 19, when he was presented with a 2009 Mississauga Heritage Award. Dave was recognized with the Mississauga Heritage Foundation's highest award for his contribution towards preserving the city's customs, culture and traditions. He is also a noted author. Congratulations, Dave!



Friends of **Grace Procnier** are invited to an Open House at Applewood, on Sunday, August 23, 2009 from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. to help Grace celebrate her **90th birthday**. Tea and cookies will be served. As you all remember, Grace was the backbone of Applewood for many years, looking after the wedding arrangements, memberships and many other tasks, and we look forward to wishing her 'many happy returns'.

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### MEMORIES

After we had prepared our last Almanac, we were extremely upset to learn that the two sons of Isabel Shaver Bishop had passed away within two days; Walter on September 26, and Samuel on September 27. They were the last members of the Shaver family to grow up at Applewood. A small notice was inserted in the mailing, but we cannot do another Almanac without saying how much Walter is missed. Wally, as many people know him, was instrumental in negotiating the relocation of Applewood and, with other family members, assisting in financing the move. He continued his active interest in the Homestead, helping Stewart East in the creation of the James Shaver Woodsworth Foundation and serving on the Board of Directors since its formation. He must have found it very strange, coming to a place that was his home for many

years, and seeing it flourish as a wedding chapel and a centre for many community activities. However, he was always there for us and will always be remembered.

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We are sad to announce the passing of Pete Jackson, a long-time supporter of the Homestead and a much-respected resident of Etobicoke. Pete spent many years with the Etobicoke Board of Education as a teacher, principal and administrator. He was a high school football coach, and also an avid golfer; in 1997 he was inducted into the Etobicoke Sports Hall of Fame. He can be seen in his coaching days in one of the latest heritage murals in Islington Village! Pete passed away just after Christmas in his 103<sup>rd</sup> year.

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Many of you will remember Norma Carrier, one of the key people in the moving and restoration of Applewood and also a founding member of the Foundation. Her daughter, Lois Carrier, passed away on March 13, and our sincerest sympathy is extended to her sister Judith and the family.

### HISTORY

Last summer, the Toronto Star published an article by Dylan Reid, a historian working on a book about the founding of the CCF. An amazing photograph taken at the first CCF National Convention in Regina, Saskatchewan in July 1933 accompanied the article. When the delegates gathered for the group photo, one man deservedly took centre stage: J. S. Woodsworth! Seated to the right of Woodsworth is Agnes Macphail, Canada's first female Member of Parliament.

The delegates crowding around Woodsworth had come together both to seize an opportunity and address a need. The opportunity was the Great Depression. Capitalism seemed to have failed, the economy was in a disastrous state, unemployment was at a mind-boggling high, and the world's financial system seemed on the verge of collapse. The need was the lack of a convincing alternative. The aftermath of World War 1 had thrown Canadian politics into turmoil and there was a strong need for a third party. The results of the convention were the platform known as the Regina Manifesto, a party organization and the remarkable photograph.

Unfortunately, the entire picture is too big to reproduce here, but a copy will be left at Applewood for anyone to see. The original is with the National Archives of Canada.

On reading the article, one wonders if it is time for another Manifesto!

