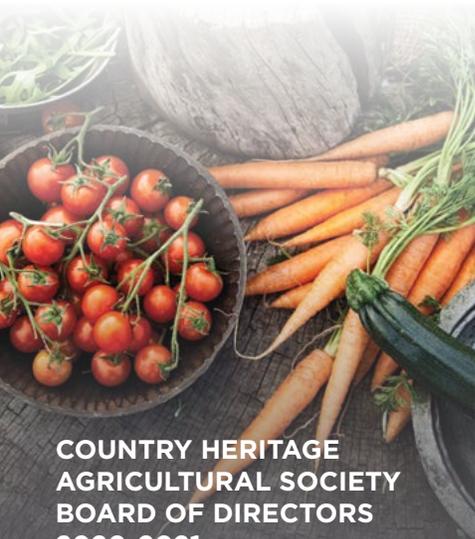


Past



Present

Future



COUNTRY HERITAGE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2020-2021

President: Liz Lambrick
Past President: Bev Hughes (ex -officio)
Vice President: Linda Hruska
Recording Secretary: Sue Bennett
Treasurer: Maurice Rutherford

Director - 1 year term (2021)
Frank Tousaw
Bruce Christie
Sue Bennett

Director - 2 year term (2022)
Linda Hruska
Brian Little
Anna DeMarchi-Meyers

Director - 3 year term (2023)
Liz Lambrick
Janet Horner
David Imrie

Director - 4 year term (2024)
Jan Robertson
Russ Kidd
Maurice Rutherford

Country Heritage Park
Box 38, 8560 Tremaine Road
Milton Ontario, L9T 2Y3

Tel: 905-878 8151
info@countryheritagepark.com
www.countryheritagepark.com



COUNTRY HERITAGE PARK



COVID Island Time
Members' Newsletter

*The pessimist complains about the wind;
The optimist expects it to change;
The realist adjusts the sails.*

~ William Arthur Ward

Wise words in today's COVID-19 world!



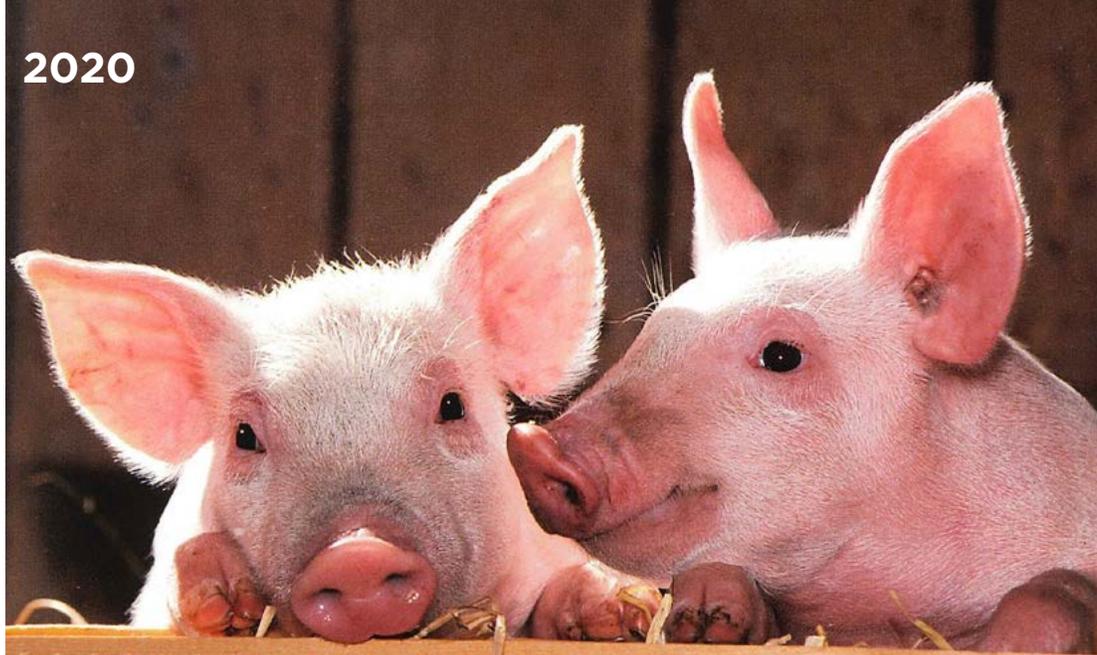
COVID-19: CHP takes the current health situation very seriously and has implemented measures to protect the staff and any events that are being held at the park.

