



# The Applewood Almanac

## Spring-Fall Edition – 2020

The James Shaver Woodsworth Homestead Foundation  
450 The West Mall, Etobicoke, ON M9C 1E9  
Telephone: 416-622-4124  
E-mail: [jswoods@bellnet.ca](mailto:jswoods@bellnet.ca)  
Website: [www.applewoodshaverhouse.ca](http://www.applewoodshaverhouse.ca)

### Applewood's 2020 Fall Events:

**We regret that due to the COVID emergency, we cannot hold our planned fall events (Christmas Craft Sale and Famous People Players gathering).**

**Please join us in better times for next year's events!**

### President's Message

Twenty-five weeks ago, Applewood, and the world, entered a period of pandemic that has only been seen once before in the history of Canada – in 1918-19. The most aggressive interval of lock-down began mid-March and suspended all of Applewood's public and private events (Earth Day, plant sale, Doors Open, summer concerts, weddings, meeting rentals, etc.) until a slight easing of restrictions began in late July.

As the sign on the right attests, Applewood had to close down operations, except for our tenants who are able to use their own suites as their business necessitated. It goes without saying that revenues for us and our tenants suffered during this period. Our Board decided early on that we would keep our staff employed, working from home or the occasional lonely visit to the homestead to check on things during the spring and early summer. Throughout the lockdown period, Applewood's Board of Directors continued to meet monthly by telephone so we could safely respond to the changing emergency situation.



Government restrictions were eased in mid-July, and our Committee for Applewood Wedding Resumptions prepared a report with 15 recommendations on how to safely conduct weddings in a new way. Physical distancing, masks, air filtration, extra cleaning, and limited attendance are all now the rule. With our fingers crossed as we move into the fall, we have been able to slowly

resume a limited number of ceremonies. While the office is still only open three days a week (Mon, Wed, and Fri) by appointment only, Saturday weddings are now taking place under the new procedures. An important foundation of Applewood's financial sustainability has resumed.

The outlook for the rest of 2020, and the first part of next year, is still cloudy. As of this writing, some government restrictions are being increased to deal with a persistent spread of COVID-19 cases. Wearing face masks, while sometimes awkward, is one practice that has proved successful wherever it has been observed. Applewood will continue to closely monitor pandemic rules and procedures, and adjust our operations accordingly.

Stay safe.

- Dave Young, President

### **Weddings Resume!**

We're back in business. Our first wedding "COVID style" took place on Saturday July 18 with Rev. Wayne Myhre officiating. It was a beautiful day and everything went well considering all the health and safety protocols we now have in place. We continue to do 3-4 weddings a week



and our customers are happy and compliant with the new procedures.

We must strictly limit the number of guests inside during our ceremonies, and, except for the wedding couple, we wear masks or face shields inside. We ventilate the house and sanitize high-touch surfaces between each ceremony, so we now require extra time between bookings.

Officiant Rev. Wayne Myhre happy to be at the helm again for another summer season



## **Debbie Tait – Happy Retirement**

Debbie Tait, our long-serving House Co-ordinator, has decided to retire after 10 years of dedicated service to Applewood-Shaver House. Debbie has been a terrific organizer and support for all the fundraising and community events that Applewood hosts every year. Her vast knowledge and experience in many past roles was a constant source of amazement. A running gag between Dave Young and Deb was that no matter what situation arose, one of her slate of past jobs meant she had the experience to know just what to do. Film shoot? “Well, I used to work in the movie industry!” Meeting debates? “Oh, that happened when I was church secretary!” You could never stump Debbie.

Deb always had a warm and gracious welcome to all, and a hot cup of tea waiting. She is pictured here in the Applewood apron that she commissioned! We wish her well in her retirement and hope she will keep in touch. All the best Debbie. We miss you and thank you for your kind and capable service.



Jennifer Flaxman (pictured on left in the following article) has worked at the homestead alongside Debbie for the last few years. Jennifer will now fill the position of house co-ordinator. She has a background working in the church, retail travel sales, and holistic wellness and nutrition. We welcome Jen and wish her success in her new role. She will also be available to make tea and carry on the Applewood tradition (once all the COVID restrictions are lifted)!

## **Celebration for the Grace M. Procnier/Applewood Scholarship**



On February 11, 2020, at the Humber College North Campus, Jennifer Flaxman attended the Scholarship Celebration for the Faculty of Applied Sciences & Technology. There she met Nicole Ahola, this year’s recipient of our Grace M. Procnier/Applewood scholarship. Nicole is studying to be a Landscape Technician, graduating in the spring of 2020, and is optimistic about finding employment in her field of study. She is grateful to have received this scholarship and was happy to learn of Applewood, and interested in visiting us soon. The dinner, speeches and entertainment (a trio of Humber Music students on sax, keyboards and bass) were a delight. The beautiful new Barrett Centre for Technology Innovation is a stunning example of cutting-edge architecture and focuses on co-operative learning techniques in an open

concept advanced technology building. Humber staff and students are certainly enjoying this new space and excited to talk about it. Drop by for a visit to the gardens as there have been lots of changes to the arboretum and grounds that the students are very proud of.

## Garden Project

To all you gardeners at heart; we are calling on you to be a part of our garden rejuvenation project on track for spring of 2021.



In a Doors Open plant sale of yesteryear, "Garden Director" Odile Sahl (at left) with her helpers (l-r): Gay Evans, Dave Young, Ann Wilson, and Debbie Tait

We will have many of our garden plants from the west side of the house available for purchase at the annual plant sale we will host next May. We hope to consolidate our garden efforts on the front and east sides of the house, and have a volunteer or two assigned to individual sections so that they can express their artistic flair. This way, Odile will be able to step back to a "Gardener Emeritus" role while watching the gardens flourish.

Please remember to support us at this time and keep the gardens thriving.

## Restoration Project

Before COVID hit, we had taken all our period dining room chairs in to be refinished and re-upholstered. They turned out beautifully thanks to Reid's Upholstery. Unfortunately they now sit piled in the parlor – lonely and sad during COVID. For now, we make do with the more-easily-sanitized folding chairs for our condensed ceremonies.

In exchange for one of our well-used side tables, Bruce Reid was kind enough to give us a proper-sized new table that we use for signing marriage documentation after the ceremonies. What a treat to have some fresh new pieces to adorn our wedding areas. Thank you Reid's.

