

Past



Present

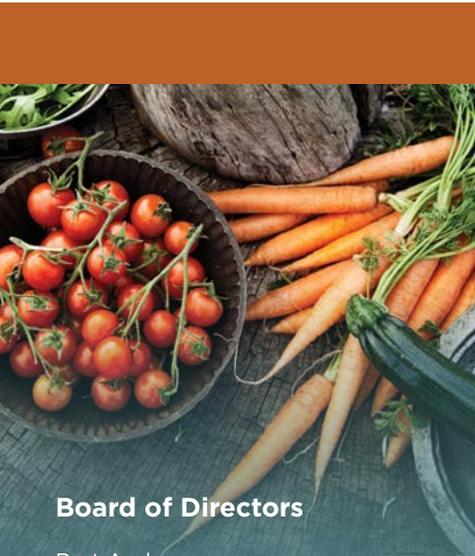
Future

COUNTRY HERITAGE PARK



Spring 2016

Members' Quarterly Newsletter



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Welcome to a soggy spring,, to date, with a tremendous amount of change taking place within the confines of Country Heritage Park. There is a great deal of activity already and more coming down the pipe as we re-establish ourselves as one of THE class venues in Halton Region – and dare we say it, Ontario.

What has happened since January of this year? For one thing, staff and volunteers are engaged in a massive clean-up and clean out of a building by building sweep, trying, as was indicated in our February meeting (more on that later), to re-evaluate all space options for potential rental. Anyone who has visited recently has been aware of these changes – whether it be the re-taking of the former Exhibit Storage section, which is now home to a number of CHP staff offices, while storing thousands of artifacts for safe keeping in the newly cleaned up sections that had held garbage; to the now empty former office spacing that will become expansion for the Montessori school. The Ontario Agricultural Hall of Fame, sadly, has vacated the second floor space and found a very nice new location in the Ontario Agri-Centre in Guelph – right across the street from the main headquarters of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs. While we at CHP are disappointed that we were unable to accommodate their exhibit, what has happened is that we have now begun the process of seeking out new tenants for the entire second level, including the Niagara Room.

That does not mean that there will be no meeting areas. Quite the opposite. CHP is firmly dedicated to making refurbishing the basement of the Puslinch Hall (after it has been stripped and cleaned following last year's sewage situation that saw thousands of gallons of refuse back into the entire area). That will be the new meeting area – with the upstairs converted into a new Arts, Crafts, and Quilt gallery, complete with retail options. This will coincide nicely with the work being done at CHP for the development of an arts and agriculture exhibit, and a new event – Art in the Park (August 21 – throughout the entire site).



In order to accomplish these tasks, CHP has begun working with a number of other parties interested in utilizing the facility to its best capacity. That means clearing out storage areas and barns to better store our vast and unique treasures so that they may be showcased during our formal seasons running from May to late October. Getting our ducks lined up, cleaning out garbage (there has been a lot), and rejigging the spacing options throughout the park has been a massive undertaking but our staff and volunteer contingent, including high school students (for which we have seen an influx within the past three months) have been working through each building knowing what the end goal is – revitalizing and



Volunteer and Membership

Membership forms and information about membership at CHP are available from Helen (helen@countryheritagepark.com or 905-878-8151 ext. 10) or online. All that want to partake in the voting at the April AGM should be paid up for 2016 – and can still pay the day of. As many are well aware, CHP, following provincial guidelines, has begun to implement its police check strategy for this upcoming year and beyond due to the number of students visiting the park, the Montessori School on-site (which also has a Ministry of Education stipulation about that as well), and a new development – more high school students earning their volunteer hours here. This is not a bad thing – it just is an attempt by CHP to actually get with the standards as established by the province in the early 2000s.

A reminder to volunteers as well that the Volunteer Sheet all the new folks are signing states the following – and is a reminder for those coming and going with respect to CHP:

- Volunteers must obtain prior approval to work on-site outside normal office hours Monday to Friday 8:30-5:00. There will be no weekend opportunities unless otherwise approved by the CEO.
- All work must to be approved by CHAS management.
- NOTE TO ALL VOLUNTEERS that any financial costs must be pre-approved by CHAS management.
- CHAS safety policies and procedures shall apply to all Volunteers.
- No property of CHAS shall be removed from Country Heritage Park unless a Loan Agreement has been signed by CHAS management and the Volunteer.

“And hey, let’s be careful out there.”

reinvigorating the entire property. What has been found is that most of the buildings have been stuffed with artifacts and items that no one either knew was there or were completely unaware of where things had ended up. In addition, one of the buildings has already been rented out for seasonal use, beginning that long process of ensuring buildings are able to make some money for CHP. What has been said all along is that very few facilities at CHP actually provided any income to the park and that CHP actually does not sell anything. That is what is being changed – but that is why the CEO has a sign in his office of the three rules of change:

1. **Change** is inevitable.
2. **Change** is challenging.
3. **Change** is necessary to survive.

Things are changing – and CHP staff is very appreciative of those who are joining in to make this place better for everyone.

