



The Applewood Almanac

Fall Edition – October, 2018

The James Shaver Woodsworth Homestead Foundation
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Applewood's Fall Events:

Famous Players Theatre & Buffet (ticketed): Saturday October 20 at 11:30 am
Christmas Craft Sale: Sunday, November 25, 10 am – 3 pm

President's Message

What a summer it has been! It was an unusually hot and dry one which certainly pushed up everyone's air-conditioning and garden-watering bills. Weather predictions for the coming winter are all over the map, so I guess we'll just have to wait and see.

This year at Applewood featured a triple-play (for baseball fans) or a hat trick (for hockey lovers). The first of the three big gains was the successful replacement of our complete main floor carpeting and stair runner with new carpet and under-pad.

Our 30-plus year old floor covering was getting thread-bare in places, and the beautiful new carpet is now coordinated throughout all the main floor rooms.

The second accomplishment was designing and obtaining a "show canopy" for use at outdoor events, concerts, etc. The canopy can be set up quickly and provides an attractive focus for Applewood, showing pictures of the homestead and giving viewers our web site.

The third important addition to the Applewood homestead was the generous donation of an historic artifact to us by members of the Shaver family. Shaver family knowledge indicates that the walnut bed originally belonged to Peter Shaver (1809-1890) and his wife Esther Vansickle (1813-1870), and subsequently to their son Peter Bruce Shaver and his wife Miriam Hartnoll Bishop Shaver.



Out with the old and in with the new. The sculptured New Zealand wool carpeting is fitted to the Morning Room as part of the renovation.

Family member Owen Shaver brought the antique to our attention and raised the concept of returning the artifact to Applewood – an idea welcomed by other members of the Shaver clan.

As luck would have it, all three of this year’s “triple crown” acquisitions were in place for our big Doors Open event on May 27 and 28. The carpet pleased the eye in our historic rooms, the canopy served to attract visitors and shade the volunteers running our plant sale, and the Shaver Bed was set up near our “museum room” downstairs, complete with an original antique jacquard coverlet woven by Esther Shaver, and dated 1841.



The new Applewood Canopy (left) and the old Shaver Bed (displaying the 1841 Esther Shaver coverlet) were just two of the attractions for visitors to see at our May “Doors Open” tour and plant sale event.



Shaver Bed carpentry details: headboard carving, side-rail hardware and assembly.

Truly, a year to remember!

- Dave Young, President

Etobicoke's History and the Shaver Family Celebrated in Art

On May 2, 2017, President Dave Young and Director Rob Evans met with Denise Harris, Past President of the Etobicoke Historical Society and Applewood member, to view a new mural adjacent to the Islington Seniors Centre. This large six-panel mural was completed in 2016 by well-known artist John Kuna who has painted most of the Islington Village's historical murals.

The Islington Mosaic Heritage Mural Project is a community-based effort sponsored by The Historic Village of Islington Business Improvement Association in partnership with the City of Toronto. The project now includes 26 murals, each designed to connect the public with the area's rich cultural heritage.

As noted on the plaque that accompanies the "Founding Families" mural, *"This mural commemorates the original founding families of Islington that now rest in the [nearby] Islington Burying Ground, one of the oldest cemeteries in Toronto..."*. Of particular interest to our members, several panels feature the original builder of the Applewood homestead, Peter Shaver, along with his wife Esther and brother George Shaver. As you probably know, Etobicoke's Shaver Avenue is named after the family.



Denise Harris and Dave Young in front of the "Founding Families" mural on Dundas St. Dave is just in front of Reverend Stewart East's portrayal. East spearheaded the effort to save the Applewood Homestead by moving it to Broadacres Park in 1980.

As well, Rev. Stewart East, who led the fight to save the homestead from demolition and relocate it to its current site in Broadacres Park in 1980, is also featured on one of the panels. Our thanks goes out to Denise for supplying photos and information that was used by the artist to develop this beautiful and historically important rendition of Etobicoke's pioneering families.

- Rob Evans, Director

The Gardeners Journal

As I look out my window I notice that part of my front lawn is a nice shade of pink.

My neighbors have a large, old, crab-apple tree that was a wonder this spring, masses of flowers, a beauty. But there is a catch to this flower show, now I have buckets full of little apples to clean up.

As you recall, last fall at Applewood, we had thousands – and I mean thousands – of black walnuts to pick up from under the two trees beside the parking lot. But this year, we've noticed a grand total of 2! According to the internet, many black walnut trees may bear only irregularly or during alternate years. Apparently, we have two trees that follow that pattern to the extreme.

So are the seasons, each with its own surprise and beauty to enjoy.

- Odile Sahl, Director

Autumn Thoughts

October is the treasurer of the year,
And all the months' pay bounty to her store;
The fields and orchards still their tribute bear,
And fill her brimming coffers more and more.

But she, with youthful lavishness,
Spends all her wealth in gaudy dress,
And decks herself in garments bold
Of scarlet, purple, red, and gold.

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We greatly appreciate your continued support.***