There are signs on the access doors to the administration building.

All staff must record their temperature every morning when they arrive to ensure they do not have a fever.

Any visitor to the site must book an appointment time and complete a COVID -19 form. The on- site tractor groups have been notified of volunteer protocols during the pandemic.

Event bookings have also resumed with additional contracts to indemnify CHP from any liability should an attendee contract COVID -19 while at an event at the park.



Farming does not stop because of a pandemic!!



Life continues at the Park. Star and her newborn kid, Twinkle

With it comes other chores, other duties, and life renews. As many are aware, our collection of animals serves both education and function, and includes cows, pigs, sheep, goats, turkeys, chickens – both layers and meat, and three stubborn donkeys . . . but not a single partridge in a pear tree.

We have dedicated staff that tend to the animals and CHP is in compliance with the various commodity boards to ensure proper tracking and paperwork is in place when the animals are harvested. The Riley Barn, which houses many of our farm animals, is being renovated and cleaned up to make viewing easier for young children. The steel penning has been repurposed from another disused area of the park and inside water access will also be updated to reflect the new penning and safety protocols.

And yes, we still have beef, pork, and lots of eggs for sale.



Renovated Riley Barn east side.



Renovated Riley Barn West side. Note the new centre aisle.



Summer Students | 12 of our 15 strong summer student team.

Country Heritage Park was successful in obtaining federal government funds to hire 15 students over the course of the Summer – in eight-week time slots, making CHP the largest Milton employer of Summer students this year.

Currently, there are five students researching archived newspapers (1878-1954) for specific articles including Spanish Flu and racism which tie in with today's COVID-19 and the Black Lives Matter movement. As well, they are to look for any other article which they find interesting. There are also seven students assisting with outside work including grass cutting, trimming, garden planting and grounds upkeep. When the weather is inclement, students are moving artifacts to clear out areas of buildings that are slated for new projects. The remaining three students are counselors for the Farm Life program through Planet Kids.

Grounds:

Kaleigh, our resident landscape/horticulture expert, has completely revamped both the gardens at the Lucas house and the Gambrel Barn, removing dead and overgrown material and replacing it with more appropriate vegetation. Kaleigh received her diploma from Niagara College.



Gambrel front garden undergoing rejuvenation



Community Gardens:

Our friends Noel and Jacqui from the Black Farmers Growers and Collective are back and working hard planting and tending to 12 acres of community gardens. The harvested crops from these gardens go to the innermost areas of Toronto to feed those who may have never seen fresh vegetables before. Extra produce is donated to food banks in the area. Country Heritage Park is pleased to be able to assist this group once again.

EVENTS: HAPPENINGS!

Due to the COVID –19 pandemic all three of the CHAS-led events have been cancelled for 2020, including the All Colour Ramble (July 18, 2020), Art-in-the Park (August 9, 2020 but was presented as an online “art show and sale”), and the Fall Fair (September 4-6, 2020). These events will return in person for 2021!!

As was expected, CHP has been exceptionally busy rescheduling weddings and other booked events. Approximately 60 weddings were impacted, with the majority opting for rescheduling at a later time. Many of the pre-booked events were also affected, with the majority opting for cancellation.

The complete Planet Kids program is being held at CHP. Kelso Conservation Area was not available. As with past years, this day-camp includes the CHP Farm Life Program which is operating with smaller groups and increased safety measures in compliance with the region's Board of Health.

Milton Youth Theatre Camp is once again operating at the park, utilizing the Harrop Barn and surrounding outside space.

Pumpkins After Dark is busy preparing for a drive-thru experience this Fall. Pre-sale tickets are now available for this very successful and amazing six-week event.
www.pumpkinsafterdark.com

In the spirit of community, Jamie has offered the use of CHP for the Milton Farmers Market, which could not operate in its usual location of Main Street due to COVID-19 health regulations. This is good exposure for the Park as many market attendees were unaware of our existence. Some have even enquired about wedding rentals.

Annual General Meeting:

The April 7 CHP Annual General Meeting joined the litany of events that were immediately cancelled with the late March announcement of pandemic measures implemented by the federal and provincial governments. A motion was passed dealing with the AGM at a virtual Board meeting, held on April 22, which indicated that the 2020 AGM would coincide with the 2021 AGM, in essence, having both in the same year. However, given that there are some protocols in place for AGMs from the provincial government, there is a distinct possibility that the 2020 AGM will be held before the end of the year. There will be more information coming in the next month or two as the Board of Directors assesses the options available to them.