It's AGM time at CHP

Notice is hereby given to members to join us on
April 19, 2016 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for
Country Heritage Agricultural Society's

Annual General Meeting

9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Registration

10:00 a.m. – 12:30 a.m. Annual General Meeting

For the second consecutive year in a row, there will be an election held for four seats up for grabs at this year's Annual General Meeting.

April 19th, 2016 the Annual Meeting of Country Heritage Agricultural Society will be held at 10:00 a.m. in the Niagara Room. Elections for board members will be held. A segment of the By-laws referring to elections is included below:

7.3 At the Annual General Meeting, the membership shall elect from among themselves four (4) Directors for a term of four (4) years.

7.3.1 The Nominating Committee shall forward a list of candidates for the positions of Directors to the Secretary three (3) weeks in advance of the Annual General Meeting.

7.3.2 Members may nominate a candidate for a position on the Board by sending their nomination to the Secretary three (3) weeks in advance of the Annual General Meeting.

7.3.3 All candidates must either be present at the election or have indicated their acceptance as a candidate in writing.

7.3.4 Directors and ex-officio Directors must be members of the Society at the time of their election or join the Society within 30 days thereof.



There will be an election this year with five individuals running for four spots, with two others politely declining to run at this time. Going alphabetically (by last names), these are the nominees:

Russell Kidd – The Milton-area resident has long been a fixture of CHP as owner of Bailey Heating and Cooling Ltd. and the son of Jack Kidd, both of whom enjoy restoring old tractors and cars. Russ is active within the community and enjoys CHP as both a contractor and a volunteer.

Kellie Paquette – A new member and long-time attendee (since childhood) at CHP, she passionately embraces any cause she puts her energy into with success being the only imaginable outcome, having volunteered for a wide variety of causes for more than 45 years. She is a very active member of the Golden Horseshoe Mustang Association. She has a business consulting practice that not only focuses on accounting but also on business management and growth; key to helping the park with its own growth and success.

Jan Robertson – A passionate advocate for heritage and agri-food education, she strongly believes in the value of providing learning opportunities about Ontario's agri-food industry and rural history to all age groups through creative, interactive and curriculum-linked programming.

With a nearly four-decade career in educational programming, special events, and resource development with both the Ontario government (including the Ontario Agricultural Museum) and then with the Ontario Agri-Food Education Inc. (OAFE), the first term board member wants to continue in that role as she sees the potential for continued growth and development of Country Heritage Park as a high profile centre for agriculture, food and rural education and would appreciate the opportunity to continue making a contribution to the future development of the facility.

Maurice Rutherford – A volunteer at CHP since the formation of Country Heritage Experience, he has been very active in a number of construction projects, including the new roof on the Admissions building and the re-building of the Service Entrance gate. He continues to be chair of the tractor super pulls at the former All Colour Show (now the Summer Fair and Farm Expo), and has provided the pulling sled and scales for the Antique Tractor Pull. Every year he announces for the Parade of Lights and has also been involved with the Steam and Tractor Show in Caledonia, the Paris Show, and the Rockton Fair.

Craig Sitter – Owner of his own accounting firm that specializes in a wide array of services, he is also the renowned owner of Sitter Massey Memories Museum in Hagesville – considered to be one of the finest collections of Massey-Harris memorabilia in Canada (or even beyond). His grandfather and father operated a Massey dealership in West Haldimand until 1970 and he has continued with the tradition.





What's Up for Events?

April 30 – May 1 **Spring Craft Show**

<http://www.miltonfarmcraftshows.com/>

Springtime means many things to many people – but at Country Heritage Park, it signifies a time of renewal, both throughout the property but more so, with the return of our Annual Spring Craft Show, held for two days, providing a near-endless array of items to get your home and yard ready for another wonderful season. Plan on spending your day finding that last rare piece that completes your room, your house, or your yard and walk out truly amazed and wanting to do it again and again.

May 7 **Annual CHP Spring Clean-up Day**

This event is open to the public for those who want to build volunteer times or just an opportunity to help with CHP. There is no shortage of what can be done, all are welcome – and you will get the opportunity to work on a wide range of projects that will peak your interest in coming back for more.

May 28 **Inaugural Swap Meet** **Parking lot swap meet**

Join vendors on the front parking lot of CHP as they enjoy the Inaugural Swap Meet and Flea Market – offering so many items up for grabs that you may want to bring your neighbour's transport truck, just to be on the safe side. If you don't find it amongst the tables set up, maybe it just hasn't been made – or worse, found. There is no admission cost for visitors – just park and enjoy the day.

June 3 to 5 **Central Ontario Rottweiler Club Show**

Visitors can come in and see how the experts handle this special breed as CHP's fairgrounds serves as the area for this year's Club Show – three days of training, showcasing, almost offering the prestige of the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show without the stuff nature of the program's commentaries.

June 11 **Cancer Relay for Life**

Noon to Midnight

http://convio.cancer.ca/site/TR/RelayForLife/RFL_CAN_odd_?fr_id=20285&pg=entry

That's right – this 12-hour relay is a community fundraising event, as Canadians from coast-to-coast all join in the fight against cancer. Whether you are cheering on survivors, walking throughout the one-long kilometre course, passing the baton off to one of your teammates, or joining in other exciting trackside activities – know that this event is more than a walk, it is a journey, and we are proud to host it at CHP.



