

Past



Present

Future

COUNTRY HERITAGE PARK



Winter 2016

Members' Quarterly Newsletter

An Open Letter to CHP Membership

The Board of Country Heritage Agricultural Society is calling upon the membership of Country Heritage Agricultural Society to attend a special meeting to be held on February 2, 2016 to discuss the upcoming future fiscal plans for Country Heritage Park.

The purpose of the meeting is to review and discuss with the membership a draft copy of the budget utilizing all available funding to ensure the continued viability of Country Heritage Park. This will include the lending of funds from the Endowment Fund to be utilized as part of the operational funding until such time as Country Heritage Park achieves a fiscally responsible renewal package that includes fundraising, venture capitalization and sponsorship, new event development that is at least breakeven, and proper space utilization including the leasing out of all available opportunities based under the Master Plan.

The meeting will be held in the Niagara Room beginning at 10:00 a.m.

This meeting is open to all 2015 and lifetime members. Your presence and participation is requested by the board.

Notice is given of a

**Special General Meeting
February 2, 2016
10 a.m.
Niagara Room, Country Heritage Park**

Sincerely

Bruce Saunders
President
Country Heritage Park Agricultural Society



www.countryheritagepark.com

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Well, as the year concludes and another one enters in, activity at Country Heritage Park continues to roll unabated – concluding with a day in Campbellville at this year's Santa Claus Parade. A large contingent of volunteers dared the sunny un-December like weather for an hour, sitting on the one of the people movers being pulled by a tractor from Case that is used by CHP throughout its facility. It was a good day that helped promote the CHP – and is likely the start of many such ventures working within the other communities, where possible, surrounding Country Heritage Park. Being located in front of the jolly old man in red probably helped as well (likely a big thanks to CHP board member Liz Lambrick for that too) but there was a band between our float and Santa Claus, ensuring that our "country music" themed float was not in the groove as much as we could have been. It did a great idea for future ventures.



This event could not have been accomplished without the dedicated efforts of the volunteers and Helen Kennedy, who works at CHP. It is with many thanks to all that made for a special Christmas moment.

The final two official events at CHP – the Walk To Bethlehem and the Parade of Lights were very successful this year, despite no snow for the latter and freezing rain on the first day of the former. Either way, thousands of excited individuals and families spent their evenings with our large contingent of volunteers, who all jumped into the fray to make these events a wonderful reflection of what CHP is capable of doing each and every time.



Volunteers

Speaking of volunteers – near 25 met in early January, including high school students – to partake in some internal cleaning (and a little outdoor when it stopped raining) in what will become a regular weekend gathering. The reason behind the weekend is to allow high school students the opportunity to earn their 40 hours of community volunteering in order to graduate. CHP is now working closer with high schools throughout the area – and encourages anyone seeking to get their hours in prior to graduating high school to contact Helen Kennedy (helen@countryheritagepark.com or 905-878-8151 ext. 10). If you know of someone that would like to volunteer – and have fun doing so – give Helen a buzz and let her know. More volunteer days are planned and when the new website is up and running – look for the dates and join in. The chili for lunch is amazing.

Events for 2016 are almost complete – with more still being added.

The biggest change is a decision by the All Colours Committee to revamp the one of the longest-standing events at CHP: the All Colours Show. Going into its 17th year, the now former All Colour Show was a representation of various antique tractors with clubs at Country Heritage Park (and their outside affiliates) bringing together models from specific companies. Such events include Massey Ferguson weekends, International Harvester (Big Red) weekends, Ford and John Deere weekends. These individual companies and the owners of these tractors are committed to ensuring the longevity of these relics from a bygone era.

However, antique tractors, despite having an appeal to a fair number of dedicated enthusiasts throughout Ontario and North America, is not ensuring that the public attends these events in greater numbers, and, in fact, there are declining numbers for all so-called "tractor" shows throughout the continent – simply because the aging of these dedicated men and women has meant most are no longer "gathering". Simply put, in order to follow the mandate of Country Heritage Park, its board, and its membership, changes needed to be conducted in order to ensure that the cornerstone (these antique tractors) remained but the rest of the three-day event was altered. Thus was born the Summer Fair and Farm Expo – a first in Ontario. It is within this context that CHP is expanding its focus on both food and families – to be able to showcase and highlight the importance of our farming history while putting the spotlight on innovation. There have been a number of new features added that will draw families from throughout the province: the heavy horse pulls; the lawn tractor pulls and pedal pulls for children; the tractor and truck pulls; a full midway and carnival; a fully enclosed

Winter 2016

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swap and parts meet (for all ages); a Classic Car Cruiser Night; and evening entertainment. All are new features to a traditionalist show and will add to the vendors that are going to be discussing farming in other countries, given the demographics from the Greater Toronto Area.

Another event will be a Springtime Swap Market on May 28; Dog Lovers Day on July 30 and 31; and an art in the park concept for August 19 to 21. In the next newsletter, there will be more information, a complete calendar, and updated linkages for new and old events taking place at CHP in 2016.

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.