The following Directors had completed their terms: Russ Kidd, Maurice Rutherford, and Jan Robertson. Though their terms are done, all have agreed to stay on until 2021 or whenever the next AGM is held, at which time new Directors will be elected/re-elected.

Thank you goes to Sue Powell, who has resigned from the Board to pursue other interests. The Board will miss Sue's enthusiasm and government knowledge. David Imrie, a past Farm News reporter for CTV Kitchener, was appointed by the Directors to fulfill the remaining time of Sue's Board commitment. Sue remains active with our organization as a volunteer and coordinating the Art-in-the-Park show.

Thank you to all that step forward to help CHAS continue to grow.



A major part of volunteering happens at CHAS events and unfortunately our three major Summer events were cancelled due to COVID -19. Our volunteers will soon start to plan for a dynamic 2021.

Students:

In the early days of March, CHP had garnered attention from more than 50 high school students who were booked to assist over March break. As many of you are now aware, March break is essentially when the country and the province shut down due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and CHP made the difficult decision to shut down all non-essential operations, including those students who had come in already and were volunteering. Jamie explained to the students in attendance why he made the decision and while they were obviously disappointed, they understood. CHAS looks forward to restarting the student volunteer program as soon as the government gives the all clear.

Adults:

There was no access to the park for the folks who volunteer to assist with specific building upkeep from March until June 15th. While there have been sporadic attempts by a few folks to come and "assist", the reality is that there are no protocols and we do not want to endanger anyone over a case of showing up to clean or clear a building. The various groups who assist in maintenance of some of the buildings on-site were sent new guidelines for volunteer entry, which includes checking into the office, in masks, and with limited time as well. We, at CHAS, miss seeing our volunteers and await the day when we can once again say hello.

Education

April, May and June are typically the busiest months of the year for our education programmes. We are often running multiple programmes per day and have several different schools on the property at any one time. This year however has been quite a challenge. First work-to-rule cancelled or postponed school bookings and then our programmes ground to a halt in March when the Province closed schools due to the COVID-19 outbreak. While schools were cancelled for the remainder of this school year, we have continued to work on the education programme albeit in a different capacity than we had envisioned at the beginning of the year. Throughout the Summer months we have been cleaning and refreshing our education buildings where possible and our new programme guide will soon be sent out to teachers, principals and school boards.

The return to school in September is currently filled with uncertainty and field trips are not likely to be on the top of the list of priorities. While the extent and duration of this new normal remains uncertain, Country Heritage Park will be making some proactive changes for teachers and students of all ages. We are currently working with Enable Education to develop interactive education programmes that can

be accessed via the internet on such platforms as YouTube. These programmes will be promoted on our Facebook, Instagram and Twitter pages.

In addition to the new online education programmes, we are developing a new Country Heritage Park Tour similar to what the Toronto Zoo has done. This will allow visitors in vehicles to drive through the park and have virtual access to information about our buildings. For that reason, CHP has acquired its own license and equipment to be able to do such activities and may include doing a drive-in movie or other outdoor activities that allow for its use. This investment in technology that will allow COVID-friendly events is a must, and that adaptability will be required moving ahead.

This has certainly been a challenging year but it has prompted us to look at the reality of moving online with our Education programmes into the 21st century. As we move forward, teachers and students will have the choice of visiting us in person and experiencing hands-on learning or accessing our Education programmes online for in-class sessions. This will help ensure that Country Heritage Park will be in the forefront of teachers' minds in these changing times.



Meet Faiq Farooq, the 2020 Country Heritage Agricultural Society Ambassador!

Faiq is an ambitious young man who already has political experience as a campaign manager for a local politician. Canadian-born Faiq overcame a hearing disability at a very young age, to become an accomplished speaker and outgoing youth. He has been a part of the Country Heritage Park family for three years as a volunteer, taking on many varied tasks while learning about the Park.

In his words, "My involvement in local politics has been really excellent in terms of preparing me to be a good orator and being reasonably eloquent - skills that are now useful for being Ambassador to the Park. I'm glad to have made a difference in my community and will continue to do so! Who knows, maybe I'll be an MP someday..."



Even tractors wear a mask and physically distance during COVID-19