June 12
Agricultural Hall of Fame
<http://www.oahf.on.ca/>

The Induction of five new members of the Hall of Fame will take place within the hallowed confines of the Gambrel Barn – showcasing to all the prestigious recognition of its new Hall members; individuals who have demonstrated visionary leadership, innovation, and entrepreneurship in advancing agriculture in Ontario. This special day celebrates all that is best about the food and farming sector – and is one not to be missed.

June 12
Special Friends Day
<https://www.haltonpolice.ca/>

This is the 22nd Annual Special Friends Day held by the Halton Regional Police Services, along with many of their fellow EMS colleagues – providing a day for members of the community with mental and physical challenges to have all to themselves. Too often, we forget to tip our hat to all of the good deeds conducted by those who serve and protect – and this community event drives home that point through games, activities, and a chance to feel like one of their own.

June 18
Ford's in the Park
www.countryheritagepark.com
<http://henryfordsdreams.ca/events>

Imagine a time when Model A's roamed the dusty back streets of rural Ontario to the gravel and bumpy barely passable roads that were part of Toronto before it became the free-flowing mecca governments have fought valiantly to transform; now, you can see a wide array of prestigious and beautified Fords – without encountering the GTA's roadway version of Used Car Lot. Fords in the Park offers something for more than just the car buff, it allows visitors to interact throughout CHP – touching pieces of history and learning how it ties in with today's marketplaces. We bring history to life – show the innovation that makes today's versions yearn for more in the future, and it won't disappoint anyone looking for a rare part or two as CHP will be offering up a swap meet specifically established for gear heads and collectors. Don't miss out on a fun-filled day.





Bruce Saunders Special Meeting Presentation

We are here today because the board wants your input on using the endowment fund that had been established nearly a decade ago to continue the on-going operations of Country Heritage Park. That is where we are at, as the money that we all took for granted when the government handed over complete operation to us is expiring – and the majority of us want to see this location continue to operate. That is what the vote that we will be calling out after our presentation is about – using the endowment fund as bridge funding, a loan that will be repaid when Country Heritage Park is operating as a full business. It means that we do believe that there is a light at the end of the tunnel we dug ourselves into in this matter, and we are confident that after reviewing what we have prepared, you will see this as well.

This past year has been one wrought with change – and, for good or bad, much has changed around the park. It is seen on the property, and beginning in many of the facilities that are around the site. It seems like a lifetime ago that the board held its strategic direction meeting in January of last year, but we needed a change and that is what we are seeing. Some would argue that the status quo was working so why alter it, but the truth is, it wasn't. Once we began to look at the resources at hand, some of us realized that something dramatic had to happen.

CHP staff have been looking at all options and are doing what they can to add revenue to our books – in many cases, exploring ideas and options that were not considered before. The board is aware of renting out other areas because permanent tenants provide consistent income to CHP. We have been kept abreast of all of the changes taking place and the reasoning behind each decision. We can no longer sit back and wait for couples to book a date for a wedding, hope an organization may remember that we are here and book the Gambrel Barn for a dinner, or continue to support any and all events when doing so cost us money.

Our discussions today will hopefully let us move forward with a business plan that has outlined any and all options to succeeding, to making Country Heritage Park a venue that all want to be at, pay for, and come back to. You, as our membership, helped build and keep this park afloat when the government left it all those years ago. But, it has been two decades since the government of the day abandoned this site because it simply could not afford to keep it open. The audit that led to closing of the Ontario Agricultural Museum showed revenue of just under \$300,000 and expenses of more than \$1.85-million. Look at the 2016 draft budget, and you will see that gap has been significantly closed.

I am not going to stand before you and say that all things are going to bright and rosy tomorrow, they are not because it takes time. But we are proposing to begin repayment of money from the endowment fund as soon as economically possible. We are aware that there will be some who oppose any such move – and while we respect that opinion, the board does not feel that is appropriate in this instance. We can either use the endowment fund money to build upon what has been started this past year, or we can use it to repay the deposits from brides and grooms who have booked the park into 2017 and close the doors behind us on our way out.

In all honesty, we believe that we have turned the corner and we want to move forward. It may sound cliché but if we are all moving forward together, success takes care of itself.



There are new e-mails at the office that can now be used:

Lorraine Fiset – lorraine@countryheritagepark.com

Helen Kennedy – helen@countryheritagepark.com

Doug Self – dself@countryheritagepark.com

Darlene Roach – darlene@countryheritagepark.com

You can contact these folks with any questions you may have, so feel free to.



Got questions or concerns:

Don't hesitate to contact

Jamie Reaume at
905-878-8151 ext. 20
226-338-4890 (cell)
jreaume@rogers.com
jamie@countryheritagepark.com

The door is always open, the coffee is usually on,
and you are always welcome.

Missing anything? If so, feel free to contact Jamie at the CHP office. We are here to provide you with the answers, where possible, and to listen to questions, concerns, and ideas and suggestions. We are already in the process of planning for 2016 events, adding where we can, and if you have any thoughts, don't hesitate to bring them to our attention.

