



The Applewood Almanac

Fall Edition – November, 2019

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Applewood's 2019 Fall Event:
Christmas Craft Sale: Sunday Nov. 24, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

President's Message

Our very pleasant summer has come and gone. Now the winds of November seem to have brought us a surprisingly early taste of winter yet to come. No matter. The “harvest” of this year’s “growing season” has been bountiful, and Applewood has indeed grown since the spring.

Our growth started with the Annual General Meeting in early June. We elected a new Board of Directors member and Treasurer, Zacharia Laleg. Zach has expertly stepped into the role of our outgoing Treasurer, Demi Zhao, whose move out of the city necessitated her stepping down after five years in that essential role. Many thanks, Demi. Welcome aboard, Zach.

One member of our old Board, Johann Fisch, joined Peter Peachey as our second Honorary Director. Both remain active in Applewood affairs, as you will read later in this newsletter. Your remaining Directors for 2019-2020 are Meghan Drascic-Gaudio, Lorraine Dunsmuir, Robert Evans, Odile Sahl, Doug Willoughby, and yours truly, Dave Young.

The four-date Concerts in the Park series went ahead almost without a hitch. I say “almost,” because the penultimate event on July 17 had to be cancelled due to thunderstorms. However, as the photos below attest, the remaining concerts went ahead under ideal skies, and attracted between 150 and 300 attendees each.



Conductor and trumpet virtuoso John Liddle leads the Etobicoke Community Concert Band in the June 19th “Twilight Concert in the Park”.

Etobicoke's own, the Toronto All-Star Big Band, closes the Applewood concert season on July 31. The capacity crowd was left humming those swing-era favourites they were either remembering or discovering (age-dependant).



Another way Applewood grew this summer was through visits and donations from descendants on the Shaver-Woodsworth family tree. In June, John and Paul Woodsworth (grandson and great-grandson respectively of J.S. Woodsworth) visited from Ottawa and had lunch with their Applewood friends. Stories were exchanged and John filled in details of JSW's life and times.



"The Woodsworths drop in for Lunch"

Clockwise around the table, starting at left: Paul and John Woodsworth, Rob and Gay Evans, Jill Berni. (not pictured: Dave Young behind the camera!)

Our second visit from the extended Shaver family came a few weeks ago when John and Carole Bolton brought in a rocking chair and some china that had been in the Applewood homestead in the 1800's. These artifacts were passed down through the Shaver family to Rosemary Bolton (nee Shaver) who is John's mother, and the great-granddaughter of Peter and Esther Shaver (builders of the house). Rosemary recalls that the china was Esther's and the chair was in the homestead when it was later owned by George's (Peter's brother) side of the family. Rosemary felt that these items should return to Applewood, as she was in the process of downsizing.



Dave Young receives Shaver china and 1890's chair delivered back to Applewood by Carole and John Bolton.

- Dave Young, President

Celebrating Peter's 75th Birthday



In September, Peter Peachey's wife Joyce organized a family party at Applewood to celebrate his 75th Birthday. A great time was had by about 30 of their family and friends, including kid's croquet games on the front lawn. As most of our members are aware, Peter was responsible for organizing the House relocation to its current site in 1980, and served as our first President. To help recognize these important contributions, Applewood's 35th Anniversary video, featuring Peter's firsthand account of the actual move, was played throughout the afternoon. Happy Birthday Peter!

- Rob Evans, Director

'Living History' Theatre at Applewood

October 5 at Applewood was an historic day. The Etobicoke Historical Society (EHS) launched their first annual history play, basing it on the life and times of James Shaver Woodsworth. Naturally, they picked Applewood as the venue for the play.

The audience watched the play by going through the house in groups from room to room (on the first floor). The play stepped through events in JSW's life as seen through the eyes of his relatives on the Shaver side of the family who lived in the Applewood homestead during those years. The audience could tell each time period by the "year" posted on a card in each room, and by the age of Isabel (Shaver-) Bishop (the last resident of Applewood) as she grew up.

EHS member Jennifer Bazar wrote the script for the play, building the drama through the clever device of having letters and telegrams from JSW being received by his cousins back at Applewood. Neil Park, the actor playing JSW, would appear writing the letters from England or Vancouver, or by eventually visiting Applewood in person on his travels.



"Baby Isabel" makes her first appearance to the audience gathered in Applewood's kitchen, in 1900.

One of the most ingenious elements of the play was the way Jennifer worked in social issues that concerned Woodsworth in his day, and the way many of those same issues are still important now. Coincidentally, Canada's 2019 election campaign was in full swing while this very political

drama was being presented at Applewood. To all those at EHS who worked to develop and present this bit of history at “our old house,” – Congratulations!



“Walter Truman Shaver” (left) speaks to “James Shaver Woodsworth” (right) while visiting the old homestead in 1927. Neil (the actor playing Woodsworth) even grew a beard so as to resemble JSW even more than he already does!

- Dave Young, President

Earth Day – Giving Back to the Planet

The 50th anniversary of Earth Day will be on April 22, 2020. To mark the occasion, Toronto’s Urban Forestry department is planning a special event for that day at the little forest just south of Applewood in Broadacres Park. We know this naturalized area as Johann’s Woods, because our own Honourary Director, Johann Fisch, started planting trees there shortly after the house was moved in 1980. The event Toronto plans will enlist interested volunteers from the public to come and plant up to 400 new trees in areas bordering the park’s grassed lands. The Broadacres Public School kids will be invited to take part and learn how to plant a tree. We also invite you to sign up for planting a tree too. A “Toronto.ca” web page will be available as we get closer to the date.



Johann Fisch gives an environmental message to Jane’s Walk participants in his “forest”.

Sandra Hendrickson Remembered

Former Applewood Director Sandra Hendrickson passed away in July. Sandra championed several initiatives at Applewood, including getting us on the roster of “retro” film and photo-shoot locations in Toronto. Several Applewood members attended her funeral on July 24th.



To our dear Applewood Family: Christmas greetings and warmest holiday wishes!

***Your Applewood 2020 membership renewal form is enclosed.
We greatly appreciate all your continued support.***